

Your City, You Decide

Submitted by the Municipality of Lublin

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Municipality of Lublin

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Size of organisation

500-5000;
people involved: >15

Type of sector

Public administration, modernisation,
institutional affairs, reform; civic participation

Key words of the project

Participation, diversity management,
civic budget, public consultation

'Your City, You Decide' is a social participation umbrella programme of the City of Lublin involving social partners such as NGOs, District Councils and residents. The first step was the implementation of the Self-Government Activity Programme (PAS) in partnership with six other local governments to develop and implement a system of public services monitoring. 80 meetings with residents were organised where they decided on the disbursement of district funds. As a result, five districts continue to execute public consultations and participatory allocation of the funds.

The next stage was the "Lublin Public Consultation Platform" – an application for mobile devices integrated into the municipal website. The application was used in the procedure of the Civic Budget 2015 as a tool to collect information on the procedure itself, on submitted projects and to vote on selected projects. The first edition of the Civic Budget was launched in 2014. The procedure was specified in the course of public consultations. The initiative enjoyed great success: 337 applications were submitted and 30 selected for implementation. The inhabitants had 10 million PLN at their disposal. The financial envelope for implementation of the inhabitants' ideas was doubled in the following year up to PLN 20 m.

In 2012, the Municipality of Lublin joined the partnership project with the canton of Neuchâtel "Lublin 4 All. Participatory model of cultural diversity management" (<http://dlawszystkich.lublin.eu>). A management system and a social campaign promoting diversity in Lublin were created and cooperation with other Polish local governments was established. Lublin has been a pioneer of integration efforts for years: in September 2014, the City of Lublin received four prizes in the national competition "Open Cities". Thanks to cooperation with NGOs and institutions involved in integration of foreigners in Lublin, it was possible, among others, to invite refugees in Lublin to the first edition of the civic budget.

As a continuation, the project "Communication for Integration: social networks for diversity" (C4i, www.stopplotkom.lublin.eu) has been launched in June 2014, aiming at combating prejudice, rumours and stereotypes concerning immigrants. It is co-financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe. The Barcelona anti-rumour methodology has been implemented and communication tools have been built. If the rumours spread like a virus, then "anti-rumours" can do the same, with the participation of citizens – Anti-Rumour Agents. The project includes activities in the public space: Rumours Exchange Shop, CaféDialog and football matches. Residents were involved in creative writing workshops, media workshops, stencil workshops promoting diversity and other activities.

In addition to the activities supporting individual citizens' involvement, the Municipality of Lublin cooperates financially and non-financially with NGOs. Since 2012, it has been assisting in the implementation of the projects funded by external funds by organising a competition for own contributions. Thanks to this initiative, NGOs have the opportunity to acquire the missing funds necessary to achieve their objectives as their projects rely on external funding. The Municipality of Lublin also funds the briefing portal www.lublin.ngo.pl for local non-governmental organisations. Its operation is entrusted to NGOs in the form of an open bid.