

LOCAL SOCIAL INITIATIVES AS A DRIVER OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Egorova Lyudmila Gennadievna¹, Kropotova Natalia Vladimirovna², Valeeva Lyudmila Vladimirovna³, Surgan Marina Alexandrovna⁴

^{1,2,3,4} Crimean Engineering and Pedagogical University named after Fevzi Yakubov

legora@list.ru

Abstract

The aim of the study is to analyze the role of local social initiatives – specifically, participatory budgeting programs – as a driver of civic engagement and civil society institutions through the lens of regional sustainable development. The study focuses on rural settlements of the Republic of Crimea that participated in the participatory budgeting program between 2021 and 2024. The empirical basis consists of a sociological survey of 1,263 residents of all 14 municipal districts of Crimea, conducted via questionnaires. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods, as well as an analysis of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Crimea official reports and data from the “Open Budget of the Republic of Crimea” portal. The study revealed that while most respondents are generally satisfied with conditions of living, they also note the presence of solvable local issues, which stimulates the development of grassroots initiatives. The most in-demand types of participatory projects include the installation of children's and sports playgrounds, street lighting repairs, improvement of public spaces, parks and recreational areas. A positive trend in civic engagement was observed as the proportion of program participants in 2023 (16.7%) was nearly four times higher than in 2021 (4.6%). The study confirms the importance of participatory budgeting as a tool for civil society development. Participatory budgeting is a critical instrument for regional sustainable development, enabling citizen involvement in decision-making regarding budgetary expenditures, thereby improving transparency and resource efficiency. This approach addresses citizens' most pressing concerns, improves quality of life, and cultivates a sense of ownership over local development.

Keywords: regional sustainable development, civic initiatives, local community, civil society, participatory budgeting

I. Introduction

Sustainable development is closely associated with increasing the level of civic engagement, implementing social projects, and strengthening interactions between the state and civil society institutions. It is widely recognized that civil society is primarily constituted by voluntary associations and citizen-led initiatives that represent and advocate the interests of social groups. Civil society is dynamic: it evolves over time and acquires new traits and forms of institutionalized civic participation. Civil society institutions include public initiatives, civic associations, charitable and volunteer organizations and territorial self-governance structures [3].

A growing public demand has emerged for active citizen participation in defending their rights and improving quality of life by identifying optimal solutions to specific local problems [15]. These grassroots initiatives reflect citizens' most urgent concerns (economic, social, and infrastructural) and serve as an integrative mechanism that strengthens the dialogue and cooperation between authorities and society.

Since the integration of the Republic of Crimea into the Russian Federation, a shift "from inertia toward civic activity" has been observed in the region. Nevertheless, the institutions of civil society on the peninsula remain in the early stages of development. Therefore, it is essential to support and encourage the qualitative growth of civic culture and public engagement among Crimean residents. This should be done with due consideration for the region's specific socio-political and economic characteristics, the cultural and value foundations of civic activism, and the existing structure of civil organizations in the region [7].

The interconnection between participatory budgeting and sustainable development lies in the potential of participatory budgeting to act as a mechanism for achieving the goals of sustainable development at the local level. The involvement of citizens in allocating public funds allows more precise consideration of community needs related to environmental protection, social infrastructure and local economic development. Resources can thereby be directed toward resolving the most relevant and pressing local issues. For instance, residents may propose projects aimed at improving ecological conditions, expanding access to social services, supporting small businesses and other initiatives contributing to long-term sustainability.

The administrative-territorial structure of the Republic of Crimea includes 11 urban districts and 14 municipal districts. According to estimates by the Federal State Statistics Service for the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as of January 2025, the population of the municipal districts of Crimea totals 850,825 people—44.8% of the region's total permanent population¹. Rural areas thus play a significant role in the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Crimea, which highlights the importance of supporting their sustainable development. In addition to state and regional programs grassroots initiatives and the social self-organization of residents can serve as tools for improving local infrastructure, beautifying public spaces and addressing other socially significant issues [2; 23]. Residents of rural communities in Crimea demonstrate considerable self-organizational potential. However several barriers can hinder the realization of this potential, most notably, the absence of clearly articulated motivation, limited infrastructure to support civic engagement and low levels of trust in local government institutions [14]. Growing academic interest in the development of civil society at the municipal level is largely driven by the recognition that local civic initiatives form a foundation of civil society emerging at the level of the local community [9].

The goal of the present study is to examine social initiatives in the Republic of Crimea as catalysts for sustainable regional development with a focus on the increasingly popular participatory budgeting program implemented across the peninsula.

Sustainable regional development presupposes long-term balanced growth that incorporates economic, social and environmental dimensions. It aims to improve the quality of life for the population, ensure economic efficiency, and preserve the natural environment for future generations. The key components of sustainable regional development include:

- diversification of the economy, job creation, investment attraction, and enhanced competitiveness;
- improved quality of life through better access to education, healthcare, culture and social protection, alongside efforts to reduce poverty and inequality;
- preservation of natural resources, reduction of environmental pollution, implementation of clean technologies and sustainable land use, including through community-based social projects.

¹ Federal State Statistics Service Directorate for the Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. Official Statistics. Republic of Crimea. Population. URL: <https://82.rosstat.gov.ru/folder/27537>

The term local community refers to a continuum of individuals united by shared residence in a given territory, common interests, and a collective desire to address local challenges using both material and social resources under the principles of self-governance [8, p. 14].

However co-residence alone is insufficient for forming a cohesive local community [11]. Essential conditions also include the presence of interpersonal ties, social interaction [18] and shared values [6]. "The prerequisites for transforming a population residing in a particular territory into a local community include, first, the emergence and relative distinctiveness of a shared local interest, and second, the availability of the resources (material, financial, human) needed to achieve common goals and realize local priorities" [11, p. 32].

The local community may be viewed as a complex social phenomenon and a specific stage in the evolution of social relations, in which individuals residing in a defined territory are bound by trust, mutual assistance and support and engage in collective social action [4, p. 116]. N.I. Uzdimaeva characterizes local community as "a specific socially self-reproducing collective" built upon civic initiative and the principle of voluntarism. This community emerges through internal horizontal social ties among individuals and engages with external actors, including governmental authorities [13]. Key characteristics of the local community as a socio-territorial continuum include a high level of territorial identity, value-based attachment to place, the density and variety of intra-community interactions and the existence of clearly perceived common interests [4; 10]. These interests often relate to the improvement of the living environment and the development of social infrastructure to support the vitality and well-being of the population. Local residents recognize "the need for joint action to resolve local issues" and are willing to engage in self-organized governance practices [4]. Local community is also marked by an expressed to varying degrees collective sense of unity along with the capacity to identify concerns and coordinate efforts toward their resolution [1].

Civic participation is one of the primary tools for developing local communities [21]. It involves collaborative efforts by residents to achieve positive changes and generate public value. K.E. Kosygina proposes categorizing mechanisms of local community involvement in the development of small territories into active and passive forms. Active participation includes direct involvement in project implementation, including monetary or labor contributions, while passive participation involves activities such as public hearings, town meetings and surveys. Active forms encompass territorial public self-governance, participatory project planning and participatory budgeting [5]. Participatory budgeting is also emphasized as a mechanism that enables residents and local businesses to help determine how a portion of the municipal budget is spent to resolve community-level problems [11].

It should be noted that participatory budgeting is not only a mechanism for informing and consulting the population or a method for modeling the budget, but also a tool for engaging the local community in decision-making on the use of real resources. It is also important that, unlike plebiscites, participatory budgeting is not a one-time vote, but a continuous cyclical process that involves discussing problems and ideas within the local community [20].

Researchers view participatory budgeting as a strategic tool for ensuring community involvement in the system of municipal governance. It facilitates the formation of a new multi-component culture of proposing and discussing ideas for local development based on the transparency of local authorities and helps build a financial model for mobilizing resources grounded in cooperation among local stakeholders and mutual responsibility between the local government and the community for implementing ideas at all stages of project development and execution [12].

According to the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation in 2023 455 participatory budgeting practices of various levels and orientations were implemented across 78 regions of the Russian Federation. These practices supported community-initiated projects with a total value of 58.48 billion rubles². A unifying feature of all these practices is their basis in local residents'

² Report on Best Practices in the Development of Participatory Budgeting in the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation and Municipalities. Moscow, 2024. 114 p.

initiatives. They involve community participation in the discussion of ideas, co-financing of proposed projects and their implementation monitoring [11].

H.R. Gilman highlights among the effects of participatory budgeting the enhancement of civic responsibility, the development of public participation skills and the formation of attitudes towards collective community action to solve social problems [17]. Thus, participatory budgeting serves not only as a tool for adjusting the allocation of public funds, but also for fostering a culture of local problem-solving based on broad citizen involvement [19]. Participants in participatory budgeting practices become involved in decision-making processes related to the development of their territories and may later organize themselves to advocate for community interests beyond the scope of these practices, building dialogue with authorities and civil society structures [22].

II. Methods

This article presents the results of a sociological study on the dynamics of resident engagement in rural settlements of the Republic of Crimea during the implementation of the participatory budgeting program. The study was conducted by researchers from the Center for the Study of Civil Initiatives at the Crimean Engineering and Pedagogical University named after Fevzi Yakubov in municipal districts from November 2023 to January 2024 through a questionnaire survey. The survey included 1,263 respondents residing in all 14 municipal districts of Crimea. A simple random sampling method was used, wherein all elements of the general population were registered and then a random sample was selected. The use of this method is justified by its low risk of systematic error and its broad applicability for generalizing the findings. The questionnaire included both closed-ended questions, where respondents chose from pre-defined answers, and open-ended ones. The most active participants in the survey were members of the middle generation, aged 30 – 49 (62.2% of respondents) and 50 – 59 (18.7%).

The study also included a systematic analysis of the final results of the participatory budgeting program implementation in the Republic of Crimea from 2021 to 2024, based on reports from the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Crimea and the "Open Budget of the Republic of Crimea" portal.

III. Results

The participatory budgeting program in the Republic of Crimea has been implemented since 2021 and aims to involve residents of rural areas in budgetary decision-making. Participants in the initiative project competition may include urban and rural settlements as well as municipal districts. Residents are the project initiators and together with the local administration prepare the application and required documentation. Projects are selected by a competition commission based on criteria established by regulatory legal acts³. Among the key criteria are the level of citizen participation in discussions of project ideas and parameters (e.g., activity in surveys and meetings), the degree of financial and non-financial contribution by local residents and businesses and the organization of events in support of the project.

