



Transforming Public Spending? The case of Participatory Budgeting

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DRIFT (Dutch Research Institute for Transitions)

Research-to-policy seminar 15th of March 2017, Brussels



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 613169.

What is Participatory Budgeting?

A decision-making process in which **citizens** think along, assess, negotiate and/or decide about the use and distribution of **public money**



PB as social innovation

*“Working with inhabitants budgets asks for a turn towards a municipal bureaucracy which stands **next to** the citizen instead of opposite him/her”*

(Engbersen et al. 2010: 353)



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Int. observatory on participatory democracy



A NETWORK OF MORE THAN 800 CITIES IN 91 COUNTRIES

A NETWORK OF SHARED COMMITMENTS:
ANNUAL ROTARY PRESIDENCY
GENERAL SECRETARIAT BARCELONA

TYPE OF MEMBERS:

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS	LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL OFFICE: PORTO ALEGRE	AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE: BONDI BCOPOP (SENEGAL)
COLLABORATING MEMBER: UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH CENTRES AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS	CONFERENCE: 12 CITY ORGANISERS	



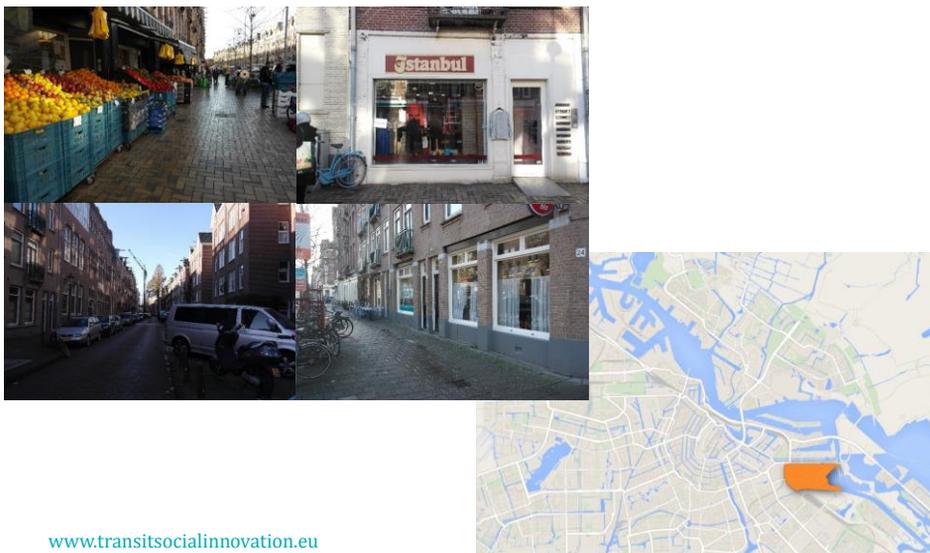
Participatory budgeting in Brazil

Belo Horizonte | Fortaleza | Porto Alegre



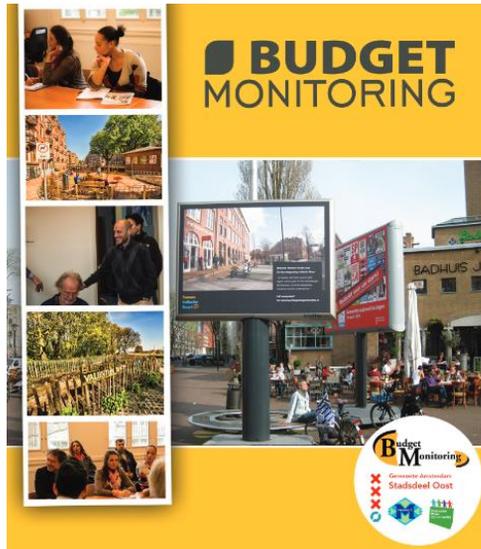
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Indische Buurt, Amsterdam



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Budget monitoring



Theory of change – budget monitoring

“Popular education is instrumental in building better societies and democracies, since it facilitates the identification of those citizens and groups which are living apart of society [...] to participate in building the public arena”.

