



**17<sup>th</sup> AWARD**  
BEST PRACTICE  
IN CITIZEN  
PARTICIPATION

**Application Form**

**PART 1: BASIC DATA**

**Contact details:** (this information will not be shared or published).

**CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE**

**1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE:** choose the most important element (**choose only one element** which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).

<b>A) Deliberation</b> Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theatre / participatory planning	
<b>B) Decision</b> Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	✓ Participatory budget
<b>C) Citizenship</b> Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	

**2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT:** choose one only.

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<b>A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants</b> (towns, small cities, rural areas).	
<b>B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.</b>	
<b>C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.</b>	
<b>D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.</b>	
<b>E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments ....</b>	X

**Experience data:** complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.

<b>Title of the experience:</b> Participatory budgeting through the project "I Am a Mayor"
<b>Name of the city or region:</b> Tehran
<b>Inhabitants of the city or territory:</b> Between 10 to 13 million (nights and days)
<b>Country:</b> Iran
<b>Institution presenting the candidacy:</b> (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience) Municipality of Tehran, Deputy of Planning, Human Resources Development and City Council Affairs
<b>Website of the experience or institution:</b> <a href="https://manshahrdaram.tehran.ir/">https://manshahrdaram.tehran.ir/</a>
<b>Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution:</b>
<b>Start date of the experience:</b> 2022/12/23
<b>End date of the experience:</b> (if operational, indicate "ongoing")

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2023/01/12		
<b>Budget of the experience:</b> (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation)		
<b>Type of candidacy</b> (mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	

<b>Type of experience</b> (mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	X
	Participatory planning	
	Standing council	
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	
	Public hearing / forum	X
	Poll / referendum	
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	
	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms	
	Citizen initiative	
	Other (specify):	
<b>Objective of the experience</b> (mark with an X in the right column, you	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	

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may choose more than one)	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"	X
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	X
	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		
	To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		X
<b>Territorial area</b> (mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)	All the territory	Local	X
		Regional	X
	District		X
	Neighbourhood		
<b>Thematic area</b> (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		
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements		
	Culture		

	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	X
	Local development	X

	Training / learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	
	Other (write the topic)	
<b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice</b> (mark with an X in the right column, more than one option can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	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	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	

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	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, images or graphics if you consider it appropriate.

**Context:**

1- Profile of Tehran city

1-1-1 Geographical features

1-1-2 Location

Area: 730 km<sup>2</sup>

Location: 35° 41' 21" N, 51° 23' 20" E

Municipal divisions: 22 districts, 123 sub-districts, 354 neighbourhoods

1-2-1-1 Topography of Tehran

The topography of the city is affected by its location on the southern slopes of Alborz range, with an altitude difference of up to 900 meters in south-north direction (lowest 900 - highest 1830 meters).

3-1-1 Climate

Tehran has a semi-arid climate. The elevation differences in its northern and southern parts have led to better weather conditions in the north of the city, especially in summer.

A) Temperature

In the Metropolitan Area of Tehran, the annual average temperature varies between 15 °C to 18 °C. Due to the irregularity of the city area, the annual average temperature difference in its districts is about 3 °C.

b) Precipitation

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The annual precipitation in Metropolitan Area of Tehran is mainly affected by the elevation differences and varies between a maximum of 422 mm in the northern districts and 145 mm in the south-eastern parts. The number of precipitation days follows the same pattern and varies between 89 days in the north and 33 days in the south of the city. Annually, 205 to 213 days are clear to slightly cloudy in Tehran.

**Precedents:**

The studies show that the foundation of participatory budgeting was laid in Brazil in 1989 by the Municipality of Porto Alegre, the capital of the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul. Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, and several other countries have also the experience of implementing participatory budgeting at national level. In Iran, the city of Tehran has based its management plan on four developmental ideas, including improving the spirit of the city. Engaging the citizens in the management of the city has been considered as a means to reach this aim under forming a role model citizen.

**Objectives of the experience:**

- Promoting the social service of urban management by relying on innovation-based changes
- Increasing trust, confidence, and mutual interaction between citizens and city management bodies
- Promoting citizenship culture
- Changing the ineffective and consultative participation of the citizens into active and spontaneous involvement
- Creating the possibility for effective decision-making in defining and advancing projects
- Increasing the accountability of urban management
- Prioritization and optimal selection of urban management projects according to the needs of citizens with the aim of increasing productivity
- Increasing financial transparency and reducing corruption
- Adjusting the annual budget based on the will of the people
- Decentralizing the process of decision-making for daily public needs

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**Methodology:**

To ensure the best possible implementation of the plan and with regard to the population of Tehran, it was decided to conduct 500,000 surveys in time span of two weeks. The intention was to apply the results in the compilation of the next annual budget of the municipality as part of the 4th Development and Progress Plan of the city.

For this purpose, after all the possible inputs to collect the opinions and suggestions of the citizens, including 1.5 million messages received by 137 Service System, field visits by members of the City Council in different municipal districts and neighborhoods, receiving the ideas of elites in the neighborhoods, and needs assessment conducted by municipalities of districts and sub-districts under mid-term and long-term programs were analysed and their feasibility, required resources and realizability were examined.

Finally, out of 2080 projects proposed to the citizens and based on 458504 comments received from 345450 people within 3 weeks (from 24/12/2022 to 12/01/2023), 1462 projects were selected as "I am a mayor" projects and were included in the annual budget bill to be approved by Tehran Islamic Council.

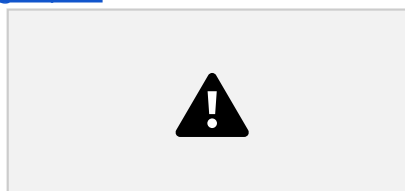
To collect opinions, a special website was designed, available to all citizens through registering their cell phone numbers. All they had to do was to enter the website and chose their priorities in their districts from the proposed projects.

Ease of use, precision, and accuracy were among the features of the project.

**Innovation:**

The innovative aspect of this plan is fundamental for the level of direct participation it has brought for the citizens. The studies show that the foundation of participatory budgeting was laid in Brazil in 1989 by the Municipality of Porto Alegre, the capital of the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul. Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, and several other countries have also the experience of implementing participatory budgeting at national level. In Iran, the city of Tehran has based its management plan on four developmental ideas,

including improving the spirit of the city. Engaging the citizens in the management of the city has been considered as a means to reach this aim under forming a role model citizen. 2080 urban projects were proposed to the citizens, some introduced by urban officials and some put forward by citizens through the means already mentioned in previous section and were classified for the survey. The incomplete or underway projects as well as projects designed to be carried out in the future were both included in the survey. Direct exchange of views between the citizens and the urban managers and engaging them in decision making was used in this project as a very first in Municipality of Tehran.





**Inclusion:**

The implementation of this project used the internal capacity of Tehran Municipality, including colleagues and experts in different districts, affiliated organizations and companies (such as Information and Communication Technology Organization and Center for Communication and International Affairs), volunteer emergency response groups in neighborhoods, volunteer firefighters, volunteer trainers (particularly in field of waste management, sports coaches as well as external capacities such as social activists, NGOs, etc. as part of this survey was conducted by experts talking to citizens about the local urban projects as ambassadors of municipality's budgeting program.

**Communication:**

For encouraging the participation of citizens several means were used including publishing announcements on the website of Tehran Municipality, sending citizens survey link via SMS and national social media platforms to citizens, environmental advertisements in Metro, public buses, taxis, supermarkets, fruit markets, and chain stores and retail shops, cultural, artistic, and sporting venues

**Articulation with other actors:**

- Colleagues in 22 municipal districts and 123 sub-districts: executive management of project
- Information and Communication Technology Organization: portal design and technical support
- Center for Communication and International Affairs: public relations, environmental advertising, and social media ads.
- Volunteer emergency response groups, volunteer firefighters, volunteer trainers: conducting surveys
- Citizens: individual participation in the implementation of the project

**Evaluation:**

The realization of the project was evaluated based on two scenarios: achieving the goals set in attracting citizens' participation and the amount of citizens' participation in the plan. Based on the first scenario, the realization of the plan was 94% on average, which shows the relatively high performance of the districts. Regarding to the second scenario, the highest participation rate among the districts is 48.39%.

**Impacts and results**

Within the plan, 2080 projects were proposed. 1,462 projects were introduced as selected ones due to their participatory nature, worth 3.4000 billion rials equivalent to 12% of the Tehran Municipality's annual budget. The selected projects were classified in 11 categories considering the priorities of the citizens.



The participants in the survey were 345,450 Tehrani citizens, with the number of questionnaires completed by them reaching 458,504. This means that one of the goals of the project, which was to complete 500.00 questionnaires, has almost been achieved. In terms of demographic characteristics, almost half of the responders were women and the other half were men, which indicates their shared concern in management of the city. The youth have been the biggest participating group, mainly concerned about the projects in their neighbourhoods and workplace area. More than half of the participants have higher education, which indicates their trust in the project and its application in management of the city.

### PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Within the plan, 2080 projects were proposed. 1,462 projects were introduced as selected ones due to their participatory nature, worth 3.4000 billion rials equivalent to 12% of the Tehran Municipality's annual budget. The selected projects were classified in 11 categories considering the priorities of the citizens. The participants in the survey were 345,450 Tehrani citizens, with the number of questionnaires completed by them reaching 458,504. This means that one of the goals of the project, which was to complete 500.00 questionnaires, has almost been achieved.

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Considering the weakening position of local councils as a bridge between the city managers and citizens, the municipality has initiated the project "I Am a Mayor" in order to fill the gap that has impacted its relationship with the citizens. The initiative allows citizens to address the challenges of their neighbourhoods in form of projects and prioritize them based on necessity. In fact, the measure has been taken in order to engage the citizens and encourage their participation in the decision-making process of urban affairs. Among the

requirements of implementing this plan the following can be mentioned: ▪ Accompany of the citizens in the decisions and measures of urban managers (strengthening citizens' participation)

- Increasing accountability of city managers
- Education and increasing citizens' knowledge
- Informing citizens about the municipality's activities in order to increase their motivation and encourage their participation.

In participatory budgeting project of "I Am a Mayor" and similar projects to be conducted in the future, Tehran Municipality seeks to get the opinions of Tehrani citizens about urban projects at the neighbourhood and local scale. In order to present urban projects to the City Council and include them in the annual budget bill, we chose surveys to select the projects based on their priority. As such, the participatory budgeting entered the agenda.



**We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... These can be sent through a file transfer service, such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive.**

**Thank you for participating!**