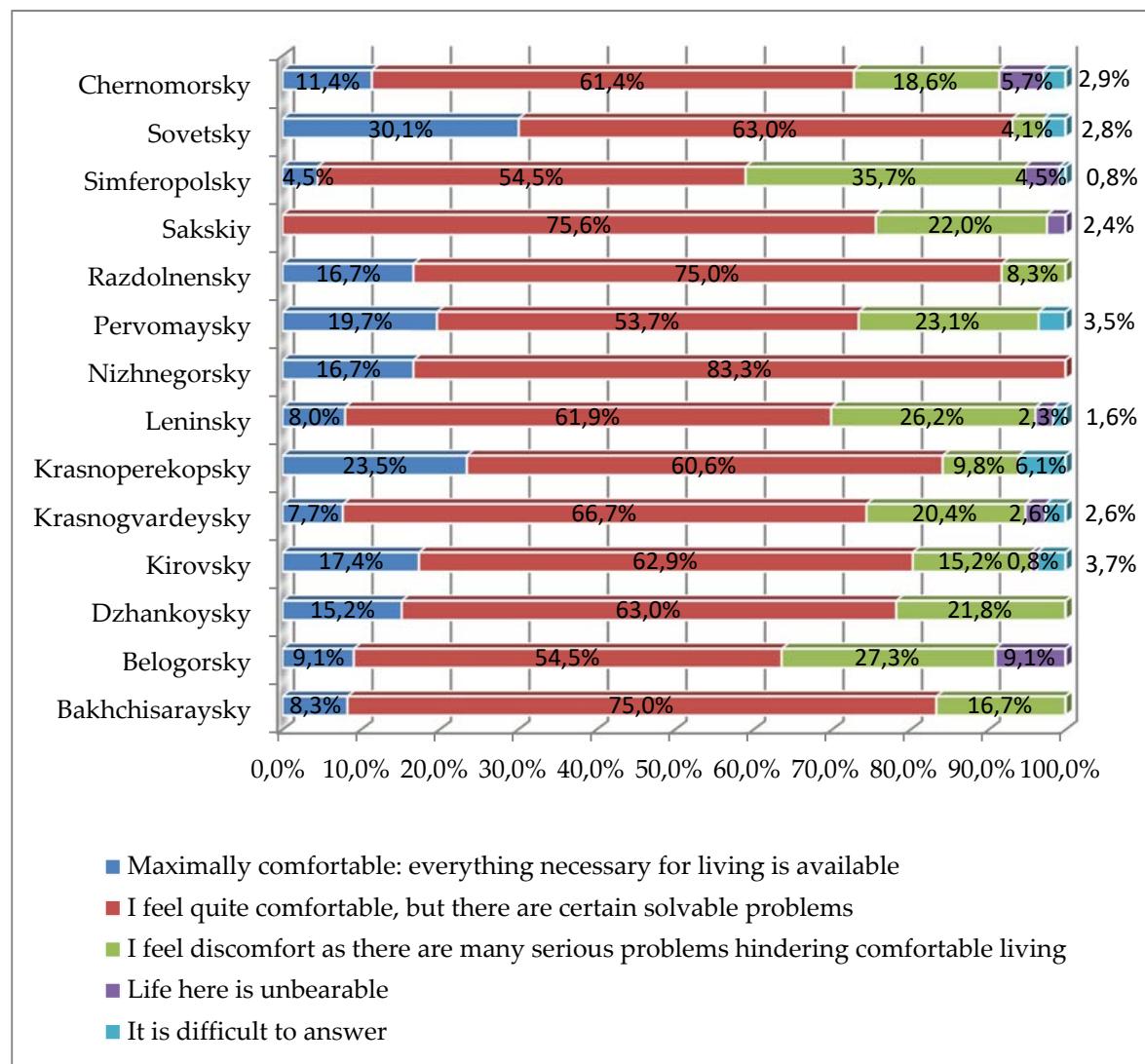
The conceptual foundation of participatory budgeting is based on the following postulate: community involvement in "participatory democracy" begins with the identification of real problems, and local governments and communities can develop joint approaches to territorial development if they are given the opportunity to do so [16; 20]. To confirm this position and assess residents' satisfaction with their living conditions, respondents were asked how comfortable they considered their settlement to be (Table 1).

³ Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea No. 658 of October 16, 2020 (as amended by Resolutions No. 346 of 15.06.2021, No. 274 of 22.04.2022, No. 858 of 13.10.2022, No. 196 of 10.03.2023, No. 673 of 11.09.2023, and No. 292 of 28.05.2024).

Table 1. Distribution of responses to the question "How comfortable do you believe your village is for you and your family to live in?", % of respondents

Response options	%
Maximally comfortable: everything necessary for living is available	13,5
I feel quite comfortable, but there are certain solvable problems	61,6
I feel discomfort as there are many serious problems hindering comfortable living	20,7
Life here is unbearable	1,7
It is difficult to answer	2,5

The majority of respondents are satisfied with the level of comfort in their place of residence (over 75%). At the same time a significant proportion of those surveyed highlight existing problems, considering them solvable—this, can be regarded as an important factor influencing the development of local communities. It is worth noting that across different districts residents' assessments of living comfort vary significantly (Fig. 1).

**Fig. 1.** Distribution of responses to the question "How comfortable do you believe your village is for you and your family to live in?" by municipal districts of the Republic of Crimea.

Residents of the Nizhnegorsky, Sovetsky, Razdolnensky, and Krasnoperekopsky districts rate their localities as the most comfortable to live in, whereas residents of the Simferopol'sky and Belogorsky districts report the lowest comfort levels.

The survey results made it possible to outline a typology of priority problems for residents of rural areas. Respondents were asked to select three most important issues (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of responses to the question "What issues do you think local authorities should prioritize in your settlement?", % of respondents

Response options	%
Paving of streets and avenues	26,2
Wantage of leisure and recreation areas	15,5
Street lighting	13,2
Availability (accessibility) of sports grounds	10,8
Greening of streets and courtyards	6,9
Ensuring cleanliness in the settlement (installation of containers and bins, waste collection and removal)	6,4
Improvement of courtyards	6,2
Other	4,4
Renovation of monuments and memorial signs	3,6
Improvement of parking areas for cars in courtyards	3,4
Improvement of public transport stops	3,4

In the "Other" category (4.4% of total responses) residents cited various types of problems, including the need to replace water supply and sewer systems, gasification, repair of clinics and rural medical stations, sports stadiums and rural cultural centers, as well as inconvenient transportation services. The most frequently mentioned problems include the absence of well-maintained roads (the need for paving and street lighting), the improvement of recreational areas, and the installation of sports and children's playgrounds.

The conditions for implementing the participatory budgeting program in the Republic of Crimea impose certain restrictions on the types of local issues that can be addressed through initiative projects. For instance, one of the most pressing concerns – paving streets and repairing road infrastructure – cannot be resolved within the framework of the program. Such projects as well as those requiring permits for construction or reconstruction are not eligible for submission to the participatory project competition according to the program's regulatory framework in the Republic of Crimea⁴. At the same time the typology of eligible projects includes areas such as the improvement of public spaces, street lighting repairs and the installation of sports grounds, which corresponds to the key problem categories identified by respondents. This is confirmed by data on the types of projects submitted, selected and implemented during the period from 2021 to 2024 (Fig. 2).

⁴ Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea No. 658 of October 16, 2020 (as amended by Resolutions No. 346 of 15.06.2021, No. 274 of 22.04.2022, No. 858 of 13.10.2022, No. 196 of 10.03.2023, No. 673 of 11.09.2023, and No. 292 of 28.05.2024).

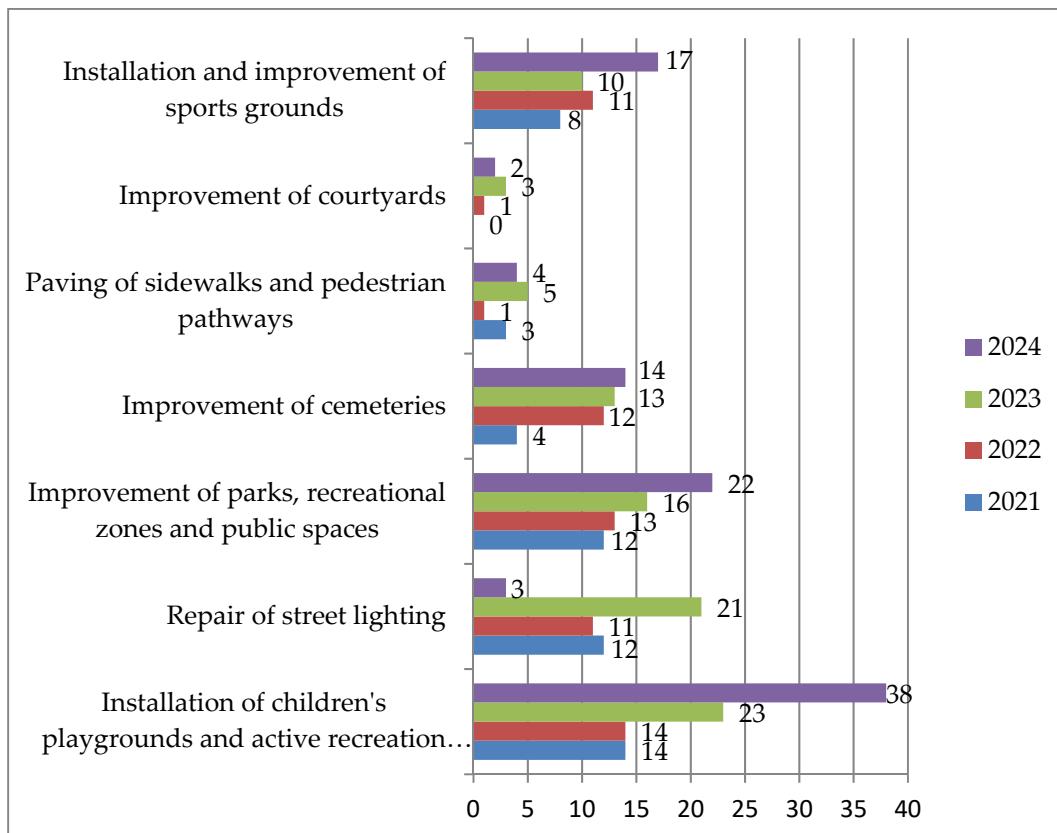


Fig. 2. Typology of participatory budgeting projects implemented in the Republic of Crimea in the period from 2021 to 2024.

