



# Content

Introduction.....	2
1. General information about the development of participatory budgeting in Russian regions ...	3
1.1 Practices, varieties, trends.....	4
1.2 The development of participatory budgeting in 2020 .....	8
1.3 Changes state regulation of regional participatory budgeting .....	13
1.4 The development of participatory budgeting at the municipal level .....	15
2. Infrastructure for Supporting Participatory Budgeting in Russia .....	20
2.1 Participation procedures .....	21
2.2 Support for participatory budgeting .....	22
2.3 Educational activities.....	24
2.4 Informational resources .....	29
3. Best practices of initiative budgeting in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation for 2020.....	35
3.1 An integrated approach to the development of participatory budgeting - the Republic of Karelia.....	36
3.2 An approach to financing projects in a variety of thematic areas - “The People’s Budget” The Republic of Komi .....	42
3.3 Organization of support for participatory budgeting—the project center of Yaroslavl Region .....	45
3.4 The development of participatory budgeting—the project positioning strategy of "Your Kuzbass—Your initiative" in Kemerovo Region.....	49
3.5 Media support for participatory budgeting in social networks—Krasnoyarsk Region.....	54
3.6 Participatory budgeting during the Covid-19 restrictions—the youth participatory budgeting project "Atmosphere" in the Udmurt Republic.....	63
3.7 Educational practice — “The School of Local Initiatives" Stavropol Region .....	64
3.8 School Initiative Budgeting Practices—St. Petersburg.....	69
3.9 Thematic focus—support of projects in additional education for children Participatory Budgeting in Sverdlovsk Region.....	72
3.10 Supporting the development of participatory budgeting at the municipal level — Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra .....	75
3.11 Municipal practice—the project “Your Budget" Tyumen .....	80
Conclusion .....	84
Appendix A .....	85

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## Introduction

The implementation and development of participatory budgeting is one of the most important issues in Russia to involve citizens in budget making decisions.

In 2020, participatory budgeting projects were fraught with difficulties associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, almost all the main indicators of participatory budgeting in Russia have grown.

In 2020, in 73 Russian regions, about 31.8 billion rubles were allocated to projects selected with the participation of citizens or considering their opinions. This is an increase of 32% over 2019 (24.1 billion rubles) and included 16.8 billion rubles from regional budgets—an increase of 28.2% over 2019 (13.1 billion rubles).

Co-financing from individuals and legal entities decreased to 2.0 billion rubles from 2.2 billion rubles in 2019 (9.1%).

One of the most important tasks facing the Russian Ministry of Finance in the new legislative context<sup>1</sup> was the development of recommendations to support participatory budgeting. As a part of this work, the following were prepared:

—methodological recommendations for the preparation and implementation of participatory budgeting in Russia;

—a description of the main elements of participatory budgeting practices was prepared, which are based on FL No. 236, recommendations for their combination were given, approaches to the consideration, revision and competitive selection of participatory projects, including management, support and model projects of laws for implementing participatory budgeting.

Methodological recommendations were made for planning regional budgets in order to implement participatory projects and ensure a unified approach in terms of using the participatory tools.

In 2020, with the support of the Russian Ministry of Finance and “The Center for participatory budgeting of the Financial Research Institute of the Russian Ministry of Finance” (NIFI), work continued on holding regional information and training events. More than 2,200 regional and municipal representatives, as well as representatives of the expert community, took part in 10 information and training events held online and offline. In 2020, a second, additional advanced professional training program on participatory budgeting, developed by NIFI, was held.

In 2020, NIFI, with the support of the Russian Ministry of Finance, held the 4th All-Russian competition for projects on participatory budgeting. The competition has been running since 2017 (<https://budget4me.ru>).

Every year the competition selects the best projects in three categories. In the “Public Partnership” category, nominations are selected by the amount of co-financing from individuals and local businesses. In the “Public participation” category, nominations are selected by the number of citizens who took part in project implementation. In the “The Most Original Project” category, nominations are selected by the novelty and creativity of the projects. In 2021, the competition added a new category “School and Youth Participatory Budgeting Projects”, which assesses the novelty of ideas proposed for the School and Youth Participatory Budgeting project.

In total, 581 projects from 35 Russian regions participated in the competition in 2021. The groups that proposed projects of priority importance for residents of municipalities included about 7,000 citizens and more than 250 million rubles were spent on implementing all the competition projects. The total number of entries for the competition was almost double the previous year and almost one million people voted for projects on the website.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the Federal Law of 20.07.2020 No. 216-FZ “On Amendments to the Budget Code of the Russian Federation” (FL No. 216) and the Federal Law of 20.07.2020 No. 236-FZ “On

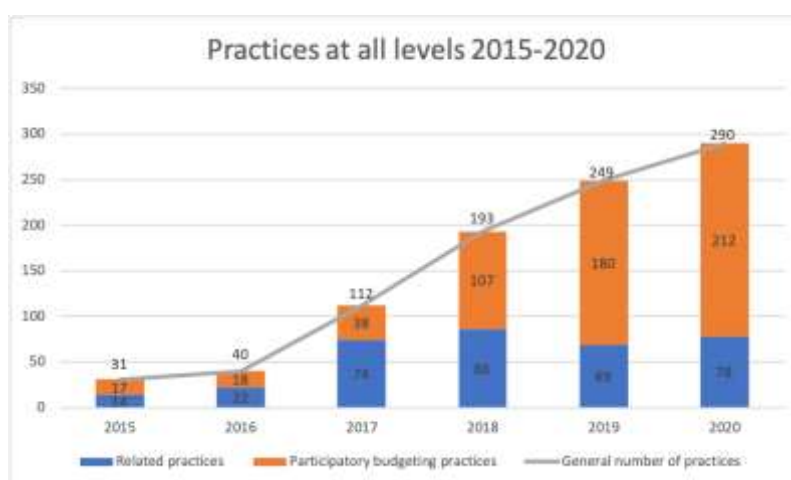
Amendments to the Federal Law “On the General Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation” (FL No. 236).

## **1. General information about the development of participatory budgeting in Russian regions**

## 1.1 Practices, varieties, trends

In 2020, the Russian Ministry of Finance received information from 81 Russian regions on the implementation of participatory budgeting. The total number of responses was the same as last year, but the composition of the regions that provided information has changed. The responses from 73 regions contained information on established participatory budgeting, implemented during the 2020 budget cycle.

Information was received from seven regions with a description of plans, the current financial situation, or a statement of the absence of participatory budgeting in 2020. Such responses were received from the Belgorod and Magadan Regions, the Jewish Autonomous Region, the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, the Chechen Republics, the Republic of Khakassia, and the North Ossetia-Alania Republic. No replies were received from Primorsky Region, Kamchatka Region, the Republic of Mordovia or the Republic of Tyva. Moscow provided a description of the interactive projects used in city management: “City of Ideas”, “Active Citizen”, “Our City”, and information about the “My District” program.

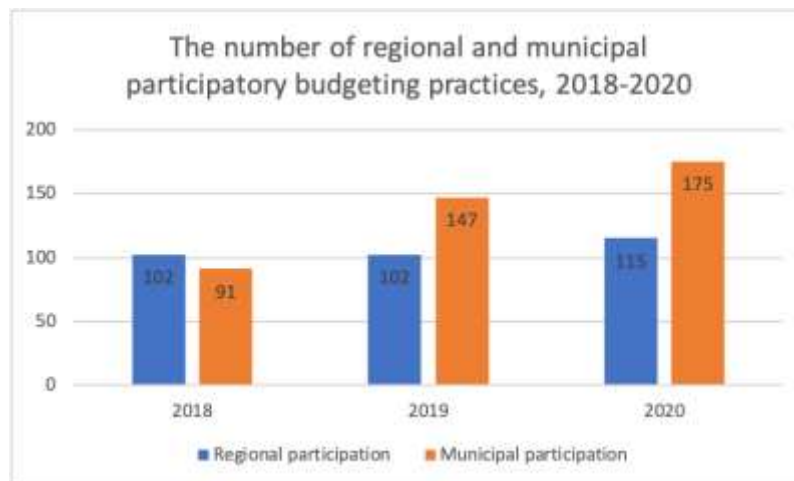


Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

According to the responses, 2020 again demonstrated an increase in the number of practices that provide for citizen participation used in regions and municipalities—the total number of such mechanisms increased to 290. This progressive growth has been observed throughout the years participatory budgeting has been implemented.

Participatory budgeting is implemented in a region or city to involve citizens in budgeting and decision-making. The practice includes regular planning and budget allocations for project implementation.

From 2018, information on municipal practices has been received separately. This allows the analysis of the development of participatory budgeting at two levels. In 2020, 115 out of 290 practices were implemented at the regional level and financed from regional budgets. The remaining 175 practices were initiated by municipalities. These projects were financed by municipal budgets and funds from individuals and businesses.



*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

Every year regions launch new practices, original mechanisms appear, and regional laws are adopted to consolidate the legal foundations of participatory budgeting.

The past year will be remembered for the unprecedented restrictive measures that jeopardized the implementation of participatory budgeting programs. In each case, decisions were made locally: in some place's deadlines were postponed, in others the limits of budget allocations were cut; in some regions the management practices were automated; the forms of information and training were changed; and in some cases, local participation was transferred partially or completely online. But for the most part, the pandemic did not interfere with existing participatory budgeting practices. With very few exceptions, all planned measures were implemented despite the restrictive measures.

In addition, the development of participatory budgeting began in Krasnodar Region; in Moscow Region "The People's Budget" was launched. In Voronezh Region, the introduction of a new practice of civic initiatives has begun, and in Yaroslavl Region, the governor's project "We Decide Together" expanded with a new thematic area "Priority Projects". Socially significant municipal projects were selected as part of citizen participation in Nizhny Novgorod Region—the pilot project was named "You decide".

In the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), a comprehensive project "Hometowns and the Environment" and the program "The Comprehensive Development of Rural Yakutia" were undertaken.

A number of regions announced the launch of new participatory budgeting practices from 2021. A pilot project in the Republic of Crimea was named "Crimea as we want it". In the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Region - Yugra, a pilot regional competition of participatory projects was launched. In the Republic of Karelia in 2021, the implementation of projects selected under the new practice "The People's Budget" began.

In 2020, for the first time, the practice of youth participatory budgeting "Atmosphere" in Udmurt Republic was implemented, as well as a whole set of new school practices in different regions. In Russia, school participatory budgeting only began to develop in 2017. One of the first regions in this area was Sakhalin Region with the "Youth Budget". Today, more than ten regions are already working on participatory budgeting and financial literacy through work with schools. In 2019, school participatory budgeting appeared in St. Petersburg with the launch of two different projects ("Your Budget in Schools" and "Change"). In 2020, the practice "I think" was launched in Altai Region and pilot projects of school participatory budgeting in six municipal districts of Novgorod Region. School projects in Volgograd Region have already been selected for

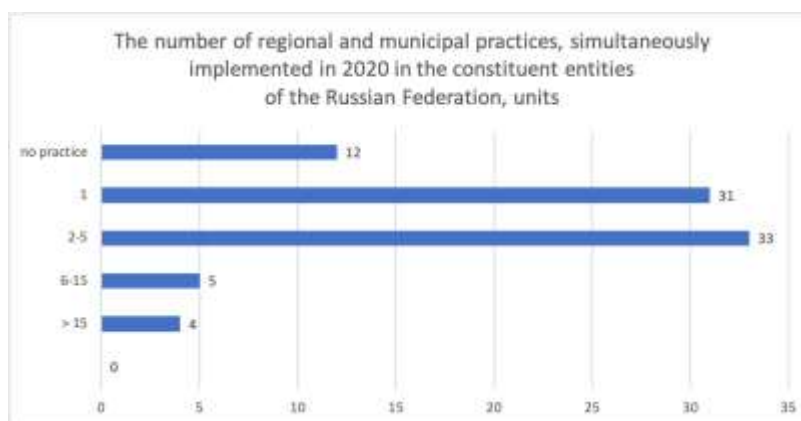
implementation in 2021. A number of other regions and municipalities are showing interest in school participatory budgeting.

In some cases, the work with schoolchildren is carried out according to a separate procedure within participatory budgeting but without being separated into an independent practice. This is how the school participatory budgeting is implemented in Yaroslavl Region as a separate thematic area of the governor's project "We Decide Together". In the Komi Republic, the "People's Budget in Schools" is part of "The People's Budget". In Arkhangelsk, the school project "Big Change" is part of the municipal practice "The Budget of Your Opportunities".

In 2020, two regional capitals made their participatory budgeting debut - Tyumen and Kaliningrad. Guards City District in Kaliningrad Region and Kharabalinsky District in Astrakhan Region have also launched their own participatory budgeting projects. At the municipal level in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region, and Samara and Sverdlovsk Regions, new practices are appearing every year. In 2021, the implementation of participatory budgeting will begin in Dzerzhinsk, Nizhny Novgorod Region. In 2020, the launch of a large-scale practice of participatory budgeting was announced in Nizhny Novgorod.

Every year, the integrated development of participatory budgeting in the Russian regions becomes more and more evident. In 2020, 42 regions implemented two or more participatory budgeting practices. In the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region, Novgorod, Ulyanovsk, Orenburg, Samara, Sverdlovsk Regions, the Republics of Bashkortostan and Udmurt, six or more practices of different levels were implemented.

The division of practices into participatory budgeting and related practices, which has developed over the course of several years, is developing every year. The experience of the regions shows that with enthusiasm and consulting support, the range of programs for civic participation is becoming wider.



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

### Typology of practices implemented in 2020 by regions and municipalities

Type of participatory budgeting (PB)	Regional	Municipal	Total
PB Practices: local initiatives support program (LISP), "The People's Budget" budget commissions and other models	62	151	213
The improvement and development of rural areas (Ministry of Agriculture)	16	-	16

A comfortable urban environment (Ministry of Construction)	15	-	15
Other: improvement projects, repairs, gas pipes, support for local traditions, etc.	2	10	12
Road development	2	-	2
Orders for MPs	1	1	2
Support for NGOs and socially significant projects	2	4	6
Self-taxation, 50/50, subsidizing the contribution of individuals	3	1	4
Territorial local self-governance program (TLSG) support	8	2	10
School PB	4	6	10

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

A notable event in 2020 was the launch of regional programs to support local civic initiatives for the integrated development and the improvement of rural areas, as part of a Russian Ministry of Agriculture program and financed from the federal budget. 14 regions announced the start of such programs. In Novgorod and Tambov Regions, the project is being implemented in two directions, designed as separate programs (projects for the integrated development of rural areas and projects for the improvement of rural areas).

No.	Region
1	VLADIMIR REGION
2	ZABAIKAL REGION
3	KOSTROMA REGION
4	KURGAN REGION
5	NOVGOROD REGION
6	ORLOV REGION
7	THE REPUBLIC OF ALTAI
8	THE REPUBLIC OF MARIY EL
9	RYAZAN REGION
10	SVERDLOVSK REGION
11	TAMBOV REGION
12	TYUMEN REGION
13	ULYANOVSK REGION
14	KHABAROVSK REGION

The implementation of the project “A Comfortable Urban Environment” by the Ministry of Construction continues. Every year, regions plan projects based on participatory budgeting for improving their territories and receive financial support from the federal budget. In 2020, 15 regions used a similar approach.

No	Region
1	VLADIMIR REGION
2	KABARDINO-BALKAR REPUBLIC
3	KALININGRAD REGION
4	KOSTROMA REGION
5	KURGAN REGION
6	NOVGOROD REGION
7	OMSK REGION



8	ORLOV REGION
9	THE REPUBLIC OF ALTAI
10	THE REPUBLIC OF DAGESTAN
11	SVERDLOVSK REGION
12	TAMBOV REGION
13	TYUMEN REGION
14	ULYANOVSK REGION
15	KHABAROVSK REGION

Other practices are relatively unchanged. The Republics of Buryatia, and Karelia, Arkhangelsk, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Novgorod and Khabarovsk Regions are informed about the mechanisms of TLSG support from year to year. With the exception of Arkhangelsk Region and The Republic of Buryatia, each of these regions has other mechanisms to ensure citizen participation in budget decisions. In 2020, the range of practices did not include such. The number of practices supporting social projects by non-profit organizations (NPOs) and socially significant citizen projects decreased. Thematic practices focusing on road construction are supported in Kostroma (Road Activity) and Novgorod (Road to Home Regional Priority Project) Regions. Traditionally, the group of “other projects” included projects that are unique to an area. For example, the regional program of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra, to support projects for the development of historical and local traditions, fell into this category.

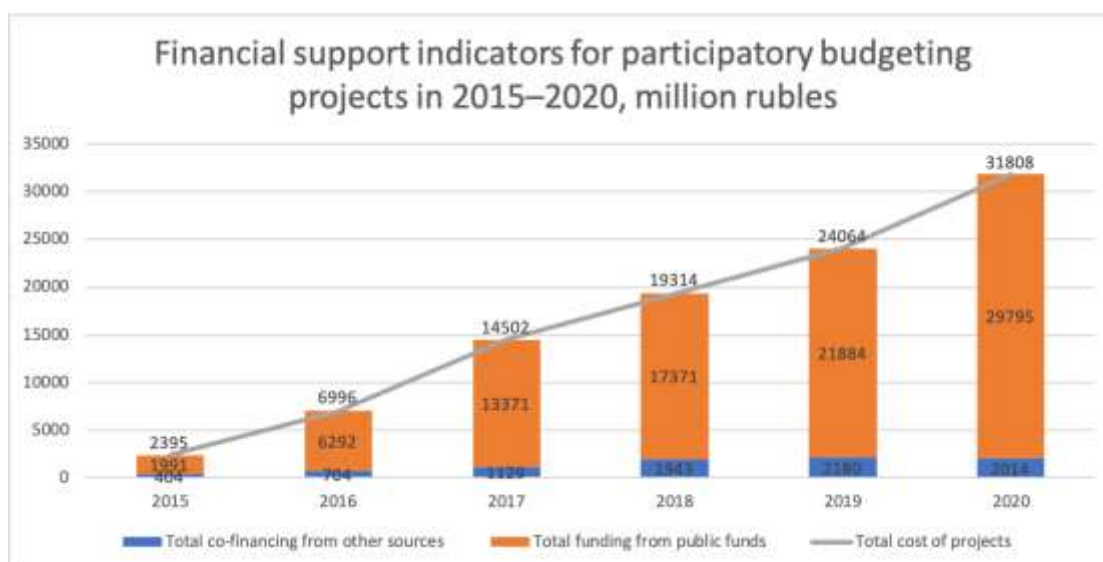
## 1.2 The development of participatory budgeting in 2020

The total funds allocated to participatory budgeting in 2020 was 31.8 billion rubles—7.7 billion rubles (32.2%) more than in 2019. The amount allocated from regional budgets increased by more than 25% (to 16.8 billion rubles). In 2021, the total amount of funds planned for participatory budgeting in regional budgets is 20.2 billion rubles.

The leading regions in terms of the share of participatory budgetary allocations from the regional budget in 2020 were Kaliningrad region with 5.3%, Murmansk region 3.8 %, Oryol Region 1.4%, Novgorod region 1.3%, and Bashkiria 0.9%. The share of budget allocations in regional budgets correlates significantly with the number of regional practices implemented. The increase in the share of funds for participatory budgeting in these regions is explained by the growth in funding for these activities in absolute terms.

In 2020, the contribution of municipal budgets to the total cost of projects increased by 1.1 billion rubles to 5.0 billion rubles. The volume of co-financing, including payments by individuals and businesses, decreased by 166 million rubles in 2020 to 2.0 billion rubles. This small decrease is explained by the change in the types of practices in 2020; there was a decrease in the number of projects requiring co-financing. The highest growth in co-financing was demonstrated by the contributions of entrepreneurs and businesses, which increased by 14.5% compared to 2019.