CBB and INESC (2012: 5)



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Budget monitoring in Amsterdam

Burgerperspectievennota

Burgerperspectievennota van

Inleiding:

In deze nota bliken de Indische actieve communities in de jaren. Welke ontwikkelingen prioriteiten en ook welke leefbaarheid in de buurt zou

De Indische buurt heeft de achterstandwijk wordt steec

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The screenshot shows a web interface for 'Buurtbegroting' (Neighborhood Budgeting) for the 'Indische Buurt' in Amsterdam. The page title is 'Gebiedsplan 2016' (Area Plan 2016) for the 'Indische Buurt'. The website header includes 'Buurtbegroting', 'Stadsdeel Oost', and 'Indische Buurt'. A sidebar on the right lists various categories like 'Financiën', 'Informatie', and 'id van de buurt'. The main content area features a red banner with the text 'Indische Buurt'.

PB – tokenist or transformative?



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Participatory Budgeting – tokenist?

*“Citizen participation is not a hollowing out, but a **complement** to the representative democracy.*

(Engbersen et al. 2010: 58)

*The role of the City Council is not played out, but changes **indeed.**”*

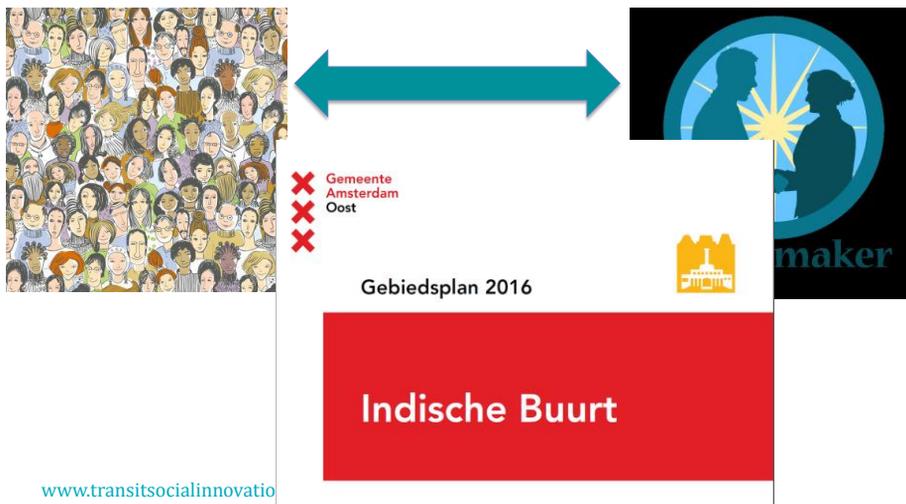
(Engbersen et al. 2010: 58)

*“But eventually, the Council is the place where the choice between different stakes has to be made. You **cannot** leave this to this kind of citizen initiatives.”*

(Amsterdam East Alderman, 2014)

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Participatory Budgeting – transformative?



Looking in the mirror

Comes close, commits,
makes policy part of a
social innovation process:

- asks for actual role
change of policy makers



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The devil is in the detail

Need to make transformative decisions with regard
to:

- Democratic quality of the process
- Degree of power for citizens
- Portion of the overall budget



**leefbaar
heidsfonds**
heerhugowaard



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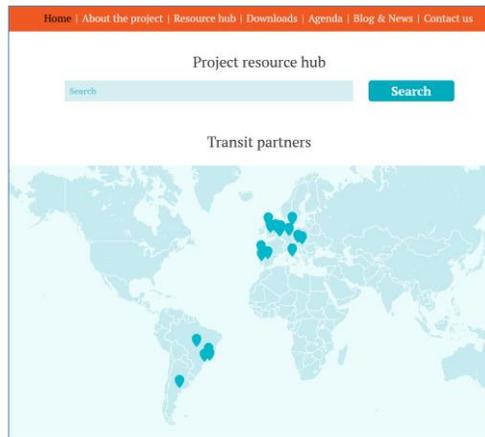
Thank you.

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