

**RE: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING EU RECOMMENDATIONS**

22nd May 2017

Dear Mr. PLACÉ,

From July 2016 onwards, several EU-based experts in the field of participatory budgeting (PB) provided their input into policy options for advancing the PB agenda on the European level. We coordinated a consultation process that involved civil society organizations working on the issue of PB in Scotland, Poland, Italy, and Portugal, and we have compiled a set of recommendations that reflect their varied experiences. Our ultimate goal is to contribute to the **implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda** in Europe, through strengthening the good and participatory governance component.

Given the diverse expertise of the research participants, PB practitioners etc. that put together the recommendations, we serve as a well-positioned and important interlocutor on PB in relation to the implementation of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In this letter we would like to strongly advocate for the expansion of the scope of PB through measures aimed at **encouraging broader acceptance of PB and initiating new PB projects in locations where they have not yet been tried**. Specifically, we call on policy-makers to:

- Create of a fund specifically for use by local authorities in PB processes.
- Fund research, collection of best practices, and support structural support for local authorities engaged in PB processes.
- Increase funding for civil society organizations providing technical support to LA's who want to implement PB.

Furthermore, it is essential to **improve weaknesses in current European PB processes as well as to disseminate best practices to wider audiences**. In this respect, policy makers should aim to:

- Develop a policy framework aimed at increasing the democratic potential of PB.
- Emphasize PB in marginalized communities.
- Disseminate best practices from local and national-level PB initiatives.

Lastly, efforts should be aimed at **implementing policies designed to support the “mainstreaming” over time of PB processes into the work of local authorities**. Concrete policy proposals ought to:

- Continue supporting the development of technologies designed to support PB
- Set a standard that a certain percentage of local authority budgets for cities of a certain size be spent via a PB process (i.e. “top-slicing”).
- Attach provisions to EU pass-through funding to require a portion of it be spent on PB projects.

For a detailed insight into the proposed actions, please **refer to the policy recommendations** attached to this letter.

We believe that no city is better positioned to drive forward the PB agenda in Europe than Paris, home to Europe's largest participatory budget. As a long-standing representative of the *Île-de-France Regional Council* at the European Committee of Regions, we sincerely hope you will use your prerogatives as an appointed member of the legislative assembly to **propose an own-initiative opinion**, inclusive of the above-mentioned recommendations in the CIVEX committee.

Thus far, European policy-makers have failed to recognize the immense significance of PB in building a participatory society, and it is imperative to change this course.

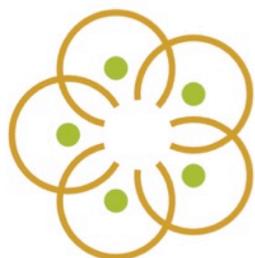
Senior representatives of our partner organisations would be pleased to meet with you in the near future to discuss these proposals further. We look forward to hearing back from your office soon.

Yours sincerely,



DIRECTOR of CEECN

The following EU based-networks and organisations working in areas such as environment, development, accountability, governance, equality, poverty eradication, social inclusion, human rights, policy coherence for sustainable development, global economic justice, global citizenship education, life long learning, and youth are endorsing this letter.



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