

Call for papers for the issue focused on
Participatory Budgeting in Central and Eastern Europe:
A Useful Tool or Just a Fad?

(initiated within the [INLOGOB research project](#))

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Word count:

8,000 max. (incl. references)

Timetable:

- 31 August 2021: submission of full papers (for internal review by the guest editors of the special issue)
- 15 September 2021: final decisions of the guest editors (the positively evaluated papers will be submitted further to the SJSP for double blind review)
- 15 October 2021: results of the 1st round review
- 15 November 2021: revisions according to the requirements and/or recommendations of the 1st round review, and re-submission
- 30 November 2021: results of the 2nd round review
- 15 December 2021: revisions according to the requirements and/or recommendations of the 2nd round review and finalization
- 31 December 2021: online publication

Context and expected content:

Participatory budgeting has become an interesting innovation of democratic budgeting since its introduction in Porto Alegre. Although it travelled almost exclusively across Latin America in the 1990s, it arrived in some Western European countries approximately at the turn of the millennium (Sintomer et al. 2008). This innovation took root in some urban centres in Europe in the early 2000s; however, their approach was experimental rather than being based on some clear vision or strategy. A slower increase of experience with participatory budgeting has been typical for Central and Eastern European countries; therefore, it is no surprise that there are still many unanswered questions in regard to the diffusion, implementation, and impacts of this democratic innovation of budgeting in this region.

This call is issued in the context of clearly growing interest in participatory budgeting in Central and Eastern Europe. Existing knowledge and experience is limited, and this opens many different directions for further academic research. Taking this into account, we would like to draw the attention of prospective contributors to the following questions:

- 1) How did participatory budgeting arrive in CEE countries and who have been its most important supporters?
- 2) What have been the most important drivers and barriers to the spread of this innovation in CEE countries?
- 3) What attitudes among various groups of stakeholders (e.g., local public servants, mayors, local councillors, local activists, local entrepreneurs, and ordinary citizens) towards participatory budgeting can be identified in CEE countries?
- 4) What models of participatory budgeting (e.g., according to Sintomer et al. 2008 or Krenjova and Raudla 2013) have been preferred in CEE countries and what are the reasons for such preferences?
- 5) What political, administrative, economic, social, or other impacts of participatory budgeting have already appeared in CEE countries?
- 6) Has the introduction of participatory budgeting led to some shifts in power (at different levels of government) in CEE countries?
- 7) Has the introduction of participatory budgeting somehow contributed to higher citizen engagement or to the more intensive application of co-creation in the field of public service delivery?
- 8) How has participatory budgeting influenced cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships or relationships between various stakeholders in CEE countries?
- 9) Has the present pandemic influenced the further diffusion or implementation of this innovation in CEE countries?
- 10) What are the expected directions of the further diffusion of this innovation in CEE countries in the near future/in the post-pandemic period?
- 11) How can analyses of the CEE experience contribute to the further development of knowledge concerning participatory budgeting?

The contributors may focus on the experiences of individual countries, or they may provide broader international perspectives. Comparative papers containing clear analyses of empirical data will be preferred, but interesting case studies leading to the better understanding of some specific phenomena are also welcome.

Krenjova, J. – Raudla, R. 2013. Participatory Budgeting at the Local Level: Challenges and Opportunities for New Democracies. *Halduskultuur – Administrative Culture*, 14 (1): 18–46.
Sintomer, Y. – Herzberg, C. – Röcke, A. 2008. Participatory Budgeting in Europe: Potentials and Challenges. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 32 (1): 164–178.