Individual financial contributions to participatory budgeting projects decreased to 1.1 billion rubles in 2020 (in 2019 it was 1.3 billion rubles). Non-financial contributions, in monetary terms, increased more than threefold to 380 million rubles. This category of support includes: the provision of materials; unskilled labor etc.



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

For a more comprehensive analysis, we describe the development of participatory budgeting and the financial support of projects by Federal District. The Central, North-West and Volga Federal Districts have the highest involvement. All regions within the Southern, Ural and Northwestern Federal Districts are implementing participatory budgeting programs. However, in the Far Eastern and North Caucasian Federal Districts, there is uneven regional involvement.

To determine the leading regions in financial terms in each federal district, the following indicators were calculated: the total share of regional funds for 2020 and funds per person.

The greatest regional financial support in 2020 were in Sakhalin Region in the Far Eastern Federal District (0.54%), the Republic of Bashkortostan in the Volga Federal District (0.86%), Stavropol Region in the North-Western Federal District (0.29%), Tula Region in the Central Federal District (0.63%), Kaliningrad Region in the North-West Federal District (5.28%), Novosibirsk Region in the Siberian Federal District (6.00%), Irkutsk Region in the Siberian Federal District (0.38%), Tyumen Region in the Ural Federal District (0.17%), and Sevastopol in the Southern Federal District (0.13%).

The total number of projects in 2020 increased to 22,526 (2017 - 15,942, 2018 - 18,859, 2019 - 21,841).

#### Dynamics of financial indicators of initiative budgeting in 2015-2020, million rubles

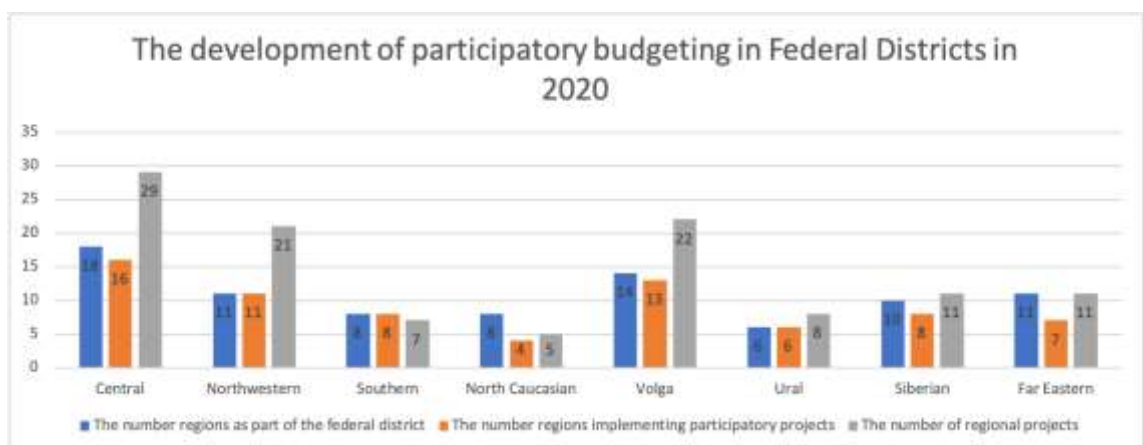
Total	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
The total cost of initiative budgeting projects, including:	2395,0	6995,6	14501,7	19314,3	24064,2	31808,7
The volume of expenses for the implementation of projects of initiative budgeting directed from the federal budget	no data	22,3	3782,7	3907,3	4835,67	7944,1
The volume of expenses for the implementation of initiative budgeting projects sent from the budgets of the	1375,8	5132,6	7679,0	10499,3	13110,7	16810,

constituent entities of the Russian Federation						
The volume of expenses for the implementation of projects of initiative budgeting directed from the budgets of municipalities	614,9	1137,0	1910,9	2964,6	3937,5	5040,2
The volume of co-financing funds attracted for the implementation of projects of initiative budgeting from the side of the population	205,5	478,1	776,6	1123,1	1267,3	1085,3
The amount of co-financing funds attracted for the implementation of projects of initiative budgeting from legal entities	182,1	218,9	344,5	714,6	811,3	928,8
Other forms of co-financing	16,7	6,7	8,2	105,4	101,9	-

Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

The range of projects in 2020 was expanded. In particular “School projects and youth participatory budgeting” was added. This innovation made it possible to obtain an estimate of the number of projects implemented in schools—which have been actively developing participatory budgeting in recent years.

In 2020, the most popular projects were associated with places for recreation and other amenities (13.7%). The second and third most popular are projects for the construction and repair of highways, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings (12.4%) and projects for the improvement of residential courtyards (11.1%).



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

**Constituent entities of the Russian Federation, leading in the federal districts in financial support of initiative budgeting (IB) projects in 2020**

<b>Federal District</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Share of funds for information security in the budget of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation</b>	<b>Total number of information security practices</b>	<b>IB budget support for 1 person, rub.</b>
Far Eastern	Sakhalin	0,54%	3	1890,1
	Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	0,22%	1	514,41
	Amur Oblast	0,16%	1	183,13
	Chukotka AO	0,08%	2	723,83
	Khabarovsk	0,05%	5	98,87
Volga	Republic of Bashkortostan	0,86%	7	554,01
	Chuvash Republic	0,63%	2	372,85
	Nizhny Novgorod	0,60%	3	379,48
	Republic of Tatarstan	0,37%	2	6,12
	Kirov	0,34%	3	188,27
North Caucasian	Stavropol	0,29%	4	153,93
Southern	Sevastopol	0,13%	1	166,99
	Republic of Kalmykia	0,10%	2	85,47
Central	Tula	0,63%	1	245,07
	Tambov	0,37%	4	205,13
	Yaroslavskaaya oblast	0,20%	1	117,2
Northwestern	Kaliningrad	5,28%	4	194,68
	Novgorod	1,33%	13	542,44
	Leningrad	0,26%	2	239,42
	Republic of Karelia	0,12%	1	135,82
Siberian	Novosibirsk	6,00%	1	41,16
	Irkutsk	0,38%	1	355,47
	Altai	0,18%	2	106,8
Ural	Tyumen	0,17%	4	91,73
	Sverdlovsk	0,04%	10	29,91

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

In addition to the listed categories, there were projects for the construction of children's playgrounds (9.2%), educational projects (8.7%), sports projects (7.5%), and culture and library projects (6.8%). The new category "School projects and youth participatory budgeting" included 381 projects, which was 1.7% of all implemented projects.

The share of water supply and street lighting projects, which were previously in great demand, is decreasing every year. In 2020 they decreased by almost half compared to 2016. Projects related to memorials and cemeteries remained at the same level (4.4%).

The average cost per project for participatory budgeting practices in 2020 was 1.4 million rubles, which is 0.3 million rubles more than in 2019.

**Typology of implemented projects of initiative budgeting in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, % in the total volume of implemented projects**

Types	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Water supply, sewerage	10,97	9,75	8,51	7,10	5,15
Highways, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, stops	14,51	13,04	15,13	15,05	12,39
Street lighting	8,69	7,18	8,36	6,03	4,97
Fire safety	2,78	2,73	2,67	2,61	1,99
Providing residents with consumer services	0,21	0,23	0,10	0,07	0,14
Cultural heritage (monuments, museums)	2,06	2,21	2,18	2,86	3,92
Education projects	-	-	5,57	7,20	8,72
Projects in the field of culture, librarianship, renovation of houses of culture (until 2017 - here: "educational institutions")	11,68	10,15	7,69	6,76	6,81
Physical culture and sports	4,59	4,60	5,34	6,65	7,52
Comprehensive yard improvement projects	-	-	8,37	11,17	11,05
Children's playgrounds	8,84	8,12	7,82	8,04	9,19
Places of mass recreation of the population and objects of the organization of improvement	18,07	17,90	9,43	10,70	13,67
Burial places	3,68	3,78	4,87	4,91	4,35
Collection of solid municipal / household waste and garbage	5,30	2,99	3,07	3,46	1,48
Event projects (holidays, festivals)	4,59	3,73	2,97	0,44	0,51
Housing and communal services (repair of facades and roofs), organization of heat supply, sewerage, gas pipelines	-	1,34	1,90	0,91	0,81
Large infrastructure projects (bridges, dams, improvement of reservoirs)	-	0,25	0,22	0,27	0,12
Purchase of equipment, machinery, transport	-	4,05	1,65	1,91	1,86
Projects aimed at supporting vulnerable social groups and citizens with disabilities	-	-	2,95	0,50	0,18
School and youth initiative budgeting projects	-	-	-	-	1,69
Other objects	4,02	7,95	1,19	3,35	3,45
Total projects:	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

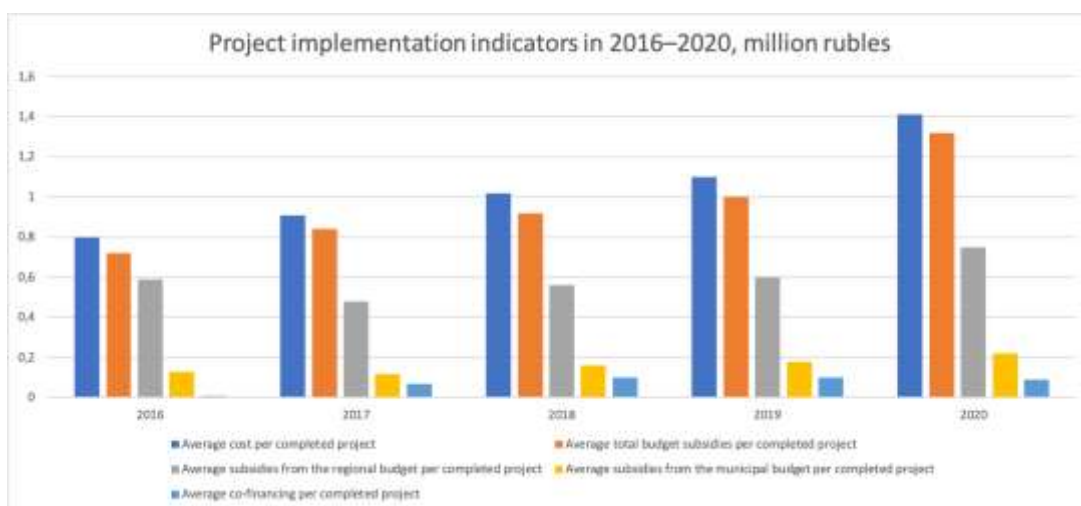
*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

The methodology for calculating beneficiaries of some regional and municipal practices, when the proportion of project beneficiaries was 100%, caused some criticism. But there are other examples where the assessment of beneficiaries is more balanced. In order to develop the participatory budgeting project “Your Budget” in St. Petersburg in 2020, methodological recommendations were developed to help activists suggest ideas for improving the quality of the urban environment, and to help everyone who wants to understand socio-economic processes in urban communities.

A justification of the need to implement a participatory project by these methodological recommendations can be supplemented by a detailed description of the beneficiaries of the projects. The authors propose methods and tools for collecting information about potential beneficiaries, their proposals, methods of assessing their number and methods of obtaining feedback.

The first section of the methodology provides recommendations for determining the number of beneficiaries in social groups and recommendations for using different approaches to assess the number of beneficiaries and to choose the most appropriate methods for counting them in relation to different possible situations. The second section deals with methods and tools for obtaining the views of beneficiaries on projects. We give an overview of quantitative and qualitative methods for identifying target audiences, their characteristics and methods of constructive interaction, including the errors that can occur when collecting data in various ways. Of interest are examples with a description of the data collection algorithm and simple mathematical models, which are presented in an accessible format for those who do not have professional competencies in sociological research.

The shares of beneficiaries in the practices of initiative budgeting in St. Petersburg, calculated using this method, was 71.9% of the total number of citizens in the project “Your Budget” and 0.1% in the project “Your Budget in Schools”.



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

### 1.3 Changes state regulation of regional participatory budgeting

With the adoption of federal laws No. 216-FZ and No. 236-FZ, Russian regions began to adopt their own or to adapt existing regulations.

In Kaluga Region, the law dated December 30, 2020 No. 55-OZ "On measures to support the implementation of participatory projects in Kaluga Region" enshrined participatory budgeting in the legislation. Support for participatory projects in Kaluga Region is carried out by providing municipalities with budgetary transfers from the regional budget for participatory projects based on the results of competitive selection. The authority to determine the procedure and conditions for conducting the competitive selection is the regional government. Together with the decree of the Government of Kaluga Region dated January 21, 2020 No. 30 "On the approval of the Regulations for granting and distributing subsidies to the budgets of municipal entities of Kaluga Region for the implementation of participatory projects" and orders of the Kaluga Ministry of Finance dated January 31, 2020 No. 30.

In Nizhny Novgorod Region, the law dated December 30, 2020, No. 173-3 "On participatory budgeting in Nizhny Novgorod Region" introduces the participation of municipal residents in solving local issues through participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting is understood as the implementation by citizens of local self-government through the initiation of projects and subsequent control over the implementation of these projects, financed from the regional and local budgets, and the direct participation of citizens in the determination of how budget funds are spent. Municipal residents of Nizhny Novgorod Region can submit a proposal to the local administration to resolve issues of local importance. Participatory budgeting projects are carried out a part of federal, regional and municipal programs, and non-program activities.

In Samara Region, the law dated December 29, 2020, No. 148-GD "On the Basics of Participatory Budgeting in Samara Region" includes participatory budgeting, public projects for the development of municipal territories and local referendums on the use of self-taxation of citizens. The general provisions for the development of participatory budgeting have been determined, including for project proposals put forward by the local population. The main goal of participatory budgeting, as stated in the law, is to create an effective mechanism for involving the municipal populations in the development of their municipalities. The priority directions for participatory and public projects have also been identified. Financing is from the regional budget and other sources in accordance with the federal budgetary legislation. The adopted law forms a regional system of regulatory support for participatory budgeting together with the order of the Samara Department of Internal Policy, dated October 30, 2020, No. 12 "On the implementation of certain powers to implement state programs of Samara Region".

In Stavropol Region, the law, dated January 29, 2021, No. 1-KZ "On the development of participatory budgeting in Stavropol Region" defines participatory budgeting as the involvement of municipal residents in solving local or other issues. The right to decide which projects are implemented, and the goals and objectives of participatory budgeting were determined. To motivate local governments to involve residents in participatory budgeting, municipalities that have implemented such projects are provided with transfers from the regional budget.

In Chelyabinsk Region, the law, dated December 22, 2020, No. 288-ZO "On some issues of legal regulation of participatory projects put forward to obtain financial support through budgetary transfers from the regional budget" was adopted. The law stipulates that in order to solve an urgent problem, a group of at least 10 citizens can propose a participatory project to the local administration from January 1 to March 1. The project will be considered within 30 calendar days. Then the local administration informs the initiators of the date, time and place of competitive selection. If the participatory project passes competitive selection, it will be financed from local budgets.

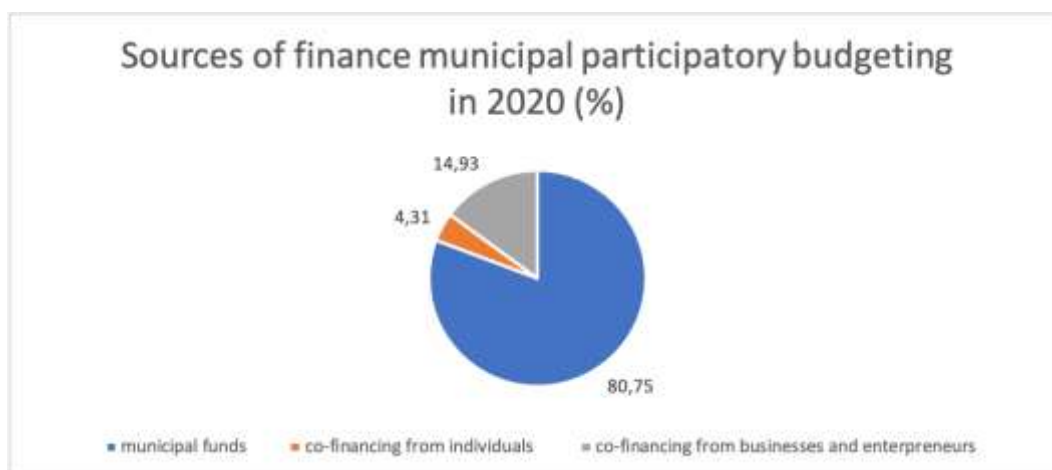
There is a tendency of legal consolidation in the regional legislation to involve citizens in the implementation of regional and local socio-economic policy. The new regional legislative acts

on participatory budgeting, despite their formal similarity, differ significantly from each other. The law of Kaluga Region is a framework and establishes the most general provisions. The law of Chelyabinsk Region establishes the procedure for the nomination and selection of participatory projects. The Samara Region law sets the main goal of participatory budgeting as creating an effective mechanism for involving locals in the development of their territories. There are similar provisions in the law of Stavropol Region. In the law of Nizhny Novgorod Region, among the main criteria for the competitive selection of participatory projects are the degree of participation of local residents in identifying the problem to be solved by the project, and the contribution of project participants to its implementation.

## 1.4 The development of participatory budgeting at the municipal level

2020 saw the development of participatory budgeting practices implemented independently by municipalities. Such practices are regulated in accordance with municipal bylaws, and the management and the competitive selection of participatory projects are organized by local authorities.

In 2020, 175 municipal practices of participatory budgeting were implemented in 28 regions. The total cost (2.1 billion rubles) for all the municipal projects more than doubled compared to 2019. Municipal funding in 2020 amounted to 1.7 billion rubles. Due to the absence of other sources of budgetary co-financing, budgetary support for citizen projects is traditionally high. In 2020, this indicator increased relative to 2018–2019 and exceeded 80% of the total costs of all municipal projects. The volume of co-financing support, on the contrary, is decreasing from year to year and in 2020 was 19.3% (in 2019—21.4%, in 2018—35.8%).



*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

In 2020, the ratio of the contributions of businesses and individuals to support projects has radically changed. The contribution of entrepreneurs was 14.9%, which is three times higher than the funds for co-financing by individuals (4.3%). In 2019, the reverse was observed, individuals (11.9%) provided more co-financing than entrepreneurs (7.2%).

The average cost of a municipal project has almost tripled: from 0.6 million rubles in 2019 to 1.7 million rubles in 2020, even though the total number of municipal projects decreased by 25% to 1,277 projects.



### Financing municipal participatory practices in 2018–2020 (%)

Options	2018	2019	2020
Total cost of participatory budgeting projects	100,00	100,00	100,00
Funds from municipal budgets	64,2	78,8	80,8
Total amount of co-financing, including:	35,8	21,4	19,2
- funds from individuals	13,8	12,0	4,3
- funds from businesses and entrepreneurs	18,4	7,2	14,9
- other forms of co-financing	3,6	2,2	-

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

The first municipal practices appeared in Russia in 2013. These are the well-known projects of Sosnovy Bor (“I am planning the budget”) and Cherepovets (“The People's Budget”). In 2020, out of all 290 participatory budgeting practices, 175 were implemented by municipalities.

The regions where participatory budgeting is developing most actively at the municipal level are the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra (46 practices), Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region (30 practices), and Ulyanovsk (24) and Orenburg (15) Regions. In 2020, for the first time, information on municipal practices was provided by the Republic of Crimea (2), and Vladimirskaya (1), Kaliningrad (2), Nizhny Novgorod (1), Tyumen (2), Kurgan (1), Khabarovsk Regions (2), and the Chukotka Autonomous Region (1).

Generally, the financial capabilities of most municipal practices cannot compete with the amount of funds allocated for participatory budgeting in Russian regions. Nevertheless, in some cases, budget expenditures on participatory budgeting are comparable in scale with regional programs, and sometimes even exceed them.

