



**Centre Marc Bloch**

Centre franco-allemand de recherche en sciences sociales  
Deutsch-Französisches Forschungszentrum für Sozialwissenschaften

# International Congress on Participatory Budgeting Models

21.01. - 22.01.2010 - Berlin, Germany

**InWEnt Congress Centre**

**Stresemannstr. 92, 10963 Berlin**

**21.01.2010, 12:00 – 18:30; 22.01.2010, 09:30 – 15:00**

## **Organisers:**

Federal Agency for Civic Education / Service Agency Communities in One World, InWEnt (Capacity Building International, Germany) / Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin.

## **Background:**

Participatory budgeting first saw the light of day in 1989. This was the year it was introduced for the first time in Porto Alegre in Brazil. There are now almost 200 municipalities in Brazil practicing the *Orçamento Participativo*, as it is called there. In Latin America exist more than 1000 experiences. Participatory budgeting has proven its worth as an important instrument in the fight against corruption, and as a means of reducing poverty. Participatory budgeting has now caught on not only in other emerging economies, but also in many industrialised nations. In Europe, we can find for example more than 200 examples; in Germany exist between 30 and 50 participatory budgets. Here, the processes focus on the careful disclosure of what have hitherto been largely untransparent consultative processes. This can promote citizen participation and is seen as a means of reducing political apathy and indifference. In the Global North too, participatory budgeting is being used as a tool for managing the financial crisis at the municipal level, and as a way of tackling structural sources of poverty, e.g. disadvantaged urban districts.

Participatory budgeting seeks to help make the very core of municipal policy more transparent and more efficient. Public participation in municipal budget planning aims to provide citizens with new opportunities to articulate and contribute their ideas, advice, proposals and knowledge to the consultative processes of administrators and policy makers. In these times of increasingly scarce resources, this helps ensure that decisions on public expenditure and savings are taken not over citizens' heads, but together with them. Citizens are the experts in everyday knowledge. Through the participatory budgeting procedures citizens become motivated to help make their municipalities sustainable. The active citizens' municipality then becomes not just a vision, but an emerging political reality.

Participatory budgeting can deliver a contribution toward democratisation. Nevertheless there are no grounds for euphoria. Right now just under a mere fifty municipalities in Germany have introduced participatory budgeting. Several more are discussing the possibility. In the European context, too, only a few countries and municipalities have achieved the distinction of making progress with participatory budgeting. So is participatory budgeting in Europe a utopian idea?

Beyond Brazil there are many municipalities in so-called developing countries practicing participatory budgeting. What contribution can it make there toward poverty reduction? Which procedures and instruments are transferrable to Europe?

The year 2009 marks several historic anniversaries of events that were of considerable significance for social processes in Europe (60 years of the Basic Law in West Germany, 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, followed by efforts to build democracy in the former "East Bloc" states, EU accession by several states, and efforts to build a "Common House" of Europe etc.). In this context, participatory budgeting can become a catalyst for stronger democracy here too.

### **Goals and content:**

The success of participatory budgeting depends in many areas on the frameworks put in place by policy makers and administrators. This congress will engage decision makers and opinion makers from the spheres of policy making and administration in constructive dialogue. Furthermore, experiences with existing participatory budgeting models in the European context will be compared and discussed. The debate will be enriched with non-European expertise provided by selected distinguished speakers.

The congress is designed to move forward the opinion-making process at the municipal and policy-making levels in the national and international contexts. It is envisaged that both policy makers and administrative specialists will then be motivated to introduce participatory budgets.

Participatory budgets generates a number of question marks and controversial issues that the congress will aim to address. These include:

- What is the relationship between participatory instruments such as participatory budgeting, and representative democracy?
- Is representative democracy made stronger or weaker by participatory budgets?
- Is federalism (decentralisation) conducive to its introduction, or a constraint?
- What is the relationship between participatory budgeting and formally prescribed procedures?
- How should participatory budgeting be implemented? What procedures and instruments exist worldwide? What are their respective focuses and differences? What are their commonalities?
- Which approaches can be transferred and utilised?
- To what extent can participatory budgeting be standardised nationally and internationally?
- What are the indicators that measure the success of a participatory budget?
- Is participatory budgeting also an appropriate tool for poverty reduction in Europe?
- How could participatory budgeting be linked with gender budgets initiatives?
- Can participatory budgeting mobilise, support and further develop the engagement of politically marginal groups, or are certain sections of the population marginalised by the participatory budgeting process?
- What role do the new media play in the implementation of participatory budgeting (e-participation)?
- Can participatory budgeting also be implemented at the regional and national levels?
- How could participatory budgets contribute to modernisation and good governance?
- Which are the challenges of participatory budgeting?

