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Project acronym: **DEMo4PPL**

Project full title: **Digital Education Modules 4 Participatory Planning**

**OPT-T7: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AND SOCIAL
PARTICIPATION IN RURAL AREAS**

1. Short description

The module introduces students to the principles and practices of participatory budgeting (PB) in the unique context of rural development. Students will explore the history and evolution of PB, its challenges in rural settings, and its potential to foster social participation and sustainable development. Key topics include the role of local governments and stakeholders, effective community engagement strategies, and real-world case studies from diverse regions. By critically analysing these examples, students will develop the ability to assess the impact of PB and social participation in rural projects. The module culminates in a practical exercise, where students design and propose a PB process or project, demonstrating their understanding and creativity in addressing rural development needs.

The main goals of the module are:

- Introducing students to the concept of participatory budgeting (PB),
- Explore the role of social participation in shaping development in rural areas,
- Allowing students to identify specific benefits, limitations, and challenges of implementing PB in rural communities,
- Encourage students to design a potential project that can be implemented in PB.

Students will be able to explain the core principles of PB and how they apply the rural planning context. The course can be supported by MS Teams tools.

2. Keywords

3. Content

3.1. The role of social participation in development of rural areas

A local community is a group of people living within a defined, relatively small territory, such as a **parish** or village, characterised by strong bonds arising from shared interests and needs, as well as a **sense** of rootedness and belonging to the place of residence. The elements that connect a **local** community include space (a geographically defined area), population inhabiting this space, social interactions occurring among residents, and sense of belonging to the place of residence, expressed in attitudes often referred to as local patriotism.

A local community is also a stage where local conflicts arise among residents, representatives of local authorities, and entrepreneurs operating within the community's territory. The subjects of these conflicts typically include: the distribution of resources within the social space, increasing economic disparities, the competencies of local community leaders, or the appropriation of public space.

Social participation plays a crucial role in shaping development in rural areas, as it promotes collective action, strengthens community ties, and improves decision-making processes. Social participation empowers local communities to take an active role in identifying and solving their own challenges. Promotes agency among rural populations, allowing them to influence policies and programmes tailored to their needs. By involving local voices, development efforts are more inclusive and sustainable.

Active participation builds trust and networks within communities. Strong social capital fosters collaboration and mutual support, which are essential for long-term development efforts. It also helps to resolve conflicts and build resilience against external challenges, such as natural disasters or economic downturns. Participatory models encourage the diversification of the rural economy, making it less vulnerable to external shocks.

In summary, social participation transforms rural development from a top-down approach to a **bottom-up**, inclusive process, making it more adaptive, effective, and sustainable (Bednarska-Olejniczak et al., 2020; Rozanova et al., 2008; Shortall, 2008; Wiesinger, 2007).

3.2. What is a participatory budgeting?

One of the foundations of democracy is citizen participation in the governance of the state. Through active involvement, communities can build trust among residents, develop effective systems to meet public needs, and secure support for government initiatives. When residents take an active role, they can significantly improve the effectiveness of local government actions. Social participation, defined as active participation in the management of community affairs, represents the highest level of

cooperation between citizens and authorities. It is a cornerstone of a civil society, where members contribute voluntarily and actively to the collective good (Leśniewska-Napierała & Napierała, 2020).

Elections and referendums are fairly common forms of citizen participation in municipal decision-making. Recently, participatory budgets (PB) have become a popular tool to encourage residents to participate in local government activities. This mechanism allows citizens to directly influence projects that benefit their communities (Leśniewska-Napierała & Napierała, 2020). **The participatory budget**, also known as the civic budget, is a democratic process in which residents co-decide on public spending in the commune for the upcoming budget year. These are not additional funds but part of the municipal budget. The final amount of financial resources allocated for the implementation of PB tasks is specified in the resolution for a given budget year.

The concept of a participatory budget serves, on the one hand, to engage residents in public life and increase interest in the functioning of local government. On the other hand, it fosters greater openness of local government bodies to the needs of the community and improves the accuracy of investment decisions. The PB plays a crucial social role: it strengthens residents' sense of identification with the community and builds trust in elected representative bodies. To implement **a participatory budget**, authorities must be ready to give up some of their own competences to residents. In addition, a certain amount of money from the budget should be allocated for the exclusive use of the local community (Ganuza & Baiocchi, 2019; Wampler, 2012; Wiesinger, 2007).

The idea of a participatory budget first emerged in Brazil as part of the country's democratic transformation. During its initial years in Porto Alegre, the most frequently selected projects focused on building sewage systems, paving streets, and building schools, hospitals, and health centres. At that time, it was not expected that the idea would gain global acceptance and spread around the world, becoming a permanent part of the civic landscape of local governments. Over time, the PB expanded to other Brazilian cities and eventually to other Latin American countries. Since 2000, efforts to implement participatory budgets have also been made in Europe, including in countries such as France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. However, the procedures for establishing PBs vary across European nations, influenced by factors such as economic conditions (Wampler et al., 2021).

In Porto Alegre, residents participated in the budget design and then had the opportunity to establish committees that oversaw the implementation of recommended actions. In the first phase of work, numerous meetings were organized with representatives of local communities to jointly define investment priorities. Then, delegates were elected to represent the estates at city forums, at the same time becoming liaisons between local authorities and residents. Furthermore, in the second stage of consultations, investment proposals were prioritized so that funds would first go to the neediest areas of the city (Baiocchi, 2001; Gret & Sintomer, 2005; Sintomer et al., 2008).

Participatory budgeting can also be considered as an effect of development processes. Public participation should be the basis for the concept of sustainable development, and recognition of the interests of different stakeholder groups can be beneficial for the decision-making process (Primmer & Kyllönen, 2006). One of the innovative features of PB is the way it involves actors outside of the public administration. Civic associations can play a more important role in PB decision-making processes than individuals (Ewens & van der Voet, 2019; Ganuza et al., 2014; Primmer & Kyllönen, 2006).

The financing of the civic budget is based on the budget of local government units, and its use is decided by citizens who first submit projects for possible implementation and then vote on those that will be financed. The participation of residents in the decision-making process allows both to indicate the most important goals and methods of achieving them, and allows for the identification of the main problems, the resolution of which is a priority for the local community. It is worth emphasizing that PB is not in opposition to the traditional budget, but is only a separate part of it, decided by residents.

For the participatory budget to function within a local government, authorities must meet several conditions:

- **A bounding vote** - The results of project selection under the participatory budget must be binding on the municipal authorities. PB should proceed according to transparent and official rules, which must be known to residents before the entire procedure is launched, and should not be subject to change during the process within the annual cycle.
- **The inclusiveness of the process** - The organizers of the process should also ensure the availability of information on its course and conditions for all potentially interested stakeholders. One of the activities that precedes its introduction should be an information campaign using various media. Particular attention should be paid to those social groups whose level of participation is usually particularly low.
- **Supporting inhabitants' activity** - Residents who get involved in PB are given the "right to the place", which, however, is not taken away from those who already have it (mayors, councillors, etc.), but extended to those who have not been granted it so far or who have not used it.
- **Long-term nature** - The implementation of PB is not a one-time process; it should function in the long term (Wampler, 2012; Wampler et al., 2021).

The participatory budget should be based to the greatest extent possible on the experiences and traditions of social activism and earlier participatory mechanisms. PB, if implemented broadly and efficiently, may prove to be a remedy for the lack of interaction between local government and members of the local community, increasing the level of public participation and strengthening civil society.

Tasks that can be included in participatory budget can be of a local nature (they concern a given housing estate, village council, residents of the commune, students

at school) or general (e.g., events carried out in the municipality in which residents of nearby housing estates, or the entire commune can participate). Pro-social projects can also be submitted, i.e. educational, cultural, health-promoting, recreational, or integrating activities. The category of pro-environmental projects can include those related to activities for animal welfare and the development of green areas. Other projects may include those that improve infrastructure, i.e., modernization of facilities, construction of playgrounds and wheelchair ramps, or replacement of road surfaces and designation of new bicycle paths. The most common thematic categories of projects include education, culture, social assistance, technical infrastructure, or greenery (Gret & Sintomer, 2005; Sintomer et al., 2008).

3.3. Participatory budgeting stages

It should be emphasized that participatory budget is a process, its individual stages are directly linked, and the effects of earlier stages influence the shape of subsequent ones. The PB should not be a one-time event, but it should be cyclical and part of the cycle of local government functioning - from the moment of discussion on the needs and priorities for the next year, through the selection of projects for implementation and their inclusion in the budget for the next period, until the completion of the implementation of projects selected in this procedure (Figure 1).

Designing the process: The preliminary step before starting the PB procedure should be a **discussion** at the municipal authority level on the idea of using such a mechanism. This stage is primarily internal in nature and takes place at the level of the municipal authorities.

At the beginning, there is the decision of the local government authorities to organize a citizens' budget at all. When creating rules, keep in mind things like who can submit a project; how many projects can be submitted, what is a maximum project value, division into project categories, form of submitting applications (online/paper), who has the right to vote, number of days to vote, or form of voting (online/paper/both).

The development of PB principles can also take place in the formula of a social dialogue commission, in which nongovernmental organisations are invited to participate, or through open meetings of residents who discuss how the participatory budget should work. The basic issue is to determine the amount of money that residents can allocate in a given year (Wampler et al., 2021).

Information and education campaign: It is useful to create a special website and organise a **poster** campaign or other type of promotion for the PB process. Information messages should be directed at various groups of residents and adapted in terms of form and channel of communication.

Submitting proposals: The form to submit projects within the PB should be sufficiently detailed for residents to receive precise information about what the project is about and why it is needed. Residents should have access to the information necessary to prepare the framework. The project description should include an estimated cost, as

well as information on what the annual maintenance costs of the project may be after its completion.

Figure 1: The participatory budget cycle (source: own elaboration based on: <https://www.saratoga-springs.org/2758/What-is-Participatory-Budgeting> & <https://cbi.ge/en/participatory-budgeting.html> [10.12.2024])

Project verification : Importantly, the conditions for passing the verification should be made known to citizens already at the stage of submitting projects, so that the initiatives are as closely aligned as possible with the tasks of the organizational unit. During this stage, the forms are forwarded to the appropriate authorities and departments, where they are checked for validity and feasibility of implementing the project proposed by the community.

In the event of a negative verification of the application, it is necessary to provide the justification for such a decision to the public (including providing it to the applicants). Full lists of projects admitted to voting and projects rejected at the verification stage should be made public as soon as possible after approval.

Voting: The ballot paper should be clear and the text should be written in a large and clear font that older people can easily read. If the area of the local government unit is divided into smaller areas within the PB, it must be determined whether the voter will be able to vote only in the area in which he or she resides or, for example, will be able to choose any of the areas within this unit. When planning the conditions for participating in voting, it is also necessary to determine how their fulfilment will be verified. The list of winning projects is published (preferably together with the number of votes) and then must be implemented within a set time period (e.g. next year).

Funding winning projects: The project implementation stage is crucial for building trust in PB and its promotion among residents: its smooth implementation provides them with tangible effects of their own involvement, strengthens their sense of agency, and encourages them to get involved in subsequent editions of the process. The specificity of the PB process is, among other things, that the projects selected by residents become tasks that must be implemented by the municipal office.

Monitoring the implementation: Monitoring of the PB procedure should take place at two levels: the course of the entire procedure and the implementation of selected projects. A key element of this stage is to keep residents informed about the progress of the winning projects.

PB requires the mobilization of the widest possible group of "actors" and convincing them of the benefits of cooperation. The preparation of the PB methodology and its annual implementation should be the result of continuous cooperation of the widest possible group of 'actors': political parties and individual politicians, councillors, several offices and public institutions that influence the functioning of the municipality, nongovernmental organizations, etc. (Sintomer et al., 2008; Wampler, 2000; Wampler et al., 2021).

3.4. Stakeholders' analysis

Stakeholder analysis plays a crucial role in any spatial planning process. By understanding the relationships and interactions among different stakeholders, planners can identify more effective solutions and minimize potential conflicts. Local community development focuses on encouraging people to take initiative within their surroundings to foster positive changes and improve the quality of life for all stakeholders who interact with the space. Stakeholders include all individuals or groups with a vested interest in the implementation of a **proposed** project and who are expected to contribute to its execution (Figure 2). Their participation can influence the project's process and outcomes either directly or indirectly, as well as positively or negatively (Malik & Tariq, 2021; Nastran, 2014; Quesada-Silva et al., 2019).

