Introduction to Participatory Budgeting & planning your PB process

—

democratic society

demotec

Engaging citizens in decision-making

DEMOTEC training programme

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic way for people to have a direct say on how a budget or public money is spent.

2

23 une 2021

- There are a range of different models of PB in use across the world.

- PB processes can be instigated by decision makers like government, local government or services, schools and communities. In some countries there are national policies in place to ensure participatory budgeting and community empowerment are taken seriously and becomes part of everyday practice in how we do things.

- PB processes can include but are not limited to; setting up steering groups to co-design a process, theme and criteria setting, idea and proposal generation, dialogue, debates, conversations or deliberation, reduction of ideas, voting or consensus, communication and implementation of selected proposals and these practical elements can be done online, in-person or a combination of both online and in-person.

- It's also important to note the design of a PB process doesn't have to be done in this particular order but can be designed to suit the specific needs of the city or place.
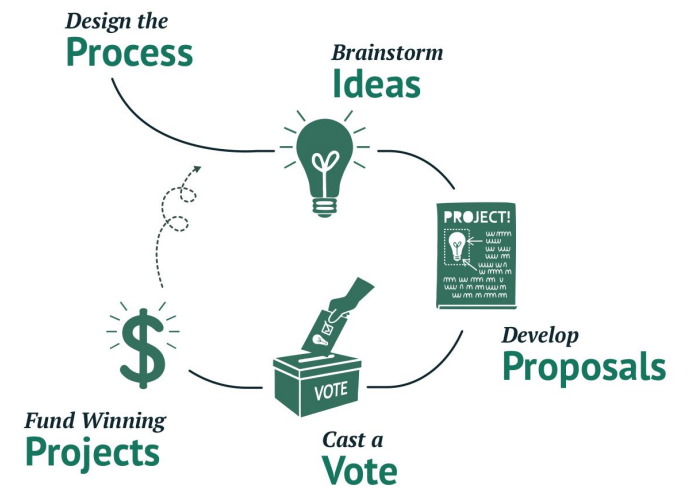
Design the **Process**

Brainstorm **Ideas**

PROJECT!

Develop **Proposals**

Fund Winning **Projects**

$

VOTE

Cast a **Vote**

Image Credit ParticipatoryBudgeting.org

democratic society

Participatory budgeting

The PB Charter (Scotland) sets out seven key features showing what a fair and high quality PB process should look like. It set out seven key features:

23 September 2021

PB Scotland Network

1. Fair and inclusive
2. Participatory
3. Deliberative
4. Empowering
5. Creative and flexible
6. Transparent
7. Part of our democracy.

democratic society

https://pbscotland.scot/charter

By no means a complete list...

- **Community building**: stronger and more resilient communities
- **Better solutions**, leading to improved outcomes
- **Increased trust and community power** in decision-making

democratic
society
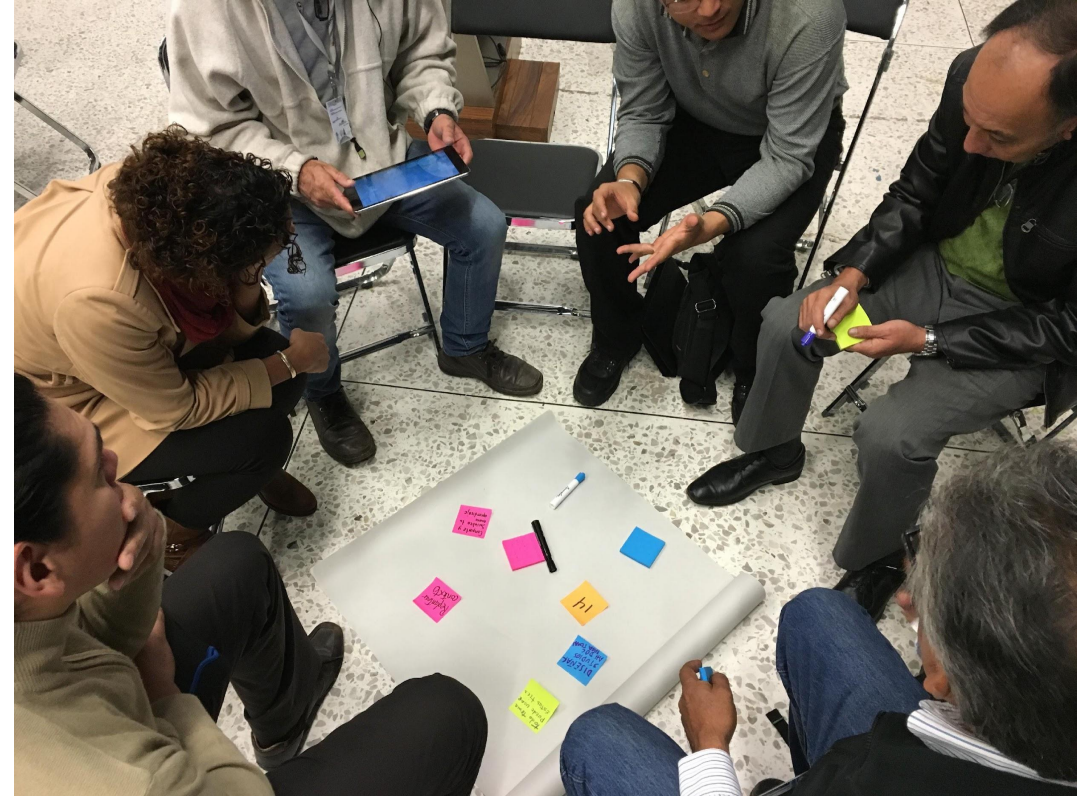
COMMUNITY BUILDING   POLITICAL TRUST   BETTER SOLUTIONS

1. Community building

1. Own agenda
2. Ownership of democratice process
3. New productive relationships
4. Strenghten social relationships an communities

2. Political trust

5. Transparancy over budget flows and public resources
6. Transparancy in decision making
7. Insight and support for policy choices
8. Strenghtening political engagement
9. Thermometer local society
10. Legitimacy of political decisions
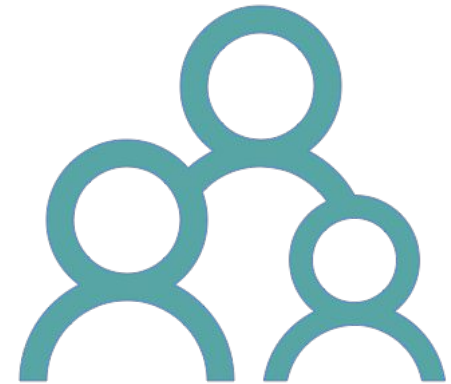
3. Better solutions

10. Appeals on the knowledge, creativity and energy of the community

11. Tailored solutions

12. Integrated and unexpected solution because citizens think outside policy frameworks
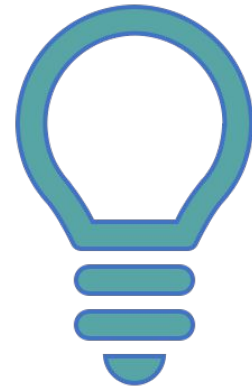
Not limited to (& more steps can be added)...

23 September 2021

```
1. Design &         →    2. Communications &    →    3. Idea generation
inclusion &              recruitment
accessibility
```

```
                                                          ↓

6. Implementation   ←    5. Voting or           ←    4. Screening
                         consensus                   proposals/reduction
```

democratic
society
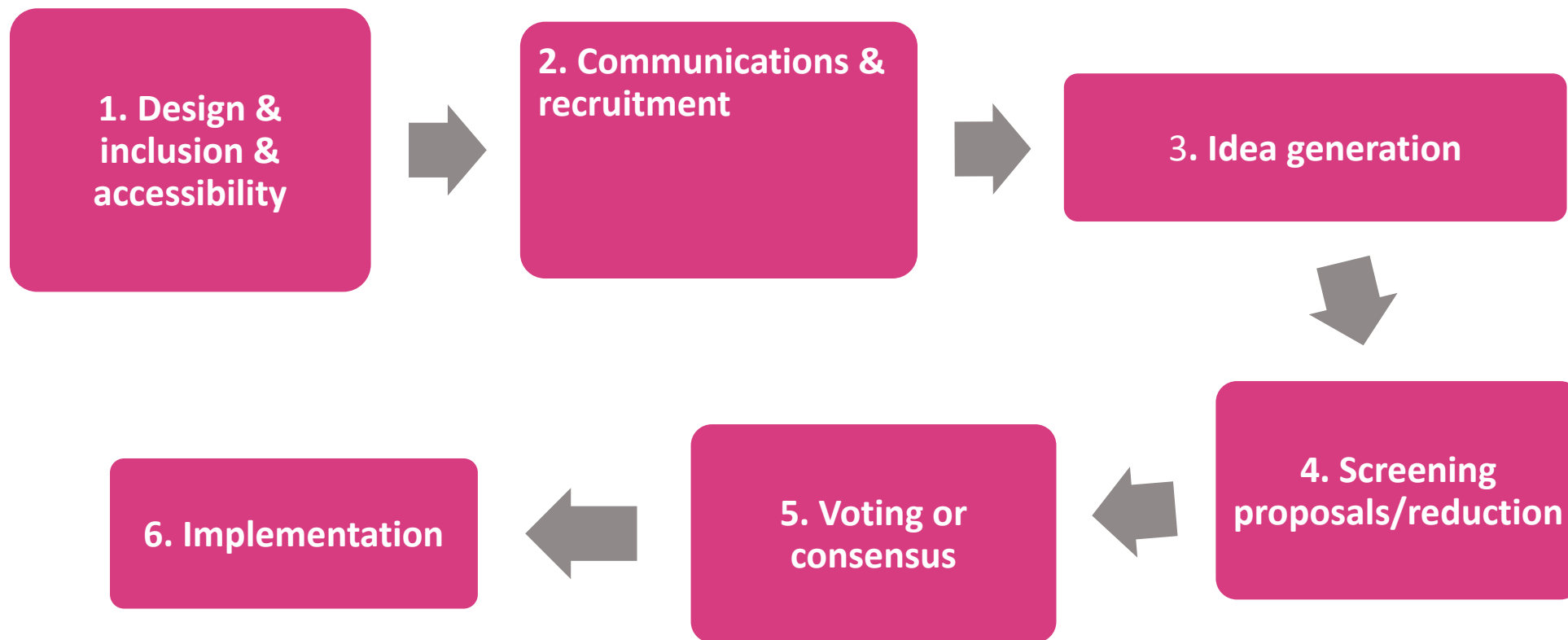
Participatory budgeting

PB in Antwerp

- Highly deliberative PB process where participants deliberate about choices in every step of the process (consent method)

- Participants choose first topics, then divide budgets over those topics and then projects

- Combination of offline and online methods

- Budget is 1,4 million euros or 10 percent of the budget of the district involved

- Real decision making power

23 September 2021

democratic society

PB in Vienna

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

- **Vienna's Green PB** is currently being developed
- **Social Just Transition**: A strong focus of the process and political priory is the inclusion of those people that are most affected by climate change.
- **Making silos dance**: The PB as a lever for governance innovation and working cross-silos.
- **Inclusion of people** in the concept development
  - Stakeholder process: all relevant city departments and experts
  - Advisory Board: representatives from civil society representatives

PB in Scotland

- PB is seen as a tool for community engagement and as a resource to build on the wider development of participatory democracy in Scotland.
- **'Mainstreaming' PB** which is a commitment from the Scottish Government & COSLA made in 2017 for 1% of public budgets to be allocated through participatory budgeting (this means scaling up PB for the public to make decisions around public services and local resources across 32 local authorities in Scotland).
- **Community grant model** through community choices funding is done much more locally on a smaller scale to decide on priority themes and proposals/projects in a local community.
- **Youth-led PB** has been done in different ways in Scotland; through reducing the voting age in a local authority wider PB process (i.e age 8 and above) or through a specific youth-focused and youth-led/designed process.

12

23 September 2021

democratic
society

https://pbscotland.scot

Planning your PB

—

There is no single 'right' way of doing Participatory Budgeting.

democratic society

demsoc.org

Why are you doing it- your goal?

This is the starting point for designing a process, as it will help you:

- Ensure everyone involved (citizens, other stakeholders, your colleagues etc) are on the same page;
- Design a process that matches these aims and purpose, (& where digital tools fit within this);
- Develop comms that match these purposes, and can help inform your overall comms and engagement strategy;
- Develop key indicators to aid in your evaluation.

14

23 September 2021

EXAMPLE: Publicly stated goals of New York City's PB process

- **Empowerment** (enabling local people to decide how PB works in their communities & across the city
- **Transparency** (share info & make decisions as openly as possible
- **Inclusion** (make special efforts to engage people who face obstacles to participating, are often excluded or are disillusioned with government
- **Equity** (ensure that the decision-making process is accessible to every person)
- **Community** (bring people together across traditional lines of division to work together for the good of the whole community)

15

23 September 2021
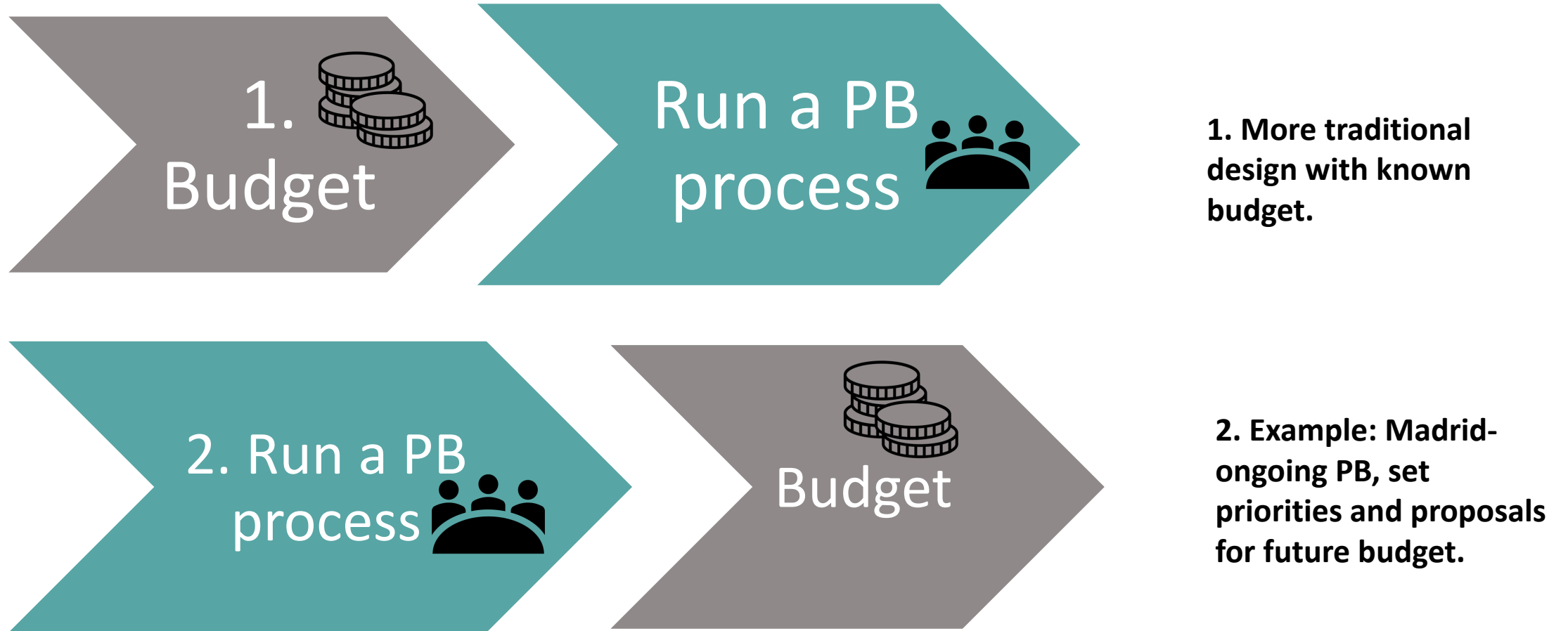
democratic
society

Participatory budgeting

Designing your PB

- **Scale** – (*deliberative*) PB processes can be small or large-scale, at city-level or neighbourhood level with small or large budgets
- **Ongoing**- one-off or continuous i.e annually re-occurring
- **Clear topic and questions** - ensure these are easy to understand
- **Participants influence over the outcomes** – set clear expectations
- **Access to information** – ensure that deliberations or decisions are informed
- **Selection of participants** (number and profile, target group) – consider diversity and representativeness

democratic society

Designing your PB: budget consideration

17

23 September 2021

1. Budget → Run a PB process

1. More traditional design with known budget.

2. Run a PB process → Budget

2. Example: Madrid-ongoing PB, set priorities and proposals for future budget.

democratic society

Designing your PB

- **Accessibility** – ensuring diverse participation by considering for example issues of cost or time
- **Process governance & role of participants in process** – this can involve community stakeholders
- **Space** – consider if the process will be in-person, online, or a hybrid
- **Method of voting/decision making** - deliberative or not/ voting, mini-publics, citizens jury…
- **Monitoring quality standards** – feedback, inclusion, transparency, goals
- **Conditions/restrictions** – i.e funding restrictions or regulatory standards