Based on the presented data it can be concluded that the most in-demand projects are those related to the installation of children's playgrounds and recreational areas (89 projects implemented over four years), the repair of street lighting (47 projects), the improvement of parks, recreational zones and other public spaces (63 projects), the installation and upgrading of sports facilities (46 projects). Participatory budgeting can thus be considered an effective mechanism for sustainable local development, including in terms of fostering environmentally-oriented practices. Projects aimed at landscaping and greening public spaces play a particularly important role in this context, as they contribute not only to improving the physical environment of rural settlements but also to strengthening social cohesion.

To assess the level of residents' readiness to participate in solving the problems of their localities, respondents were asked the following question: "Do you consider it possible for the residents of your locality to participate in solving the issues of their village?" (Table 3).

Table 3. Distribution of responses to the question "Do you consider it possible for the residents of your locality to participate in solving the problems of their village?", % of respondents

Response options	%
Rather yes	43,7
Definitely yes	36,4
Difficult to answer	10,5
Rather no	7,5
Definitely no	2,0

Based on the data presented in Table 3 it can be observed that residents of the municipal districts of Crimea demonstrate a relatively high level of potential willingness to participate in the life of their locality and in solving the problems. However, as the study shows, their actual participation in the participatory budgeting program is considerably lower (Table 4).

Table 4. Distribution of responses to the question "Have you participated in the participatory budgeting program? If so, please indicate the years of your participation", % of respondents

Response options	%
Have never participated	70,2
Participated in 2023	16,7
Participated in 2022	8,5
Participated in 2021	4,6

The survey results indicate an intensification of resident engagement in the process of initiating projects, while also demonstrating the potential for further growth in civic activity. To confirm the observed increase in citizen participation, we present the dynamics of initiative submissions across municipal districts from 2021 to 2024 (Table 5).

Table 5. Activity levels of municipal districts in the participatory budgeting project competition from 2021 to 2024.

Municipal district	Number of settlements in the district	Number of initiatives submitted to the participatory budgeting projects competition			
		2021	2022	2023.	2024.
Bakhchisaraysky	18	1	0	6	11
Belogorsky	18	6	13	5	8
Dzhankoysky	28	8	9	8	9
Kirovsky	13	1	5	1	11
Krasnogvardeysky	20	9	17	8	14
Krasnoperekopsky	12	2	7	5	6
Leninsky	26	3	21	8	9
Nizhnegorsky	19	5	18	13	16
Pervomaysky	17	1	3	2	1
Razdolnensky	12	1	9	5	6
Sakskiy	24	5	14	5	8
Simferopol'sky	22	18	46	13	7
Sovetsky	12	11	20	10	11
Chernomorsky	11	0	3	2	6
Total		71	185	91	123

It is worth noting that the dynamics of project application submissions were also influenced by changes in the program design. In 2021 and 2022 there were no restrictions on the number of projects that could be submitted by a single rural settlement. However the 2023 competition introduced a number of changes, including a limitation on the number of projects that could be submitted by one participant. In 2021 projects were submitted by 52 settlements; in 2022 – by 90; in 2023 – by 91 and in 2024 – by 117 settlements. The residents of the Sovetsky, Simferopol'sky, Nizhnegorsky and Krasnogvardeysky districts demonstrated the highest levels of activity throughout the four years of program implementation. The lowest levels of participation were recorded in the Chernomorsky and Pervomaysky districts.

The growth in the number of project applications is associated with an increase in public trust toward the program, which has been reinforced by the successful implementation of winning initiative projects. The decision to propose new initiatives is influenced by the belief that participation yields tangible results and contributes to positive changes.

The activation of community involvement in the program is also affected by the level of awareness regarding participatory budgeting, the principles of project competition participation and

the outcomes of the program. As the study revealed, more than half of rural residents are informed about participatory budgeting practices in Crimea (Table 6).

Table 6. Distribution of responses to the question "Have you heard about the participatory budgeting program aimed at state funding for community initiatives addressing local issues?", % of respondents

Response options	%
Yes, I have heard about it	56,3
No, I have not heard about it	30,3
I have heard about it, but do not understand how it works	8,5
Difficult to answer	4,6

The information campaign promoting the participatory budgeting program includes comprehensive media support for the initiative, utilizing the specialized portal "Open Budget of the Republic of Crimea," social media communities, publications in regional printed media and coverage on regional television. However, as the study demonstrates, the most effective means of disseminating information about participatory budgeting remains internal communication within rural settlements (Table 7).

Table 7. Distribution of responses to the question "If you have heard about the participatory budgeting program, what sources provided you with this information?", % of respondents

Response options	%
The head of the village administration	26,9
The internet (excluding village or district websites)	19,3
The head of the district	12,7
The village or district website	12,3
Announcements on the information boards	7,7
An information meeting in the village	7,2
Television	5,5
Neighbors	4,3
Newspapers	4,1

A significant portion of citizens (47.3%) learn about the opportunities offered by the participatory budgeting program from the heads of rural administrations and municipal districts as well as through village meetings. This highlights the importance of interaction between local authorities and residents in fostering community initiatives. The internet also serves as an effective source of information (31.6%), while traditional media (newspapers and television) account for information delivery to only 9.6% of respondents.

When considering participatory budgeting as a tool for fostering community development through the collective resolution of pressing issues, it is important to acknowledge the possibility of declining engagement in cases where citizens mobilize around a specific project and withdraw once their particular need is met [18]. However, an analysis of rural settlements' participation in annual initiative project competitions in the Republic of Crimea shows a relatively high rate of repeated involvement: of the 157 rural settlements that proposed initiatives during the four years of the program 100 participated in the competition more than once. Of these 27 submitted various project ideas over a three-year period and 22 participated during all four years of the program.

The risk of declining civic engagement may also be associated with participation fatigue and imperfections in the procedures for proposing initiatives. However, as shown by the responses of those who participated in the participatory budgeting competition, citizens expressed satisfaction with the organization of the competition process and the support provided for the implementation of winning projects (Table 8).

Table 8. Distribution of responses to the question "If you participated in the participatory budgeting project competition, how satisfied are you with its organization?", % of respondents

Response options	%
Fully satisfied	76,4
Equally satisfied and dissatisfied	20,8
Dissatisfied	2,8

The results indicate that the organization of the competition is positively evaluated by the majority of participants, which contributes to sustaining civic engagement and motivation to participate in the program.

IV. Discussion

The study has shown that the participatory budgeting program implemented in the Republic of Crimea since 2021 represents a significant mechanism for engaging citizens in local decision-making processes and contributes to the formation of institutions of civic participation. The primary goal of the program is to provide residents of rural and urban settlements with the opportunity to independently determine priority areas for territorial development, to initiate and promote projects aimed at improving infrastructure and quality of life. It is important to emphasize that participatory budgeting and sustainable regional development are interconnected concepts aimed at enhancing population well-being and ensuring the long-term balanced development of territories. Participatory budgeting as a form of citizen involvement in the allocation of budgetary funds allows for local needs and priorities to be reflected in the budgeting process, while sustainable development implies a model of regional governance that ensures economic, social, and environmental balance.

The study's findings indicate a high level of potential willingness among residents to be involved in solving local issues: more than 80% of respondents consider such participation feasible, which points to a substantial social resource that can be mobilized under appropriate conditions. However actual involvement in the competitive project process still lags behind this potential: approximately 70% of respondents reported never having participated in project initiation. Nevertheless, as the positive effects of implemented participatory budgeting projects become more visible and public awareness of campaign outcomes increases, a positive dynamic can be observed. For example, the proportion of participants in 2023 (16.7%) is nearly four times greater than in 2021 (4.6%). These figures correlate with the number of applications submitted by municipalities: 52 in 2021 and 117 in 2024. Steady expansion in the program's coverage indicates the emergence of sustainable models of civic engagement at the local level.

The majority of respondents assess living conditions in their settlements as satisfactory while simultaneously acknowledging the presence of solvable problems. It is worth noting that the participatory budgeting program in Crimea largely aligns with the needs of rural communities. According to survey results, the most pressing local problems identified by respondents include the lack of paved roads, insufficient public spaces, and a shortage of recreational, sports, and playground facilities. A large portion of the issues highlighted during the survey have found resolution through implemented participatory budgeting projects.

