

Application Form

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).*

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

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

A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants (towns, small cities, rural areas).	
B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.	
C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.	240,000
D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.	
E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments	

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

Title of the experience: Participatory budget in rural areas
Name of the city or region: The rural parts of the Municipality of Uppsala
Inhabitants of the city or territory: 240,000 in the municipality and 56,000 in rural areas
Country: Sweden

Application Form

Institution presenting the candidacy: Municipality of Uppsala		
Website of the experience or institution: Medborgarbudget på landsbygden - Uppsala kommun		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: @landsbygderuppsalakommun (Instagram), Landsbygder Uppsala (Facebook)		
Start date of the experience: 2018-01-01		
End date of the experience: 2023-12-31		
Budget of the experience: (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation) 3 million SEK over five years (SEK 60 per inhabitant).		
Type of candidacy <i>(mark with an X in the right column)</i>	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	X
	Continuity of an experience	
Type of experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Participatory budgeting	X
	Participatory planning	
	Standing council	
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	
	Public hearing / forum	
	Poll / referendum	
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	
	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms	
Citizen initiative		

Application Form

	Other (specify):		
Objective of the experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	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		
	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		
	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
Territorial area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	All the territory	Local	X
		Regional	
	District		
	Neighbourhood		
	Governance		X
	Education		
	Transport		

Application Form

Thematic area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Urban management	
	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	X
All		
Other (write the topic)		
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice <i>(mark with an X in the right column, more than one option can be chosen, you</i>	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	X
	SDG 4 - Quality education	

Application Form

<i>can also add the specific target)</i>	SDG 5 - Gender equality	X
	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	X
	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	X
	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:

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

Application Form

Uppsala was founded in 1286. In 1477, the Nordic region's first university was founded here – Uppsala University.

Today there are over 240 000 residents in Uppsala Municipality, on an area of 2 182 square kilometres. Since the municipality was formed in 1971, the population trend has been strongly positive. Uppsala is Sweden's fourth largest municipality in terms of population and Sweden's fourth largest city. Uppsala is also Sweden's largest rural municipality. Approximately 56 000 inhabitants live outside the city of Uppsala which is equivalent to 23% of the total inhabitants of the municipality (10% in villages and 13% in the countryside). In Uppsala, sustainable urban and rural development ensures equal access to housing, work, communications, community services and public places. There are 45 nature reserves in Uppsala municipality.

Uppsala city centre is within half an hour from Stockholm's (the capital of Sweden) central station. By train you also reach Stockholm Arlanda airport in 18 minutes.

Uppsala Municipality's geographical position as the northern node in the Stockholm region – one of Europe's fastest growing labour market regions – creates particularly favourable conditions for living and working in rural areas. There is proximity to a large labour market, good opportunities for companies and businesses to establish themselves and develop as well as varying forms of housing adapted for all stages of life. Uppsala municipality has a strong tradition of knowledge, culture and competence and with two large universities that also create an international arena.

The municipality has one of Scandinavia's most valuable cultural environments, Gamla Uppsala. The area was a religious and political center in the 500s. There, for example, are the three royal mounds.

In 2023, the municipality's budget is SEK 14 516 million, close to SEK 15 billion.

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, region or territory. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

During the development of the comprehensive/general plan in 2014 eleven meetings were organized in rural areas. Around 90 local associations and 200 participants attended. The meetings showed that the participants on one hand experienced the countryside as a safe and green place, but also that they perceived the countryside as synonymous with lack of public services and poor communications. Many residents felt that the countryside took second place in relation to the city of Uppsala and found the municipality to be a distant and confusing organisation.

The pilot project "participatory budget in rural areas" arose from these experiences, aiming for the municipality to work directly with the rural residents. The aim was to increase local

Application Form

involvement and provide the opportunity for rural residents to influence their environment and local development.

In January 2017, the council adopted the municipality's first rural development programme as part of its ambition to become one of Sweden's best rural municipalities. One of the four priority areas is local involvement.

In order for residents to feel that local involvement is taken seriously, it is important to have transparent processes where there are real opportunities for influence. Therefore, a pilot participatory budgeting process was decided in November 2017, supported by SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Governments and Regions).

The project is a central part of the municipality's rural development programme, and the participatory budget has been conducted in rural areas, based around dividing the municipality into five areas and involving one area at a time. All residents are welcome to participate in their respective areas.

In summary the process aimed to:

- Increase the municipality's visibility in rural areas.
- Take advantage of the commitment in the districts
- Provide transparency of the municipality's activities
- Create a lasting system of dialogue.

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. (In a **maximum of 100 words**).*

The aim of the process is to provide opportunities for real influence over the use of municipal resources, create commitment in the local community and to demonstrate in practice that all parts of the municipality are equally important. A recurring process allows a sense of long-term perspective, equal treatment and predictability.

It allows the municipality to respond to local initiatives and creates new forums for cooperation. It also ensures municipal visibility in the various parts of the municipality and better local knowledge.

The participatory budget distributes 3 million SEK per year in a sustainable, inclusive and gender-equal manner.

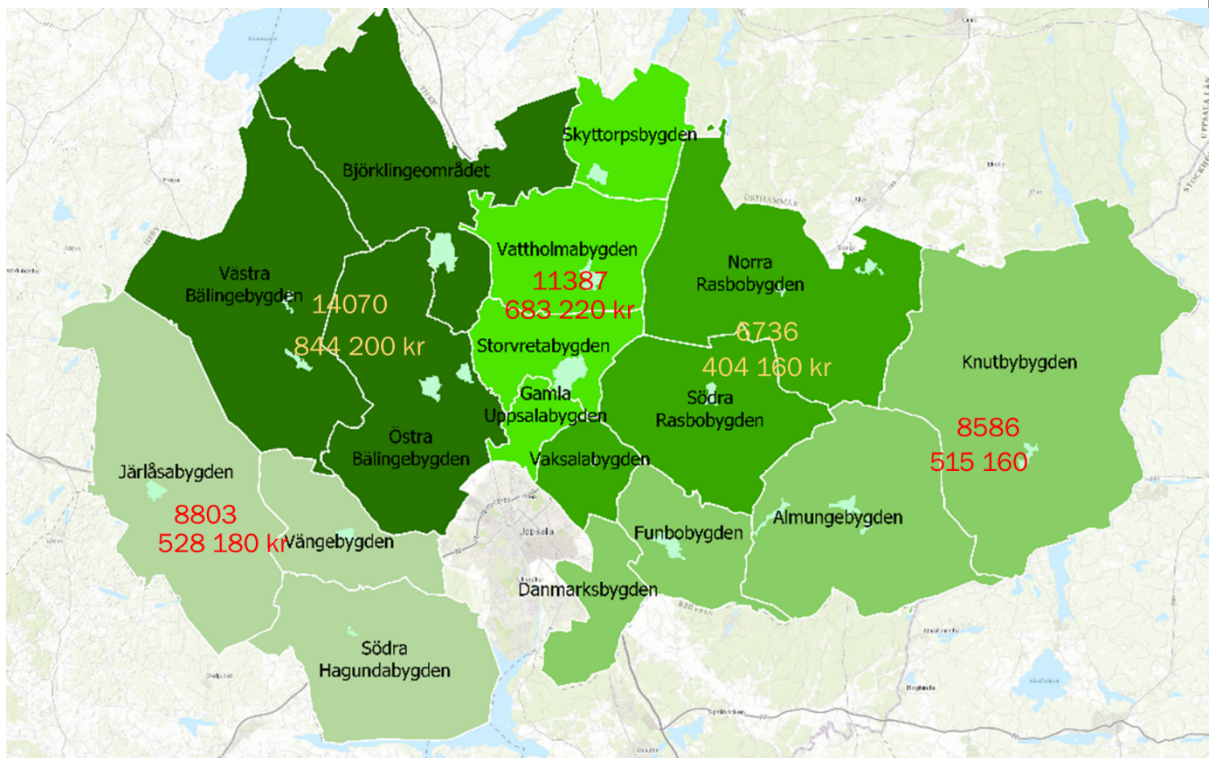


Application Form

Methodology:

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

The Participatory budget for rural areas in Uppsala started in 2018. The rural area around Uppsala was divided into five subareas, each of which was the focus for one year of the process. This was initially a 5-year pilot project to be evaluated every year. In 2021 it was made permanent by the city council.



Each area cycle lasts for 2 years. One year is for the actual participatory process from gathering ideas to voting. The second year is focused on the implementation of the winning proposals.

