PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING
Practical experiences from cities and amalgamated communities in Eastern Ukraine

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Initiative for the Infrastructure Program for Ukraine
Project “Strengthening Ukrainian Communities Hosting Internally Displaced Persons”
The project supports the implementation of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in 5 cities and 5 amalgamated territorial communities in Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, and Kharkiv oblasts.

5 cities:
- Kryvyi Rih
- Kamianske
- Melitopol
- Chuguiv
- Pervomaiskyi

5 ATCs:
- Prymorska ATC
- Chernihivska ATC
- Tomakivska ATC
- Shyrokiivska ATC
- Novovodolazka ATC

To increase social integration and citizen engagement in local development through participatory budgeting in cities and amalgamated territorial communities of Eastern Ukraine due to the increased number of internally displaced persons.

The project was implemented by PAUCI, Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation within the framework of the Project "Strengthening Ukrainian Communities Hosting Internally Displaced Persons", one of the Initiative for the Infrastructure Program for Ukraine implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ GmbH) commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
Participatory Budgeting in the East of Ukraine – Integration for Development

Project implementation

PAUCI experts implemented the project on behalf of the GIZ project “Strengthening Ukrainian Communities Hosting Internally Displaced Persons”, one of the Initiatives for the Infrastructure Program for Ukraine implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ GmbH) commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) from January 2018 till June 2019.

Support provided to cities and communities

Around 100 events were conducted: trainings, workshops, forums and consulting meetings on the issues of implementation and development of Participatory Budgeting. More than 2.5 thousand community residents took part in these events. Also, a financial support was provided for informational campaigns conduction.

The main subjects of the trainings: key stages and principles of participatory budget, preparation and implementation of the participatory budgeting procedure at all stages, moderation of events, preparation of projects, evaluation and improvement of the procedures.
INTRODUCTION
Background

The development cooperation measure “Initiatives of the Infrastructure Programme for Ukraine” (IIPU) is funded by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The program is structured into different components out of which one focusses at “Strengthening of Ukrainian municipalities hosting Internally Displaced People” (MunSup) in the Oblasts of Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia.

Public participation in municipal development

In general, public participation holds significant potential for improving municipal management and democratic development. Through participatory processes, citizens with their ideas and sense of responsibility can be activated and engaged for local development. Public investment and service delivery can be made more demand-oriented and local identity and social integration can be strengthened. Particularly for the integration of internally displaced people at local level, participation is essential and a compelling principle of action. Especially in the context of the decentralization reform in Ukraine, the topic of participation is becoming increasingly important as more authority and decision making power is being transferred to the local level which creates increasing opportunities and demands for participation. Hence, IIPU prioritizes public participation as a central goal and has offered various types of support to its partners for establishing participatory processes.

Participatory budgeting

Participatory approaches for citizen engagement in local development tend to have a broad range of methodologies with respective levels of intensity ranging from basic types of information provision to more advanced forms of consultation and further to intense forms of decision making. In this context, participatory budgeting is a quite far-going approach with a high degree of autonomy for participants. It provides a legal and financial framework for citizens to propose and select projects which local administrations are obliged to implement. Hence, it puts citizens into the position of real decision makers within a formal system. However, the initiation of a participatory budgeting system is a complex challenge requiring high level of experience and even after its establishment needs further improvements and adaptations to the local context in order to be successful and sustainable. Therefore, GIZ through its highly experienced partner organization PAUCI has supported 5 cities to improve and further advance their participatory budgeting system to be more effective as well as 5 newly amalgamated communities to institutionalize a participatory budgeting for the first time. This brochure provides an overview of the achievements and learning and shall contribute to further dissemination of participatory budgeting in Ukraine.
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF APPROACH
**Stages of participatory budgeting**

1. Preparation stage ("phase zero")
2. Development of process provisions and principles
3. Awareness-raising campaign
4. Project preparation and submission
5. Discussion of projects
6. Project verification
7. Selection of projects for further implementation
8. Project implementation (with monitoring)
9. Evaluation Process

**General Concept of PB**

- Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process, in which:
  - Citizens get engaged and develop ideas for local development to propose to local authorities
  - Citizens decide about the use of public budget as they prioritize demands and decide about measures for implementation
  - Local government authorities implement projects prioritized by citizens
  - Public participation supports the consideration of needs of vulnerable social groups (including internally displaced people)

**Fundamental principles of the Participatory Budgeting**

- Citizens’ decision are obligatory for implementation
- Transparency and openness
- Inclusiveness
- Provision of space for citizen engagement
- Support of citizens’ proactive attitude
- Thinking with strategic perspective
**STEPS OF PB INTRODUCTION**

**Establishing of the PB initiative group**

- Familiarize yourself with PB procedures and principles
- Define PB goals
- Read manuals and recommendations on PB implementation

**Holding initial training**

- Invite external experts
- Hold trainings using a learning-by-doing approach

**Establishing of the PB Working group**

- Identify and include key stakeholders in the working group, which usually consists of relevant departments, elected officials and civil society organizations.
- Include vulnerable groups representatives in the PB working group

**PB parameters development and deliberation with citizens**

- During the discussion, answer the following questions:
  - Who is eligible to submit the project?
  - How projects will be selected?
  - Who is eligible to vote?
  - What criteria must be met to submit the project?
  - What are the ways to vote and support the projects? (e-platform, ATM, paper ballots)
  - How many projects can be supported by a citizen?

**PB regulations development**

- Consult with PB coordinators from neighboring cities and communities
- Simplify PB regulation and include developed parameters in it

**PB awareness raising campaign**

- Prepare templates for the printing materials accessible for all project authors to promote their ideas
- Effective information campaigns also include deliberative component - meetings with residents and public consultations
- Inform residents about implemented projects and show how PB make the difference in your community
RESULTS
### Main project results?

Numbers indicate changes for all participating communities and cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financing of participatory budgeting</td>
<td>18.46 million UAH</td>
<td>30.12 million UAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of submitted projects</td>
<td>281 projects in 2017</td>
<td>508 projects in 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of chosen projects to be implemented</td>
<td>80 projects in 2017</td>
<td>140 projects in 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation of citizens in voting</td>
<td>77,877 in 2017</td>
<td>155,413 in 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Main sectors prioritized by citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>5 cities</th>
<th>5 ATCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and tourism</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficiency</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian areas and embankments</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project achievements by stakeholders

**Local government**

- Provision of additional financial resources for the promotion of the PB
- Improved expertise in facilitation and moderation of participatory events help to prevent and resolve conflicts between residents and local government authorities
- Strengthening formal and informal ties between local governments
- Common search for the solutions to tackle local problems
- Increasing trust between residents and local government

**NGOs**

- Participation in the PB working groups and as a result increased influence in decision making process
- Civil society organizations got new opportunities to fund their projects

**Local residents**

- Increased understanding of the structure of local governmental authorities
- Increased number of the new initiative groups. People, many of whom have never seen each other before united around their ideas and got a tool to participate in local development
- Increased public engagement of senior pupils
- PB contribute to more transparent decisions of the local governments

**Internally displaced people**

- IDPs right to participate in PB process (to vote for and submit the projects) was enshrined in PB Regulations
- Extended opportunities and instruments to participate in public life
MORE THAN 3000 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED 100 EVENTS IN 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study visit to Poland</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainings for local moderators</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project planning 2-days seminar</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City PB Forums on the project submission</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations for city council officials on analysis of submitted projects</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City PB Forums on the monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation meetings for residents “Saturday of PB”</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainings on PB voting process</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings on PB projects implementation</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars on monitoring and improving the PB process</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PB working groups members</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Forum</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial meetings of city councils officials with PB projects authors</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due to the increased number of project authors resources allocated for PB grow each year.

**BUDGET INCREASES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>17 mln UAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>18.06 mln UAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>30.06 mln UAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>35.92 mln UAH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPROVED REGULATIONS**

Regulations were improved by the working groups together with PAUCI experts.

Regulations are newly developed in Kamianske, Shyrokivska ATC, Prymorska ATC, Chernihivska ATC, Tomakivska ATC, Novodolazka ATC.
Cases of participatory budgeting

5 cities
5 ATCs

SPECIFIC RESULTS PER PARTNER

Chuguiv
Novovodolazka ATC
Pervomaiskyi
Tomakivska ATC
Shyrokska ATC
Dnipro
Kamianske
Kryvyi Rih
Zaporizhzhia
Chernihivska ATC
Melitopol
Prymorska ATC
KRYVYI RIH (DNIPRO OBLAST)

Population 632 422
City area 430 km²
Total city budget 6 701 million UAH
Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting
in 2016 and 2017 15 million UAH
in 2018 21 million UAH
in 2019 26 million UAH

Achievements:
Participatory Budgeting Division was formally established within the Department of Economics as a new step of the institutionalization of PB.