For example, the municipalities of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra have the largest budgets for participatory budgeting. In 2020, in the city of Gubkinsky, 154.8 million rubles were allocated from the municipal budget to the project “Citizen Budget Initiative”. In Noyabrsk, the “RHYTHM” Project budget was 42.4 million rubles. Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra also has leading municipalities in budgetary support of participatory budgeting projects. In Nizhnevartovsk, the projects received 45.7 million rubles from the municipal budget, and “The People's Budget” of the Nefteyugansk region received 27.2 million rubles.

Regional capitals allocate large amounts to support civic projects. In Ulyanovsk, the project “The People's Budget” received 23.5 million rubles. In the first year of the project “Your Budget” in Tyumen, the project received 9.5 million rubles, and participatory budgeting in Kaliningrad started with a budget of 7.4 million rubles.

In regional capitals, where the implementation of participatory budgeting practices continued, expenses did not increase significantly. In Arkhangelsk (“Budgeting Your Opportunities” and “Big Change”), budget support was 8.7 million rubles. The participatory budgeting program for Cheboksary received 4.5 million rubles. In the project “Yekaterinburg proposes”, budgetary expenditures on projects were 9.3 million rubles. For comparison, regional participatory budgeting in Sverdlovsk region received 6.1 million rubles from the regional budget in 2020.

By the end of 2020, the city of Novorossiysk (Krasnodar Region) was the leader in municipal fund for projects in the program “From Ideas to Solutions”, receiving 953.5 million rubles. Novorossiysk also has the largest number of participatory budgeting projects (212). The second in terms of the number of implemented projects (98) is the Oktyabrsky District of Rostov Region—less than half the number in Novorossiysk.

### Leading Municipalities in funding for participatory budgeting projects in 2020

No.	Region	Municipality	Municipal financial support, million rubles	The total costs, million rubles	Municipal support per person, rubles
1	Krasnodar region	Novorossiysk	953,5	1203,9	2816,4
2	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Gubkinsky	154,8	161,8	5407,6
3	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Nizhnevartovsk district	45,7	45,7	1270,5
4	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Noyabrsk	42,4	42,7	396,3
5	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Nefteyugansk	27,3	28,5	610,2
6	Ulyanovsk Region	Ulyanovsk	23,6	23,6	36,3
7	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Surgut	23,5	23,6	61,8
8	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Khanty-Mansi	21,7	23,1	1088,9
9	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Purovsky	18,9	18,9	364,8
10	Tyumen Region	Ishim	18,7	18,7	289,9
11	Penza Region	Penza	18,90	39,3	34,6
12	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Kondinsky	17,4	17,4	569,0
13	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Nizhnevartovsk	16,8	18,3	60,5
14	Krasnoyarsk Region	Krasnoyarsk	15,6	16,7	14,3
15	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Nadym	15,5	15,5	239,6
16	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Labytnangi	12,0	12,4	456,5
17	Sverdlovsk Region	Irbitskoe	12,0	12,0	431,8
18	The Republic of Udmurtia	Mozhginsky	11,7	13,8	453,0
19	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Muravlenko	11,6	11,6	368,1

20	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Oktyabrsky	10,3	11,2	365,7
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Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

### Leading municipalities, number of participatory budgeting projects in 2020

Region	Municipality	Number of projects
Krasnodar Region	Novorossiysk	212
Rostov Region	Oktyabrsky	98
Samara Region	Oktyabrsky	51
Penza Region	Penza	46
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District	Purovsky	38

Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

### Leading municipalities, citizen participation in meetings in 2020

Region	Municipality	The share of municipal citizens participating, %
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Muravlenko	39,0
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Tazovsky	31,8
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Labytnangi	28,6
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Yamal	26,3
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District	Gubkinsky	13,4

Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

The level of participatory budgeting correlates with the amount of budget support provided. Another indicator that characterizes the budget of participatory budgeting is the amount of municipal support per resident of the municipality. The participatory budgeting program in Gubkinsky receives 6 times less in total than program in Novorossiysk, but per resident, Gubkinsky receives twice the amount Novorossiysk does (5,407 rubles and 2,816 rubles, respectively). The Khanty-Mansiysk region was in 8th place in terms of expenditures on participatory budgeting, but 4th in terms of these expenditures per resident (1,089 rubles). The average indicator of municipal support for participatory budgeting per capita among all municipalities was 213.2 rubles.

The highest turnout of participants in face-to-face meetings to select participatory budgeting projects was in the municipalities of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region. The best indicator for 2020 was Muravlenko, where 39% of residents took part in the face-to-face selection of "Cozy Yamal" projects.

### Leading municipalities, share of citizens voting in 2020

Region	Municipality	Share of citizens voting, %
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Muravlenko	58,8

Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Tazovsky	32,6
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Labytnangi	30,6
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Surgut	29,5
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District	Yamal	27,6

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

As expected, the leaders in terms of the “share of citizens voting” were the same municipalities where most of the residents took part in face-to-face events. The Surgut region of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region was also among the top five. This indicator took into account all forms of project selection, including online procedures.

Different forms of Internet voting are increasingly used in municipalities to prioritize and select projects. Among the 38 municipalities where this form of project selection was applied, residents of Akbulak in Orenburg Region voted most actively. Voting was organized through documents filled in online. In Sakmarsky also in Orenburg Region, voting "The People's Budget" was held on the site sakmarsky.district.rf. In Surgut, the website <https://www.admsr.ru/budget/initsiativnoe-byudzhetrovanie/> and accounts on the social networks Odnoklassniki and VKontakte were used. In Muravlenko, the selection of initiatives for the Cozy Yamal project was carried out on the platform “We Live in the North”. In Pevek, an online survey was conducted on VKontakte.

#### **Leading municipalities, share of citizens voting online in 2020**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Share of citizens voting online, %</b>
Orenburg Region	Akbulak	85,75
Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra	Surgut	29,47
Orenburg region	Sakmarsky	22,05
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region	Muravlenko	19,88
Chukotka Autonomous Region	Pevek	18,44

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

Despite the difficult conditions caused by the spread of Covid-19, the development of participatory budgeting at the municipal level continued in 2020. New conditions and the introduction of restrictive measures contributed to the development and application of remote methods for conducting the competitive selection of projects, such as electronic nominating systems and Internet voting. Thanks to remote methods, the number of citizens involved in participatory budgeting in 2020 has not decreased.

## **2. Infrastructure for Supporting Participatory Budgeting in Russia**

## 2.1 Participation procedures

The key difference between participatory budgeting and the classical administrative method of decision-making is civic involvement, and this is important for the proposing, discussing, selecting and implementing of projects.

Participation can be achieved through a variety format. A survey conducted as part of the monitoring for 2020 indicates that the ratings of the procedures has not changed significantly. Face-to-face meetings and discussions continue to be the most popular format, despite the restrictions introduced in 2020. Online procedures for submitting project ideas have moved to the second place. Questionnaires are in third place.

It should be noted that within one practice, several procedures for collecting project proposals can be used. Applications can be submitted by municipalities for a regional competition in paper form or via the Internet, depending on the availability of an automated system in the region.

At one stage or another, Internet solutions are used in 24% of participatory budgeting practices. In most cases, these are IT management systems, less often, Internet voting. In particular, online voting was held in Vladimir, Volgograd, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad, Kaluga, Kostroma, Kurgan, Moscow, Murmansk, Nizhny Novgorod, Omsk, Sakhalin, Sverdlovsk, Tambov, Tula, Tyumen, Ulyanovsk, and Chelyabinsk regions, The Republics of Bashkortostan, Mari El, Stavropol Region, and Chukotka Autonomous Region, as well as in the municipal practices of cities, districts and even villages. Most often, this form was used in the municipalities of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region, and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra.

### The procedures for collecting project proposals in regional practices, units

<b>Procedures for collecting project proposals</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Face-to-face meetings and discussions	52	53	53
Internet submissions	19	21	24
Questionnaires	33	30	22
Other mechanisms	24	26	21
Idea Boxes	12	10	11
Public receptions	10	10	8

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

### Procedures for project selection in regional practices, units

<b>Project selection procedures used</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Voting in person at meetings and meetings	41	38	56
Commissions of government representatives	46	46	34
Internet voting	15	16	24
Other mechanisms	20	20	12
Citizen Commissions	9	15	6
Referendum	3	4	1

*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

Significant changes have taken place in the ranking of project selection procedures. Before the period of Covid-19 restrictions, face-to-face voting at meetings was the most common form. Based on the decisions of commissions, selection by government representatives was in second place. There was increase demand for Internet voting procedures, which was expected

given the Covid-19 restrictions. The number of other mechanisms for selecting projects has decreased. Mechanisms such as citizen budget commissions and referenda remain less common.

## **2.2 Support for participatory budgeting**

The indicators of participatory budgeting programs - the amount of budget funding and civic co-financing, the number of implemented projects and beneficiaries, coverage of municipalities - are growing. However, they are not always provided with sufficient consulting support. This was noticeable in previous years, but it became especially so in 2020, with the emergence of new, and the expansion of existing, participatory budgeting practices.

In 2020 data, the list of project centers accompanying the programs was corrected (Appendix 1). Compared to the previous period, the number of regional project centers has decreased to 24.

Sustainable participatory budgeting practices implemented in Vologda, Kirov, Ryazan, Sakhalin, Tambov, Tver, Tula, and Ulyanovsk Regions had only administrative support in 2020. In Perm and Kemerovo Regions, where support costs are fixed in the regional legislation on participatory budgeting, program support is carried out exclusively by specialists in charge of participatory budgeting. Even if several participatory budgeting practices are implemented in a region at the same time, and innovations appear and project financing increases, there is often a lack of proper consulting support, or the support can be provided only for one type of practice.

For example, in Sverdlovsk Region, a departmental project office supports the regional project "A Comfortable Urban Environment", while the participatory budgeting program has not received such broad support for several years.

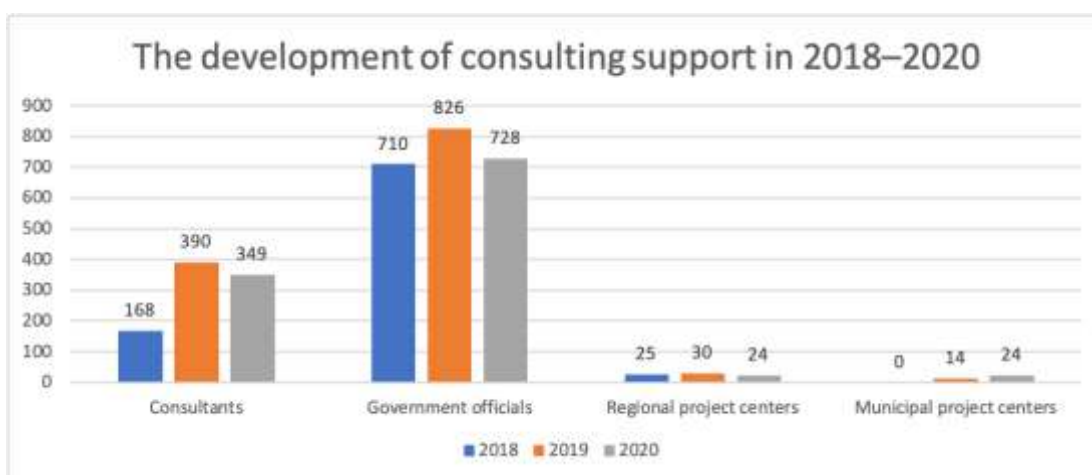
Among the positive trends in 2020 is the emergence of new project centers: "The Center for Territorial Development" in Amur Region, "The Center for Financial Education" in the Udmurt Republic, and "The House of Friendship of the Leningrad Region". In these regions, project centers were created after the introduction of participatory budgeting and administrative support. In Udmurtia, the pilot cycles of the two regional programs were initially supported by external consultants. Another new design center appeared at the very beginning of 2021 in the Republic of Crimea simultaneously with the launch of the regional program "Crimea as we want it".

The role of regional non-profit organizations in supporting the development of participatory budgeting is important. The "Council of Municipal Formations" support participatory budgeting programs in the Republics of Buryatia and Karelia, and Bryansk, Voronezh and Samara Regions. In the first years of the project "Let's Decide Together" in Yaroslavl Region, the project center also functioned on the basis of the association "Council of Municipal Formations of Yaroslavl Region".

Municipalities are also beginning to form infrastructure for supporting participatory budgeting. In 2020, support for participatory budgeting was provided in 24 municipalities. Support at the municipal level in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region is better organized than in other regions. Project offices "Cozy Yamal" in 2020 worked in 18 municipalities out of 30 implementing participatory budgeting. The work of project offices is carried out without funding from the district budget. The presence of a project center as part of municipal participatory budgeting in 2020 was also reported by: Arkhangelsk (the team of the project "Budget of Your Opportunities"), Buzuluk, Orenburg region (project office of the city administration), Syzran, Samara region ("Resource Center for Supporting the Development of Local Self-Government"), Otradny, Samara Region ("House of Public Organizations"), Yekaterinburg (Municipal Design Committee for the competitive selection of IB projects), Berezovsky, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous

Region - Yugra (design department of “The Berezovsky Media Center”). Thus, we can talk about the beginning of an institutional network to support the implementation of participatory budgeting at the municipal level.

The number of consultants and specialists of regional authorities involved in 2020 in supporting participatory budgeting programs has slightly decreased: professional consultants down to 345 people, employees of government bodies down to 728 people. It should be noted that the difference in the number of specialists and consultants from region to region is significant. The average number of project center consultants is 4–5 people (in Yekaterinburg there are 78 people), while the number of specialists ranges from one specialist accompanying three regional practices in the Republic of Karelia to 66 people in municipal programs of “specific cases” of Kaliningrad Region and 30 specialists in the Chuvash Republic. Obviously, in this case, there can be an arbitrary definition of the functional role of such a specialist. Employees of municipal authorities are independent representatives of participatory budgeting practices and do not accompany the program, but participate on an equal basis with citizens in the preparation and implementation of projects.



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

Volunteers can become liaisons for specialists and consultants. Their role is especially important in school and youth participatory budgeting programs. Like consultants, they can act as intermediaries between authorities or school administrations and different groups of participants.

In 2020, in 9 Russian regions, 1,571 volunteers supported participatory budgeting practices. Of this number, 491 volunteers were involved in the Vladimir Region program "Formation of a modern urban environment", 347 people in LISP in Novgorod Region, and 293 in the "Formation of a Comfortable Urban Environment" project in Tyumen Region. In 2019, 8,561 people volunteered to support participatory budgeting, of which 7,865 were involved in Tyumen Region.

#### Volunteer support for the implementation of information security in 2020

VLADIMIR REGION	491
NOVGOROD REGION	347
TYUMEN REGION	293
SYZRAN, SAMARA REGION	55
NIZHNEVARTOV, KHANY-MANSI AUTONOMOUS REGION	15



IPATOVSKY, STAVROPOL REGION	8
BARABANOVO, KALUGA REGION	7
SAINT-PETERSBURG	5
BRYANSK REGION	3
ORLOV REGION	2

## 2.3 Educational activities

The most important task of the current stage of development of participatory budgeting in Russia remains the training of staff to support the implementation of practices, the development of competencies, and the organization of networks.

This goal was set by the Center for Participatory Budgeting of the Research Institute of the Ministry of Finance, which launched an additional educational program for advanced training in 2019. In 2021, 47 people studied on the program: 42 participants from 15 regions, as well as 5 specialists from the Ministry of Finance and the Institute of Budgetary and Tax Research of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In three years, 83 specialists from regional and municipal authorities have been trained and received diplomas.

In 2020, the Center for Humanistic Urbanism & Participation (UP) of the European University at St. Petersburg organized the School of Moderators and Tutors (UPSchool) in order to provide the necessary knowledge and skills to people interested in organizing and conducting participatory projects on their own; and to train specialists for participatory projects carried out by the Center in St. Petersburg and other Russian regions. The course was built on three blocks: "participatory budgeting", "participatory design", "participatory design for school students".

### Participants of the third NIFI program in 2021



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

## School of Moderators and Tutors (UPSchool), 2020



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/centerUPspb>

Educational programs include citizen engagement, working with local communities and participatory budgeting and they are gradually starting to appear in higher education institutions.

New directions in participatory budgeting, focusing on schools and other educational institutions, and on the youth segment in general, require completely different forms of training, such as those implemented in Sakhalin Region and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region for different school audiences, and the summer session for the Cozy Yamal Laboratory. In 2020, an online educational camp for schoolchildren was organized in Altai Region along with a large program of educational events for teachers. In Novgorod Region, meetings were held with teachers and principals and there were lessons in financial literacy for students.

An excellent example of a platform for the promotion and exchange of experience in participatory budgeting was the All-Russian Youth Conference on Participatory Budgeting "Sandbox", in which more than 700 people from different Russian regions took part. The first youth project "Atmosphere" was planned to be face-to-face, but the organizers managed to transfer all events online due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The launch of the youth project was preceded by the training of municipal employees and young people at online and offline events of the management school of participatory budgeting. 1,345 people, (126 moderators and 1,049 participants) were also trained.

Face-to-face and distance professional development programs on participatory budgeting are offered by regional project centers and other institutions. The project center "The Krasnoyarsk Regional Government Institute of State and Municipal Administration" in 2020 offered several educational products to the participants of the Local Initiatives Support Program (LISP):

- the distance training course "Initiative budgeting in the activities of local self-government bodies". This course was attended by heads and deputy heads of municipal formations, municipal employees, employees of municipal institutions, deputies and employees of representative bodies;

- face-to-face seminars on LISP both in districts and at the institute;

- webinars on the implementation of LISP:

- "The final meeting of LISP from invitation to minutes";

- "Tender documentation from A to Z in 60 minutes";

- "From words to deeds: implementation of LISP projects in 2020";

- "Procurement for the implementation of LISP projects: from planning to payment";

- "Civic participation in LISP projects".

In addition, the institute is working on the formation and implementation of a system for training consultants to support local initiatives.

In 2020, webinars were held as part of the project “The development of participatory budgeting in Russian Regions in 2018–2020”. The topics of the 2020 webinars were:

"monitoring the development of participatory budgeting and the organization of project centers";

"The development of participatory budgeting";

"Best practices for the development of participatory budgeting";

"Improving budget literacy and the development of school and youth participatory budgeting”.

In 2020, the total number of webinar participants exceeded 1,400 people. Materials and recordings of webinars have been widely disseminated through online channels and social networks to reach an even wider audience.

In order to exchange experience in participatory budgeting and networking, consultants from the NIFI, with the support of the Crimean Ministry of Finance, held the Summer School of Participatory Budgeting Consultants in June 2021 in Crimea. The school was held for five days in the city of Sudak and brought together 36 consultants from 20 regions. A distinctive feature of this event was that consultants learn from each other in the form of workshops.

### **The Consultant Summer School in Crimea**



*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

The practice of holding regional information and training events on participatory budgeting with the support of the Russian Ministry of Finance continued in 2020. The offline events planned for Russian regions were carried out using online video platforms.

More than 2,200 regional and municipal representatives, as well as representatives of the expert community, took part in 10 information and training events held in online and offline formats. The topics of the 2020 webinars were:

"interregional thematic seminar-meeting on participatory projects”—a tool for organizing local self-government Russia;

"monitoring the development of participatory budgeting and the organization of project centers";

"best practices for the development of participatory budgeting";

"improving budget literacy of participants and the development of school and youth participatory budgeting”;

"innovations in the development of participatory budgeting";  
 "participatory budgeting in small towns: how to effectively organize discussions in homogeneous communities";  
 "participatory budgeting in medium-sized cities: how to involve groups with different interests";  
 "participatory budgeting in big cities: how to manage complex multi-level projects";  
 "state support for participatory budgeting: what kind of assistance do municipalities need";  
 "a discussion of the draft Methodological Recommendations for the preparation and implementation of proactive budgeting practices in Russia".

### Project identity "Your budget" in 2020



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

### Participants of the Summer School of Initiative Budgeting Consultants in Crimea



Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

The transfer of educational events online, which took place rapidly in 2020 due to the restrictions imposed on face-to-face events, opened up new opportunities and expanded the audience of potential participants. All federal and most of regional educational events were held online or in a mixed format, which meant they were available to a much wider audience. The distribution of video content and presentation materials is becoming standard for such events.

In the regions, video conferencing and other systems for distance learning had been used earlier. In the vast territories of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and Altai, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk Regions, such technologies have been used for a long time. The transition to an online format was relatively easy in participatory budgeting, where the technological base for remote or online work was already in place, and materials and training programs had been developed.

Traditionally, a part of the St. Petersburg project “Your Budget” is held in an online format: the development of initiatives can be monitored on the project website, and interaction with participants is carried out through social networks. In 2020, the project was completely transferred to an online format. For a visual presentation of the project, its rules, stages, results, and coverage of the new format of “Citywide voting”, the identity of “Your budget” was updated and new visual materials were developed. The word “online” was added to the project logo in 2020.

In Novosibirsk Region, training videos were prepared and no face-to-face training was conducted. In Orenburg Region, all training events on participatory budgeting were held using videoconferencing and training videos were posted online. In Leningrad Region, a series of online seminars on the development of participatory budgeting was launched for the first time. Webinars, training seminars, videoconferences and online consultations have replaced the usual face-to-face training programs.

### Examples of learning formats that provided the largest reach in 2020

Note: not including face-to-face and online training events where the number of participants was not recorded

Region	Practice	Formats	Number	Participants
Altai Region	LISP	Seminars, webinars	27	987
Republic of Bashkortostan	LISP	Cluster seminars	27	840
The Republic of Buryatia	CBT competition	Webinars with chairmen, CBT activists	26	754
Voronezh Region	LISP	Webinars in video conferencing mode	3	1476
Voronezh Region	CBT competition	Webinars, video seminars, online conferences	Monthly	38970
Komi Republic	People's budget	Consultations, visiting sessions	950 35	1500
Krasnoyarsk Region	LISP	Distance course DPO, webinars	3-month course, 15	620
Rostov Region	Let's do it together	Roundtables	2	2442
Samara Region	Assistance	Videoconferencing sessions, videos, seminar, guidelines, collection of best practices	5	877
Saratov Region	LISP	Videoconference, webinar, video lecture	3	811
Stavropol Region	LISP	"School of Local Initiatives"	3	More than 300
Udmurtia	Our initiative	Full-time and online training	18	510
Udmurtia	Atmosphere	training for moderators and participants	12	2490
Ulyanovsk Region	LISP, "The People's Budget"	Off-site seminars, videoconferencing meetings	once per quarter	1027

Chuvash Republic	participatory budgeting	Meetings during the visits of the head of the republic, videoconferencing training	37	2040
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*Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute*

Regardless of the format, thematic seminars and training are in demand. It is a common practice to train the municipal community annually before launching a new round of participatory budgeting programs. Sometimes a second round is organized during the year to generalize the events held and work further with the winners of the competitive selection. In 2020, this work did not stop in Bashkortostan, Kirov Region, the Komi Republic, Tver Region (“School of LISP”) and a number of other regions.

The best practices of the training programs providing maximum coverage has been collected (see Table). In other areas, training is organized sporadically or not at all, which seriously reduces the quality of project preparation, and the motivation and involvement of the population. It is especially important to provide basic information to the target participants in the first year of the practice. In 2020, this stage was neglected in Krasnodar and Moscow Regions during the full-scale launch of participatory budgeting practices. There were no training events in Amur, Vologda, Vladimir, Tambov, Tula, Sakhalin, or Sverdlovsk Regions.

In the country as a whole, in 2020, 87,566 people (up from 73,000 people in 2019) were trained face-to-face and online. The training was organized by project centers and specialized departments of participatory budgeting practices. A total of 4,075 training events took place.

## 2.4 Informational resources

Each year, the channels of information about participatory budgeting practices are expanding. Along with the traditional and well-proven tools used in municipalities (announcements, bulletin boards, brochures and handouts), online platforms, social networks and messaging services, and the mass media are gaining in importance. Exceptions are individual examples of advertising campaigns for participatory budgeting, which use outdoor advertising, advertising on transport, and TV and radio spots. Over the years, such campaigns have been implemented in St. Petersburg, Sakhalin Region, and Stavropol Region at the launch of new practices or scale up existing ones.

In 2020, as part of Yaroslavl Region project "Let's Decide Together", a large-scale advertising campaign was carried out in order to encourage citizens to vote. Ten information stands were placed in the region and calls for voting were made in the media (newspapers and TV reports). In the Republic of Karelia, an information campaign for a new project, "The People's Budget", was launched using TV, online publications and the press. The Karelia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company aired videos and stories about each municipality participating in the program. The launch of new programs in other regions was not as noticeable for the wider public or for locals.

Sustainable programs, which have been implemented for several years, also need systematic media support. In 2020, the information campaign for “the Development of the Region” was continued, covering all municipalities of the Sakhalin Region. Television, radio, print media, social networks, and outdoor advertising were used, targeted advertisements were placed, and brochures and souvenirs with the project's logo were distributed.

The advertising campaign for “Your Budget” in St. Petersburg was carried out using:

- social networks;
- TV and radio (on the city TV channel “Saint Petersburg”, in news releases, a video of the project's social advertising was broadcast, a number of TV and radio programs were organized with representatives of the Finance Committee of Saint Petersburg, project consultants, project participants from previous years (NTV-Petersburg, 78 channel, TV channel “Saint Petersburg”, Radio Russia, radio “Echo in Petersburg”, radio “Petersburg” and others);
- print and online media;
- outdoor advertising (information about the project was posted on the city streets (11 billboards, ads at public transport stops, social and advertising videos on electronic city displays).

In Stavropol Region coverage was extensive: on the television program “Vremya Dela”(23 segments totaling more than 1000 minutes), 9 videos on regional news television, 48 news articles in the regional print media, 63,600 printed products, and a press tour for journalists of the regional media.

Coverage of LISP in Novgorod Region, included 166 items were featured in the media, 26 of which were shown on TV and almost 4,000 posts were published on social networks in the VKontakte group (<https://vk.com/ppmi53>).

Coverage of “Our Initiative” in Udmurtia was organized through regional TV channels, radio broadcasts, and publications in regional newspapers. Press conferences were organized for journalists, who published articles in regional media.

Scheduling news stories and organizing press events is a good strategy. These include press conferences and tours of participatory budgeting projects, official openings etc. Examples of events announcing the results of competitive selection were the public announcement of the winners in the main square of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk with the participation of the Governor; the organization of an official reception to honor the heads of the winning municipalities in the program “Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative”.

However, more often, organizers of participatory budgeting in the regions and municipalities of Russia are limited to online tools for promotion and information, and publications in traditional media (official materials based on press releases, local news on regional TV channels). In this regard, any project initiated by the media becomes especially valuable. For example, since 2018, the Mariyskaya Pravda publication has supported the Civil Control: Local Initiatives in the Republic of Mari El. In Karelia, the online edition “Republic of Karelia” has been covering participatory budgeting for many years under the hashtag #LISP.

Some popular groups on social networks in terms of the number of subscribers can be comparable to the audience of the media. For example, in Tambov Region, materials on participatory budgeting are collected in the publicly accessible Facebook group Tambov Region Municipality. In St. Petersburg, information about the project is carried in thematic communities (ecology and separate waste collection, the movement for a green city, cycling community, the community of extreme sports, groups of administrative districts of the city, groups of social organizations, etc.). The materials have collected up to 23,000 views.

In recent years, social networks have been actively used by the top regional officials to communicate with citizens, including on the topic of participatory budgeting. Governors' accounts on social networks always have a large number of subscribers, and posts receive wide support. Posts from participatory budgeting practitioners can receive such coverage only through

planned and creative work. St. Petersburg, Krasnoyarsk and Novgorod Regions have excellent experience in the media support of projects in social networks.

Each region chooses its own strategy for promoting participatory budgeting via the Internet.

They can be positioned as part of regional websites for openness and interaction with citizens. Examples include "The People's Budget" of Tula Region, "The People's Budget" of Moscow Region, Information Security in Orenburg Region, "The People's Budget" of the Komi Republic, "It's up to you to decide" of Nizhny Novgorod Region, "We Decide Together" Yaroslavl Region, and "Proactive Budgeting of Yugra", Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

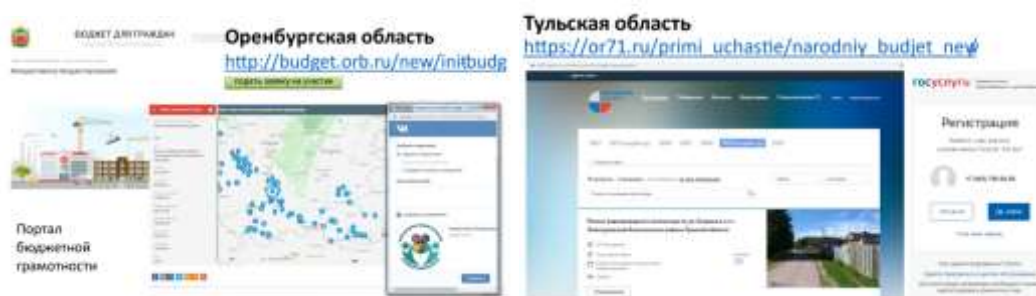
Information resources for participatory budgeting practices can be a website and/or online systems developed to manage them.

The recent past has shown the importance of expanding the technical infrastructure of project centers and authorities to automate practice management. In 2020, 55 Internet solutions were used to manage practices regions and municipalities. As a rule, the management system provides an opportunity for online submission and for working with applications (e.g., their verification and assessment), for the collection and verification of documents necessary for the conclusion of agreements, for conducting competitive procedures and implementing projects, for the collection and verification of reports on projects, and for information on all implemented projects. The first example of such a system was the Internet Management System LISP in Tver Region.

Separate systems have closed and public sections to inform and communicate with citizens. The LSIP practices in Yakutia and Bashkiriya are examples of Internet Management Systems. However, such tools cannot be a full information platform for participatory budgeting. The best alternative is regional participatory budgeting websites, within which a closed section provides significantly greater functionality for informing and interacting with locals. Examples of this approach are the websites of "Our Initiative" of the Udmurt Republic, "Your Budget" of St. Petersburg, and LISPs of the Volgograd, Stavropol and Krasnoyarsk Regions.

When different practices are developed in one region, the website can be a single-entry point and promote participatory budgeting in general. This approach can be found in Sakhalin, Novgorod, and Yaroslavl Regions, the Republic of Karelia, and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra. And, finally, a business card site, the simplest solution that performs exclusively informational functions.

### Websites of the Orenburg and Tula Regions



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

With the variety of approaches used in most regions, information is mainly carried out through the official websites of financial or other executive authorities responsible for the implementation of participatory budgeting. This strategy is the least advantageous in terms of organizing information campaigns and other opportunities for promotion. Examples are the



participatory budgeting sections on the websites of the Perm Ministry of Territorial Development, the Vologda Ministry of Finance, the Ulyanovsk Ministry of Finance, and the Kirov Region social services website.

### Websites of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Udmurt Republic and Volgograd Region



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Increasingly, participatory budgeting programs have unique branding used in the public arena. In some cases, these are professional visual solutions used for all communication and promotion channels. This approach requires the development of guidelines for municipalities on corporate identity in publications, announcements, and social networks. Corresponding documents were developed in Krasnoyarsk and Altai Regions and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra. In order to form a unified strategy for positioning different municipal practices in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region, the common identity “Cozy Yamal” is used.

### Websites of the Republic of Karelia and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region – Yurga



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Having a unique brand helps the participatory budgeting practice stand out and advertises it more effectively.

KEMEROVSK REGION: "YOUR KUZBASS—YOUR INITIATIVE"

SAMARA REGION: GOVERNOR'S PROJECT "ASSISTANCE"

SAKHALIN REGION: "TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS"

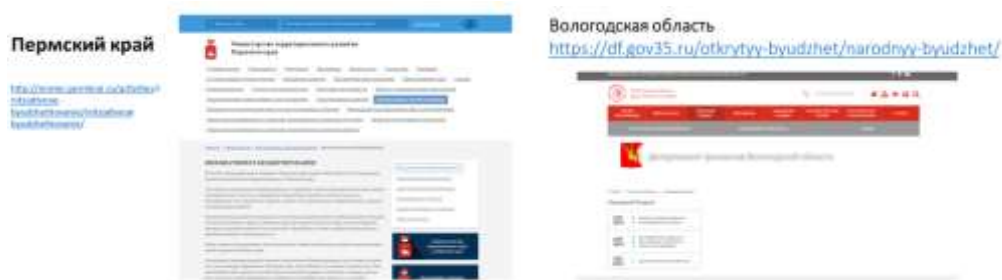
YAROSLAVSK REGION: "WE DECIDE TOGETHER"

YAMAL-NENETS AUTONOMOUS REGION: "COZY YAMAL"

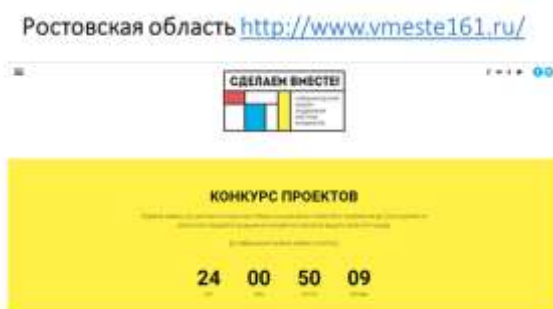
UDMURTIA: "OUR INITIATIVE"

ROSTOV REGION: "WE DO IT TOGETHER"

## Perm and Vologda regional websites



## Rostov Region website



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Slogans that convey the values of participatory budgeting and take into account its regional context are part of information campaigns. Such slogans are often excellent participation motivators and are well remembered.

"Suggest and we will support. There's no need to wait—let's do it now" (Altai Region).

"A tradition of working together" (Krasnoyarsk Region).

"Ideas of Petersburgers—budgetary support. Changing the city for the better. This area needs a new hero" (St. Petersburg).

"The idea is action. Suggest and we will support." (Stavropol region).

"From words to working together" (Samara Region).

"Let's create together" (Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District).

"Someone says—we do" (Komi Republic).

"Land of spring and blossom" (Udmurtia).

At the municipal level, the same processes are taking place, but on a smaller scale and with smaller budgets for developing websites and conducting information campaigns. Nevertheless, some municipal practices compete on equal terms with regional brands in creative development. The advantage of the municipal level is flexibility in working with local agendas and communities.

The branding of participatory budgeting projects has proven itself. This method of advertising is not only simple, but often costs next to nothing and depends only on creativity and desire. This can be seen in visual campaigning, which can be simple and produced by a participatory group or designed in accordance with the general style of the practice. Both strategies for branding materials and objects are effective and are actively used in the regions.

## Regional logos



## Municipal logos



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

### **3. Best practices of initiative budgeting in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation for 2020**

### 3.1 An integrated approach to the development of participatory budgeting - the Republic of Karelia

In the Republic of Karelia, citizens' initiatives are supported within a set of participatory budgeting practices. Since 2017, TLSG has worked well in small settlements and is able to solve the problems of local residents. Since 2014, LISP has covered all localities and is aimed at solving larger problems. From 2021 "The People's Budget" is creating new infrastructure in large settlements. Further, measures are being taken to form a modern urban environment and to comprehensively improve rural areas.



**POPULATION:** 614,100

**TERRITORY:** 180,500 km<sup>2</sup>.

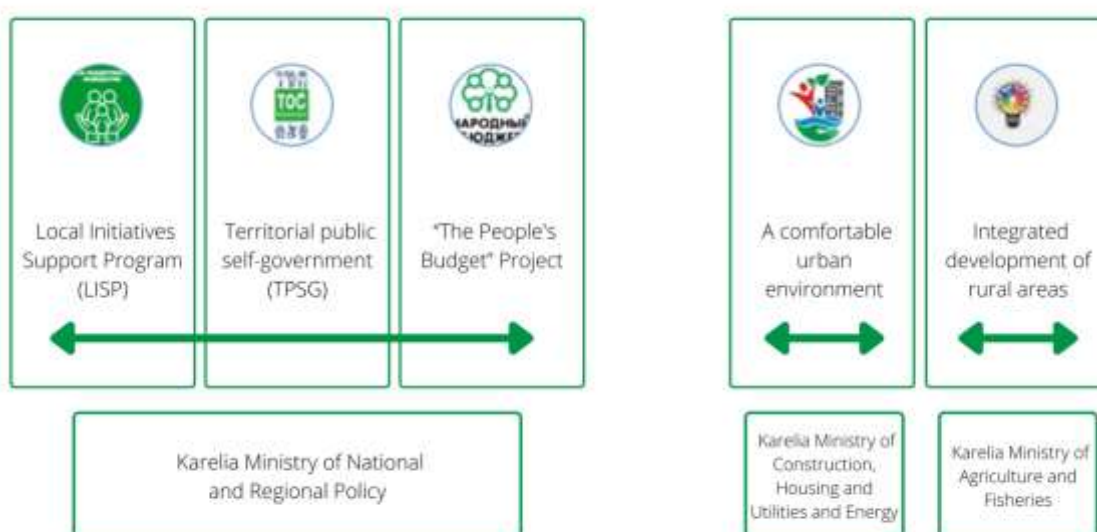
**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 280 billion rubles

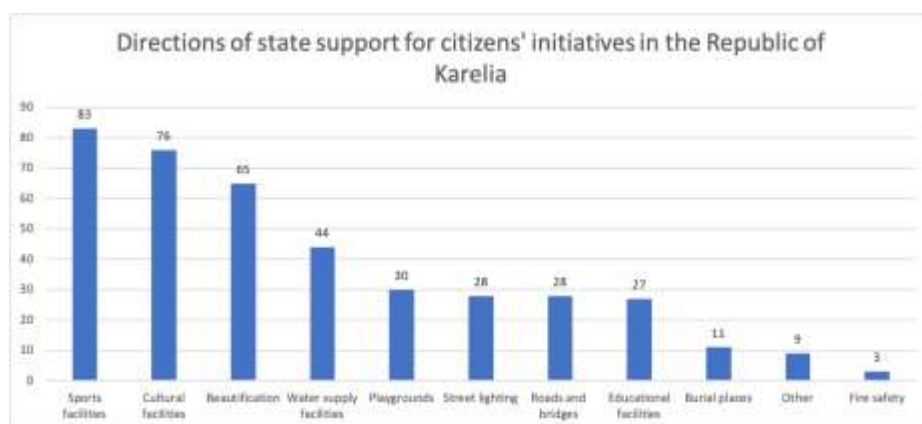
**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE FROM THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 67.6 billion rubles

The program to support local initiatives has been developing steadily. In the first years, only urban and rural settlements participated in LISP, but as more financial resources appeared, the project expanded into other areas. Over the last seven years, the program budget has grown from 8 to 60 million rubles and currently covers the entire republic.

The cost of full-scale LISP projects ranges from 200,000 to 4 million rubles. In order to provide citizens with an opportunity to tackle more serious problems, since 2017 the republican subsidy per project has doubled to 1 million rubles.

#### State support for citizens' initiatives in the Republic of Karelia





A total of 404 projects have been implemented

Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

### Conditions for participation in the LISP for different types of municipalities, (%)

Type of municipal participation	Minimum level of compulsory co-financing		The maximum amount of funds from the budget of the Republic of Karelia (no more than 1 million rubles per project)
	Regional budget	contribution of individuals and legal entities	
Urban districts	30	10	60
Municipal areas	20	5	75
Urban settlements	20	5	75
Rural settlements	10	5	85

Source: Participatory Budgeting Center Financial Research Institute

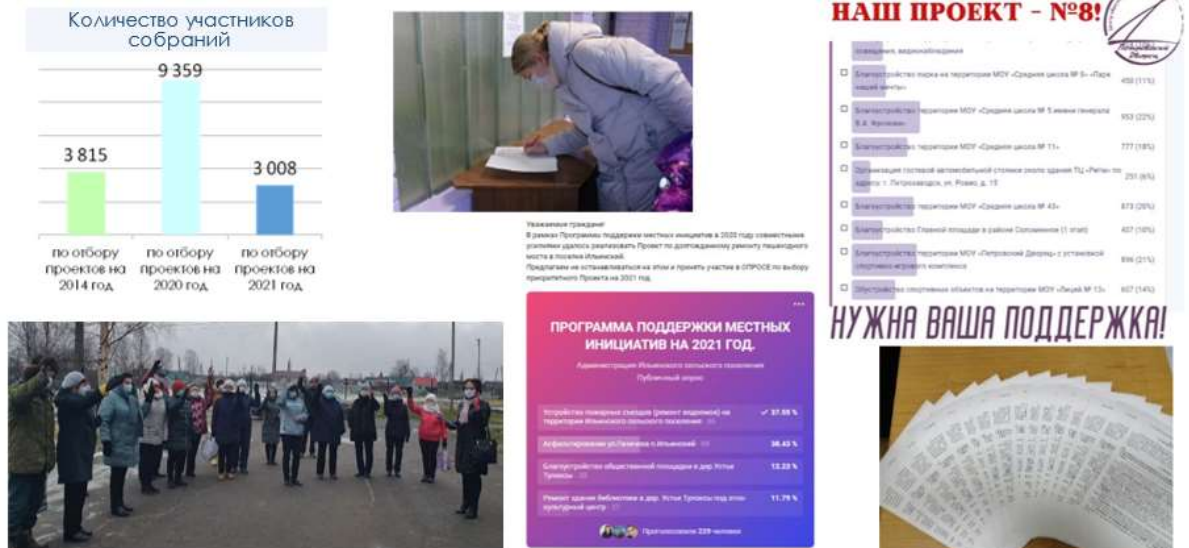
In total, 404 LISP projects worth more than 366 million rubles were implemented, of which 229 million rubles were funds from the republican budget, 89 million rubles were the contribution of local budgets and 48 million rubles were funds from individuals and businesses. For 2021, another 74 projects are planned; for these purposes, 53.3 million rubles have been provided from the republican budget.

The most popular projects are children's playgrounds and sports grounds, landscaping, the repair and reconstruction of cultural facilities, street lighting, water supply, and the repair of roads. The number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of projects in 2020 was estimated at 545,000 people, which is more than 80% of the republic's population.

### Projects completed with the help of LISP



## Events for the preliminary discussion of LISP projects



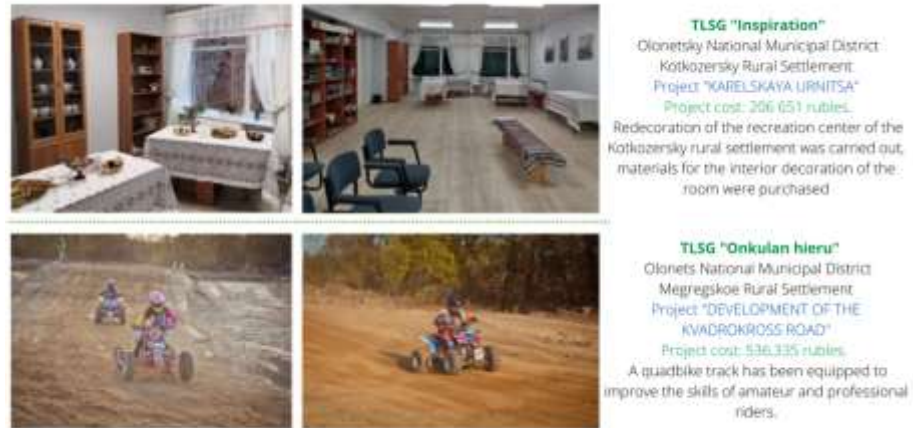
## Examples of encouraging municipalities and TLSG



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Residents put forward, discuss and choose projects at meetings. The advantage of this form of participation is the possibility of a lively dialogue both between the authorities and the locals, and between different groups of the population. Since 2014, more than 400 resident meetings have taken place. More than 60 meetings are held annually, in which about 9,000 people participate. The increase in the level of involvement is provided by preliminary activities for project discussion: public opinion polls and public, face-to-face and small group meetings, which in total brought together up to 70% of the adult population of the participating municipalities.

## Examples of implemented TLSG projects



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Every five years, starting in 2020, 8% of the total subsidy for LISP projects is proportionally allocated as encouragement to up to ten municipalities which have implemented the largest number of projects in the previous period. Municipalities can use these financial incentives to improve their territories. In 2020, the prize fund was 5.6 million rubles.

The TPSG support system in the Republic of Karelia includes financial assistance to the newly created TPSG; financing socially significant projects on a competitive basis, and the "Best TLSG" competition. The budget for this area has increased from 3.4 million rubles in 2018 to 70 million rubles in 2021.

Every year, each TLSG registered can represent one socially significant project. Regional budget funds finance TLSG projects (no more than 90% of the project cost and no more than 0.5 million rubles). The rest is funds come from TLSG bodies and sponsors. The municipality can also voluntarily support the TLSG project. All projects are implemented by municipal administrations in cooperation with TLSG workers. Determining which projects are sent to the republican competition is carried out at general meetings of TLSG members. Over the last three years, more than 20,000 people have taken part in such meetings.

The budget of the competition in 2020 was 28 million rubles. Previously, budgetary support per project could not exceed 300,000 rubles, but from 2020 the amount has been increased to 500,000 rubles. Over three years, 180 TLSG initiatives have been implemented at a total cost of about 58 million rubles, of which 48.5 million rubles were republican funds, 5.6 million were from TLSG members, 2.4 million rubles from local budgets, and 1.4 million rubles from businesses. In 2021, another 205 projects will be implemented.



## Activity of TSLG "Lastochka"



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

There are projects for landscaping; electricity and water supply; primary fire safety measures; increasing road safety; preserving, using and promoting cultural heritage objects; areas for leisure, recreation and sports; and the repair of residential buildings and courtyards.

As part of the “Best TSLG” competition, the activities of TSLGs throughout the year are assessed by 16 different indicators and six winners are determined, who will receive a monetary reward. The prize fund of the competition is 450,000 rubles. The winners of the competition are congratulated at a special ceremony at the republican TSLG forum.

Initially, 16 TSLGs were operating in Karelia. Support has led to an increase in the number to 248 as of June 1, 2021, of which only three are registered as legal entities.

Since 2019, the republic has hosted an annual TSLG forum, where results of TSLG support and the experience of the most successful TSLGs are discussed. In order to create a platform for exchanging experience, acquiring knowledge, and improving the skills of TSLG participants, “the Association for the Development of TSLGs in the Republic of Karelia” was registered on April 24, 2020.

A new direction is the “The People's Budget” project. In the first year, the republic allocated 300 million rubles for its implementation. A municipality can receive from 1.5 to 20 million rubles, depending on the number of residents. The project does not provide for co-financing from individuals—finance is from regional and municipal authorities. The residents determine the priorities for their area.

## "The People's Budget"



The logo is a tree that represents the unity of Karelia. The checkmark in the center and the branches emerging from it are a symbol of agreement and the creation of ideas. The fruits of the tree signify different directions of development.

*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

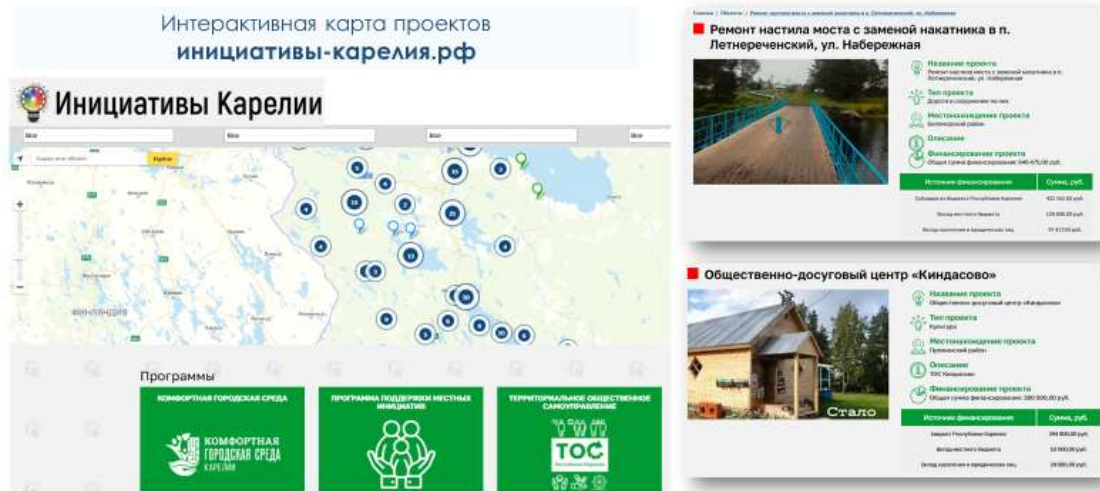
### Stages of implementation of the project "The People's Budget"



- 1** Informing residents about the start of accepting proposals
- 2** Collecting and considering proposals by a public expert commission
- 3** Voting among residents of the settlement on the selection of projects
- 4** The implementation of projects by the end of 2021

*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

## Website “Initiatives of Karelia”



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

All proposals received from residents of municipalities are considered by public expert commissions, which include representatives of local and republican executive and legislative authorities, public opinion leaders, and local MPs. Projects that receive a positive expert opinion are admitted to public voting.

In 2020, public voting took place in the 48 municipalities. Online voting was organized on the Karelia Initiatives e-voting platform. In-person voting took place at specially equipped polling stations. In total, almost 56,000 people took part in the selection of these projects. 54 projects aimed at improving and developing the public infrastructure of municipalities were identified. The projects will start in 2021.

At the end of 2020, more than 20% of municipalities were involved in participatory budgeting. The contribution of local budgets was more than 43 million rubles.

In support of the new direction, an information campaign was launched. Videos about participatory proposals prepared for each of the participating settlements were shown by the Karelia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, their screenings were partly financed from the republican budget. Sampo TV 360, the Stolitsa na Onego news agency, the InformKarelia news agency, and the Republic of Karelia news agency were also involved.

The website “Initiatives of Karelia” (Initiatives-Karelia.rf) is intended to popularize participatory budgeting. Its development is part of the management system for working with LISP and TLSG projects through personal accounts. Information and technical support is carried out at the expense the “Council of Municipal Formations of the Republic of Karelia”.

### 3.2 An approach to financing projects in a variety of thematic areas - “The People’s Budget” The Republic of Komi



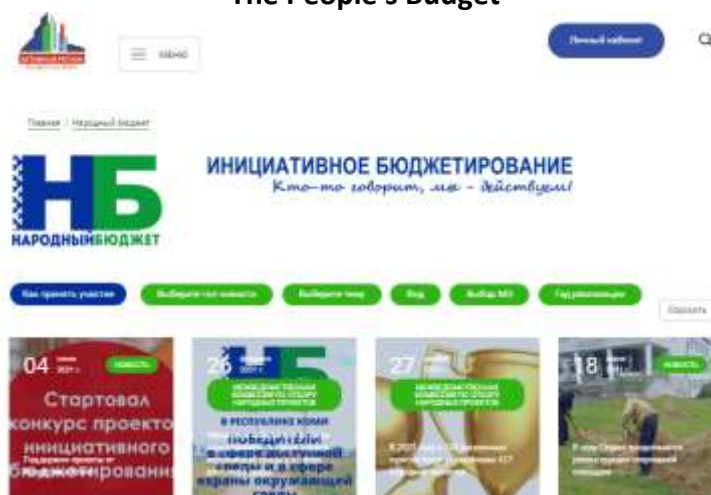
**POPULATION:** 820,500

**TERRITORY:** 416,800 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 665.7 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURES OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 94.5 billion rubles

### Website "Active Region Republic of Komi" "The People's Budget"



Source: <https://signal.rkomi.ru/budzhet>

“The People's Budget” in the Komi Republic has been developing since 2016 and shows participation of residents in solving local issues.

“The People's Budget” was launched with the adoption of the Decree of the Head of the Komi Republic dated May 13, 2016 No. 66 “On “The People's Budget” project in the Komi Republic”, which determined the following directions for the implementation of the project:

- increasing the efficiency of budget expenditures by involving the population in decision-making at the local level and strengthening public control over the actions of TLSG;
- the development of TLSG with the active participation of the population of municipalities in the Komi Republic;
- determining the priority of issues of local importance;
- preparing, implementing and checking the quality of the work carried out as part of “The People's Budget”.

The project is financed from the budget of the Komi Republic by subsidizing municipal budgets for national projects within the eight programs:

- 1 “The development of culture and tourism in the Komi Republic”—cultural projects and the ethno-cultural development of the republic’s peoples;
- 2 “The development of education”—projects in education and school projects selected from the pilot project of school participatory budgeting “The People's Budget in schools”;
- 3 “The development of agriculture and the regulation of markets for agricultural products, raw materials and food, the development of fisheries in the Komi Republic”—national projects in the agro-industrial complex;
- 4 “The development of the transport system”;

- 5 “The promotion of employment”;
- 6 “The development of physical culture and sports”;
- 7 “The development of the economy and industry”—projects for SME in the Komi Republic;
- 8 “The development of construction, the provision of affordable and comfortable housing and public services”—projects to improve accommodation and identifying water supply sources.

### Stages of implementation of "The People's Budget"



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The organizer of the competitive selection of the people’s projects is the Administration of the Head of the Komi Republic. All applications received from municipalities are registered, checked, and sent to the executive authorities corresponding to the area of the projects to obtain an industry opinion and prepare a preliminary calculation of the required subsidy. The projects are then submitted for consideration to an interdepartmental commission for selection. This approach allows the accumulation of significant funds and the implementation of a wide range of public projects—from entrepreneurial to school initiatives. In employment alone, over five years, 179 projects were implemented, in the course of which 1000 unemployed citizens were employed.

According to the Resolution of May 20, 2016 No. 252 of the Government of the Komi Republic, "The People's Budget" is being implemented in 6 stages:

Stage 1: Meetings of municipal residents, preparation of documents and registers of signatures confirming the social significance of the project; the consideration and approval of the approved projects by local self-government bodies; sending lists to the Administration of the Head of the Komi Republic.

Stage 2: The interaction of the Administration with the executive authorities of the Republic of Komi to consider the lists received from local self-government bodies; sending to the Komi Ministry of Finance a petition on the required amount of financing for "The People's Budget".

Stage 3: The Administration selects the people's projects that meet the criteria for "The People's Budget".

Stage 4: Provision by the executive authorities of the Republic of Komi with amendments to the relevant programs, taking into account the established provisions included in terms of the

rules for granting subsidies from the republican budget for the implementation of the selected people's projects.

Stage 5: Implementation of projects that have won selection by TLSG and the population.

Stage 6: Sending information to the Administration on the completion of projects.

Every year the project includes innovations. Since 2021, projects have been implemented in 13 areas of 10 state programs of the Komi Republic. The introduction of two new directions—an accessible environment and environmental protection—confirms the relevance of participatory budgeting for the executive authorities of the republic and TLSG, and for citizens. In 2020, a total of 988 project ideas were put forward by citizens, 539 received popular support, and 236 were selected and implemented.

In 2019, the introduction of a new mechanism for the selection of people's projects at the district level began as part of "The People's Budget". The pilot project "Budget and Us" provides for the formation of budget commissions from among the most active citizens of municipal districts. The purpose of this pilot project is to involve citizens in the selection of popular projects at the district level, proposed for competitive participation in "The People's Budget", and in the subsequent monitoring of the progress of these projects. For these purposes, an educational program has been developed that includes increasing the financial and budgetary literacy of citizens, the development of leadership skills and the ability to work and make decisions in a team.

The innovation of 2020 was the launch of the pilot project "The People's Budget in schools", in which the Komi Ministry of Education, Science and Youth Policy organized the competitive selection. The goal of this project is to identify and support the project activity in grades 7–11 and to engender cooperation between the students, teachers and parents within the local community. The school projects are of social significance and are aimed at organizing events, developing information spaces for young people, volunteering, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The maximum amount of funding per school project is 90,000 rubles. In 2020, 19 such projects were implemented as part of the pilot.

All innovations of the Komi Republic launched in 2019 and 2020 will be continued and scaled up in 2021. The amount of budget support for projects in 2021 has doubled to 266.6 million rubles.

### **3.3 Organization of support for participatory budgeting—the project center of Yaroslavl Region**



**POPULATION:** 1.253 million

**TERRITORY:** 36,200 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 560.6 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURES OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 97.8 560.6 billion rubles

## Project "Let's Decide Together"



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Participatory budgeting in Yaroslavl Region has been developing since 2017 in the form of the Governor's project "Let's Decide Together" in accordance with the Decree of the Governor of the Yaroslavl Region No. 50 dated February 20, 2017.

Over the four years of the project and with the participation of citizens, 2,449 projects were selected. 4 billion rubles were allocated for their implementation. In 2020, the total cost of the 458 projects was 691.3 million rubles, 21.2% of these funds were allocated from the Yaroslavl regional budget and 66.6% from the federal budget.

### Council of municipalities of the Yaroslavl region



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

In 2020, budgetary support was provided to citizens' projects as a part of "Let's Decide Together" in three areas:

- the formation of a modern urban environment: projects for the improvement of courtyards and public spaces;
- support for local initiatives addressing local issues;
- School Participatory Budgeting: Projects to engage school students.

Since 2021, priority projects have been added to these three, and the project budget has been increased by 300 million rubles. These projects were launched by the Governor of the Yaroslavl Region on June 15, 2020 as part of the campaign "Expanding the Opportunities of the "Let's Decide Together" Project. All four directions are being implemented in accordance with the norms of the Governor's Decree. Their selection and implementation are supported by the Support Center.

From the first year of introducing participatory budgeting to Yaroslavl rRegion, consulting support was provided. Regulations on the formation of the project office was approved by Appendix 1 to Decree No. 50. At the first stage, from 2017 to 2019, the project office functioned as a non-profit organization on the basis of the "Council of Yaroslavl Municipalities". In 2020, the Department of Regional Policy and Interaction with Local Self-Government Bodies established the Yaroslavl Region "Center for Support of Participatory Budgeting".

The Support Center employs eight staff including director, deputy director, department for support of participatory budgeting projects, consisting of four people, accountant, and assistant manager.

### Educational events of the Yaroslavl region



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The primary task of the consultants is to provide assistance to project initiators and organize meetings and other events to canvas the opinions of residents. Consultants participate in meetings with initiative groups and residents, verify activities preparing projects and work on projects, organize meetings of residents with project contractors.

### The procedures used in the project "Let's Decide Together" in 2020

No.	Procedures applied for the nomination and selection of projects	Procedures, units	No. of Participants
1	Face-to-face meetings and discussions, including the nomination of project ideas by an initiative group and voting for projects (participation of residents in meetings, as well as decisions made are reflected in the minutes of meetings)	454	25036
2	Nomination through TLSGs, including TLSG meetings (participation of residents in meetings, as well as decisions made are reflected in the minutes of meetings)	4	345
3	The presentation of project ideas by a village leader who acts as the initiator of the project	20	1789
4	Submission of project ideas through public receptions and deputies (project ideas are discussed at meetings of deputies with voters, a video recording of the meeting is made, and a protocol is drawn up)	312	18168
5	In educational institutions participating in the implementation of the direction "School Participatory Budgeting", the development and discussion of projects are carried out by student self-government bodies	36	No data

Source: The Center for Supporting Participatory Budgeting of Yaroslavl Region



In addition to working with initiative groups of citizens, the Support Center interacts with representatives of the All-Russian Popular Front, regional and municipal public chambers, the municipal community, contractors, media and experts. The project center operates as a single window for residents and representatives of municipalities.

