

Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Experience data (complete the information below in a clear and concise manner)

Title of the experience: Participatory budget for schools		
Name of the city or region: Brno		
Inhabitants of the city or territory: 379 466		
Country: Czech Republic		
Institution presenting the candidacy (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience): Brno City Municipality, Participation Department		
Website of the experience or institution: https://skoly.damenavas.cz		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: Facebook: @damenavas, Instagram: damenavas.cz		
Start date of the experience: 2020		
End date of the experience (if operational, indicate "ongoing"): ongoing		
Budget of the experience (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation): approximately 50.000 EUR per year		
Type of candidacy (Mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	X
Type of experience (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	X
	Participatory planning	
	Standing council	
	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	X

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	Public Hearing/Forum		
	Poll/referendum		
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces		
	E-government/Open government/Digital platforms		X
	Citizen initiative		
	Other (specify):		
<p>Objective of the experience</p> <p>(Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)</p>	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		X
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		
	Community empowerment		X
	To empower non-organised citizens		
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		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		
To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		X	
<p>Territorial area</p> <p>(Mark with an X in the right column)</p>	All the territory	Local	X
		Regional	

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<i>(you may choose more than one)</i>	District	X
	Neighbourhood	
Thematic area (Mark with an X in the right column) <i>(you may choose more than one)</i>	Governance	X
	Education	X
	Transport	
	Urban management	
	Health	
	Security	
	Environment/Climate change and/or urban agriculture	
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements.	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	X
	Local development	X
	Training/learning	X
	Economy and/or finances	X
	Legal regulations	
Social inclusion		
All		

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	Other (write the topic)	
<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice Mark with an X in the right column (more than one option can be chosen) You can also add the specific target</p>	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well- being	
	SDG 4 - Quality education	X
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 - Climate action	
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	

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PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links if you consider it appropriate.

Context

In a **maximum of 300 words**, it presents the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, the territory in which the experience takes place.

The City of Brno is the second largest city in the Czech Republic and has nearly 400 thousand citizens. Because of the significant number of schools and universities, Brno is also called "the city of students". Concerning the primary schools, in 2022 there are 65 schools administered by the city.

Precedents

Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins, if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city/municipality/region. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (**maximum 300 words**)

Brno has the largest participatory budget in the Czech Republic in terms of allocated funds for projects, which is approximately 1,350,000 EUR per year, and in terms of the number of voting citizens (more than 20,000 residents of the city voted in 2020). This year it is held the 6th year of the participatory budget *Dáme na vás* and for the entire period of functioning there are more than 800 projects submitted by the citizens of Brno. This "big participatory budget" was the herald of the Participatory budget for schools.

According to our experiences we know that small number of young people were interested in the participatory budget, so we wanted to activate this age group. We believe that the best way could be the Participatory budget for schools.

Objectives of the experience

What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience (**maximum 100 words**)

The Participatory budget for schools is the project focused on increasing interest in participation among young people, particularly pupils of the primary schools. The main objective is to improve public policy through the active participation of the public by teaching the young that they can decide about their surroundings and later on about their city and the country. Now at the young age, they are learning the main principles of democracy which is really important for them and for the future of our city. Through this implement we would like to raise active citizens of our city.

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Methodology

Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels
(maximum 300 words)

Every school year we write to all principals of the schools administered by the city. They send us statement whether they are interested in this project or not. If they are interested, they determine one school coordinator, who is responsible for the whole process. After, we organize a training course for the school coordinators.

The whole content of the participatory budget for primary schools is on website <https://skoly.damenavas.cz>. There you can find public information and there is also a platform for both school coordinators and pupils.

The first step on the platform, where only school coordinators have an access, is the preparation. Here they set the dates of all the phases of process and can download all necessary documents.

The next step called Class submission of the projects is where pupils are informed about main principles of the participatory budget and after they submit their projects in the classes. After this step there is determined one representative from every class to present their projects to other representatives and this is called School submission of the projects. They vote about the projects and the result of this phase is several suitable projects.

These projects are then approved by the school management.

The next step, promotion, consists in promoting projects by the pupils who try to persuade other schoolmates to vote for their projects.

According date set by the school coordinator, every pupil has a code for voting through the platform and then they vote.

Depending on the value of the project, there may be one or more winning projects. The pupils of the winning projects are awarded.

The ending of the whole process is that school management buys the items of the winning projects, school accountant charges invoices and school coordinator write a summary of the whole project.