The procedure of approval of the projects by the district administrations before the project submission was canceled to streamline the process.

Co-funding for the project authors was decreased from 25% to 15% for legal entities as well as for individuals from 15% to 5% to reduce barriers and increase participation of the different actors. For individuals under 18 years co-funding was canceled.

To ensure equal opportunities for different actors to participate in the process, all PB projects have been divided into 3 categories: educational institutions, urban development and youth projects.
KAMIANSK (DNIPRO OBLAST)

Population 241,990
City area 138 km²
Total city budget 2,450 million UAH
Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting 2018 2.5 million UAH

Achievements:

The quality of projects submitted by residents increased. Thus, in 2018, 60 projects were positively evaluated; in 2019 – 104 projects (with the same total number of submitted projects).

Coordination Board of the Participatory Budgeting included a representative of the NGO which is dealing with IDPs.

Number of voters increased by 5 times: from 3,858 voters in 2018 to 20,800 voters in 2019.

Number of voters, submitted by IDPs

Submitted projects 115

Project spheres:

- Social services: 26
- Infrastructure: 67
- Medicine: 3
- Informational technologies: 2
- Sport: 15
- Energy efficiency: 2

The number of projects admitted to voting:

- 2018: 60
- 2018: 3,868

The number of projects that received funding:

- 2018: 15
- 2018: 0

The number of voters:

- 2018: 3,858
- 2019: 20,800
MELITOPOL (ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST)

Population **153,992**

City area **49.66 km²**

Total city budget **1,285 million UAH**

Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting

- **2.6 million UAH** in 2017
- **3 million UAH** in 2018

**Achievements:**

- Working group on evaluation of the Participatory Budgeting was created and included a representative of the NGO which is dealing with IDPs.

- PB evaluation methodology was developed.

- Number of voters increased by 25%.

- Funds allocated for the Participatory Budgeting increased by 15%.

**Project spheres:**

- **Culture and education** - 20 projects
- **Sport** - 25 projects
- **Environment** - 4 projects
- **Social protection** - 9 projects
- **Other** - 4 projects
- **Public utility and infrastructure projects** - 34 projects

**Submitted projects** - 106

- **90 projects were submitted in 2017**

**Number of projects:**

- Submitted by IDPs - 76
- Admitted to voting - 73
- Received funding - 24

- Number of voters - 76
- Number of projects submitted by IDPs - 23

- Number of voters in 2017 - 7218
- Number of voters in 2018 - 9034
- Number of voters in 2017 and 2018 - 0
Population **33 104**

City area **12.77 km²**

Total city budget **357 million UAH**

Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting
- in 2017 **360 000 UAH**
- in 2018 **420 000 UAH**

**Project spheres:**
- **Education**
- **Culture and tourism**
- **Public utility**
- **Sport**
- **Social**
- **Energy efficiency**
- **Other**

Submitted projects **20**

**Achievements:**
- Citizens aged 14 and above can vote and submit the projects.
- Number of signatures required to submit a project was decreased from 50 to 15.
- Funds allocated for the Participatory Budgeting increased by 150%.
- Residents can vote for and submit a small or a big project to provide equal opportunities for the small initiatives to be funded.
- Maximum budget of a small project increased from 50 thousand UAH to 60 thousand UAH.
- Maximum budget of a big project increased from 80 thousand UAH to 100 thousand UAH.
**PERVOMAIISKyi (KHARKIV OBLAST)**

Population **29,931**

City area **9 km²**

Total city budget **270.5 million UAH**

Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting:
- **100,000 UAH** in 2017
- **200,000 UAH** in 2018

Changes in PB Regulation allow to refine application after the submission.

Youth participation and engagement in local development increased. Most projects were submitted by senior pupils from the secondary schools.

Funds allocated for the Participatory Budgeting increased by 100%.

Residents got more sufficient resources to address local development issues. Maximum budget of a project increased from 20,000 UAH to 40,000 UAH.

**Project spheres:**
- Development of urban areas (10)
- Environment (1)
- Sport (6)
- Environment (1)

**Submitted projects:**
- 17 projects were submitted in 2017

**Achievements:**

- Number of projects, submitted by IDPs: 9
- Number of projects, admitted to voting: 13
- Number of projects that received funding: 5
- Number of voters: 903

14 projects were submitted in 2017
**PRYMORSKA ATC (ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST)**

- **Community population**: 15,131
- **Community area**: 230 km²
- **Total community budget**: 91.6 million UAH
- **Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting in 2018**: 400,000 UAH

**Achievements:**

- Co-funding was canceled to reduce barriers and increase participation of the vulnerable groups.
- Increase in number of projects submitted by IDPs by 100% in comparison with previous stage (20% of total number of submitted projects).
- Strengthening of NGO involvement in informational campaign arrangements.
- Innovative public relations: “Participatory Budgeting” program was created on TV-channel Prymorsk 24.

**Project spheres:**

- **Infrastructure**: 22
- **Culture**: 3
- **Education**: 3
- **Tourism**: 1
- **Sport**: 10
- **Social protection**: 1

**Submitted projects**: 40

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sphere</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017 and 2018</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of projects:**

- **Submitted**: 40
- **Admitted to voting**: 26
- **Submitted by IDPs**: 8
- **Selected**: 6

**Number of voters:**

- 1,455
Community population 16 822
Community area 1200 km²
Total community budget 145.9 million UAH
Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting in 2018 500 000 UAH

Project spheres:

Achievements:

More balanced investment. Equal distribution of PB funds between Starosta Districts and Administrative Center of the community.

Empowerment of youth. Age limit for participation in the Participatory Budgeting (to vote and submit the projects) was shifted from 16 to 14 years in the second year of the PB.

9 out of 11 Starostas took part in the process of implementation of the Participatory Budgeting.
Changes to PB regulations are developed considering Georgian and Polish experience in the deliberative component of the Participatory Budgeting. 11 projects were submitted during the PB process, 6 of them have been defined as winning projects by the residents during public hearings in each Starosta District.

In the ATC center of Tomakivka, the winner was chosen by the direct voting.
SHYROKIVSKA ATC (ZAPORIZHZHIA OBLAST)

Community population **13 000**
Community area **378.3 km²**
Total community budget **73 million UAH**
Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting in 2018 **300 000 UAH**

**Project spheres:**
- 1 Medicine
- 6 Infrastructure
- 16 Culture and sports

**Submitted projects**: 24

**Achievements:**
- Amendments were introduced to the Regulation (the PB participant shall be 14 years old and above, maximum budget of the project – 50 000 UAH).
- High level of engagement of Starostas, neighborhood committees, moderators in promotion of the PB.
- 24 projects were submitted (considering that this ATC is the smallest in the project).
- Almost 15% of the residents voted for the projects.
- 3 projects that were submitted, but did not receive the financing within participatory budgeting, were implemented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of projects, admitted to voting</th>
<th>Number of projects that received funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017: 23</td>
<td>2018: 1704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018: 6</td>
<td>2018: 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of voters</th>
<th>Number of projects, submitted by IDPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017: 23</td>
<td>2018: 1704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community population **18,996**

Community area **351.6 km²**

Total community budget **160 million UAH**

Total sum allocated for participatory budgeting in 2018 **1.5 million UAH**

**Project spheres:**

- Pedestrian area and embankment **19**
- Infrastructure **5**
- Energy efficiency **1**
- Other **9**

**Submitted projects** **34**

**Achievements:**

Funds allocated for the PB projects were tripled: from 500,000 to 1,500,000 UAH.

Level of civic engagement increased. 32 projects were submitted in 2018.

Starostas’ offices are functioning as PB consulting centers.
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEARNINGS

What are the key success factors of the project?

- Regulations and procedures were improved by collecting opinions from different social groups
- Partner communities were selected considering political will to implement the project
- Participants had an opportunity to learn international experience, share joint challenges and find ways to address them
- Citizens gained knowledge and skills to prepare projects and support PB process
- Local governments provided necessary and accessible information on the PB process
- Local governments allocated sufficient resources for projects’ implementation
- Decentralization reform used for increasing PB
- Emergence of new leaders and initiative groups
- International multidisciplinary team of experts from Ukraine, Georgia and Poland helped to address different issues of the PB process

What were concrete improvements in PB procedures?

- Funding allocated for PB projects implementation has been increased
- Key stakeholders, as well as NGOs, vulnerable groups representatives, have been included in PB working groups
- Jointly developed PB timeline, which allows to find out appropriate schedule for full PB cycle
- At the beginning of the PB process before the adoption of the draft PB regulations it is necessary to arrange consultations with key stakeholders, including local elected officials, NGOs, vulnerable groups representatives
- Monitoring and evaluation stage is not only formal procedure, but used to identify potential improvements. After every PB cycle, the process should be continuously evaluated and improved as a result
- Lack of knowledge among local officials in the field of participation, citizen engagement and conflict resolution methods.
- Lack of knowledge among local citizens about local development priorities, strategies and policies
- Mistakes in the submitted projects (spatial planning, cost estimation, general availability) which leads to mistrust between citizens and local authorities

Were there problems in activating people?

