

72 Frequently Asked Questions about Participatory Budgeting

URBAN GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT SERIES





72 Frequently Asked Questions about Participatory Budgeting

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN
ON URBAN GOVERNANCE

Copyright © UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme) © Cover photo. Municipality of Caxias do Sul All rights reserved. Printed in Quito, July 2004 Graphic Design: Amira Pérez A. Printed by: AH Editorial

Tillitod by: 7till Editorial

UN-HABITAT, P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
UMP-LAC, García Moreno 751 entre Sucre y Bolívar, P.O. 17-01-2505, Quito - Ecuador

UN-HABITAT encourages reproduction of this material. However, no part of this publication may be used or reproduced in any manner what-soever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles, reviews, or special studies. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or regarding its economic system or degree of development. The analysis, conclusions and recommendations of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of UN-HABITAT, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT or its Member States.

Urban Governance Toolkit Series ISBN: 92-1-131699-5

HS/722/04E

I. Institutional Credits

This document has been produced under the aegis of HABITAT's Global Campaign on Urban Governance.

UN-

Supervised by

- Paul Taylor, Chief, Urban Development Branch, UN-HABITAT
- Mohamed Halfani, Head, Urban Governance Section, UN-HABITAT

Co-ordinators

- Jaime Vasconez, Regional Co-ordinator, Urban Management Programme - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-HABITAT
- Raf Tuts, Human Settlements Officer, UN-HABITAT

Principal Author

 Yves Cabannes, Urbanist, Regional Co-ordinator of the Urban Management Programme - Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-HABITAT 1997 - 2003

Editing and Review Committee

- Jaime Vasconez, UMP-LAC Co-ordinator Quito
- Ivone de Souza, United Nations Volunteer Programme UNV, Urban Development Specialist
- Alvaro Muriel, Knowledge Management Co-ordinator, IPES/UMP-LAC
- Alejandro Luevano, Co-ordinator of the Local Development and Management Programme, COPEVI, Mexico
- Pedro Pontual, Co-ordinator of the Polis Institute's Citizenship School -São Paulo and President of CEAAL. São Paulo
- · Augusto Barrera, Guest editor of the Era Urbana special issue on PB
- Yves Sintomer, Researcher, Centre for Urban Culture and Society
 CNRS Paris, and the Marc Bloch Centre Berlin

Administrative and Technical Assistance

Lourdes Saavedra, Alejandro Chiriboga, Monica Rhon, Yohani Ruiz
 - UMP. Quito

Translation

• Richard Huber, UNV/UMP-LAC

II. Acknowledgements

To the Urban Management Programme team in Quito.

To the city of Porto Alegre, which contributed the documentation of the illustrative cases through Urb-Al Network #9 (Local Finances and Participatory Budgeting).

Special thanks to the Editing and Review Committee of this document. Their observations and contributions were invaluable in terms of substance as well as form.

III. Table of Contents

Institutional Credits	05
Acknowledgements	06
List of Boxes	
Foreword	
About the Manual	
About the Manual	15
I. General Questions1. What is Participatory Budgeting (PB)?2. When did Participatory Budgeting start?	20
3. How have the PB experiences been expanded?	
4. How many cities have PB experience at this time?	
5. Where has Participatory Budgeting taken place?	
6. In what types of cities are Participatory Budgets implemented?7. Is PB only implemented at the municipal level?	
8. Are there regional differences in the form of implementation of t	
Participatory Budget?	
9. What are the benefits of the PB for the city and its citizens	
10. What are the benefits of the PBfor local public administration?	
11. Who benefits from the Participatory Budget?	.25
12. What are the dimensions of the Participatory Budget?	
13. Where can one find more information about the PB?	27
 II. Initiation and implementation of a Participatory B 14. Can any municipality implement a Participatory Budget? 15. What are the basic conditions necessary to implement a Participatory Budget in a municipality? 16. In what conditions is it not advisable to undertake a PB? 	30 30
17. What are the basic principles of the Participatory Budget? 18. How is a Participatory Budget put into practice? 19. What are the principal stages of a Participatory Budget?	32 33

III. Table of Contents

III. Financial Dimension
20. What percentage of the total municipal budget is submitted
for consideration in the Participatory Budget?41
21. What proportion of the municipal investment budget is
placed under discussion?41
22. Is there an optimal percentage of the municipal budget
that should be submitted for public discussion?41
23. What is the origin of the resources placed under debate?42
24. What is the impact of the Participatory Budget on fiscal
collection and municipal revenue?43
25. Do all demands of the citizens result in public works and services?43
26. How are the resources distributed within a city?
By sector? By region?45
27. How are the budgeting criteria defined?45
28. Where are PB decided, and who has the decision-making power?48
29. Is the PB limited to planning short-term expenditures?48
30. Is there more and better participation when the municipal resources
to be assigned are greater? In this sense, is having few resources
subject to discussion an obstacle or a conditioning factor?49
31. Does the Participatory Budgeting process only discuss revenue from municipality's own sources?49
32. Are there processes to ensure accountability in the PB?50
33. How much does the process cost the municipality and how are
these costs covered?51
these costs covered:
IV. Participatory Dimension
Citizen Participation A Mile a participate in the Participate Participate
34. Who participates in the Participatory Budget?
35. How many people participate in Participatory Budgets?55
36. If participation is limited, doesn't that take legitimacy away from the process?
37. Where are decisions made during the process?
VI. WITHOUT AND ADDIDITION HIGHER AUTHING HIG PROCESS: