

Citizen engagement in budgeting

Seminar Public Services

Students:

Oleksandr Pertsukh

Vedasri Nakka

Egzont Demiri

University of Fribourg

19.10.2023

Professor :

Edy Portmann

Supervisor

Narek Andreasyan

Introduction

- **Enhance Citizen Engagement:** We aim to involve citizens more in budget decisions, empowering them to have a say in how public money is spent
- **Transparency:** Our goal is to make the budgeting process more open and understandable, ensuring that citizens can easily see where their tax dollars are going
- **Effective use of public funds:** By involving citizens in the budgeting process, we aspire to align spending with actual community needs, reducing wastage and misallocation of resources



Background and Motivation





Recognition

Participatory budgeting has gained recognition as a promising approach to democratize resource allocation and foster community engagement.



Existing Challenges:

Challenges persist in fully realizing its potential. These challenges include disparities in access and participation, limited understanding of the process among citizens, and questions about the actual impact on public spending alignment with community needs.



Resistance to Change

Existing Processes and bureaucracy make it hard to change

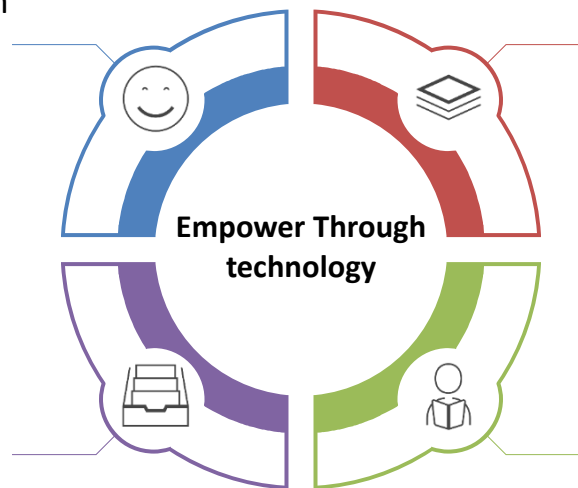


Limited Resources

Not enough funding, staffing, or tools to enable participation.

What mechanisms are most effective in facilitating citizen participation in the budgetary process?

What are the challenges and barriers to meaningful citizen engagement in public service budgeting, and how can these be overcome?



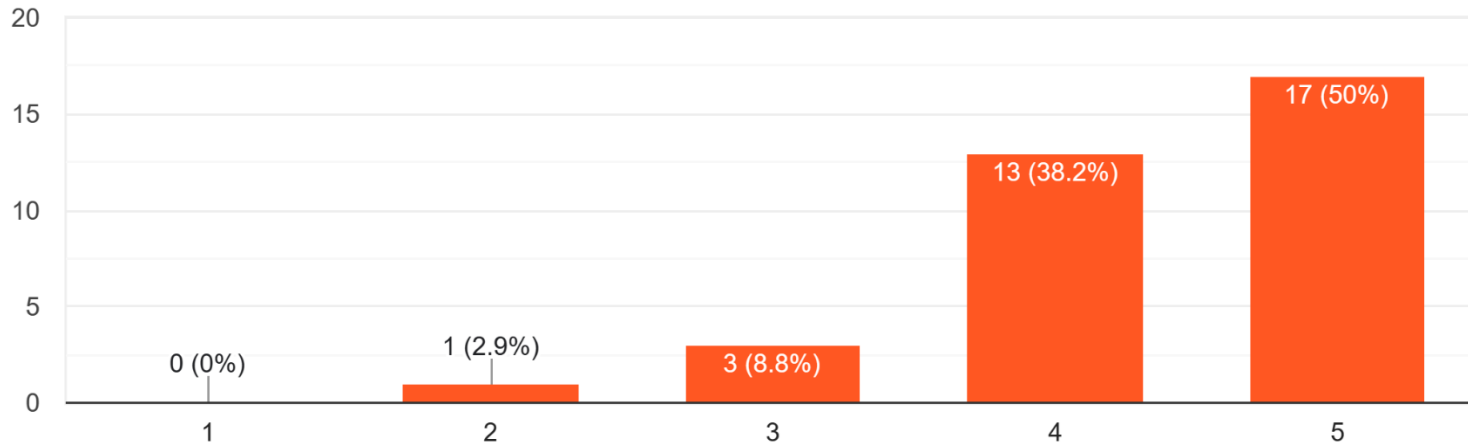
How does technology influence citizen engagement in budgeting, and what are the emerging trends?

How can educational programs enhance citizen understanding of public budgeting and encourage more active participation?

Information Gathering(Survey)

How interested are you in a project that aims to involve citizens in the budgeting process and seeks public input on how public funds are allocated?

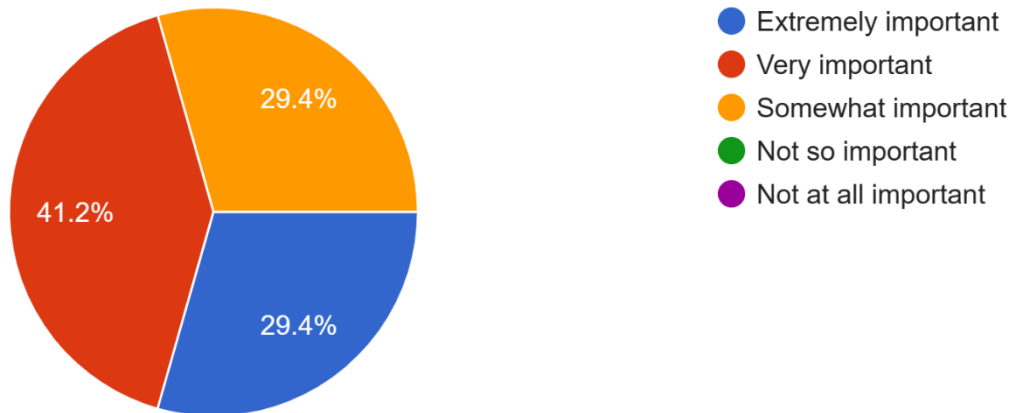
34 responses



Information Gathering(Survey)

How important is it to you that the budgeting process for public funds is transparent and easily accessible to the public?

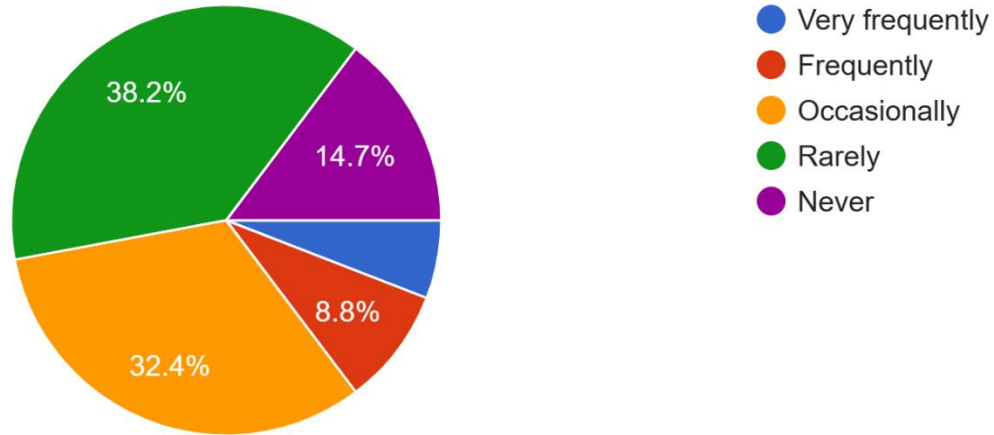
34 responses



Information Gathering(Survey)

How frequently do you feel informed about how your local government allocates public funds?

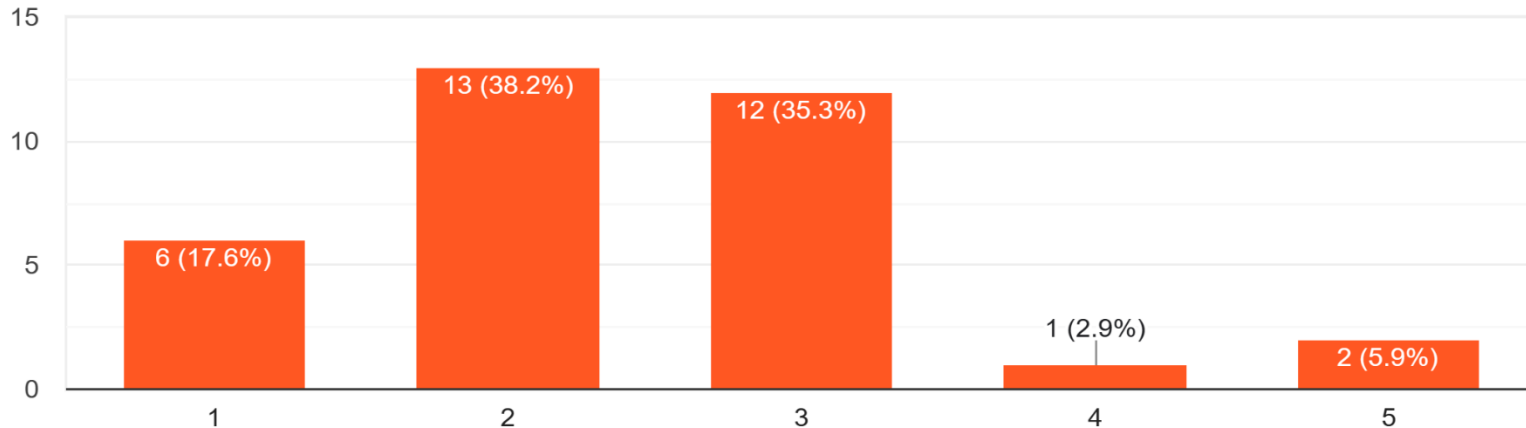
34 responses



Information Gathering(Survey)

How satisfied are you with the current level of community involvement in budgeting decisions in your local area?

34 responses



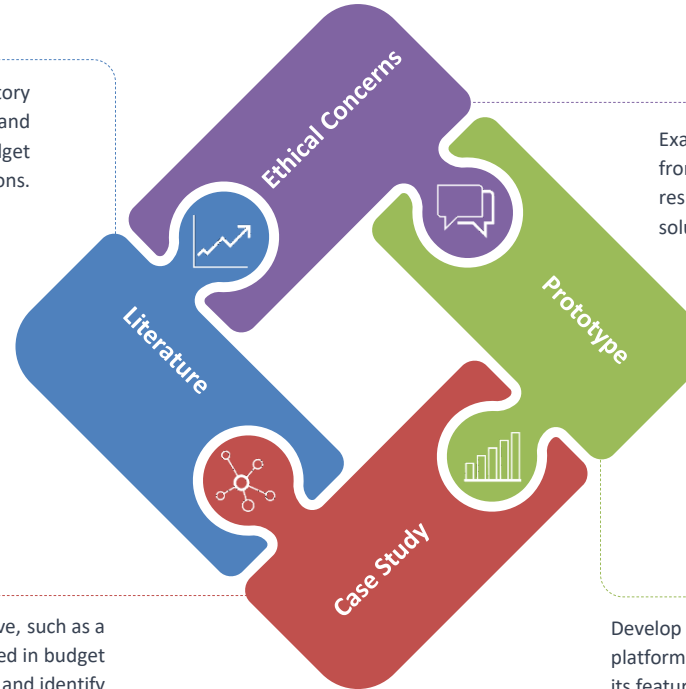
Objectives

1 Literature

Examine existing studies and publications on participatory budgeting to understand the concepts, benefits, and challenges associated with involving citizens in budget decisions.

2 Case Study

Analyze a specific participatory budgeting initiative, such as a city or region where citizens were engaged in budget decisions, to learn from their experiences and identify successful strategies for fostering community involvement and transparency.



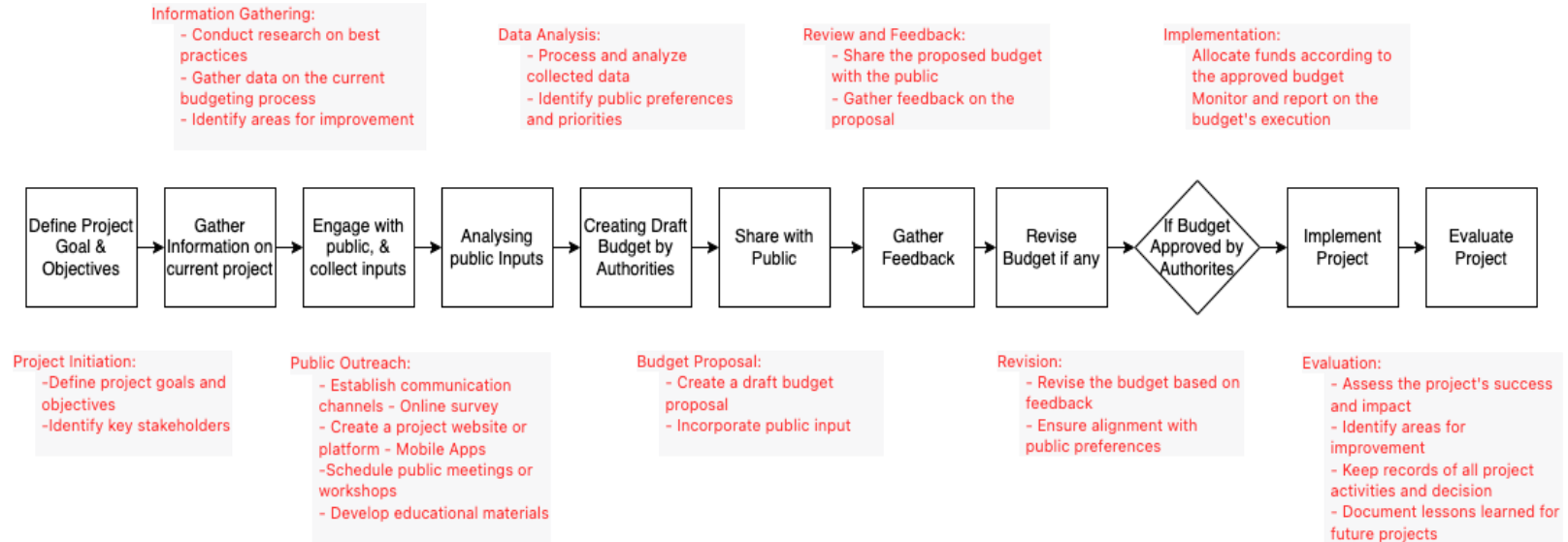
Ethical Concerns 3

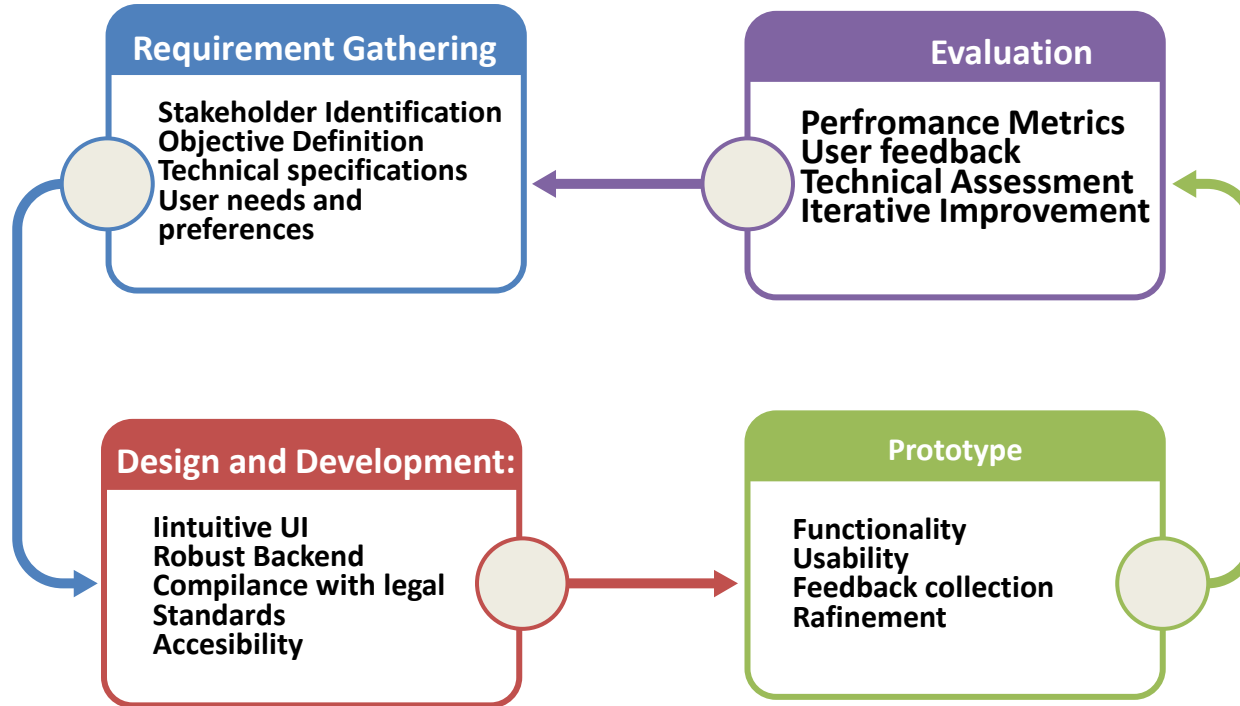
Examine potential ethical dilemmas and challenges arising from participatory budgeting, ensuring that the process respects fairness, equity, and privacy, while seeking solutions to mitigate such concerns.

Prototype 4

Develop a functional prototype of the participatory budgeting platform, allowing citizens to explore and provide feedback on its features, ensuring it aligns with their needs and expectations before full implementation.

FLOW Diagram





Iterating until user requirements are met

Prototype



Create a Project webpage

- Inform
- Summarize
- Discuss

Collect ideas from citizens

- Split ideas with potential than one proposal
- Merge similar ideas

Refine Ideas into realistic proposals

- Create and edit the content of proposals
- Show the ideas where the basis for the proposal

Start the vote

- Registering to vote is easy
- Citizens can keep up on the number of votes in real time

Share the results

- Citizens can follow the progress of winning proposals into realized projects

Usability Heuristics



Visibility Of
System Status



Match Between
System & Real
World



User Control And
Freedom



Consistency And
Standards



Error Prevention



Recognition
Rather Than
Recall



Flexibility And
Efficiency Of Use



Aesthetic And
Minimalist Design



Help Users With
Errors



Help And
Documentation

User Satisfaction Surveys

Performance Metrics Analysis

Outcome

Enhanced Transparency and Trust



Improved Allocation of Resources

Increased Community Participation and Empowerment



Thank you for your attention! 😊