These questions can be resumed into four main topics that will be discussed during the conference via forums, presentations, workshops etc.:

- a) National and international examples of participatory budgeting
- b) Representative democracy, federalism and civil education
- c) Social justice and Gender Budgeting
- d) Media, modernisation, and evaluation of participatory budgets

### **Target group:**

Approximately 150 politicians, officers and members of civil society (with and without experience in participatory budgeting) from across Europe. Since participatory budgeting is a managerial decision-making issue, the congress is aimed at the key decision makers for its introduction.

### **Methods:**

Inputs and discussions in plenary, workshops/working groups, pro and contra debates, fishbowl, project presentations, poster presentations

**Working languages:**

German and English, translation and interpretation services will be provided.

**International Registration:**

Please send an e-mail to Mr. Christian Wilhelm: [christian.wilhelm@inwent.org](mailto:christian.wilhelm@inwent.org)

Registrations in German language are possible at: [www.service-eine-welt.de](http://www.service-eine-welt.de)

For further information on participatory budgeting in Germany and on the organisers, please visit:  
[www.buergerhaushalt.de](http://www.buergerhaushalt.de), [www.service-eine-welt.de](http://www.service-eine-welt.de), [www.bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de),

# Programme

## First day

### **12.00 Opening**

- Greetings from bpb and InWEnt

### **12.20-13.45 Thematic introduction**

- Models of participatory budgeting, Prof. Yves Sintomer, Centre Marc Bloch
- Filmlet on a local experience of participatory budgeting
- Challenges of participatory budgeting in Germany, Dr. Carsten Herzberg, Centre Marc Bloch

### **14.00-17.30 Workshops (incl. coffee break)**

Workshop I: National and international examples of participatory budgeting

Workshop II: Representative democracy, federalism and civil education

Workshop III: Social justice and Gender Budgeting

Workshop IV: Media, modernisation, and evaluation of participatory budgets

### **Speakers:**

*Dr. Giovanni Allegretti (CES, Portugal), Leonardo Avritzer (Brazil), Prof. Dr. He Baogang (China), Jürgen Behrendt (Municipality of Cologne), Graciela Ciciliani (Municipality of Rosario, Argentina), Christina Emmrich (District Berlin-Lichtenberg), Steve Floros (Toronto Community Housing, Kanada), Prof. Dr. Jochen Franzke (University Potsdam/KWI), Dr. Ernesto Ganuza (IEASA-CDIC, Spain), GenderkompetenzZentrum Berlin (tbc.), Carsten Herzberg (Centre Marc Bloch, Germany), Andreas Hoge (Mayor of the community of Steinfurt), Ruth Jackson (PB Unit, Great Britain), Prof. Dr. Norbert Kersting (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Prof. Dr. Helmut Klages (Deutsches Institut für öffentliche Verwaltung, Speyer), Thomas Ködelpeter (Ökologische Akademie e.V.; Linden), Lena Langlet (Swedish City Association), Prof. Dr. Josh Lerner (School for Social Research, New York), Ulrike Löhr (Lawyer), Dr. Oliver Märker (ZebraLog Berlin/Bonn), Prof. Dr., George Matovu (MDPESA, Zimbabwe), Michaela Maurer (KGSt), Anja Röcke (Europäisches Hochschulinstitut, Florenz, Italien), Nils Scheffler (Planner), Christa Widmaier (Consultant) etc.*

### **17.30-18.30 Learning from the Global South?**

- Film on an international experiences of participatory budgeting
- International networks. Possibilities of cooperation for municipalities, Dr. Giovanni Allegretti, Centro Estudos Socias, Portugal

### **18.30 Dinner & End**

## Second day

### **9.30-12.45 Workshops (repetition with modified focuses)**

### **12.45-14.00 Lunch break**

### **14.00-15.00 Presentation of the workshop's results**

### **15.00 End**

## Workshops 1<sup>st</sup> day (21<sup>st</sup> of January 2010)

<b>Forum I: National and international examples of participatory budgeting</b>	<b>Forum II: Representative democracy, federalism and civil education</b>	<b>Forum III: Social justice and Gender Budgeting</b>	<b>Forum IV: Media, modernisation and evaluation</b>
Moderator: Volker Vorwerk, buergerwissen Method: presentations/commentary	Moderator: Ralf Elsässer, CIVIXX Method: World Café	Moderators: Marlene Grauer, Florian Rister, Teamglobal Method: Fishbowl	Moderator: Benno Trütken, forum b Method: Panel discussion
<p>- Participatory budgeting in the context of the governmental economic stimulus package against the financial crisis <i>Andreas Hoge, mayor of Steinfurt</i></p> <p>- Participatory budgeting in Sweden <i>Lena Langlet, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</i></p> <p>- Participatory budgeting in Spain: Mobilisation of citizens <i>Dr. Ernesto Ganuza, IESA (Spain)</i></p> <p>Commentary: <i>Dr. Anja Röcke, Humboldt University Berlin</i></p>	<p>Table 1: Participatory budgets in the federal system of Germany <i>Ulrike Loehr, Transparency International</i></p> <p>Table 2: Civic education and participatory budgeting <i>Christa Widmaier</i></p> <p>Table 3: Proximity Participation – Which challenges? <i>Prof. Dr. Jochen Franzke, Potsdam University</i></p> <p>Table 4: Experiences with participatory budgeting in China, <i>Prof. Dr. He Baogang, (China)</i></p>	<p>- Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting <i>Manfred Köhnen, Gleichstellungsbewegen,</i></p> <p>- Possibilities and Chances of Gender Budgeting through participatory budget institutions <i>Graciela Ciciliani, Municipality of Rosario (Argentina)</i></p>	<p>- Evaluation of participatory budgets <i>Prof. Dr. Helmut Klages, German Research Institute for Public Administration Speyer</i></p> <p>- Quality criteria of participatory budgets in the UK <i>Ruth Jackson, PB Unit (Great Britain)</i></p> <p>- The role of public employees in the implementation of participatory budgeting <i>Michaela Maurer, KGSt</i></p> <p>- Governance, modernisation and Participation <i>Prof. Dr. Norbert Kersting, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)</i></p>

## Workshops 2<sup>nd</sup> day (22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2010)

<b>Forum I: National and international examples of participatory budgeting</b>	<b>Forum II: Representative democracy, federalism and civil education</b>	<b>Forum III: Social justice and Gender Budgeting</b>	<b>Forum IV: Media, modernisation and evaluation</b>
Moderator: Volker Vorwerk, buergerwissen Method: Presentations/commentary	Moderator: Ralf Elsässer, CIVIXX Method: World Café	Moderators: Marlene Grauer, Florian Rister, Teamglobal Method: Fishbowl	Moderator: Benno Trütken, forum b Method: Panel discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participatory budgets in big cities <i>Christina Emmerich, mayor of the district Berlin-Lichtenberg</i></li> <li>- Sevilla: A Porto Alegre in Europe? <i>Dr. Ernesto Ganuza, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spain)</i></li> <li>- Participatory Budgets in Africa <i>George Matovu, MDPESA (Zimbabwe)</i></li> <li>- Commentary: <i>Prof. Dr. Josh Lerner, New School for Social Research (New York, USA)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table 1: Participation of children – experiences from several cases <i>Thomas Ködelpeter, Association Ecologic Academy</i></li> <li>Table 2: Participatory budgeting in high schools – the experience of the French region of Poitou-Charentes <i>Dr. Anja Röcke, Humboldt University Berlin</i></li> <li>Table 3: Strengthening democracy through cooperation: the example of Portugal and Cape Verde <i>Dr. Giovanni Allegretti, Centro Estudos Sociais (Portugal)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participatory budgeting and community housing: Toronto <i>Steve Floros, Director Toronto Community Housing (Canada)</i></li> <li>- How to activate marginalised target groups? <i>Nils Scheffler</i></li> <li>- Social effects of participatory budgeting in Brazil <i>Prof. Dr. Leonardo Avritzer (Brasilien)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possibilities of participatory budgeting via Internet <i>Dr. Oliver Märker, ZebraLog</i></li> <li>- The example of the German city of Cologne <i>Jürgen Behrendt, Municipality of Cologne</i></li> <li>- Random selection as instrument for mobilisation? <i>Prof. Dr. He Baogang, (China)</i></li> </ul>