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**Who participates in Participatory Budgeting? Unravelling of who shows up<sup>3 4</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT**

Participatory budgeting is categorised as one of the most successful instruments when it comes to participation. The instrument initially spread through the Latin American continent, then to North America, Asia and Europe, engaging people in decision making and prioritisations on where to allocate public money. Participatory budgeting works as travelling innovation policy, traveling from one context to another, adapting to local customs. It travelled in the form of comprehensive administrative reforms, as a politically neutral device to improve governance especially when arriving to Europe and the Central Eastern European region (CEE). Recently it was brought to light that PB development in the CEE region was undoubtedly different from the original case, and instead of resulting in radical changes to increase activities in favour of marginalized groups it results only in small changes, even stagnation. This work presents a case study of the Czech city Brno, where we gathered information consisting of age, gender, education, economic activity, and preferences of all PB participants for a period of four years, from its beginning in 2017 till the recent process in action 2021. On this case, we observe and analyse particularities of participants' group, not only in static terms of one year period, but also drafting a trend on how the participatory base developed throughout the period of four years. Both desk and field research were employed to gather data and to use relevant qualitative as well as quantitative data to address our research question. Study shows how CEE implementation of this budgetary innovation targets different groups of participants than the first adaptations in Latin America and completes the study of participatory budgeting implementation in CEE region.

**Keywords:** participatory budgeting, participation, budgetary innovation, implementation of innovation

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