Innovation

Explain what you consider most innovative in the practice. (In a maximum of 150 words)

Our Participatory budget for schools is the first city-wide participatory budget in the Czech Republic. We developed a web platform which is easily transferable to schools in other municipalities with minimal modifications. This web platform is also a very valuable basis for creating a participatory budget for secondary schools.

On this platform the school coordinators have everything at one place (information, documents and photos from actual year and previous years as well) and they can communicate with our department online. Thanks to this online platform there was no need to hire personal capacities in the department. The pupils are voting for their projects through

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this platform. Our department can easily see in which phase of project schools are at the moment.

Inclusion

*Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible and how you have achieved it. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The Participatory budget for schools is for every pupil no matter what their origin is. The materials can be easily translated to the English language. Pupils from every social group can attend the project.

Communication

*What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience so that the population knows about it and gets involved. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

As it was mentioned above, we write to all principals of the schools administered by the city every year. They decide if the school is involved in the project for the next school year or not.

We inform public about the Participatory budget for schools on the website about the schools which are involved every year and about the winning projects at every school.

The general public is also informed on our social media, which is Facebook and Instagram. In the next school year, we plan to use TikTok to inform younger people about the participatory budget.

Articulation with other actors

*It explains how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this joint. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The City of Brno has 29 districts and 65 schools administered by the city. These schools are part of the district's ecosystem in which they are based. For this reason, the Participatory budget for schools has an influence on the actors in the district, which are the Office of district, the school nearest surroundings, the school management and the schoolteachers. In the schools there are also activated so called "school parliaments". The school parliament is made up of pupils who represent their schoolmates and communicate with the school management. And the important is also feedback from the schools to our Participation Department and Brno City Municipality as a whole.

Evaluation:

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether citizenship has participated in the evaluation of the practice (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

Next school year it is held the 3rd year of the Participatory budget for schools. Therefore, one of evaluation mechanisms is the number of the schools registered for the next school year.

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We can see growing trend of the registered schools, in which 27 schools applied in the first year, 32 in the second year and for the third year there are registered 40 schools.

The second evaluation mechanism is a feedback from the school coordinators, which is filled in the online platform after the termination of the whole project. There is a summary of process and also positive and negative feedback. Based on this feedback, we improve the process for next years.

Impacts and results

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and which are their profiles. What have been the impacts on public policies, on the functioning of the administration and on citizens. (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

In the first year of the Participatory budget for schools there were 27 schools attended. The second year it was 32 schools. On the basis of the feedback from the school coordinators we know that the lower-secondary school pupils participate most often. But there are also schools, where the primary school pupils are involved.

One of the results is bigger dialog between pupils, schoolteachers and school management. It leads to contentment, openness and improving the school environment.

Another result consists in proposing projects in the “big” city-wide participatory budget from younger people.

And the greatest result will bring the future when the current pupils grow up, we expect an increasing participation in the elections and increasing interest in their surroundings.

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

*A summary of the experience: origin, objectives, operation, results, monitoring and evaluation (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before, this summary is the one that will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**)*

Based on our previous experience with the city-wide participatory budget, which has been taking place for 6 years, we know that a small number of young people are participating. We wanted to change this fact and involve more young people in decision-making about their surroundings and later on about their city and the country. Our main goal was to teach young people the basic principles of democracy. The Participatory budget for schools seemed to us to be the most suitable tool. This participatory budget was launched in 2020 and the holding of the 3rd year of the Participatory budget for schools is confirmed.

Out of the total number of 65 primary schools administrated by the city, 27 primary schools applied for the first school year, the second year it was already 32 schools and now the third year is being prepared, in which 40 primary schools confirmed its participation.

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Thanks to this growing trend of registered schools and feedback from schools from the previous years, we can see that there is great interest in participatory budgeting and pupils want to decide about their nearest surroundings.

The main innovation in this project was the creation of a web-based online platform in which school coordinators, pupils and our Participation Department have access and where everything is at one place. This platform is easily transferable with minimal adjustments to schools in other cities and it is also the basis for participatory budgeting for secondary schools.

As a result, we expect greater involvement of young people in the city-wide participatory budget, as well as increasing interest about their surroundings and greater participation in elections, both municipal and national.

We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... They can be sent through a heavy document delivery system such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive

Attechements:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xo0QiFTQNY1ymZXXU8hKSiZpxOVkOd_I