Resilient Participatory Budgeting in Local Governance: Determinants of its Continuity in Czech Municipalities.

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In an era defined by uncertainty and complex governance challenges, strengthening democracy through responsible public administration requires institutional mechanisms that are both participatory and adaptable. Participatory budgeting (PB) represents one such mechanism—an innovation enabling citizens to directly influence the allocation of public funds while fostering transparency and civic trust. Yet, while many municipalities have experimented with PB, only a limited number have managed to maintain its continuity over time and integrate it as a stable element of local governance.

This study explores the determinants of PB continuity—defined as its repeated implementation across multiple years—within Czech municipalities. Drawing on a unique dataset covering the period 2014–2023, the research combines standard socio-economic indicators, financial resilience, and civic engagement levels with detailed information on municipal PB practices. Using a binary logistic regression model, the study estimates the probability that a municipality will continue its PB initiative after an initial cycle.

The preliminary results highlight that higher municipal income per capita and lower debt levels significantly increase the likelihood of PB continuity. Political engagement of citizens, reflected in voter turnout, also emerges as a key factor sustaining participatory mechanisms. Demographic characteristics—particularly a higher proportion of young and educated residents—further support PB resilience.

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