

Lessons Learnt from Evidence-Based Participatory Budgeting in Lithuania: Case of EmPaci Project

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper critically evaluates the development of the participatory budgeting instrument in Lithuania's municipalities and suggests improvements to its evidence-based decision-making system.

Research question: What interesting conceptual imperatives have appeared in Lithuania's investigation of the participatory budgeting in Lithuania during the implementation of EmPaci?

Methodology: This research study uses a positivist methodology to analyse the problems that researchers have identified in the implementation of participatory budgeting in Lithuanian municipalities. This investigation explains why certain problems have appeared, what has changed and what system changes can be identified traced. The study proceeds as follows. First, the survey on participatory budgeting carried out in Lithuania is analysed. Second, politicians' attitude on the implementation of participatory budgeting in Lithuanian municipalities is investigated. The present research combines integrate and consolidates the theoretical and practical information on participatory budgeting into an explanatory scheme, which could be developed into a model in the future. Information from EmPaci project implementation is used.

Key words: Participatory budgeting, Lithuania, Evidence-Based, EmPaci, municipalities

Challenges for citizen participation in the Baltic Sea region

- Many areas of the Baltic Sea Region are described as highly fragmented in terms of their population. This poses challenges for local government and councils to engage all residents in joint activities and identify existing problems;
- Therefore, instruments are needed that will enable and empower the population to participate in the municipal decision-making process and, more specifically, to address issues related to local budget revenues and expenditures.