The Support Center is actively involved in the federal participatory budgeting agenda. In Yaroslavl Region, interregional seminars and conferences are held on topical topics of participatory budgeting. The center's consultants regularly speak at regional and federal events.

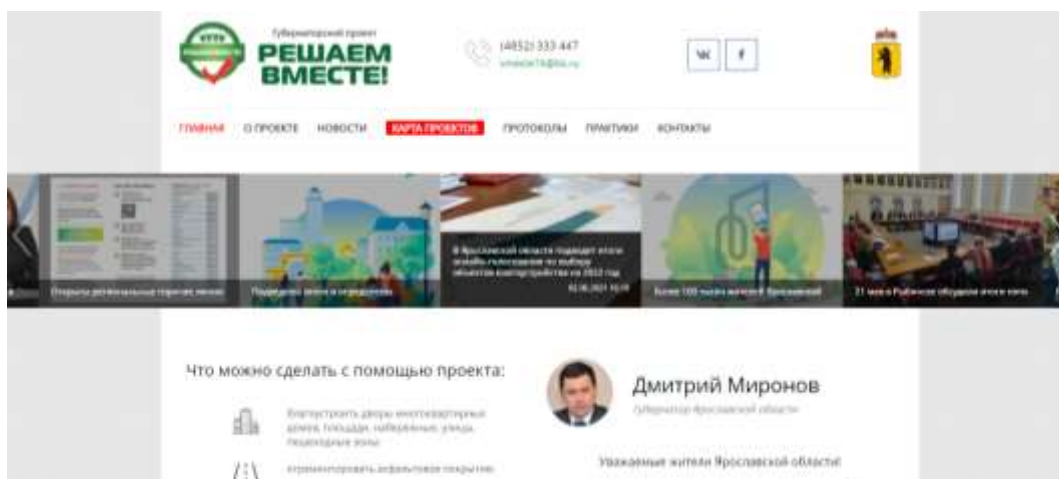
The Support Center's task is also to train representatives of municipalities responsible for the implementation of projects. Events are held in two formats: educational and methodological seminars at the Corporate University of Yaroslavl Region and videoconferencing meetings.

### Park Improvement Project



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

### Album of the best practices of the year



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Other functions of the Support Center include:

- the acceptance of participatory budgeting proposals and the organization of their competitive selection;
- maintaining information systems and budgeting, ensuring the functioning of the “Let's Decide Together” website;
- the collection of information on the implementation of projects;
- the monitoring of the implementation of projects, including communication with residents;
- summarizing information on the results of the project;

- considering residents' complaints on the implementation of participatory budgeting projects;
- making proposals on changing the regional regulations of participatory budgeting practices.

### Advertising campaign in the direction of "Priority projects"



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The Support Center for "Let's Decide Together" is the operator of the participatory budgeting section of the regional information and analysis system. Some of the information in the system is displayed on the project's website (<http://reshaem.vmeste76.ru/>) and is available to residents, including a map displaying all the projects from 2017 onward. The map shows the current status of projects: "planned", "in progress" or "completed". The best practices of the year is collected in an album, where examples of successful projects, the minutes of meetings of the interdepartmental commission and current project news are published. The site also provides contact information for the project office and consultants (<http://reshaem.vmeste76.ru/proektnyy-ofis/>). "Let's Decide Together" is on social networks ([facebook.com/reshaemvmeste76](https://www.facebook.com/reshaemvmeste76) and [vk.com/reshaemvmeste76](https://vk.com/reshaemvmeste76)).

In 2020, as part of the residents' voting on the new Priority Projects direction, a large-scale advertising campaign was carried out to encourage voting. Ten information stands with information on voting were set up in the region, and television and newspapers were also involved.

### 3.4 The development of participatory budgeting—the project positioning strategy of "Your Kuzbass—Your initiative" in Kemerovo Region

Since 2019, the practice of participatory budgeting has been implemented in Kemerovo Region - Kuzbass. The project "Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative", its launch, and the accompanying information campaign took place under the slogan "300 participatory budgeting projects for the 300th anniversary of Kuzbass".



**POPULATION:** 2.66 million

**TERRITORY:** 95,700 km<sup>2</sup>

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 1241.6 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 293.3 billion rubles

**Logo of the project "Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative"**



ИНИЦИАТИВНОЕ  
БЮДЖЕТИРОВАНИЕ

**Branding for events dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the formation of Kuzbass**



*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

The Kuzbass Ministry of Finance showed interest in introducing participatory budgeting in the fall of 2018, after an information seminar organized as part of the federal project for the development of participatory budgeting. The development of the legal and regulatory framework began immediately. By the end of the year, the Kemerovo Region Law of 14.11.2018 No. 90-OZ (amended on 01.11.2020) "On the Implementation of Participatory Budgeting Projects in the Kemerovo Region - Kuzbass" was adopted. It fixed a new spending mechanism for budget funds and developed the necessary legal acts for the organization of competitive selection. Funding of 125 million rubles was provided annually for the implementation of participatory budgeting projects.

In 2018, a plan for events commemorating the 300th anniversary of Kuzbass was developed. The governor decided to make participatory budgeting a part of the anniversary program, and set a goal to implement at least 300 participatory budgeting projects by 2021.

The first competitive selection of projects "Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative" started in March 2019. In the first year it involved 122,985 people. The most active municipal districts with 100% participation of settlements were Tashtagolsky district and Promyshlennovskiy district. The highest indicator in terms of participation of residents of the total population was recorded in the Prokopyevsk urban district (32.11%). Representatives of the Yayskoye municipal district topped the rating of winners: 1st place was Beketskoye rural settlement, 2nd place Kitatskoye rural settlement, 3rd place Maryevskoye rural settlement.

For the period 2019–2021 all municipalities of Kemerovo Region - Kuzbass took part in the competition, 421 applications were submitted and 390 projects were selected for implementation. The goal of 300 projects set by the organizers had been exceeded.

To launch the project, a logo and a unique name "Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative" were developed. For three years, all participatory budgeting projects were positioned as part of the jubilee program and were accompanied by symbols of the 300th anniversary of Kuzbass.

### Presentation slide with project symbols



The project was implemented according to the program "Your Kuzbass—Your initiative" in 2020



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

### The procedures used in the project "Let's Decide Together" in 2020

Indicator name	2019 (fact)	2020 (fact)	2021 (plan)
Number of projects - winners	107	142	141
Number of beneficiaries / % of the region's population	414 040 15%	916 606 34%	268 365 48%
Population coverage / % of the region's population	122 985 5%	254 619 10%	152 327 7% * in the context of restrictive measures in 2020
Total cost of projects, million rubles	122,5	161,3	195,0

Share of citizens' funds, %	3,3	4,15	3,70
Share of contribution of individuals and businesses, %	4,6	5,27	4,85
Share of the local budget, %	20,6	27,59	27,45
Share of the regional budget, %	71,5	62,99	64,00
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

### Training events and guidelines for project implementation



**Governor's reception at the end of 2019. Model of the commemorative sign "300th project"**



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

Training and information materials accompanying the program were drawn, projects were branded, and distinctive signs were developed.

Following the first year of the program, the governor of Kuzbass organized a gala reception to honor the participants of “Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative”. Heads of rural and urban settlements, cities and districts whose projects were among the winners of the competitive selection were invited to the event. 89 urban and rural settlement heads were awarded for their active participation in the project:

- the 3 heads of settlements that took the first three places in the ratings received 15,000 rubles each;
- the 28 heads of settlements rated for a project of more than 50 points received 10,000 rubles each;

— the 58 heads of settlements who received a grade for a project of less than 50 points received 5,000 rubles each.

In preparation for the celebration of the Kuzbass 300th anniversary, the winners in the following nominations were recognized at the governor's reception:

- "An integrated approach to the development of participatory budgeting in Kuzbass";
- "The best municipal support for participatory budgeting projects in Kuzbass";
- "The most active participant in "Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative" among municipal and urban districts;
- "The best new participatory budgeting projects in Kuzbass";
- "The best informational support for participatory budgeting projects in Kuzbass."

### Press conference for the 300th anniversary of Kuzbass



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

### Collecting the opinions of citizens



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The governor is actively involved in the information campaign. The governor's personal social networks provide up-to-date information on the progress of the “Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative” project implementation and on the ceremonial openings of facilities. Every 100 days before the anniversary, the governor reported on the interim results of “Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative”.

Information on the project is provided by the press service of the regional administration. Materials are regularly published in print and electronic media, as well as segments on regional TV channels. General information is provided on the website of the Kuzbass Ministry of Finance in the section “participatory budgeting” (<https://www.ofukem.ru/activity/initiative-budgeting/about-the-projects/>) and on social networks.

The project “Your Kuzbass—Your Initiative” has proved its effectiveness and will continue with the same amount of funding. The region is also considering the possibility of introducing school participatory budgeting.

### Project branding



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

## 3.5 Media support for participatory budgeting in social networks—Krasnoyarsk Region

Since 2016, LISP in Krasnoyarsk Region has been working with the Project Center for Participatory Budgeting, formed as part of “The Institute of State and Municipal Administration”. One of the activities of the Project Center is providing information about the implementation of the program.

From the very beginning of LISP in Krasnoyarsk Region, the Project Center has been providing comprehensive media support: a website has been developed and groups in social networks have been created. These are maintained by Project Center employees.

Social networks have become one of the most efficient channels for disseminating information in Krasnoyarsk Region. There are official LISP groups on Facebook, VKontakte, and Odnoklassniki, which has increased the audience. In 2020, the focus was on maintaining and developing ties between all the entities involved in participatory budgeting in the region, building a community, and motivating people to participate in the implementation of LISP.



**POPULATION:** 2.866 million

**TERRITORY:** 2.366.8 million km<sup>2</sup>

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 2280.0 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 288.3 billion rubles

### Logo of LISP of Krasnoyarsk Region



### QR codes of the official social networks of LISP



*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

Traditionally, social networks cover all the support and implementation activities of LISP:

- announcements;
- updates during the implementation of the program;
- results and achievements of individual program participants and Krasnoyarsk Region as a whole.

Since the range of events and activities is diverse, the Project Center develops individual visual images. This highlights the relevant information and creates a sense of belonging, emphasizes the conceptual unity and integrity of all LISP events.

For example:



## Webinar announcement



**ВЕБИНАРЫ**  
ПРОГРАММЫ ПОДДЕРЖКИ МЕСТНЫХ ИНИЦИАТИВ - 2020

18 мая в 11.00 От слов к делу: реализация проектов ППМИ в 2020 г

20 мая в 11.00 Закупки для реализации проектов ППМИ: от планирования до оплаты

22 мая в 11.00 Участие жителей в реализации проектов ППМИ. Информационная кампания

## Announcement of offsite training seminars



**Обучающие семинары**  
сентябрь-октябрь  
**2020**

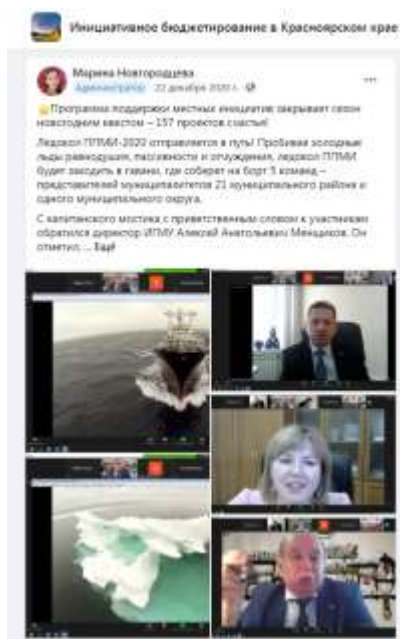
06.10 г. Юва  
05.10 г. Звездный  
29.09 г. Рязань  
30.09 г. Ростов  
28.09 г. Халык  
09.10 г. Александров  
25.09 г. Ельников

ППМИ  
КРАСНОГОРСКОГО КРАЯ

выездное расписание

The progress of some events is covered almost in real time by publishing information and materials on social networks, posting photos of participants, using hashtags, etc. All this makes it possible to encourage the sense of involvement locally and regionally.

## A team quest: "157 projects of happiness"



## A training seminar



## Announcement of the team quest (following the implementation of LISP-2020)



To promptly track the project progress, the Project Center conducts weekly monitoring, including the collection of information on the results of co-financing, concluding and executing contracts, and assessing the level of readiness of facilities. The results are used not only for a quick assessment of implementation of LISP in the region, but also for its promotion. The monitoring results are published weekly, with information on the share of individual funds

collected as part of co-financing, and the number of implemented projects under the #Monitoring2020 hashtag. This format was of particular importance in 2020, since it was during the restrictive measures that the campaign for the implementation of projects started. The publication of the monitoring results motivated the program participants, demonstrating, first of all, the possibility to fully implement projects, even under the Covid-19 restrictions.

### Monitoring card LISP-2020



### Information counters



The special positioning of LISP in Krasnoyarsk Region uses a logo, slogan and unique visual style of its promotional materials. The key element of the LISP identity in Krasnoyarsk Region was the LISP mascot—Budget Success. Although a recognizable visual image of the program was formed, this changes from cycle to cycle. This is primarily because the implementation of the program from year to year requires updates to maintain and develop the interest of the participants.

Information about the campaign also takes place in the form of counters and countdowns: the number of days before the application deadline or the number of applications submitted for the competition.

## Video “Budget Success and the minions”

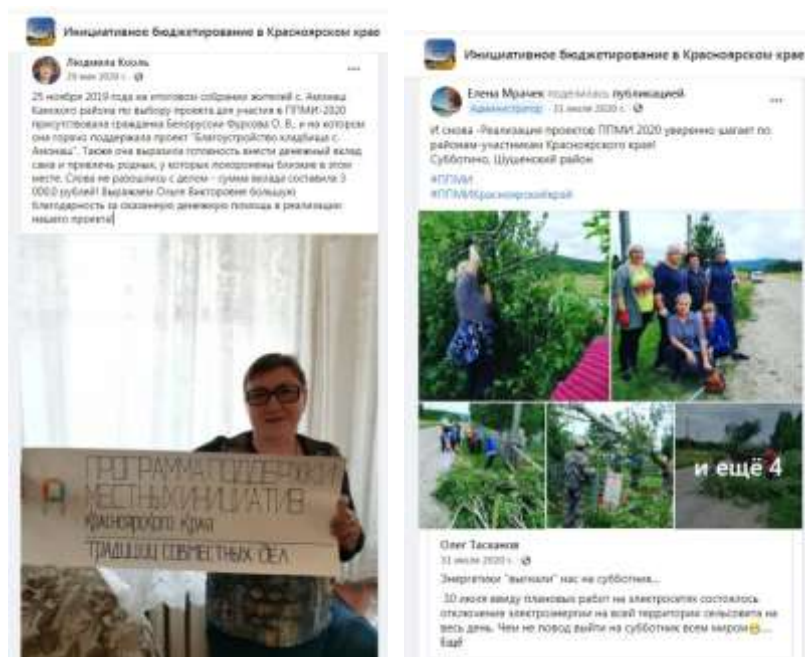


In 2020, at the end of the application campaign—highlighting the great work of the participants in the preparation and execution and acceptance of the tender documentation—an entertainment video “Budget Success and the minions” was filmed in the Project Center. This highlighted, in a fun way, the scale of the competitive campaign, to sum up its results and to entertain the participants waiting for the results of the competitive selection.

To exchange experience among the program participants and form a professional community, the Project Center consultants are actively working with the territories to share their experience in social networks. Such examples include awarding badges to members of initiative groups and winning LISP competitions, holding events in unusual formats, posting invitations to implement projects developed by the Project Center, and organizing fundraising campaigns. In addition, program participants can post information about their findings, experiences and successes. Such wide coverage from the field shows the program from a practical point of view, motivates and trains other participants, and inspires new achievements in LISP.

## Motivational publications covering municipal events

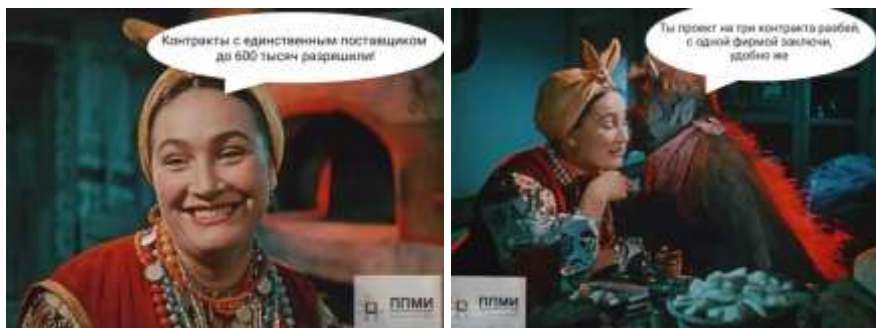




In addition, in order to position municipalities, motivate participants and highlight individual achievements, all the winning applications were analyzed using quantitative and qualitative indicators (the number of meeting participants, participation of all territories in the district, unique projects (for example, firefighting projects), the participation of young people, etc.). They were assigned the category “most” and a separate record was kept. The "most" projects were presented on social networks under the hashtag #mostLISP2020. In total, information about 25 records was published in social networks. For LISP participants, this became a kind of victory, and in the general regional picture it showed the positioning of municipalities through their history as a whole, traditions, etc.

To maintain the morale of the participants during the Covid-19 restrictions and the introduction of new formats in media accompaniment, the hashtag #LISP\_goes\_to\_the\_movies was created in 2020. These were represented as cards based on scenes from Soviet films. The cards made it possible to create a positive image of LISP, explain the basic concepts and actions of the program through the familiar images.

### Cards #LISP goes to the movies (series)





Information cards #LISP


**1 210**  
 участников  
 итогового собрания

**САМОЕ**  
 многолюдное  
 собрание

Стоимость проекта  
**2 499 900 ₽**

проект  
**«РЕМОНТ  
 АРТ-ПРИЧАЛА  
 НА РЕКЕ ЕНИСЕЙ»**  
 Посёлок Шушенское  
 Шушенский район

Cards #LISP\_goes\_to\_the\_movies



## Publications and videos about the work of consultants



### An example of a video about the project



The formation of the LISP community would be impossible without consultants, therefore, along with information about the program participants, the inner life of the Project Center was also shared. Social networks cover events for discussing the program, planning meetings, and training which brings together all the participants involved in LISP, to show their work and involvement during the Covid-19 restrictions. In addition to publications in social networks, a video was created about the work of the consultant directly “in the field” based on the movie “Garage”.

### 3.6 Participatory budgeting during the Covid-19 restrictions—the youth participatory budgeting project "Atmosphere" in the Udmurt Republic

During the implementation of "Our Initiative" in the Udmurt Republic, it was revealed that more than a third of the project ideas concerned improving the lives of young people. Young people have their own opinion on what should be done in the cities and villages of the republic and what events should take place there. In this regard, at the beginning of 2020, the government of the republic launched the "Atmosphere" youth participatory budgeting project.

The purpose of "Atmosphere" is to involve young people aged 14 to 25 in the development of the area in which they live. The focus, identified by the organizers of "Atmosphere", encompassed three types of projects: a key event, a public space and an Internet project.



**POPULATION:** 1.5 million

**TERRITORY:** 42,100 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 631.1 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 135.0 billion rubles

The "Atmosphere" key event was to be held as a three-day project session. On the first day young people were to gather in a large room and get to know each other. It was planned to organize training on how to formulate ideas, how to talk about it and how to set goals and objectives, and how to make a plan for the project. On the second day, participants were to identify ideas, form teams, and work with members of the municipal expert commission. On the third day, it was planned to demonstrate project presentations, hold voting and determine the winners. The projects that received the largest number of votes were to receive up to 300,000 rubles from the regional budget and at least 15% of co-financing of the project cost from the municipal budget of the territory of which the project would be implemented. In the first year, 50 million rubles were allocated for the projects.