Figure 2: Examples of stakeholders (source: own elaboration based on Leśniewska-Napierała & Nalej (2022))

During stakeholder identification, it is necessary to search for answers to the following questions: Who cares about this project? Who is affected by this project? Who can influence this project? Who can approve / reject this project? In the next stage, the planners should assess the power/influence and interest of each stakeholder of the project by giving points from 1 to 10 using a simple matrix.

Table 1: Matrix for stakeholder identification (source: own elaboration based on Leśniewska-Napierała & Nalej, 2022).

No.	Name of the Stakeholder	Power (1-10)	Interest (1-10)
1			
2			
3			
...			

Then, all stakeholders should be mapped and the best way of communication with them should be found.

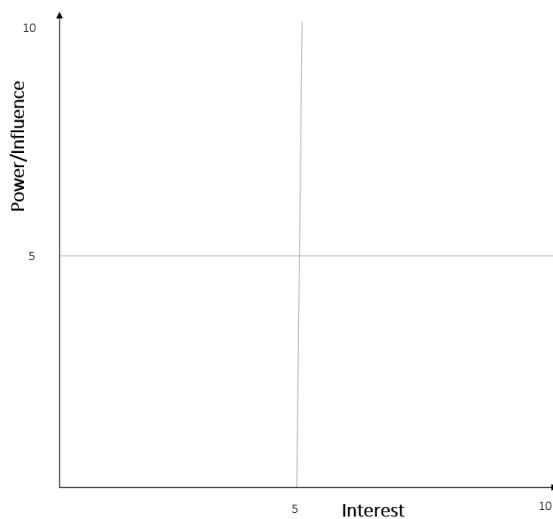


Figure 3: Example of stakeholder mapping matrix (source: own elaboration based on Leśniewska-Napierała & Nalej, 2022).

The ways of communication with each group of stakeholders:

- Monitor (stakeholders with low interest & low influence) - This group includes secondary stakeholders. Depending on the size and complexity of your project, you may want to inform these stakeholders from time to time,
- Keep informed (stakeholders with high interest & low influence) - It is important to keep these stakeholders up to date with information,
- Keep satisfied (stakeholders with low interest & high influence) - During the project, communicate information about the project to these stakeholders to ensure that they are satisfied with its progress,
- Manage closely (stakeholders with high interest & high influence) - Make sure you communicate with them regularly and know their expectations. During the project, actively collaborate with these stakeholders - think of them as key players in your stakeholder team (Leśniewska-Napierała & Nalej, 2022).

Effective stakeholder identification and mapping are essential to manage relationships with project stakeholders and refine strategies and plans for their participation. A stakeholder map serves as a tool for identifying stakeholders and assessing their potential impact on the project. It helps to determine which stakeholders exert the most or least influence and which have the highest or lowest levels of interest in the project. This understanding facilitates customised and effective communication with all stakeholders, ensuring their participation in a manner that aligns with their roles and needs.

3.5. Example of participatory budgeting used in rural areas - Lodzkie Region (Poland)

The Participatory Budget of the **Łódź** Province is a unique form of social participation that allows for the implementation of smaller and larger projects in different parts of the region. Residents can vote for the best projects and submit their own proposals. Thanks to residents involved in the life of their communities, sports, health, social, cultural, scientific, and safety-related tasks are carried out in the region. The first edition of PB in **Łódź** Province took place in 2018.

The funds allocated for the implementation of tasks within PB for the Lodzkie Region are divided into pools:

- 1) provincial, funds covering the entire province, allocated for the implementation of provincial tasks;
- 2) for districts - funds allocated for the implementation of subregional tasks.

Figure 4: PB stages in Lodzkie Region (source: own elaboration based on <https://bo.lodzkie.pl/> [Access on 17.12.2024])

The financial resources allocated for the implementation of tasks within PB may be used to finance tasks:

- in accordance with the law, including the Development Strategy of the **Łódź** Voivodeship, falling within the scope of the provincial government's own tasks,
- technically feasible and possible to implement within one budget year;
- having a supralocal character.

In the case of tasks that require location in a specific area (in particular infrastructure tasks), they must be located in an area where the provincial government may legally spend public funds on these tasks. Projects submitted to PB cannot contain direct or indirect indications of the entity that implements the task, the method of its implementation, or registered trademarks. In the case of provincial tasks, projects may be submitted by residents of the **Łódź** province, and in the case of district tasks, by residents of the district to which the project will be submitted.

The selection of tasks to be implemented within the participatory budget from among the tasks allowed for voting is made by the residents of the voivodeship through voting. Tasks that receive the highest number of points in a given pool are selected for implementation until the pool of financial resources allocated for the implementation of tasks within the civic budget is exhausted.

Tab. 2: Examples of successful projects in PB of the Lodzkie Region (source: own elaboration based on <https://bo.lodzkie.pl/> [Access on 17.12.2024])

The provincial projects	The district projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Purchase of a transport ambulance – improving water safety in the landscape parks – Educational and recreational garden – Modernization of rooms in the Rehabilitation Department – Library renovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Family picnic – Physical and speech therapy for residents with disabilities – Orienteering race – Holidays with outdoor cinema – Children's games in football, tennis and table tennis – Promoting the principles of appropriate behaviour in a local threat situation

The process of implementing the participatory budget is subject to monitoring and annual evaluation, the results of which may be used to introduce changes aimed at improving the process of implementing the participatory budget (Leśniewska-Napierała, 2017; Wiśniewska, 2018).

3.6. Benefits and challenges of introducing a participatory budget

Participatory budgeting is one of the most effective participatory practices aimed at involving residents in the municipal management process. The introduction of PB has several significant benefits for governments, organisations, and local communities. By fostering inclusivity, transparency, and better alignment of public resources with social needs, participatory budgeting serves as a tool to strengthen governance and empower small communities.

The PB can be an excellent tool for education in the field of local government. It encourages residents to look at the mechanisms of constructing and spending local budgets, forces them to make decisions about spending priorities, and also to think about a broader vision of the development of the place. All of this is reflected in the way PB is constructed.

The PB should have a strong educational character. It is not only about helping residents prepare investment proposals, but also about creating a space in which residents and officials can not only co-decide but also learn from each other how the commune functions and what its needs are. Participants should gain skills and knowledge about management as part of PB, so that they become co-responsible for it. In building a civil society, the PB can influence the formation of democratic attitudes. Citizens, thanks to the experiences they have gathered through it, can, but also want to participate in the life of local communities.

The PB collects information from residents about their obvious and hidden social needs. Due to this, it supports the processes of decentralization of power. It also leads

to increased trust of residents in each other and thus integrates the local community. Citizens know better what and who needs support, help, or control.

The aim of the PB is to involve the inhabitants in the process of planning budget expenditures. On the other hand, due to the projects reported and implemented, the authorities will better understand the needs of citizens in terms of spending public funds. One of the dilemmas that is indicated in the context of PB is its financial dimension. The larger the commune and its budget, the larger the civic budget. However, this rule does not always work. The financial factors that affect the effectiveness of spending within the civic budget are related to the fact that a strictly defined amount is usually allocated for tasks selected by residents. Therefore, it is very important to correctly determine the amount of financial resources necessary to carry out individual tasks. In practice, the costs of tasks are often underestimated. As part of organisational dilemmas, we can indicate how to organise the process of selecting the winning projects.

The use of PB is sometimes perceived ambiguously. On the one hand, its great importance in social activation through increasing the participation of residents is emphasized, on the other hand, **a number** of controversies related to the implementation of PB and its effectiveness are mentioned. The most frequently criticized issues include:

- a) the method of selecting winning projects and the organization of the voting itself,
- b) the method and form of submitting projects, and
- c) the lack of interest in PB on the part of residents expressed by low turnout.

A serious problem related to the PB is taking actions that will ensure that citizens' activity is not superficial in nature. Complex social problems require expert knowledge that some residents do not have. Local government agencies have the necessary resources that they can use in planning and implementation processes to find solutions to these complex problems.

The participation of individual interest groups can cause conflict. Participation processes involve competing interest groups, and due to limited resources, a compromise that satisfies all must be sought. PB requires residents to self-organize. It is often a difficult task for them, which they are still learning (Mkude et al., 2014; Schugurensky & Mook, 2024; Sintomer et al., 2008).

4. Classroom Discussion Topics/Case Studies

Topics that can be discussed in the classroom include

- **General Understanding of Participatory Budgeting** Discuss the definition and goals of PB. Why is it important in democratic societies?
- **Benefits of Participatory Budgeting**: How does the PB improve trust between citizens and the government? What are its broader social benefits?

- **Challenges in Implementing Participatory Budgeting**: What are the common obstacles to implementing PB in various regions? How can these challenges be addressed?

The students in groups search for information on examples of participatory budgets implemented in different countries/regions and discuss their most important features and principles of implementation.

Examples of case studies for discussion:

- Bednarska-Olejniczak, D., Olejniczak, J., & Svobodová, L. (2020). How a participatory budget can support sustainable rural development: lessons from Poland. *Sustainability*, 12(7), 2620.
- Leśniewska-Napierała, K., & Napierała, T. (2020). Participatory budgeting: creator or creation of a better place? Evidence from rural Poland. *Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series*, (48), 65-81.
- Buele, I., Vidueira, P., Yagüe, J. L., & Cuesta, F. (2020). The participatory budgeting and its contribution to local management and governance: Review of experience of rural communities from the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest. *Sustainability*, 12(11), 4659.
- Cabannes, Y., & Ming, Z. (2014). Participatory budgeting at scale and bridging the rural– urban divide in **Chengdu**. *Environment and Urbanization*, 26(1), 257-275.

5. Assignments

In a group of maximum 3 people, students prepare a description of a potential project that could be implemented within the PB. Structure of the final assignment:

Task title: ...

- A. Justification for the selection of the task and the needs for its implementation. Diagnosis of the needs of the local community and users of public space, justification for the need to implement the task.
- B. Beneficiaries of the proposed task: Analysis of stakeholders using mapping. Please specify both the level of influence and interest of individual project stakeholders (table) and the method of their participation and communication (matrix).
- C. Location - Characteristics of the location of the plot on which the project is to be implemented (address, description, map showing the current development, photographic documentation). Indication of a specific location: street with a number, institution or facility area, park.

- D. Description of the task - Detailed description of activities and stages of project implementation.
- E. Cost estimation - Description of the estimated costs of implementing the task (table) along with their justification (description).
- F. Information on the principles of accessibility of the proposed task - Please specify for whom, at what hours, days of the week or month the indicated undertaking is available and whether the use is paid/free of charge, etc.

6. Summary of Learning

Q1: What is a participatory budget?

A: Participatory budgeting, often also called civic budgeting, is a decision-making process in which residents co-create the municipal budget, co-deciding on the distribution of a specific pool of public funds. Its purpose is to involve residents in co-creating the budget of the commune in which they live or work.

Q2: What are the main benefits of using participatory budgeting at the local level?

A: It promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, allows making difficult and controversial decisions together with residents (especially regarding budget cuts), allows for obtaining a range of detailed information from residents on how a municipality functions, supports the process of decentralization of power, is a response to the growing distance between the government and residents, builds residents' trust in local government and its representatives, and potentially increases the popularity of politicians who get involved in it.

Q3: Who are the stakeholders in the project and what is their role?

A: Stakeholders of a project are individuals or groups who have an interest or influence in its success or outcome. This includes the project sponsor, team members, and end users, as well as external entities such as clients, suppliers, or regulatory bodies. Each stakeholder has unique expectations, responsibilities, and contributions that can impact the project's goals and progress.

Q4: Why is it worth implementing a participatory budget in rural areas?

A: Implementing a participatory budget in rural areas allows residents to directly influence the allocation of public funds, fostering a sense of community ownership and participation. It helps address local priorities more effectively, ensuring that limited

resources are directed toward projects that matter most to the population. Additionally, the process enhances transparency and trust in local governance, promoting collaboration and accountability.

Quiz

Q1: True or false: One of the foundations of democracy is citizen participation in the governance of the state.

A: True

Q2: True or false: The participatory budget is a democratic process in which residents co-decide on public spending in the commune for the upcoming budget year.

A: True

Q3: True or false: The idea of a participatory budget first emerged in Poland as part of the country's democratic transformation.

A: False

Q4: True or false: A local community is a group of people living within a defined, relatively small territory, such as a parish or village, characterised by strong bonds arising from shared interests and needs, as well as a sense of rootedness and belonging to the place of residence.

A: True

Q5: True or false: Participatory budgeting is one of the most ineffective participatory practices that aims to involve residents in the municipal management process.

A: False

Q6: Stakeholders who should be kept satisfied belong to the group of stakeholders with the following:

- A. Low interest & low influence
- B. High interest & low influence

- C. Low interest & high influence
- D. High interest & high influence

A: C

Q7: By understanding the relationships and interactions among different stakeholders, planners can:

- A. Identify more effective solutions and minimize potential conflicts
- B. Ignore some stakeholders' concerns to speed up decision-making
- C. Assume that all stakeholders have identical priorities and needs
- D. Focus solely on benefiting one group at the expense of others

A: A

Q8: What is a key requirement for submitting proposals within the participatory budget process?

- A. Proposals should only include a list of potential supporters
- B. Proposals must focus exclusively on reducing annual maintenance costs
- C. Proposals should provide a detailed description, including estimated costs and annual maintenance information
- D. Proposals can be submitted without any justification or cost estimation

A: C

Q9: What does social participation represent?

- A. Passive involvement in community affairs
- B. Active involvement in managing community affairs, representing the highest level of cooperation between citizens and authorities
- C. A way to avoid cooperation with authorities
- D. A practice of contributing to individual gains rather than the collective good

A: B

Q10: True or false: The implementation of participatory budgeting is not a one-time process, it should function in the long term.

A: True

Q11: What types of projects can be included in the participatory budget (PB)?

- A. Only projects related to education and culture
- B. Only projects concerning animal welfare
- C. Projects related to education, culture, social assistance, infrastructure, and pro-environmental activities
- D. Only infrastructure projects like road repairs and construction of playgrounds

A: C

Q12: What is one of the key roles of the participatory budget?

- A. It helps the authorities retain complete control over the budget
- B. It engages residents in public life and enhances investment decision-making accuracy
- C. It limits residents' involvement in local governance
- D. It exclusively funds infrastructure projects without involving the community

A: B

Q13: Why is the project implementation stage important in the participatory budget (PB) process?

- A. It is only important for financial reporting, not for community engagement
- B. It allows the municipal office to decide which projects to prioritise, disregarding residents' choices
- C. It focuses solely on promoting the office's initiatives rather than community-driven projects
- D. It provides tangible results of residents' involvement, building trust and encouraging future participation

A: D

Q14: What is one of the key benefits of participatory budgeting (PB) for local communities?

- A. It fosters inclusivity, transparency, and aligns public resources with social needs
- B. It allows residents to have no influence on budget decisions
- C. It focuses solely on the financial aspects of local governance

D. It limits residents' involvement to voting on projects

A: A

Q15: What is a common criticism of the participatory budgeting (PB) process?

- A. The method of selecting winning projects and organizing the voting process
- B. Too much funding is allocated for community projects
- C. Projects are selected without any community input
- D. Residents are not required to submit proposals for projects

A: A

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8. Glossary

Participatory budgeting (PB) - it is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to allocate a portion of a public budget.

Rural areas - are regions located outside cities and towns, characterized by lower population density, open spaces, and typically agricultural or natural landscapes.

Local community - is a group of people living within a defined, relatively small territory, such as a parish or village, characterized by strong bonds arising from shared interests and needs, as well as a sense of rootedness and belonging to the place of residence.

Stakeholder - is an individual, group, or organization with an interest or influence in a specific project, decision, or issue, either because they are directly affected by it or can impact its outcomes.

Stakeholder mapping - is the process of identifying and categorizing stakeholders based on their influence, interest, and impact on a project or organization. This strategic tool helps prioritize engagement efforts, ensuring that key stakeholders are effectively involved to support the project's success.