

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Title of the experience: “I tebe se pita!”“YOUR VOICE MATTERS TOO!”, participatory budgeting programme		
Name of the city/region: Trogir / Split-Dalmatian County		
Country: Croatia		
Institution presenting the candidacy: City of Trogir		
Start date of the experience: 01.09. – 31.12.2018; 01.9.– 31.12.2019; 01.9. – 31.12.2020.		
End date of the experience: 31.12.2021.		
Type of candidacy	New experience	x
Type of experience	Participatory budgeting	x
Objective of the experience	Community empowerment	x
	To increase citizen’s rights in terms of political participation	x
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	x
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy	x
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	x
Territorial area	All the territory	x
Thematic area	Governance	X
	Local development	x

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Objectives

<p>Main objective of the innovative experience:</p> <p>The main goal of the project is to improve the decision-making process involving citizens, strengthening the partnership between local government and citizens as well as building trust between two sides. Also, through participatory budgeting practices we educate citizens about procedures and governance of investments in the community.</p>
<p>How have you achieved this objective?</p> <p>The goal was achieved by establishing application and projects selection procedure in eight local committees. Different ways of applying were offered with a list of eligible investments where we encountered a good response. After the evaluation of the received proposals, public forums were organized where the citizens had the opportunity to vote directly for their favorites. Public forums are also an opportunity to discuss about the investments and development of local committees and the neighborhoods.</p>



To what extent has this objective been achieved?

In 3 annual cycles of project (from 2018 to 2020) almost 1000 citizens were engaged with 700 proposals and 70 elected projects in their local committees. City of Trogir has 12.500 inhabitants.

Dimensions of the experience

Which is the most innovative aspect of the experience?

The most innovative aspect is combination of digital voting and voting live on public forums. In times of global pandemic, we faced the challenges of organizing public forums in local committees but we didn't want to lose live communication with citizens. So we offered online voting at the same time for citizens who applied to participate but were unable to participate due to the pandemic.

To what extent is the procedure transferable?

There are three essential elements of the project: procedure of application, procedure of evaluation and the procedure of election. All three elements are replicable and transferable on institutions and different areas of community.

Why do you consider that the experience is feasible?

Economic context is taken into consideration first, with determination of 10% of the city budget to start participatory budgeting for the first time in our city. Technical aspect included forming a campaign, project team and start with receiving proposals. Meetings with local committees helped to arrange places and dates for organizing public forums, as well as technical aspect of organization of forums.

How has the experience been coordinated with other actors and processes?

Experience has been coordinated with local committees and individuals who applied for participation. Coordination includes defining the terms of implementation of the project, period of application process, place and date of public forums, and the realization of elected projects. Success rate is measurable with number of 1000 participants, 700 proposals and more than 70 elected projects which are realized in 3 years.

What has been the level of co-responsibility?

About 80% of proposals are from individual citizens and about 20% come from local committees and NGO-s. Every proposal is evaluated within the project team and discussed with proposers and then presented at the public forums so all the attendees can get insight about every proposal and it's evaluation. Participants then get to vote about their favourites.

Which evaluation and accountability mechanisms were used?

After the proposal period, project team evaluates every proposal by gathering all information about the specific location, type of investment, cost estimation and acceptability. For every local committee we form a list of every proposal with evaluation and photo of current state. Base on that list, we



create a presentation for participants to present all proposals with detailed information about the location, current state and cost of investment. When the certain proposals are elected, they enter a city planned budget and ready for realization. In the next cycle of participatory budgeting project, we again present realized projects and discuss about them. Also, we inform the participants about the status of their proposal, and update them about the progress of realization.

Summary of the experience

The participatory budgeting programme “I tebe se pita!” is the first such programme in this Croatian region and it’s been very successful from the beginning. 1000 of Trogir’s citizens engaged in this programme with more than 700 proposals and 78 elected projects in their local communities and neighbourhoods. The technical aspect of the programme was challenging in the time of pandemic, but we still managed to achieve the interest of our citizens and improve the application and voting processes to keep the project going. Our citizens are more and more interested about the project, patiently waiting for the next period of application and proposal call, as well as realization of the elected proposals which are improving their streets, neighbourhoods and communities.