18

23 September 2021

democratic society

Decision making on the design

1. Who **from your organisation** should be involved?
2. How you can **bring in wider perspectives** from outside your organisation. How can you bring in those who you hope to impact with the PB process into designing the process itself?

Bringing citizens into the design can have the following impacts:

- *An increased range of perspectives in designing the process can lead to smarter design - identifying new challenges and creating interventions to challenge these. These challenges and interventions will be informed by the lived experience of the very individuals you are trying to reach.*
- *Increasing trust in the process*
- *Developing advocates for the process, who can help share the word*
- *Increase the sense of ownership that the community has over this*

20

23 September 2021

democratic society

Understanding the work involved:

- Who and how will you manage the process?
- Are you on top of legal considerations like data protection?
- How will you be promoting the process and reaching out to people?
- How will you keep things transparent, including what progress has been made on implementing the chosen projects?
- How are project proposals going to be generated?
- Is your PB process to be organised around a theme or service? Is it going to be run across a geographic boundary?
- How will you facilitate and moderate discussions?
- How is funding going to be allocated?
- Once citizens have reached a decision, is this decision binding?

21

23 September 2021

democratic
society

Utilizing existing activity, people & resources:

- Are there already community meetings, or opportunities to bring traditional 'decision-makers' along side your community?
- Are there perhaps other engagement activities hosted by other organisations, or other parts of your organisation that you could partner with?
- How is digital already used by your organisation in terms of engagement?

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

22

23 September 2021

democratic society

Evaluation

Based upon the aims of your project, what are the key indicators you want to measure, and how will you do this? How will you capture any other lessons learned?

23

23 September 2021

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

Challenges to consider

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

1. Security and Assurance
2. Promotion and Outreach
3. Facilitation and Moderation
4. Inclusion
5. Fairness and Trust
6. Transparency
7. Ease of participation
8. Data protection
9. Evaluation

24

23 September 2021

democratic
society

Thank you!

—

For more info please visit our website
annie@demsoc.eu, sophie@demsoc.eu

demsoc.org

democratic
society