

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY

CELEBRATING TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Coming in the air?

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DOING AND THINKING
DEMOCRACY
DIFFERENTLY

CSD 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

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GOAL 16

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

More at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal







MOMENTUM



NHS citizen

involve

Room for a View

Democracy as a
Deliberative System

Foreword by Professor John Dryzek

Simon Burall

October 2015

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Recife Participatory Budgeting

Discussions

Start a new discussion about this case

No discussions have been started yet.

First submitted by [Hollie Russon Gilman](#) on Tue, 05/24/2011 - 18:49
Most recent changes by [Kevin Um](#) on Fri, 09/27/2013 - 20:29

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Language
English



Other images:



Note: Another version of this case study can be found below as a file attachment with the prefix "VD". This alternate version was originally submitted to Vitalizing Democracy as a contestant for the 2011 Reinhard Mohn Prize.

In Recife, Brazil, members of the public have been getting involved since 2001 to help determine how their city develops. Out of a population of 1.6 million people, more than 100,000 adults and young people join local forums or make themselves heard via Internet each year to determine policy making goals, suggest new programs and monitor implementation of municipal activities. The city also organizes forums on specific issues that allow residents to set priorities in 15 different policy making areas such as culture, education, and senior and youth services. Every other year, moreover, school students join in to make suggestions for improving their educational experience and to help turn their ideas into reality.

Throughout the year, city employees and volunteers in each of the city's neighborhoods encourage people to get involved. Recife's residents elect delegates, for example, who monitor participatory processes from start to finish and who even help determine the city's budget. Since the city's participatory budgeting system was established in 2001, more than 3,000 projects have been selected and implemented by ordinary citizens, with a majority of the committed funds going to poorer neighborhoods. According to statements made by Recife's residents, the situation has improved markedly thanks to the participatory measures, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

In 2011, Recife PB received the first ever €150,000 (\$211590) Reinhard Mohn prize for participatory budgeting, awarded through Bertelsmann Stiftung. [1] 11,600 members of the German public, selected to reflect the makeup of the general population, were asked to vote online for one of seven finalists, who had been selected from an initial list of 123 programs and project. [2]

Problems and Purpose

Brazilian budget laws require the executive branch to present the budget proposal to the legislative for approval each year, but how the executive chooses to develop the budget is open. This is the starting point for Participatory Budget (PB) initiatives as a whole, with the executive chairing the discussion of priorities with the

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Case Data

Location

Recife, PE
Brazil

8° 3' 15.4008" S,
34° 52' 52.5216" W

See map: [Google Maps](#)

General Issue(s):

Budgeting
Planning (e.g. Urban planning, Transportation, etc.)

Start Date:

Wednesday, December 31,
1969 - 16:00

Ongoing:

Yes

Staff Type:

Paid and Volunteer

What was the intended purpose?:

Make public decisions (i.e. exert direct authority)

Method of Recruitment:

Open to all

Type of Interaction among

Participants:

Discussion, Dialogue, or Deliberation

**DEMOCRACY
MATTERS
ASSEMBLY
SOUTH ↓**

**DEMOCRACY
MATTERS
ASSEMBLY
NORTH ↑**



PB
Network



PB Scotland

**I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
DECAF, IT'S LIKE
SEX WITHOUT
THE SEX.**

A.C. Van Cherub

PICTUREQUOTES.com



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