

Participatory budget in Intermediary Cities  
Challenges, specificities and urban democracy contribution

# The participatory budget of Molina de Segura

Esther Clavero, José Molina y José Manuel Mayor



UCLG Sections



# Specific challenges addressed in the PB

Promote physical direct and conscious participation of citizens

## Empowerment of the citizens

Information and training  
of the citizens to  
**transfer  
knowledge**

Citizens coordination,  
Political parties and  
government team  
**legitimacy of the  
Institutions and  
Open Governments**



G-1000, workshops, new rights  
and values

## Democratic innovation

As a guarantee of transparency,  
efficiency and effectiveness  
preventing wastage

## Monitoring and control of performance

Eliminate the social and  
territorial imbalance. Strengthen  
the constituent rights

## Social justice and territorial cohesion

# Participatory Budget of Molina de Segura

## Population

70,344 inhabitants  
(35,035 men and 35,309 women)

## Municipal Budget

€ 60,200,000 aprox.

## Participatory Budget

€ 2,000,000 (3.32% regarding M.P.)

## P. B. Distribution

- Municipal level: € 1,000,000
    - € 500,000 → Investments
    - € 500,000 → Activities and programmes
  - Areas: € 1,000,000
    - € 120,000 per area\* + population distribution
- \* Compensation for smaller population groups



# Main achievements (I)

- **Increase of involvement of citizens**

- In prioritisation assemblies
- In voting
- In accountability

- **Telematic participation**

- Digital vote (2017)
- Stable physical participation

- **External dynamisers to the council**

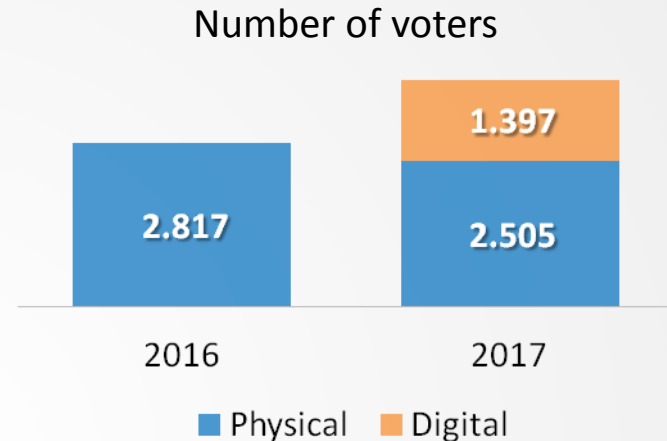
- External teams → avoids the politicisation of the process / more institutional independence

- **Distribution of part of the PB in areas (territories) (2017)**

- Guarantees a fixed quantity for every area → more visualisation of the results
- Reduces the level of competitiveness between areas
- Facilitates agreements between areas when it comes to proposing
- and prioritising (2018)

- **Prioritisation of proposals of every neighbourhood/hamlet for a debate**

- At least 2 proposals for every neighbourhood/hamlet are included → attendance of all neighbourhoods/hamlets



# Main achievements (II)

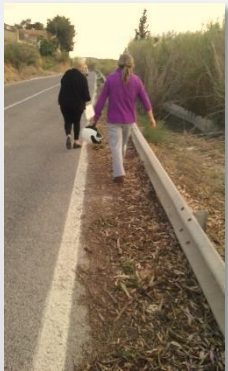
- **PB for secondary school students**

- Quantity to prioritise : € 35,000 (2017)
- Motor group → 34 students, 7 sessions out-of-school time
- Voters: 2.189 students



- **Creation of working groups in every area based on PB**

- **Tour 5.0:** Guided tours within and among the areas to identify needs.
- **Urban:** They collect information about the urban development areas.
- **Owl:** They provide a follow-up to the PB proposals.
- **Other groups:** transport, healthcare, security, etc.





# Difficulties of being an intermediate city

## From an institutional perspective

- **Difficulty of knowing the real needs of the citizens directly**
  - The PB has allowed it to elaborate a list with those needs, covering some of them by different means (regular budget)

## From the citizens' perspective

- **Difficulty of knowing the needs of other areas and neighbourhoods**
  - Thanks to the PB, citizens are aware of the rest of the needs that, otherwise, they wouldn't know due to the extension of the municipality → increased chance of solidarity among areas and neighbourhoods
- **Difficulty in establishing relationships among citizens from different areas and neighbourhoods**
  - While these relationships exist among the different representatives, The PB facilitates this type of meeting as well as the creation of networks among non affiliated citizens

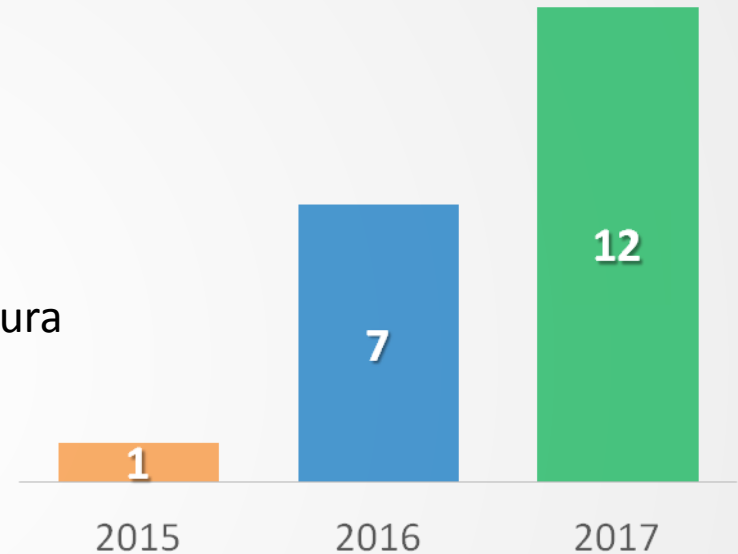
# Advantages of being an intermediate city

- **It enables to have a Department of citizen participation**
- **It enables the personal dynamization of the municipality**
- **Diffusion**
  - Convinced and committed citizens → new participants
    - There is trust and links among neighbours
    - Communication among neighbours is more effective than using resources in big advertising campaigns
    - Most effective way of diffusion: car with loudspeakers on the roof
- **It enables a greater personal participation**
  - Social Centres in Molina de Segura: 23
  - Citizens don't have to travel long distances to participate in person
- **Digital participation only as a complement**

# Model for the rest of the intermediate cities in the Region of Murcia



PB in the Region of Murcia



Molina de Segura as a model to follow by the rest of the intermediate cities in the region



# Recommendations



## Advertising

- “Close” advertising
  - Due to the size of the city, citizens get more involved if they are invited to participate by someone they personally know
- Megaphone marketing
  - There is a digital divide among the ageing population (10,1% ≥ 65 years old)

## Facilitate the creation of working groups within and among areas

- Generates greater solidarity
- Creation of networks among citizens with different profiles



# Transparency Council of the Region of Murcia



## Promote from the municipalities citizens with answers

- Competences on the Participatory budget at local level
  - Municipal level
  - Educational level. The role of the youth
- Participatory Health Councils
- Coordination with the platform of NGOs for participation
- Increases citizens' initiatives creating the figure of the online citizens' initiatives
- Creates officially the figure of the Open Government Plan, assessed by the Council, that will be used as a coordination structure of the actions to open the institutions to the citizens
- Participatory Civil Service
- Transfer of knowledge from the Open Forum
- Reindustrialisation with the citizen's financial support