- Lack of knowledge among local officials in the field of participation, citizen engagement and conflict resolution methods.
- Mistakes in the submitted projects (spatial planning, cost estimation, general availability) which leads to mistrust between citizens and local authorities

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON PB DEVELOPMENT

Number of cities and ATCs with PB in Ukraine:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>ATCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>200+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Low level of public involvement most often observed on the following stages:
- Start of PB process
- Project analysis stage

- Information on PB process is publicly accessible
- PB procedures are transparent
- PB processes are continuously evaluated

Picture illustrates schedule for PB evaluation in Novovodolazka ATC

This situation is a typical challenge for most cities and communities
What are the causes for increased number of residents voted?

- Local officials and citizens have skills and knowledge to support and get involved in the process
- Local authorities allocated sufficient resources (technical, human, financial)
- Local moderators are trained to keep process running and smooth without external support
- Choice of voting model with diverse options suitable for different kind of local citizens (e-platform, paper ballot voting, ATM)
- Voting rules and results are transparent, clear and well understood

PB process helps to empower citizens to develop decisions related to:
- How to spend part of the local budget
- Vendors management
- Social protection, education and culture policies
- Urban planning, local development strategies and infrastructure

What are the reasons for improved participation in decision-making?

- IDPs use new opportunities for participation
- To engage IDPs as well as other vulnerable groups it is necessary to find out specific ways to disseminate information, for instance through the Departments of Social Protection or FB groups
- While IDPs have no opportunity to vote in the local elections, PB has become a real democratic tool for integration into the host community

Were IDPs approached particularly?

- IDPs use new opportunities for participation
- To engage IDPs as well as other vulnerable groups it is necessary to find out specific ways to disseminate information, for instance through the Departments of Social Protection or FB groups
- While IDPs have no opportunity to vote in the local elections, PB has become a real democratic tool for integration into the host community

Challenges

- Lack of PB standards developed by the PB practitioners leads to a situation in which some important parts of the process are not implemented (monitoring and evaluation, information campaign)
- Lack of local policies on citizens engagement and vulnerable groups integration
- Lack of human resources in small communities to support and maintain the PB process
- Mistakes on the project analysis stage. Some of the shortlisted projects did not meet eligibility criteria leading to mistrust the process, which poses obstacles for further project implementation

Further steps for improving PB

- Holding trainings and educational programs to ensure high quality of the PB process
- Best practices dissemination through the Association of local self-government bodies
- Sharing Ukrainian PB experience and best practices in neighboring countries
- Expanding participatory toolbox in Ukraine by introducing social innovations to address issues which couldn’t be solved by PB.

Further observations

- Strengthening partnership between local government institutions through establishing Participatory Community Development Association
- Developing PB standards in Ukraine
- Developing national and local policies on social integration of vulnerable groups
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DISSEMINATION/MULTIPLICATION, CONTINUATION, IMPROVEMENT

To ensure the integration of internally displaced persons into host communities, it is necessary to:

- PB regulations should prescribe the right of IDPs to vote for and submit the projects;
- Involve IDPs in PB Working Groups;
- Establish cooperation with local NGO which is dealing with IDPs

For me, PB is about partnership, collaboration, mutual actions and communication. I would like to suggest the following:

- make the application form as easy as possible, though submitted projects should be supported with the signatures;
- ensure convenient ways and places to submit projects (centers for administrative services, libraries, community-wide events etc.);
- analyze the projects carefully to avoid further problems with implementation;
- PB is also about people, their needs and weaknesses that exist in the community. This is what residents want to solve first.

PB is a process in which everyone, regardless of place of residence, should be able to get involved. Everyone should have equal opportunity, regardless of whether a resident lives in the community center or in a remote village. Therefore, PB funds allocated from the community’s budget was distributed between the community center and seven starosta’s districts. As a result of involving residents and youth in the PB process, the NGO “Vodolaha Districts Association” was established.

Partner communities have initiated Participatory Community Development Association of cities and amalgamated territorial hromadas (communities) to ensure further best practices dissemination. We expect that Association will provide a significant boost to the development and improvement of PB, introduction of new participatory practices as well as enhance local ownership.
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More information on Participatory Budgeting

Publications, articles, analytics
paurc.org/ua/publications

Exchange of best practices and new contacts
www.fb.com/groups/pbtime/

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