The city council decided that the budget for each area should be 60 SEK for every citizen living in that area (Funding for marketing, meetings and project manager was added on top of this)

	Phases of the process (for each area)	Participation channels
--	---------------------------------------	------------------------

Application Form

Y1/Q1	Project planning, identifying means for communication and local resources in the areas	Internal work, collaboration between different parts of the municipality
Q1	Mobilising residents, forming a local working group (nomination of members, local vote for representatives)	Communication through homepage, social media, citizens can nominate members of the local working group.
Q2	The local working group decides on principles for the process	Meeting with the local working group
Q2	Collecting ideas from the citizens	Communication through homepage, social media, visiting local communities, open meetings, neighbourhood walks and other local activities
Q3	Verifying votable ideas, including, legal and budgetary issues	Internal work, collaboration between different parts of the municipality
Q4	Voting	GIS-maps with ideas that citizens can vote for, communication through homepage, social media, local networks (also important to communicate around ineligible ideas)
Y2/ Q1-2	Implementation of the winning ideas	Communication about the winning ideas, inauguration ceremonies
Q3	Evaluation of process, results and communication, for the next area.	Internal work, collaboration between different parts of the municipality and local working group

Application Form

Innovation:

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

This process differs from many others when it comes to geographical focus, scale and local adaptation.

Geography. This process is focussed exclusively on rural areas. Participatory budgeting has tended to be a predominantly urban practice. The use of the methodology to overcome the sense of urban- rural divide is relatively rare.

Scale. The overall budget of the process is low compared to many other examples, but the amount spent per participant it much higher. The resource allocation process is based on an annual basis is based on a per capita sum of 60SEK. This creates a more equitable distribution than a flat amount would.

Local adaptability. A key component of the Uppsala participatory budget is the local working group, part of which is locally nominated and elected, and which sets the rules and format for the participatory budget in each area. This creates local ownership and adaptability.

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**).*

Each local working group has shaped the format and process of the participatory budget to ensure local trust and a more inclusive process. The working group members have networks which allows them to reach more groups.

Both digital and face-to-face formats are used. Information meetings were originally in the daytime but were shifted to evenings to allow more people to take part.

In some areas the local working groups have organised ideas generation workshops with young people, for example in youth centres.

Local "improvement walks" in the villages have allowed politicians and municipal staff to have two-way information sharing and learning with local residents.

The voting mainly took place via uppsala.se but face-to-face voting events have also taken place; this was especially important for the youngest and oldest age groups. On average the number of votes cast in the participatory budget have been around 10% of the residents.

Application Form

Communication:

*What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience for engaging the population. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

For each local area digital maps, leaflets, posters and films have been produced. Broad communication efforts have been undertaken to spread information about the process, encourage nominations of working group members, solicit calls for proposals and invite residents to the voting process. The local working group members also act as ambassadors for the participatory budget by spreading information on community days and in the local social media groups. Local working group members have also been of assistance in putting up posters and handing out leaflets.

In some areas personal letters have also been sent out to everybody in the area, but the methods and channels of communication for each area have been decided in the local working group.

On top of this several public meetings and improvement walks were held (in the non-pandemic years). The voting was conducted digitally on uppsala.se.

Articulation with other actors:

*Explain 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 articulation. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The Local working groups in each area are made up of:

- 3 politicians (two members of the majority and one from the opposition) and 5 people who are locally involved.
- The members of the group are nominated and elected from the district at a specific meeting for the formation of a working group.
- Civil servants support the group.

The group:

- Creates locally adapted criteria for how the participatory budget should be carried out in the geographical area (possible theme, voting procedure).
- Act as ambassadors in their geographical area.

Compensation to the local representatives is for a maximum of 10 meetings of SEK 300 per meeting (regardless of length).

The group works out voting-able proposals together with municipal officials, adjusting several proposals if necessary.

Intra-municipal collaboration has also been key. Different parts of the municipality that have not worked closely together in the past have had to do so.

Application Form

Evaluation:

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

Every local area has been evaluated in collaboration with the local working group, but the overall final evaluation is yet to be completed, as the last and fifth area participatory budget is ongoing and some winning proposals in area four are still under construction.

The funded activities and physical constructions have also been controlled and evaluated. In some cases, the municipality carried out construction, and in some cases local organisations have been responsible for construction. The process itself and the communication have also been evaluated together with the working group.

