

Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Experience data (complete the information below in a clear and concise manner)

Title of the experience: Project "Your voice matters, too!" – participatory budgeting programme		
Name of the city or region: City of Trogir		
Inhabitants of the city or territory 12.500		
Country: Croatia		
Institution presenting the candidacy City of Trogir		
Website of the experience or institution: www.trogir.hr		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: https://www.facebook.com/GradTrogir.tg/?ref=br_rs		
Start date of the experience: annually from 2018		
End date of the experience (if operational, indicate "ongoing"): ongoing		
Budget of the experience (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation): 200.000 EUR (annually)		
Type of candidacy (Mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	x
Type of experience (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	x
	Participatory planning	x
	Standing council	
	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	
	Public Hearing/Forum	x
	Poll/referendum	

Application Form

	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces		
	E-government/Open government/Digital platforms		
	Citizen initiative		
	Other (specify):		
Objective of the experience (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		x
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		
	Community empowerment		x
	To empower non-organised citizens		x
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		x
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		
Territorial area (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	All the territory	Local	x
		Regional	
	District		x
	Neighbourhood		x

Application Form

Thematic area (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Governance	
	Education	
	Transport	
	Urban management	x
	Health	
	Security	
	Environment/Climate change and/or urban agriculture	x
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements.	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	x
	Training/learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	
	Other (write the topic)	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	

Application Form

<p>practice Mark with an X in the right column (more than one option can be chosen)</p> <p>You can also add the specific target</p>	SDG 3 - Good health and well- being	
	SDG 4 - Quality education	
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	x
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	x
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 - Climate action	
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links if you consider it appropriate.

Application Form

Context

*In a **maximum of 300 words**, it presents the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, the territory in which the experience takes place.*

The project takes place in 8 different parts of the city, 5 of which are on the island, and one is in the old town core which is enlisted on UNESCO World Heritage List - so all the geographical, historical and cultural differences of the city and the citizens who live in them are represented in the participation process.

Precedents

*Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins, if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city/municipality/region. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (**maximum 300 words**)*

The project was started as a need for better connection of decision makers with citizens. The goal was to achieve better communication, achieve a relationship of trust and involve citizens directly in decision-making. Our role model was the Portuguese city of Agueda, which presented its project very well on the website. In the Croatian region of Dalmatia, no city has had similar projects.

Objectives of the experience

*What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience (**maximum 100 words**)*

The most important thing is the direct involvement of citizens in the decision-making process, given that this is a rarity in local governments, and smaller cities are suitable for just such a form of participation. Direct participation on our project means literally direct – organization of public forums where citizens decide on each of their project proposals they submitted.

Application Form

Methodology

*Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels (**maximum 300 words**)*

Project starts in September with a campaign and two-week period of submitting proposals. After the proposal period, the project team evaluates every proposal by gathering all information about the specific location, type of investment, cost estimation and acceptability. For every local committee (8) we form a list of every proposal with evaluation and photo of the current state. Base on that list, we create a presentation for participants to present all proposals with detailed information about the location, current state and cost of investment. When the certain proposals are elected, they enter a city planned budget and are ready for realization. In the next cycle of participatory budgeting projects, we again present realized projects and discuss them. Also, we inform the participants about the status of their proposal, and update them about the progress of realization.

Innovation

*Explain what you consider most innovative in the practice. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Every year we try to include one innovative element in the project. This year it was including high-school students in project by presenting it within the citizenship education programme that high school organize once a year. In Croatia students have low interest on public actions, citizen engagement or local politics. By engaging in this kind of project, we would like to rise their interest in local community showing them that their voice matters too!

Inclusion

*Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible and how you have achieved it. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

We try to involve as many citizens it's possible by engaging every local committee individually. In the past period, we discovered that the most engaged groups are women between 35 and 60, and elderly citizens. The reason for that is a campaign which calls for action, calls for individuals' free time and inclusion as well as face-to-face interaction.

Application Form

Communication

*What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience so that the population knows about it and gets involved. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Pre-campaign takes place in local media and social networks, and also in every local committee with instructions how-to participate. After period of evaluation, we call for participation in presentation and public tribunes where citizens get to vote on every proposal. After voting period, we inform citizens on project by publishing results on every elected proposals, and publish annual newsletter on the project.

Articulation with other actors

*It explains how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this joint. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Project's success can be measured by the numbers of involved participants and it's getting bigger every year. Also, the success is being achieved with subjects of proposals, where citizens propose precise projects.

Evaluation:

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether citizenship has participated in the evaluation of the practice (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

Project team does evaluation of the proposals explained earlier, but we also include citizens by presenting detailed information of evaluated proposals in presentations which are published and presented in public tribunes, so the citizens can discuss them and give their opinion.

Impacts and results

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and which are their profiles. What have been the impacts on public policies, on the functioning of the administration and on citizens. (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Application Form

*A summary of the experience: origin, objectives, operation, results, monitoring and evaluation (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before, this summary is the one that will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**)*

From 2017, we planned to involve citizens more in the work of local self-government. Communication with the administration was poor, citizens did not have clearly and transparently presented plans, costs and projects of our local municipality, and they did not have any role in deciding on minor communal interventions in their neighborhood. Exploring the practices of other cities, we got acquainted with the idea of participatory budgeting and started preparing a project started in 2018.

Already in the first year, we met with a great response and great engagement of citizens. The project was received very positively, but we had a great challenge with the understanding of budget planning by citizens and the procedures we must follow according to the law. The project was also an opportunity to educate citizens about democratic practices, about legal regulations related to the processes of procurement, contracting and execution of work. It was also challenging to acquaint fellow officials with the involvement of citizens in their work, as well as a higher level of communication with citizens. Year after year, interest has grown, we have increasing involvement of citizens at different levels, and it turned out that smaller neighborhoods and smaller environments have greater homogeneity and more concrete ideas about how they want to arrange their neighborhood.

Every year we have between 250 and 400 proposals, and over 400 participants in public forums, so in the last 4 years we had over 1000 proposals and 1600 participants directly involved in project.

Our practice was also interesting for the Institute of Public Finance, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, but also for several cities that wanted to implement our practice in their municipalities. Each new cycle we strive to bring a new innovation to the project, to include the younger population as well as to respect the wisdom and experience of older citizens. The pandemic period showed even more the importance and significance of direct communication and interaction, which is the most suitable for this kind of projects.

We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... They can be sent through a heavy document delivery system such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive