

Let's Decide Together!

Pécs

The history of Participatory Budgeting (PB)

Participatory budgeting is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

- Where did it start? 1989 Brazil/Porto Alegre
- Between 1990 – 2000, the practice spread all over South America. 180 settlements used the process in that period.
- Nowadays, there are more than 1500 towns and cities around the world that use Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting in practice - different cities, different models

Residents are involved in spending a certain percentage of the local budget by making proposals and taking part in the planning and decision making process.

What makes the methodology so exciting is that there is no specific way of participatory budgeting. Cities can shape the budget to their own needs and ambitions. As a result, there are no two systems that are the same.

Other International Examples

- **New York:** - started as a grassroots movement - the idea came from an NGO whose work led to the project being included in the city's budget. This NGO is also involved in the community organising work behind the scenes.
- **Participatory budgeting at its strongest - Cascais, Portugal:**
 - local residents can decide how 15% of the city's budget is spent
 - the city's administration also makes a genuine effort to involve different marginalised social groups in the project

Examples in Hungary

Today, more and more local governments in Hungary are experimenting with participatory budgeting.

The percentage of the budget that can be spent and the methodology to get residents involved varies considerably.

Some examples: Szentendre, Miskolc, Józsefváros.....

Let's Decide Together - Participatory Budgeting Programme Pécs

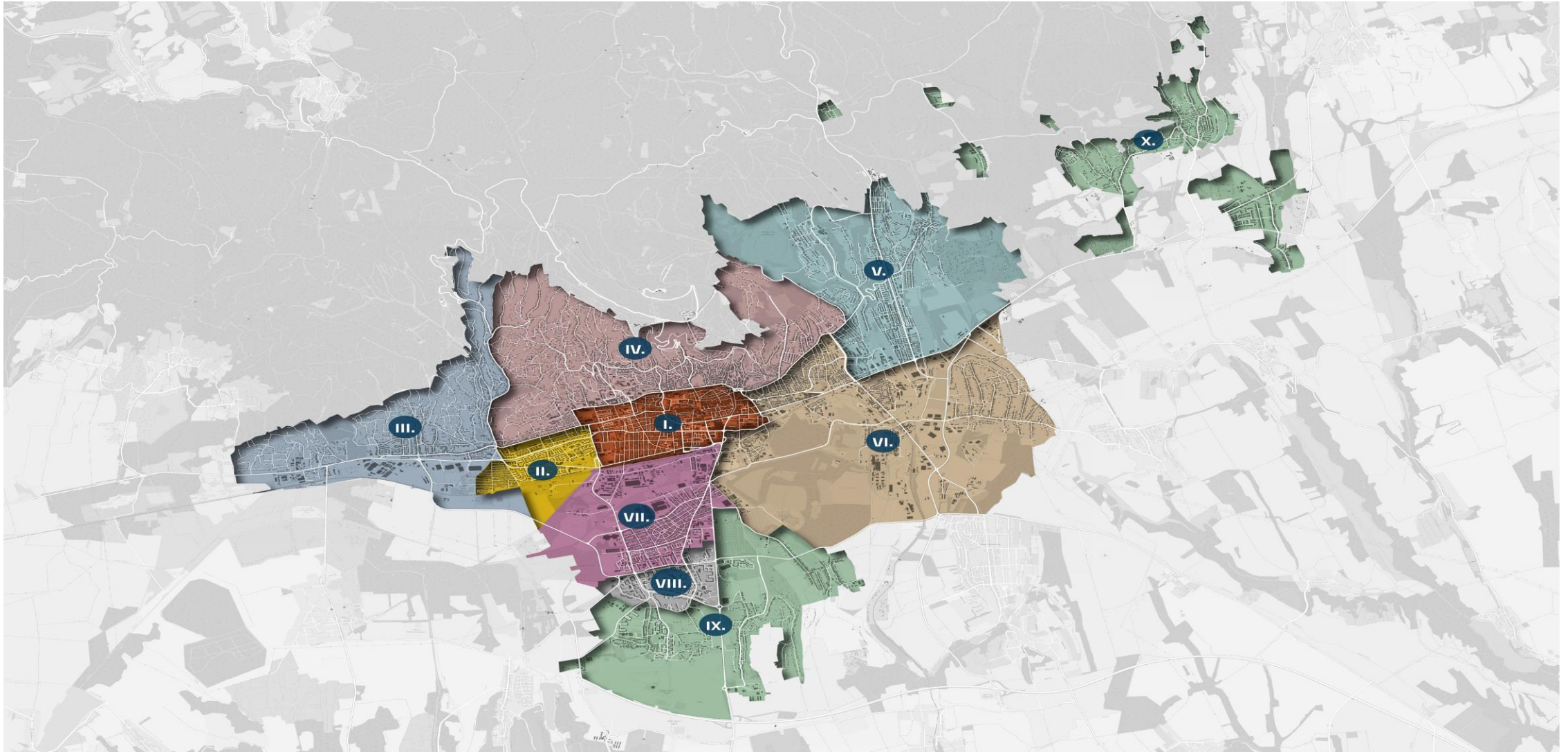
Background:

- 2021 — Pécs Local Government accepted a ***New Civil Strategy*** in order to improve the co-operation with local NGOs for the benefit of local residents
- Establishment of a civil coordinating institution
- 2023 "**Pécs Municipal Civic Budget**" — a local budget covering operational costs of NGOs; 26 organisations received a total of HUF 24 million to cover their energy bills.

Let's Decide Together – Participatory Budgeting Programme Pécs

- Budget:
2023 - HUF 80 million
2024 - HUF 100 million
- Areas involved:
within the administrative boundaries of Pécs MJV - in 10 Pécs City Zones
- Participants:
residents of Pécs aged 18 and over

Let's Decide Together - Community Budget Programme 2023



Let's Decide Together – Participatory Budgeting Programme, Pécs - timetable

- Submission of ideas
- Technical and legal analysis and preparation of ideas
- Participation council
- Popular vote
- Announcement of the winning ideas
- Implementation of the winning ideas

Let's Decide Together - Participatory Budgeting Programme – Operative phases

PREPARATION OF THE OFFICE

- prepare legal background
- technical preparation; creating a website and branding
- designation and preparation of the voting centres, called Pécsiség Points

BRAIN STORMING WORKSHOPS

Let's Decide Together - Participatory Budgeting Programme, Pécs - Submission of ideas

Who can submit ideas and how?

- Any person over the age of 18 who lives, works or studies in Pécs
- We are looking for proposals that are creative and that improve the lives of as many people as possible. It is important that ideas are discussed within the community before they are submitted: people should talk to their neighbours and friends and convince them of the usefulness of their ideas.
- Ideas can be submitted online or in person at the designated Pécsiség Points.

Let's Decide Together - Participatory Budgeting Programme, Pécs - technical and legal analysis, preparation of ideas

- The staff of the relevant departments of the local government will check the proposals to make sure they are feasible and do not conflict with legislation or other projects of the municipality.
- If a proposal is not feasible in their current form (for example, they exceed the available budget or are not submitted within the municipality's remit), experts evaluate whether the proposal can be implemented with modifications.
- After the pre-screening process, the local government representatives involved in each zone will comment on the ideas selected and compare them to existing developments plans. Those that do not conflict are approved and submitted to the Participation Council.

Let's Decide Together - Participatory Budgeting Programme, Pécs - Participation Council

- The citizens of Pécs have take part in the preparation of the decisions and in the decision making process.
- This year the council consists of 10 members
- The Participation Council decides which ideas will be put to the public vote in each zone of the city. The councils can group similar ideas together or prioritise ideas based on the problems in the neighbourhood.
- The Participation Council will select 5 ideas in each Pécsiség Zone for a public vote.

Let's Decide Together - Participatory Budgeting Programme, Pécs

- PUBLIC VOTE
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS
- UPDATE

The winning proposals will be implemented by the Municipality of Pécs. It may involve partners in the implementation of the ideas. Idea sponsors, supporters and all interested citizens can keep track of the progress of the projects that are being or have already been implemented, and each year more and more of them will enrich the lives of Pécs citizens.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!