The evaluation questions have focussed on:

- Perceptions of participatory budgeting as a method
- How well the process has been carried out
- How well the communication has gone
- How to get more proposals that meet the eligibility criteria
- How we can we improve develop voting procedures (Who can vote, for how long, methods of voting or similar.)
- Perceptions of fairness and procedure
- The format and content of the working group meetings
- The degree to which the working group had been able to exert influence

The participatory budget process has been adjusted according to previous evaluations on an annual basis. The following changes have been implemented:

- Each proposal must be drafted by at least three people.
 - Objective: Increase the acceptance of proposals and more thoughtful proposals.
- The local working group sets a ceiling for what a proposal may cost, adapted to the size of the budget.
 - Objective: Clearer communication about which proposals are feasible.
- The local working group is more actively involved in contacting associations and finding solutions for the proposals.
 - Objective: Stronger local anchoring and ownership.

Application Form

Impacts and results

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

There is a high level of interest in the local communities and many proposals have been submitted (over 70 proposals submitted in year 1 alone).

So far, the process has funded 15 projects (budgets for each area are based on population size):

- Area 1 – 3 projects SEK 528,180
- Area 2 – 5 projects SEK 844,200
- Area 3 – 3 projects SEK 683,220
- Area 4 – 4 projects SEK 404,160
- Area 5 – TBC SEK 515,160

Examples of funded projects and infrastructure include outdoor lighting in public spaces, a beach volleyball court, several outdoor gyms, defibrillators, and the cleanup of a local river. This local infrastructure has been well received in the villages and are not things that the municipality would have built anyway.

The interim evaluation found that "many of the ideas submitted contribute to sustainable development by reducing travel and increasing quality of life in the rural areas. The process has been structured to be inclusive of all residents in the area."

Evaluations show that the local working group meetings have been valuable for both politicians and the local working group members and that the group members feel a sense of ownership of the process.

The local members of the working groups: 13 women/7 men, between 69 and 15 years of age.

Evaluations carried out with the local working groups show that there is a positive view of the participatory budget and a feeling of involvement in the local communities after the process.

For the municipality the most important results have been:

- Better use of municipal resources
- Strengthened municipal brand and trust in rural areas
- Increased two-way learning and understanding
- Increased community commitment, confidence and capacity – in particular in the local working group members

Application Form

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

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

The rural participatory budget in Uppsala Municipality started in 2017. Many residents felt that the countryside was overlooked in relation to the city of Uppsala and felt the municipality was distant.

The participatory budgeting pilot was initially for five years but has been made permanent by the city council in 2021.

The participatory budget in rural areas allows the municipality to work directly with the rural residents and to give them a real say in how money is spent in their communities.

Over five years the process will distribute around 3 million SEK, builds commitment in the local communities and demonstrates that all parts of the municipality are important. Since it is a recurring process, it allows a long-term perspective and predictability.

It allows the municipality to respond to local initiatives, creates new forums for cooperation and also ensures municipal visibility in the various parts of the municipality.

The rural area in Uppsala has been divided into five subareas, each of which is the focus for one year of the process.

The process includes the following steps:

1. Mobilising residents and forming a local working group
2. Local working group decides on principles for the process
3. Collecting ideas from the citizens
4. Verifying votable ideas, including, legal and budgetary issues
5. Voting
6. Implementation of the winning ideas

What sets this process apart is:

- **Geographic focus.** This process is focussed exclusively on rural areas and seeks to overcome the sense of urban-rural divide.
- **Scaled to population.** The resources are allocated to each area is based on a per capita sum of 60SEK. This creates a more equitable distribution than a flat amount would.
- **Local adaptability.** A key component of the Uppsala participatory budget is the local working group, part of which is locally nominated and elected, and which sets the rules and format for the participatory budget in each area.

Application Form

In each area the local working group has shaped the format and process of the participatory budget. It was them who decided how to communicate the process, how much money could be spent per project, who could vote and what kinds of projects would be eligible.

Over the past four years the participatory budget has funded 15 projects, including a beach volleyball court, several outdoor gyms, a defibrillator and the clean-up of the local river.

The voting mainly took place via uppsala.se but the local working groups have also organised face-to-face voting events, which were especially important to get the youngest and oldest age groups to vote. Outdoor ideas workshops have been very popular. On average the number of votes cast in the participatory budget has been around 10% of the residents.

Interim evaluations show that the projects have been well received, that the citizens are positive towards the process and that the local working groups have been influential and shaped the process to local conditions.

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!