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ФИНАНСОВЫЙ
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МИНИСТЕРСТВО ФИНАНСОВ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ



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НАУЧНО-ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ
ФИНАНСОВЫЙ ИНСТИТУТ

International Conference

“Citizens’ Participation as a Development Resource: Russian and International Experience with Participatory Budgeting”

September 7, 2018

Moscow, Manezh Central Exhibition Hall

Background

Over the last ten years, Russia has seen dramatic development of participatory budgeting (PB) practices. More than 50 Russian regions (over half of all regions) already employ PB practices; more than ten thousand projects have been identified with citizens’ participation, totaling 7 billion rubles (\$112 million). In fact, in just the past two years there has been a five-fold increase. The high pace of development of PB in Russia can be explained by three key factors. First, the institutional context in which Russian practices are implemented has helped facilitate PB (e.g. an administrative structure and division of powers among different levels of government, and by established local governance practices). Second, PB’s popularity is related to the fact that projects are mostly initiated and financed at subnational level and benefit from co-financing (cash inputs) by citizens and businesses as well as competitive selection of project ideas initiated by the public. Third, PB benefits from a well-directed methodological, information and institutional support of provided by the government (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation).

Russia’s accumulated experience to date may be of interest to countries with similar administrative and budget systems (in particular, countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia seeking to launch/promote participatory practices). Also, benchmarking Russian experience against the best European PB approaches (Portugal, France, Italy, Spain) could be mutually beneficial.

Objectives:

- present Russian PB experience and benchmark it against the best global practices;
- discuss opportunities and context for implementing PB practices in Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- discuss the role and goals of the government in supporting and regulating participatory practices.

The conference participants will address the following issues:

1. What is the current state and development paths of participatory budgeting (PB) in Russia and globally?
2. What are specific features of the Russian PB model, and how it differs from international practices? Which models and practices are applicable in Eastern Europe and Central Asia?
3. What is the role of governments and municipal authorities in supporting PB practices?

Audience (up to 150 participants)

- representatives of the government bodies of the Russian Federation
- representatives of financial authorities from the Russian regions
- representative of financial authorities from Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- representatives of international organizations (World Bank, UN-Habitat)
- Russian PB experts.

Design

The conference will comprise three sessions (a plenary and two panel discussions) and award ceremony for the winners of Russian citizens' budgets and participatory budgeting competitions.

Plenary session «New Horizons for Developing Participatory Budgeting (PB) Practices in Russia and Globally» will review the current state and prospects of PB in Russia, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal. Leading Russian and international policy-makers, experts, practitioners, representatives of international organizations will discuss various country approaches and share their vision regarding opportunities to use citizens' participation as a development resource.

Panel discussion “The Role of Government in Supporting and Regulating Citizens' Participation in Public Infrastructure Development” will discuss goals, objectives and specific mechanisms used to support PB practices by the government, as well as the need and scope of their government regulation.

This is especially relevant for Russia and other countries that currently consider legislative initiatives in the PB area.

Panel discussion “Models and Tools for Interaction with Citizens in Participatory Budgeting Practices” will address specific PB models, mechanisms and procedures with a focus on communication, awareness-raising and advocacy interaction between different governments and the public. A special emphasis will be made on opportunities and constraints for using relevant models in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Award ceremony for the winners of three participatory budgeting and citizens' budgets competitions:

- the Second National PB Projects Competition held via “budget4me” web-portal – winners in three nominations: citizens' partnership; citizens' participation; the most audacious project;
- competition of citizens' budgets presentations held by the Finance University under the RF Government in 2018;
- competition for financial authorities of Russian regions; nomination “For the Promotion of Participatory Budgeting”.

Tentative agenda

12.00 – 13.30 Plenary session

“New Horizons for Developing Participatory Budgeting (PB) Practices in Russia and Globally”

Moderator: **Dmitry Shatokhin**, Member of the Committee for Budget and Financial Markets, Council of the Federation

Speakers:

1. **Alexei Lavrov**, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation
2. **Andras Horvai**, Country Director and Resident Representative, World Bank
3. **Vladimir Vladimirov**, Governor, Stavropol krai
4. **Anna Kharchenko**, Minister of Finance, Sakhalin region
5. **Juan Pablo Guerrero**, Network Director, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT), USA
6. **Adrià Duarte**, Coordinator, International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)
7. **Yves Cabannes**, Professor Emeritus, Development Planning, University College London, UK

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.30 Panel discussion

“The Role of Government in Supporting and Regulating Citizens’ Participation in Public Infrastructure Development”

Moderator: **Vladimir Vagin**, Head, Initiative Budgeting Center, Financial Research Institute (NIFI) under the Russia Ministry of Finance

Discussants:

1. **Ekaterina Butzkaya**, Minister of Finance, Ulyanovsk region
2. **Ivan Shulga**, TTL, PB Project in Russia, World Bank
3. **Nelson Dias**, Coordinator, Association of Municipalities Implementing Participatory Practices, Portugal
4. **Giovanni Allegretti**, Co-Chair, Independent Authority for the Promotion of Participation (APP), Tuscany, Italy
5. **Victor Lutenco**, Advisor to the Mayor, Chisinau, Moldova

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 Panel discussion***“Models and Tools for Interaction with Citizens in Participatory Budgeting Practices”***

Moderator: **Ilya Sokolov**, Head, Lab for Fiscal Policy Studies, RANEPa

Discussants:

1. **Harika Masud**, Social Development Specialist, World Bank
2. **Sergei Romanov**, Director, Department of Budget Methodology and Public Sector Financial Reporting, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation
3. **Alexei Korabelnikov**, Chairman, Finance Committee of Saint-Petersburg
4. **Lena Langlet**, Senior Advisor, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
5. **Josh Lerner**, Executive Director of The Participatory Budgeting Project, the USA

17.00 – 17.10 Award ceremony