National Participatory Budgeting in South Korea

Participatory Budgeting Division
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Republic of Korea

October 2019
Cascais, Portugal
1. Introduction of My Budget
National Participatory Budgeting (PB) *My Budget* was first implemented in 2018 for the 2019 National Budget.

**Concept**
- Citizen’s participation in project proposal, discussion, and prioritization
  → Citizen’s direct financial management

**Effect**
- Citizen Participation
- Citizen Preference
  - Increase public attention on national budget

Financial Democracy  Citizen Academy
Timeline by Phase

- Apr
  Proposal
  » Citizens submit ideas for new projects

Apr - May
  Screening
  » Relevant ministries review proposals

Jun - Jul
  Discussion
  » Discussion on the proposed projects by Citizen’s Committee

Jul
  Prioritization
  » 50% Citizen’s committee vote (400 people)
  » 50% online vote (2000 people)

Aug
  Deliberation
  » Insert PB projects in budget draft

Sep - Dec
  Submission & Approval
  » Approval by the National Assembly
2. Management of My Budget
Promotions & Submissions

Submissions

- Homepage
- E-mail
- Postal mail
- Visiting reception* (for people difficult to access to the Internet or marginal group busy in daily affairs etc.)

Promotions

- Promotional video (subway, train, theater, public facilities)
- Social media (YouTube, Facebook)
- Poster & Brochure
- Links on public institution homepages
- Press release
Participatory Budgeting Citizen’s Committee

Members

- 400 representatives of different gender, age and region (via statistical sampling)
- Grouped into 4 sectors: Welfare, Social, Economy, Public Admin

Role

- Select final projects from ministries’ shortlists
- Vote on preferred project candidates

Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting 1</th>
<th>Meetings 2 &amp; 3</th>
<th>Meeting 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.15</td>
<td>6.29-30</td>
<td>7.20</td>
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</table>

- Certificate conferment
- Finance education
- Project introduction
- Project selection by sector
- Discussion on selected project candidates
- Preference vote
Expert’s Support Council

**Members**
- 68 experts recommended by ministries
- Grouped into 4 sectors same as the Citizen’s Committee

**Role**
- Help ministries with sorting proposals
- Advise the Citizen’s Committee

**Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Advising</th>
<th>Facilitating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6 times a year</td>
<td>April - May</td>
<td>June - July</td>
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- Discuss system development, share opinions, etc.
- Advise ministries to screen/develop proposals
- Facilitate Citizen’s Committee meetings
Problem-solving participatory method (Pilot program)

Selected Topics

- Youth Unemployment
- Childcare Support
- Support program for Small business and Self-employed

⇒ Total 8 projects were included in 2020 budget
3. Selected Projects
Citizen’s Proposals on Budget Projects

‘Close-up on Life’ budget projects

- Youth Employment
- Childcare, Education
- Safety, Environment

Total of 1,399 budget proposals were received over 2 months

- Health/Welfare: 563 (40.2%)
- Environment: 176 (12.6%)
- Government: 174 (12.4%)
- Safety/Public order: 111 (10.8%)
- Education: 92 (9.0%)
- Culture/Tourism: 77 (7.7%)
- Food/Agriculture: 71 (7.6%)
- SOC: 58 (4.8%)
- Energy/Industry: 48 (4.7%)
- National Defense: 10 (3.6%)
- Foreign Affairs/Unification: 10 (1.8%)
- R&D: 9 (1.1%)
Scaling up

Number of Proposals from Citizens

- 2019: 1206
- 2020: 1399

\(+16\%\)

Requested Budget from Ministries ($ million)

- 2019: 141
- 2020: 201

\(+42\%\)
Total Projects and Budget in 2020

New PB Projects in the 2020 National Budget

38 Projects
$ 93 million

Close-up on Life Projects
23 projects
$ 46.6 million

Support for socially marginalized
15 projects
$ 46.4 million
PB Budget Scale ($ million)

- 2019: $77 million
- 2020: $224 million (Continued)

PB Budget has scaled up by 2 times in a year
## Process in 2018 & 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposals from Citizens</strong></td>
<td>1206 projects</td>
<td>1399 projects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry’s screening</strong></td>
<td>102 projects</td>
<td>96 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$141 mil</td>
<td>$201 mil</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Government’s submission after Citizen committee’s prioritization</strong></td>
<td>39 projects</td>
<td>66 projects, $225 mil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$70 mil</td>
<td>New</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Continued</td>
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<td>38 projects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Approved by National Assembly</strong></td>
<td>38 projects</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$77 mil</td>
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Close-up on Life Projects

1. Fine Dust
   - City forest (60ha)
   - Resting shelter · Moss bench (20 places each)
   - Subway station ventilator (46 machines)

2. Public Safety
   - Manual for school meal preparation monitoring
   - Fire safety education outreach for senior · disabled
   - Seismic performance evaluation & improvement

3. Employment
   - AI matching employment service
   - Youth center for career exploration program

4. Life Environment
   - Food garbage processing equipment distribution
   - Ocean environment guard support
   - Marine pollution surveillance drone
Support for Socially Marginalized

1. Disabled
   - Wheelchair access improvement on buses, terminals
   - Sex education for people with disabilities
   - Water sports program, sports wheelchair support

2. Women
   - Environmental-friendly agricultural product support to pregnant women
   - Outreach counselling center for sexual assault victims
   - Unisex public toilet separation

3. Soldiers
   - Air purifiers for conscripted policeman’s residence
   - Winter down coat provision to military personnel

4. Children, Adolescents
   - Childcare support
   - Residential support for child welfare centers
   - Recovery centers for at-risk youth
4. Impacts & Future Plans
Impacts – Actual Case

"My friend with disabilities has a very hard time travelling, especially by bus”

‘Wheelchair Accessible Bus’ project selected

$1.18 million USD added in the 2019 National Budget

Simple idea proposed by citizens

Proposal selection & development by experts

Turn into Reality!

Citizen’s simple idea can be developed into a national project
Comparative Advantages

- Increase fiscal transparency and incorporate citizens’ interests in the national budget
- Discover the most-needed projects from citizen’s perspective in the national budget
Future Plans

Goal

Direction

Citizen’s Opinions

Solid & Strong National PB Operation

Expand Participation

Improve Management

Vitalize Communication

Citizen’s Committee Survey

Regional offline meetings

Citizen Survey

Expert’s Survey & Research
Thank you for Listening