However, in connection the Covid-19 restrictions and the prohibition of mass events, the question arose: should "Atmosphere" be held in 2020? After a collective discussion, it was decided to hold a digital youth participatory budgeting contest "Atmosphere". The 2020 competition was held thanks to the well-coordinated work of all those involved: the participants themselves, curators, moderators, members of municipal expert commissions, municipal administrations, and organizers.

One of the first large-scale tasks of the project was to conduct a training campaign for curators, moderators and participants. To this end, in February 2020, in all municipalities of the Udmurt Republic, training events were held for local governments on the implementation of "Atmosphere", in a format already familiar to the participants and shown to be effective—the Management School of Participatory Budgeting. In total, 30 training sessions were held (25 municipal and 5 urban districts). In total, more than 1,300 people took part in training events.



The first stage for the participants was registration on the project website—more than 1,500 people applied for participation. All the work took place in the form of a quest, that is, initially the participants do not see all the materials and tasks, after they complete one task, the next one is opened for them. All the work was done in teams connected on the platform. They receive comments on their results, and there is parallel communication through instant messengers to resolve any issues. For more effective interaction with young people, and to support them in an online format, a special additional educational program “Moderation of small youth groups” was developed, which was attended by more than 100 people.

After all the steps were completed, the teams presented their project online. The task of the project teams was to tell other participants about their project, to interest them, and to involve them in their project. This also distinguishes “Atmosphere” from other youth programs and competitions. The project team does not present the project to experts, but to their peers. Quite often during the presentations, the participants exchanged contacts, and offered to help with and participation in the other projects.

As a result of the competition, 144 winning projects were selected. Among them, 57% were “public spaces”, 40% were “significant events” and 3% "Internet projects". Each project is unique, and the youth gave a different perspective on the most standard things. For example, the construction of a sports ground was a common idea, but each project presented the space with its own design idea. Some of these ideas are being implemented by the youth themselves, they can build an art object or give significance to a place by inventing its history and putting it into a QR code so that anyone can read about it.

Many interesting “significant events” were proposed. Most of the proposed events were not just improved versions of existing events, but fundamentally new directions for public holidays and festivals.

As a result, there appeared not just a youth project of participatory budgeting, but the project “Digital Atmosphere”, which made it possible for young people living in hard-to-reach regions of the republic to participate on equal terms. In the conceived offline version, most of the participants would not have been able to attend the project events.

In total, 30 case tournaments were held in 2020, in which 264 teams participated, 74% of the participants were school students. According to the results of the final survey, 73.1% of respondents indicated that the project will allow them to develop new skills and gaining experience as the main goal of their participation. 80.2% of respondents liked the format.

### **3.7 Educational practice — “The School of Local Initiatives” Stavropol Region**



**POPULATION:** 2.803 million

**TERRITORY:** 66,200 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 715.5 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 140.4 billion rubles

The development of participatory budgeting in Russia began in Stavropol Region. In 2007, the implementation of LISP began in the settlements of the eastern districts of the region. Since then, 72 municipalities in the Apanasenkovsky, Arzgirsky, Kursk, Levokumsky, Neftekumsky, Stepnovsky and Turkmen districts of the Stavropol Region have become participants.

The main objectives of the program are:

- to overcome the barriers between local authorities and residents;
- to create the conditions for their constructive interaction in local self-government;
- to encourage a feeling of independence in residents.

Over the 14 years of its implementation, the program for supporting local initiatives has established itself not only as an effective tool for reaching these goals, but also as a mechanism for shaping the long-term development of local communities.

The program establishes a set of measures to promote the development of civil society and to increase the activity of the region's municipal populations. The program allows urgent infrastructural problems to be solved, the choice of which is made directly by local residents.

This involvement of residents necessitates an information campaign and training events on the practices of participatory budgeting. The organizer of these events was the department of participatory budgeting of the "Training Center of the Stavropol Ministry of Finance", which acts as a project center for participatory budgeting.

Training representatives of TLSG in the form of "The School of Local Initiatives" started alongside the program and was designed to ensure the effective interaction of regional and local authorities. Classes, seminars and conferences are held online and offline. Training events precede the start of the competitive selection and are focused on providing methodological support to all municipalities in preparing and participating in the competitive selection and implementation of projects.

In the first and most important year, when new territories had just joined the program, training events were held in 13 municipalities. In 2017, in 7 municipalities, seminar-meetings were organized on the topic "Implementation of the 2nd and 3rd stages of the program for the development Stavropol municipalities, based on local initiatives". Employees of local administrations received clarifications on the timing of the conclusion of municipal contracts for work on projects, the timing of reporting on the use of subsidies and the achievement of targets, and on methods of collecting co-funding for projects.

In 2018, this format of seminar-meetings covered 29 municipalities. In addition to representatives of TLSG, representatives of initiative groups and public organizations, who were concerned about the procedures for selecting projects and the rules for participation in the competitive selection, took part in the seminars.

In 2019, the project center held 15 training seminars covering all Stavropol Region municipalities. This year, special attention was paid to organizing information campaigns at the local level.

In 2020, 2 training sessions at The School of Local Initiatives took place remotely due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Special attention was paid to the work of local self-government bodies in terms of the projects chosen for competitive selection. The seminars were attended by curators in urban and municipal districts, heads of settlement administrations, heads of territorial departments of urban districts and other representatives of local self-government bodies.

In 2021, The School of Local Initiatives was held in three stages. At the first stage, a preliminary seminar was organized, the task of which was to introduce the main approaches to the competitive selection in 2021. At the second stage, 7 seminar-meetings were held for representatives of municipal administrations on civic involvement in initiative projects and the

organization of work with residents. These were prompted by changes in federal legislation and the Law of the Stavropol Region of January 29, 2021 No. 1-kz “On the development of participatory budgeting in the Stavropol Region”. At the third stage, training events were held with initiative groups to acquaint them with the procedures for implementing regional support of local initiatives and municipal practices.

Residents of Stavropol Region municipalities, representatives of TLSG, and heads of rural populations along with other persons were invited to participate in The School of Local Initiatives. Along with specialists of the Training Center, employees of the Stavropol Ministry of Finance were involved in educational events. Project center consultants took part in 90 out of 280 events.

### The School of Local Initiatives 2021

<b>1</b>		<b>Вебинар</b>	<b>09.03.21</b>
<b>2</b>		<b>Кустовые семинары</b>	<b>16.03.21-19.03.21</b>
		<b>16 марта 2021 г.</b>	<b>17 марта 2021 г.</b>
		10:00 – с. Курсавка	10:00 – г. Георгиевск
		15:00 – г. Михайловск	15:00 – г. Буденновск
		<b>18 марта 2021 г.</b>	<b>19 марта 2021 г.</b>
		10:00 – г. Ставрополь	10:00 – г. Светлоград
			15:00 – г. Изобильный
<b>3</b>		<b>Обучающие мероприятия с инициативными группами</b>	<b>01.04.21-30.04.21</b>

Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

## Training event in the village of Novoulyanovskiy



## A report on "Local Initiatives" on the website of Blagodarnensky urban district

A screenshot of the website of the Administration of the Blagodarnensky urban district. The page features a blue header with navigation links: Главная, Об округе, Администрация, Совет, Документы, Фотогалерея, Бюджет для граждан, Закупки, Услуги, Контакты, Местные инициативы. The main content area is titled "Школа местных инициатив" (School of Local Initiatives) and includes a sub-header "Обучение жителей села Бурацкое Благодарненского городского округа Свердловского края инициативному бюджетированию" (Training of residents of the village of Buratskoye of the Blagodarnensky urban district of the Sverdlovsk region in participatory budgeting). Below this, there are three small images showing people in a meeting or training session, and a caption: "Обучение жителей села Селекцистского Благодарненского городского округа Свердловского края инициативному бюджетированию" (Training of residents of the village of Selektistskoye of the Blagodarnensky urban district of the Sverdlovsk region in participatory budgeting).



Representatives of local administrations are responsible for informing residents about The School of Local Initiatives and inviting participants. For these purposes, advertisements are posted on local governments websites and on social networks, and work is carried out in labor collectives, at information stands and where people regularly meet (shops, post office, bank branches, social facilities etc.).

The training events of The School of Local Initiatives annually cover about 2,000 residents and 400 representatives of local self-government bodies.

We also note the work of the Stavropol regional television company SvoeTV in generating a positive response from the residents about the activities of The School of Local Initiatives. During the training period, journalists regularly talk about classes in the news bulletins, and upon completion of the entire training cycle they invite representatives of the Stavropol Ministry of Finance or the Project Center to the program “Actual interview” for detailed coverage of training events.

### **3.8 School Initiative Budgeting Practices—St. Petersburg**

Since 2019, two practices of initiative budgeting in schools have been implemented in St. Petersburg: the project “Your Budget in Schools” and the project “Change”.

“Your Budget in Schools” is a set of activities aimed at involving students in grades 9–11 in making budget decisions. Students from 28 schools of the Central District of St. Petersburg are involved in the project. Legal regulation is based on the State Program of St. Petersburg “Creating conditions for ensuring public harmony in St. Petersburg” and the Resolution of the Government of St. Petersburg No. 452. dated 04.06.2014.

The practice is administered by the St. Petersburg Finance Committee, supported by the departmental project office based on the Analytical Department of the Finance Committee. In 2020, 30 million rubles were allocated from the budget of St. Petersburg for financial support of school projects (3 million rubles for each of the ten winning projects).

The website “Your Budget in Schools” was developed and launched to inform and promote the project (<https://school.tvoybudget.spb.ru/>). The site has all the necessary information: stages and participating schools, the composition of the expert commission, budget projects, projects proposed by school students (at all stages: from project initiatives, selected based on the results of in-class voting, to finalists). The “Materials” section shows roadmaps for projects, reports on the implementation of initiatives, regulations and regulations. The site is constantly updated with the latest news on the project, as well as photo reports on the events held. The main channels for disseminating information about the implementation of the project “Your Budget in Schools” were the city media, official resources of the authorities and social networks.



**POPULATION:** 5.398 million

**TERRITORY:** 1,400 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 4193.5 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURES OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 822.8 billion rubles

“Your Budget in Schools” is aimed at students in grades 9–11 and is aimed primarily at increasing the level of financial literacy and the formation of an active citizenship. Students can come up with ideas on how to make their educational environment better and more comfortable, propose their own projects, and participate in making budget decisions.

Popular ideas include modernizing school cloakrooms (replacing hangers with individual lockers), and replacing printed textbooks with electronic versions. Schoolchildren are also concerned about environmental issues and ideas for separate waste collection are popular. The ideas were very creative—there were proposals to organize a school philharmonic society, a photo studio and a recording studio, to create a media center for journalism, a wellness space and a film laboratory. In total, high school students put forward 115 project ideas, 10 projects were implemented. Almost 7,000 students from schools in the Central District of St. Petersburg took part in the project.

Initially, the discussion takes place in classroom meetings, where project ideas are selected, which are then presented at the school level. The school administration examines the proposals for compliance with the terms of the project. Projects can be approved or sent for revision. Initiators need to present their ideas to classmates and get support from other students in the school, since only one project can be put forward from each school. The organizers provided for two ways to select the best initiative project (at the choice of the school): voting by the members of the School Council or general voting among students in grades 9–11.

Students of the University of Economics volunteered to help the school students work on their projects. The support of the volunteers was especially valuable in the preparation of project estimates using such information sources as the websites of suppliers. Thanks to the joint work of school and university students, it was possible to create a model of a new sports complex and take into account all the wishes of the students.

In parallel with the project of the Finance Committee in 2019–2020, at the initiative of the Administration of the Petrogradsky District of St. Petersburg, the project “Change” was implemented. Voluntary project support was provided by the European University of St. Petersburg. 3 million rubles were allocated for the financial support of projects in 2019–2020: 0.5 million rubles for the implementation of an idea related to a school or its territory, 2.5 million rubles for the implementation of an idea to improve the district (6 million rubles is planned for 2021). In social networks, information about the project is posted on <https://vk.com/peremenaspb>.

“Change” is based on the methodology of the project “Your Budget”, developed by the European University of St. Petersburg, and the project “Week of Changes”, which is carried out by the Goethe Institute of St. Petersburg and the museum festival “Children's days in St. Petersburg”.

The school was selected on a competitive basis to introduce the new practice. Nine educational institutions of the Petrogradskiy district expressed a desire to participate, but the application from the team and schoolchildren of school No. 86 was the most motivated. Participants, who were tenth graders, were given the opportunity to put forward not only projects for the development of school infrastructure, but also the urban environment. Architects, artists, designers, and urbanists helped them work out and visualize ideas, and consultants of the “Your Budget” project gave lectures on the powers of the executive authorities, the budget process and federal law No. 44-FL “On the contractual system in the procurement of goods, works, and services to meet state and municipal needs”, and employees of the Petrogradsky district administration, if necessary, adjusted the final proposals so that they could be implemented within the powers of the district.

Unlike the practice “Your Budget in Schools”, where ten winning projects were selected by an expert commission (which met for two days, having heard presentations on all 26 projects), in the “Change” practice, the winning projects were chosen by students themselves—school No.86 voted for the internal project at a general school vote (preliminary voting was held in the classrooms). For the external district project representatives of all schools of the Petrogradskiy district were invited to the final round of voting.

### Sports complex



*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

Out of 11 primary project ideas that were put forward and supported by the participants, two project applications were selected for funding during the competitive procedures. The face-to-face discussions of project ideas were attended by 220 people, the procedures for the competitive selection of project applications (face-to-face voting at school No. 86) had 129 participants.

Since September, the 10th graders of school No.86 have been working on projects to change the school and the district: they analyzed problems, together with professional architects and artists thought out ideas that could solve these problems, listened to lectures on the powers of the executive, budget and state procurement, conducted sociological research and prepared presentations on their initiatives. During the project week, they came to the conclusion that one of the obvious problems at school is the lack of extracurricular spaces: the pupils have nowhere to communicate, finish their homework, draw, or relax. Therefore, most of the school initiatives were aimed at creating or arranging such spaces.

On October 7, 2020, the 10th graders presented six initiatives to change the school: the improvement of the schoolyard, the organization of a “green” recreation area, interactive screens and folding desks in the corridors, multifunctional “Tetris” furniture, a sports team and the transformation of the assembly hall. The initiative to transform the assembly hall was approved by a margin of one vote. The authors of this idea proposed to turn a small room into a hall with sliding modular furniture, a projector and an air conditioner. The school has a theater group that uses the auditorium for their performances, but the actors had to go on stage not from behind the curtains but through a door. The authors of the project proposed to decorate the stage in the assembly hall by adding curtains, installing new lighting, which can be used during production, darkening the windows, and painting the walls black and white. The 10th graders also believed that the renovated assembly hall could be used as a meeting place outside of school hours. The announced budget of the initiative was 500,000 rubles.

Students of all the schools in the Petrogradsky District were invited to vote for the project to be implemented in the district. The first place was taken by the initiative to improve the embankment of the Karpovka River (with large hammocks for relaxation). The cost of 1.8 million rubles was less than the district budget for the project (2.5 million rubles). The remainder was



just enough for the implementation of the initiative that took the second place: a public space “Live Messenger”, which cost 700,000 rubles.

The implementation of the two projects of participatory budgeting for school students in different districts of the city is a deliberate step. In Petrogradskiy and Tsentralny districts, both models will be analyzed to find the optimal version of program.

### **3.9 Thematic focus—support of projects in additional education for children Participatory Budgeting in Sverdlovsk Region**



**POPULATION:** 4.311 million

**TERRITORY:** 194,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 2277.6 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 163.2 billion rubles

Additional education for children is the responsibility of the municipal authorities. Many municipalities are unable to fully support the education of young artists, sculptors, engineers and musicians, composers and athletes. Projects to support educational institutions and additional education for school students are increasingly becoming a priority and are implemented through participatory budgeting programs. Some regions are developing systemic measures to support additional education based on participatory budgeting.

Starting from 2017, a subsidy has been allocated for equipment and software for municipal additional education organizations through the state program of Sverdlovsk Region “The improvement of the social and economic policy of Sverdlovsk region until 2024”, (approved by decree of the government of Sverdlovsk Region of December 25, 2014 No. 1209-PP), in order to develop the creative and sporting abilities of young people.

In Sverdlovsk Region, when choosing thematic areas to be co-financed from the regional budget as part of the participatory budgeting program, it was decided not to include areas supported under other sectoral state programs, but to focus the limited financial resources on the issues which residents of municipalities are most interested. Additional education was selected from 3 possible thematic areas. Projects aimed at arranging public spaces, playgrounds, and places for sports can also be supported through the participatory budgeting program, development projects and information technologies.

In 2017–2020, 39 projects with a total value of 25.7 million rubles were implemented through participatory budgeting in additional education for children. The projects are aimed at improving the material and technical foundation of additional education institutions for children and youth, including sports and music schools, children's development centers, community clubs and hobby groups. This is an opportunity to captivate children’s interest, and protect them from the negative influence of the street and idle pastimes. About 30,000 children and youth benefit from the results of these projects.

In 2020, out of 14 winning projects, 10 were aimed at supporting additional education for children (2 projects that were announced in other areas of the participatory budgeting program

also address issues of leisure and additional education for children). The total cost of the 10 projects was 5.4 million rubles.

The 2020 projects addressed the problems of providing sports institutions with equipment and uniforms; within the rest, a digital science laboratory and a studio were equipped, and instruments for a music school were purchased. About 14,000 people took part in the discussions of the projects, 2,400 individuals invested their own funds. The results of the projects will be used by 1,930 people, of whom 1,463 will be children.

This practice demonstrates active support by residents of projects in additional education, which is reflected, among other things, in the amount of co-financing, which exceeds the minimum thresholds (at least 5% of the project cost in cities, 1% in villages). The relevance of children's additional education is evidenced by the fact that in 2021, out of 73 competitive applications, 33 projects were related to this area.

Among the 2020 projects, the experience of a number of municipalities, actively participating in participatory budgeting and regularly supporting projects in additional education, can be noted.

Alapaevskoye has been participating in participatory budgeting projects since 2018. For three years, residents of 18 out of 71 settlements, including 58 organizations and individual entrepreneurs, have become participants in participatory budgeting events. In total, 10 projects were implemented during this period (three projects in 2019 and seven projects in 2020). 19,228 people benefited directly from the projects.

**Project "Ice Tale". Samotsvetskaya secondary school in the village of Kurort-Samotsvet**



**Project of animation studio MAOU in Arginsky urban district "Center for Continuing Education"**



## The “Experimentarium” a scientific digital laboratory in the kindergarten “Teremok” in Asbestovsky urban district



*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

An additional education project “Ice Tale” was implemented in the Samotsvetsky secondary school in the village of Kurort-Samotsvet—20 pairs of skates and a snow blower were purchased. As a result, the number of children involved in sports has increased. 100 children and adults from the village use the skates free of charge. This made it possible to implement new forms of additional education for children, to hold more events: inter-village ice hockey competitions and family sports events in the fresh air.

In Arginsky urban district, a project was implemented to equip the animation studio in the “Center for Continuing Education”. The project made it possible to implement an innovative model of educational that ensures the effectiveness the programs. For these purposes, they purchased a laptop, two filming tables with web cameras, a round table-master “Lilac animation” for volumetric animation and a document camera. Drawing and animation classes contribute to the all-round development of children—the development of fine motor skills, imagination, logic, and creativity. In the classroom, game and problem situations are created to make children think and creatively solve problems. Modern children are interested in technology, they are interested in gadgets, and home-made animation provides a connection between technology and creativity, and teaches the use of phones, tablets, and laptops in order to develop relevant skills.

In the Asbestov urban district, the project “Experimentarium” in the kindergarten “Teremok” was implemented. The project took place thanks to the initiative of a group of parents and the Teremok staff. For its implementation, 55,300 rubles were attracted by an initiative group of parents and teachers; local business invested 86,900 rubles; the local government contributed 351,600 rubles; and the regional budget 296,200 rubles. This made it possible to purchase equipment including digital laboratories “Naurasha”, “Digital STEAM laboratory”, laptops, microscopes with a webcam, sets for experiments with a microscope, and a set of equipment for joint project activities “Modern City”.

As a result, a mobile educational center was created, using which it is possible to carry out experimental and research work in an interesting, informative form, using the latest interactive technologies. The use of “Experimentarium” will allow preschoolers to learn the basics of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, technology, mathematics and art in a playful way, and then apply this knowledge in school. 1,025 people directly benefit from the project, 240 children and 33 teachers of “Teremok” kindergarten, 67 teachers and 685 children from other district preschool educational organizations.

For municipalities, the main effect of introducing participatory budgeting is to combine the efforts of business and local authorities to improve the quality of life in rural areas and for the population to promptly resolve urgent issues. Citizens have become noticeably more active

in putting forward projects for participatory budgeting, and the number of residents involved in the discussion of projects and willing to participate financially is increasing. The formats used for discussion and selection of projects are determined directly by the municipalities. These can be face-to-face meetings, questionnaires, and online voting.

All the projects correspond to the strategies for the socio-economic development of municipalities: projects were discussed at the municipal Councils for Strategic Development (whose expert groups are formed from representatives of the government, the business community, science, the media and the public), which is confirmed by the minutes of these meetings included in the applications.

It is also important that citizens use the results of projects free of charge, especially children from low-income families. Thus, social equality is ensured in obtaining free additional education and the opportunity to use playgrounds and sports grounds, courts, clubs, studios and children's development centers for free. Budget funds, money from socially responsible business, parents or other residents, are all supporting underprivileged children.

### **3.10 Supporting the development of participatory budgeting at the municipal level — Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra**

The support system for the development of participatory budgeting in the municipalities of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Region - Yugra began to take shape in 2017. The components of regional support include the development of regulations for the implementation of participatory budgeting, project support, educational programs, an information campaign, and support for the website and accounts in social networks. In order to encourage urban and municipal districts to develop participatory budgeting practices, the Government of Yugra in 2019-2020 provided subsidies of 100 million rubles annually.

In 2020, 46 practices at the municipal level were developed in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra (in 2019 there were 32 practices). The number of projects is increasing annually: in 2018, 165 projects were implemented, in 2019, 199 projects. In 2020, 218 projects received financial support. The implementation of projects is carried out at the expense of the municipal budgets, co-financing of projects from individuals and businesses, as well as non-financial contributions. The total cost of projects in 2020 was 334 million rubles, the share of co-financing was 23.4%.



**POPULATION:** 1.675 million

**TERRITORY:** 534,800 km<sup>2</sup>.

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 4447.5 billion rubles

**VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET:** 272.9 billion rubles

Municipalities use various options for selecting applications for competitions: collegial bodies and municipal commissions are created to evaluate applications submitted by locals. The collegial bodies include representatives of public organizations, educational institutions, youth chambers, and public councils. Most often, municipalities use an independent evaluation of projects based on specified criteria. The selection criteria include online voting on the websites

of local self-government bodies, other Internet sites, and face-to-face voting at meetings in rural settlements.

For example, in Pyt-Yakh, the practice is distinguished by an integrated project selection mechanism, information support and broad advisory support. The project “Topiary Park Noah's Ark”, which installed topiary in the city square, was popular not only with the residents of Pyt-Yakh, residents of several cities of Yugra also joined in fundraising. The project was widely supported by the business community of the region.

In order to implement the ideas of citizens in 2020, an emphasis was placed on youth participatory budgeting in Surgut, out of seven supported projects, four are aimed at the development of young people: the improvement of football fields and a project to create a “freestyle park” with sports areas, areas for communication, creativity and relaxation.

### **Topiary park "Noah's Ark", the city of Pyt-Yakh**



*Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance*

The Surgut district encourages the participation of young people in participatory budgeting. The “R People” project covers 13 out of 26 settlements in the district. The initiator was a group of young people from 14 to 30 years old, interested in the development of media skills, who are active in the media group at the municipal autonomous institution “District Youth Center”. The youth media project “R People” is aimed at developing basic skills in PR and journalism among the youth of the Surgut region. These skills are necessary for the high-quality production of media products. As part of “R People”, lectures were organized on the media, including training sessions and webinars, discussions and practical tasks for the participants.

In Urai, in order to develop participatory budgeting practices, the campaign “100 proposals for the People's Budget” was held, the results of which were summed up at the city forum, where citizens and entrepreneurs jointly discussed and combined best practices for the improvement of the city. In 2020, the selection of participatory projects used the regional project management system. The city of Urai is the leader among the municipalities of Yugra in attracting funds from non-budgetary sources. In total, for projects in 2020, co-financing from businesses made up 57% of the total cost of the projects.

The Kondinsky district holds public meetings, creates groups in messengers to discuss issues and proposals for their solution.

A specific feature of participatory budgeting in Nizhnevartovsk is the two-stage competitive selection of applications. An information campaign is being carried out to increase the awareness of participatory budgeting projects. An important element of the information strategy is the public meetings held on a regular basis by specialists of the city administration to explain the specifics of participatory budgeting. As a result of the information campaign, the

activity of the adult and youth populations of the city increased. Of the 12 projects implemented in Nizhnevartovsk, eight were focused on the interests of children and youth: the repair and equipping of educational institutions, a youth club, the modernization of the sports facilities “Olympia” and “Samotlor”, which allowed children and young people to be involved in sports and social activities.

An important and effective step in the development of practice in Khanty-Mansiysk was the creation of a crowdsourcing platform “We Are Together”, where public discussions of participatory budgeting projects are carried out. The initiators of the projects are older people, implementing projects together with the municipality: Internet surfing for the over 55s, the Festival of amateur and sport fishing “Klevyi Bereg” and “Warm bus stops”.

The Center for Proactive Budgeting of Yugra has been operating as part of the autonomous institution “Open Region” since 2019. The objectives of the Center are to coordinate participatory budgeting activities; to monitor project implementation; to provide information support and mechanisms for projects; to assist in organizing the exchange of experience in the application of participatory budgeting; and to organize and conduct training events for representatives of local self-government bodies and the public on the issues of participatory budgeting.

### **Center for the accommodation of homeless animals "Pereprava", Surgut**



### **Youth media project “R People”, Surgutsky district**



## The landscaping of the Eastern planning district, Nizhnevartovsk



## Landscaping project "Orange Summer", Lugovoy, Kondinsky district



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The Center implements an extensive training program for residents of cities and districts including advanced training. In 2020, five online modules were held on the topic “participatory projects as a tool for involving citizens in public finance management”. 259 specialists from local self-government bodies and more than 200 members of the public were trained. Educational events are held as part of the annual Forum “Civil Initiatives of the 60th Parallel Regions”.

The website [www.isib.myopenugra.ru](http://www.isib.myopenugra.ru) has structured information and methodological support of participatory budgeting. The system includes: a bank of participatory budgeting projects, a thematic news feed, an information and methodological section, an online voting system, information about ongoing events and educational courses. The system allows communication between the population and the authorities to resolve and issues and this communication accompanies the implementation of projects at all stages.

## Project "Internet surfing for the over 55s", Khanty-Mansiysk



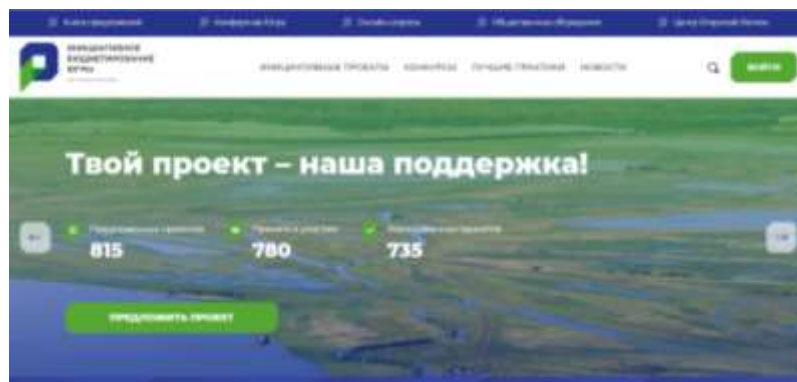
## Crowdsourcing platform "We Are Together", Khanty-Mansiysk



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The development of participatory budgeting in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra is associated with regional project competitions. In 2020, subsidies of 19.7 million rubles were provided to 29 settlements from the regional budget to assist local self-government in the development of historical and local traditions for co-financing projects selected on the basis of participatory budgeting. In the first quarter of 2021, the Center for Proactive Budgeting of Yugra held the first regional competition, for which 100 initiative projects from all municipalities of Yugra were nominated. The website <https://isib.myopenugra.ru/> was used for online voting, registering more than 100,000 votes. According to the results of the competition, 81 projects in 15 cities and 41 settlements will receive support from the regional budget.

## Information system for participatory budgeting project management in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Yugra <https://isib.myopenugra.ru/>



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance



### 3.11 Municipal practice—the project “Your Budget” Tyumen

Logo for "Your Budget"



For many years in the capital of Tyumen Region, citizens have been involved in municipal governance. The discussion of the projects “Your Tyumen” and “I decide”, put forward by locals, takes place on the Internet, where proposals and urban issues are considered. On the website “Tyumen—Our Home”, city residents are informed about the programs being implemented, and they carry out the function of public monitoring. Since 2015, the Tyumen Youth Administration project has been implemented in Tyumen. Young people present projects to improve the quality of life in the city, which are implemented with funds from the budget and co-financing.



**POPULATION:** 807,271

**TERRITORY:** 698,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

**LOCAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE:** 34.6 billion rubles

**GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT:** 125.9 billion rubles

#### Workshop with World Bank staff on the development of participatory budgeting



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

## Roundtable on participatory budgeting in Tyumen



## Website of the Tyumen City Administration



## "Your Budget" participatory budgeting in Tyumen - an account on VKontakte



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

In 2020, a decision was made to launch participatory budgeting to enable city residents to generate their own ideas and participate in their discussion and implementation. In order to consolidate the legal foundations, in 2020, the Tyumen City Administration adopted a resolution dated 04.02.2020 No. 13-pk "On approval of the Provision on participatory budgeting in the city of Tyumen". The Department of Finance and Tax Policy of the Tyumen City Administration was authorized to provide methodological support, organization and coordination of participatory budgeting.

In early 2020, the Department held an extended roundtable with the involvement of active groups of citizens and TSG on participatory budgeting.

To inform residents on the website of the Tyumen City Administration (<http://www.tyumen-city.ru>) a section “Your Budget” has been created, where all information about participatory budgeting is placed. In addition, the account “Your Budget” is on VKontakte, providing further information. It explains how groups and members of the public can apply. The practice of participatory budgeting is also covered on the Instagram social network as the @portaltyumendom group.

Any resident 14 or older, a group of residents, or a public organization could initiate of a project in 2020. As a pilot for participatory budgeting, the sphere of improvement was chosen, which caused the most questions during public hearings and meetings.

Projects could be submitted in paper or in electronic form.

In 2020, 27 projects were submitted to the administration, costing more than 30 million rubles. Only one project provided for co-financing by individuals.

The consideration of projects was carried out in two stages. Preliminary consideration of projects for compliance with formal requirements. The preliminary consideration of projects was carried out by the Department of Finance and Tax Policy of the Administration of the city of Tyumen. If they passed preliminary consideration, expert assessment was carried out by sectoral and territorial bodies of the City Administration, depending on the tasks and functions assigned to them.

### Project appraisal results



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

The competitive selection of projects was done by electronic voting on the website of the Tyumen City Administration. Each vote was signed with an electronic digital signature and recorded in a blockchain, which ensured their security.

Anyone could see, in real time, the progress of the voting as a whole and trace the validity of the votes. Each person can vote for or against one or all of the projects but was required to indicate why, if a project was not supported. To participate in electronic voting, you registered on the site of the electronic poll service “I Decide”, through “Gosuslugi”, or through the social networks VKontakte and Facebook. A reward system is encouraging participation—by voting, users earn points which can then be exchanged for prizes.

Over 30 days, 6,615 residents took part in the voting. Based on the voting results, 10 projects were selected, based on the total budget allocations provided for in the budget of the city of Tyumen, for a total of 9.8 million rubles.

The implementation of initiative projects is carried out by sectoral or territorial bodies of the Administration of the city of Tyumen, depending on the sectoral or territorial focus of the project. The municipal contract concluded for the implementation of the initiative project included a provision for the project initiator to monitor the progress of work and to accept the work performed.

All ten projects selected in 2020 have been successfully implemented. Projects include playgrounds (36%), sports facilities (27%), public areas (18%), and the construction of a playground for walking pets and a project for the installation of a ramp at the Center for Helping Children.

Participatory budgeting, as a form of interaction between government and society, has shown its effectiveness. How the initiative of Tyumen residents is changing the spaces where they live and spend their leisure time can be judged by the projects they support.

Thanks to the installation of information boards — “Be Your Own Trainer”, 53 information boards were installed on sports grounds in squares and courtyards of the city, containing a training program for using the equipment located on the site and a system of motivation and encouragement.

### Screenshot of the electronic poll service "I Decide"



Source: The Russian Ministry of Finance

## **Conclusion**

Prospects for the development of participatory budgeting Russia

Among the immediate prospects for the development of initiative budgeting is the expansion of the scope and digitalization of monitoring its development throughout Russia.

In the coming years, it is necessary to organize a series of experimental economic studies, including jointly with foreign partners, on the motivation of participants in participatory budgeting projects, the effects of participatory budgeting.

The next stage in the development of participatory budgeting is the development of proposals for the inclusion of citizen participation procedures based on the participatory budgeting methodology in existing and new national projects and government programs.

Another important area of participatory budgeting development is the integration of public participation in budget decisions into financial and budget literacy events.

## Design centers

No.	Russian region	Executive authority implementing participatory budgeting	Practices supported by the Project Center	Project center
1	Altai region	Ministry of Finance of Altai Region	Project to support local initiatives in the Altai Region Competition of school initiatives "I Think"	Center for Initiative Budgeting of "Altai Center for Financial Research"
2	Amurskaya Oblast	Ministry of Finance of Amur Region	Support for development projects of Amur Region based on local initiatives	Autonomous non-profit organization "Center for the Development of Territories"
3	Bryansk Region	Department of Internal Policy of Bryansk Region	Implementation of programs of participatory budgeting	Association "Council of the Municipalities of Bryansk region"
4	Volgograd Region	Finance Committee of Volgograd Region	Volgograd Region Local Initiatives Support Program	Working group for the implementation of the sectoral project "Support of local initiatives in Volgograd Region"
			School participatory budgeting	
5	Voronezh Region	Department for the development of the municipalities of Voronezh Region	Encouragement of projects implemented within TLSG in the municipalities of Voronezh Region	Non-profit organization "The Council of Municipalities of Voronezh Region"
6	Irkutsk Region	Ministry of Economic Development of Irkutsk Region	Project "People's Initiatives"	Commission for the implementation of popular initiatives
7	Krasnoyarsk Region	Ministry of Finance of Krasnoyarsk Region	Support for local initiatives - "The Banks of the Yenisei" Competition	Ministry of Finance of the Krasnoyarsk Region, Krasnoyarsk Regional State Budgetary Institution of Additional Professional Education "Institute of State and Municipal Administration under the Government of Krasnoyarsk Region"
8	Leningrad Region	Committee for Local Self-Government, Interethnic and Interfaith	A Thousand Good Deeds Project	Project Center for Leningrad Region Participatory Budgeting as part of the State Treasury of the Leningrad Region "House of

		Relations of the Leningrad Region		Friendship of the Leningrad Region"
9	Novgorod Region	Administration of the Governor of Novgorod Region	The project "Territorial public self-government in Novgorod region"	State Regional Treasury Institution "Center for Municipal Legal Information"
			"Project to support local initiatives in Novgorod region"	
			Project "The People's Budget"	
			Your school budget	
10	Novosibirsk Region	Ministry of Finance and Tax Policy of Novosibirsk Region	Participatory budgeting	State Treasury Institution of Novosibirsk Region "Regional Information Center"
11	Orenburg Region	Ministry of Finance of Orenburg Region	Implementation of public infrastructure development projects in Orenburg Region based on local initiatives	Departmental project office of the Ministry of Finance of Orenburg Region
12	Oryol Region	Department for Development Projects of Territories of Oryol Region	Competition of participatory budgeting projects "The People's Budget"	Department of Territorial Development Projects
13	The Republic of Bashkortostan	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bashkortostan	Local Initiatives Support Program LISP	Center for the Study of Civil Initiatives—a structural subdivision of "The Institute for Strategic Studies of the Republic of Bashkortostan" of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Bashkortostan
			"Our Village"	
14	The Republic of Buryatia	Administration of the Head of the Republic of Buryatia and the Government of the Republic Buryatia (Committee for Territorial Development)	Republican competition "The Best TLSG"	Resource support center TLSG of the Republic of Buryatia under the Association "Council of Municipal Formations of the Republic of Buryatia"
15	Komi Republic	Administration of the head of Komi Republic	Project "The People's Budget"	Project Center for Participatory Budgeting at the State Educational Institution of Higher Education "Komi
			Project "People's Budget in Schools"	

				Republican Academy of Public Service and management"
16	Udmurtia	Ministry of Finance of the Udmurt Republic	Implementation of public infrastructure development projects based on local initiatives	Autonomous institution of additional education "Center for financial education"
			The project of youth participatory budgeting "Atmosphere"	
17	The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)	LISP	Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) digital management of the budget process and participatory budgeting.
18	St. Petersburg	Finance Committee of St. Petersburg	Project "Your budget"	Departmental design office based on the Analytic Department of the Finance Committee of St. Petersburg
			Project "Your budget in Schools"	
			Project "Your city"	"European University in St. Petersburg"
			Project "Change"	
19	Sverdlovsk Region	Ministry of Energy and Housing and Communal Services of Sverdlovsk Region	Formation of a modern urban environment	Departmental project office and interdepartmental commission to ensure the implementation of the regional project "Formation of a comfortable urban environment in Sverdlovsk Region"
20	Stavropol Region	Ministry of Finance of Stavropol Region	Governor's LISP	State treasury institution of additional education "Training Center of the Ministry of Finance of Stavropol Region"
21	Khabarovsk Region	Main Department of Internal Policy of the Government of Khabarovsk Region	Providing grants to municipalities of the region in order to support projects initiated by municipalities of the region for the development of TLGS	Foundation "Regional Center for the Development of Civil Initiatives and Socially Oriented Non-Profit Organizations"
22	Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Region - Yugra	Department of Finance, Department of Public and External Relations	Initiative budgeting practices in municipalities, regional competition of initiative projects	Center for participatory budgeting in the structure of an autonomous institution Center "Open Region"
23	Yaroslavl region	Department of Finance of the	Governor's project "Let's solve together!"	State Treasury Institution of the Yaroslavl Region



		Yaroslavl Region, Department of Regional Policy and Interaction with Local Self- Government Bodies of the Yaroslavl Region	Formation of a modern urban environment Supporting local initiatives Priority projects School information security	"Center for Support of Initiative Budgeting Projects"
24	Various subjects of the Russian Federation	Independent support centers	Different practices in different regions	"Laboratory for Organization of Scientific Research"
25	Various subjects of the Russian Federation	Independent support centers	Different practices in different regions	Office of consultants of participatory budgeting
26	Various regions	Independent support centers	Different practices in different regions	Center for Humanistic Urbanism & Participation of the European University in St. Petersburg

Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation  
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# Report on the best practices in developing participatory budgeting in Russian regions and municipalities

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