

THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AS AN ELEMENT OF THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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Constructive cooperation between local executive and legislative bodies, public organizations, and active citizens can have different natures and take appropriate forms depending on the level of complexity of the public task, in particular: financial and non-financial forms of cooperation; cooperation based on partnership or delegation of powers.

The characteristics of European practices allow us to show the practical results of cooperation between citizens and institutions at the state level, as well as EU authorities.

In this context, it is worth giving the following examples: direct participation of public organizations in the implementation of social tasks on the basis of partnership, constant provision by state institutions of information on implemented and planned projects, deadlines for their implementation, sources of financial resources, as well as the opportunity to present their own proposals for the use of the participatory budgeting (for example, construction of a playground, construction of a bicycle path, planting trees near apartment buildings, landscaping of the territory, additional lighting, installation of video surveillance for community safety purposes).

It is worth noting that the implementation of such a tool as a the participatory budgeting is an effective element of cooperation between public policy actors and guarantees an increase in the level of people's trust in government structures. Projects that received the largest number of votes are implemented within the established period, and this data will also be entered in the relevant documents. During the work on the local budget, the relevant council does not have the opportunity to change or remove a project that will be implemented within the framework of the participatory budgeting.

For example, in the Republic of Poland, in municipalities that are cities with district rights, the implementation of the participatory budgeting is not only an important but also «a mandatory tool for financing local initiatives» [3]. The legislative framework outlines «that the size of the participatory budget is at least 0,5 % of the municipality's expenses included in the latest submitted budget execution report» [3].

The municipal council outlines the formal requirements for projects to be financed within the participatory budgeting by adopting a relevant decision. In addition, the required number of signatures (votes) of persons who prefer a particular proposal

is established («which cannot be greater than 0,1 % of the residents of the area covered by the participatory budget pool in which the project is submitted») [3].

As for Ukrainian practice, an analysis of the legislative framework shows that the the participatory budgeting is regulated at the level of local councils, as well as by the general provisions of the Law of Ukraine «On Local Self-Government in Ukraine». In particular, an article 6¹ of the aforementioned document states that «forms of participation of the territorial community in resolving issues of local importance include public hearings and participation of residents in planning and distributing local budget funds» [1]. Local self-government bodies outline and present the requirements for the participatory budgeting in their own provisions, which also address the procedure for adopting such a budget.

Foreign scientists M. Dean and K. Villadsen [2], in their study of the development and formation of civil society, they characterize new ways and approaches to understanding the role of the state in establishing social order and mediating between the capitalist economy and the legal equality and political rights of citizens; «the researchers argue that authorities and their cooperation with the public remain very important for resolving modern crises, they demonstrate the interdependence of the state and civil society and the need for social forms of governance, that is, the active participation of citizens in public administration» [2].

Summarizing the above, it is worth emphasizing that the cooperation of the above-mentioned actors of public policy and governance, in particular, government structures and citizens, involves the implementation of a subsidiarity approach within the framework of such cooperation, and the adoption of the participatory budgeting involves the residents' own initiative and transparency of the mechanism for distributing funds.

References:

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