A significant factor in building trust in the program is the positive experience of its implementation. The high rate of repeat participation by settlements with successful project outcomes suggests that the program is perceived as an effective tool for addressing local issues. This supports the notion not only of the geographic expansion of participation but also of the institutionalization of participatory budgeting as a sustainable practice at the level of local self-governance. Public awareness about the program also plays a critical role in fostering motivation for participation. The most effective communication mechanisms are internal, at the settlement level: the primary sources of information are the heads of local administrations and municipal authorities.

The role of participatory budgeting in sustainable regional development lies in enhancing citizen involvement in project-based decision-making, fostering a sense of responsibility among the population for the development of their region, and increasing public trust in government authorities. It contributes to improving quality of life through the targeted and efficient implementation of projects that reflect residents' actual needs. Additionally it facilitates more rational use of budgetary funds by involving citizens in decision-making, enabling more efficient resource allocation to address the most pressing issues. Participatory budgeting also stimulates regional economic development through projects aimed at infrastructure improvement, entrepreneurship support and tourism development. Moreover it promotes civic engagement, as participatory budgeting serves as a tool for developing civil society by providing a platform for public discussion, problem-solving, and collaboration between citizens and authorities.

It should also be noted that the results of this study may be useful for developing adaptive mechanisms for participatory budgeting not only in Crimea but also in other regions. This approach is strategically oriented not only toward localized improvements in rural infrastructure but also toward the formation of active civic communities capable of jointly determining development priorities with local authorities.

Local social initiatives can and should be viewed as drivers for the development of civil society in the region, as initiative projects contribute to resolving specific local issues and to forming communities actively engaged in creating and implementing strategies for territorial development. Through citizen participation in participatory budgeting the foundations of collective responsibility are laid, social ties are strengthened and conditions are created for building civic identity and expanding dialogue between citizens and local authorities. A promising direction for further research could involve examining the factors of participation sustainability (e.g., motivation, barriers, social outcomes) as well as evaluating the long-term impact of implemented projects on rural territorial development.

References

- [1] Antipyev K.A. (2011). Features of the Local Community Management. *Theory and Practice of Social Development*, 8: 58–59.
- [2] Bolshakova Y.A., Sukhanova T.V. (2015). The Experience of Russian Regions in Sustainable Development the Social Infrastructure of Rural Territories. *Bulletin NGIEI*, 7(50): 5–11.
- [3] Gegedyush N.S. (2014). Structuring Civil Society: Traditions and Modernity. *Izvestiya of Saratov University. New Series. Sociology. Political Science*, 14(1): 54–58.
- [4] Demchuk N.V. (2019). Local Community: Interpretation of the Concept. *Bulletin of the Maykop State Technological University*, 2(41): 111–121.
- [5] Kosygina K.E. (2023). The Role of Local Communities in the Development of Small Territories. *Economic and Social Changes: Facts, Trends, Forecast*, 16(5): 210–229.
- [6] Kuznetsova P.Y. (2018). Population of Municipalities as a Local Community: a Structuralist-constructivist Approach. *State and Municipal Administration: Scientific Notes of the SK ATS*, 1: 184–189.
- [7] Kuzmin P.V., Khalanskaya L.G. (2021). Development of Civil Society in the Republic of Crimea after its Reconnection with Russia. *Izvestiya of Saratov University. New Series. Sociology. Political Science*, 21(3): 316–323.
- [8] Lapin V.A. (1997). Values of Group Interests and the Transformation of Russian Society. *Sociological Studies*, (3): 14–24.
- [9] Molodov O.B. (2016). Problems of Development of Civil Society at the Regional Level. *Problems of Territory Development*, 6(86): 132–146.
- [10] Mosienko N.L. Socio-territorial Structure of Urban Agglomeration Space. Novosibirsk, 2010. 164 p.
- [11] Odintsova A.V. (2024). Problems of Implementing Local Governance Concept in Russia. *Bulletin of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences*, 5: 21–41.
- [12] Petrova I.V. (2023). Proactive Budgeting as a Perspective G2C Technology. *Izvestiya of Saint*

Petersburg State University of Economics, 3-1(141): 165–167.

- [14] Uzdimaeva N.I. (2015). Local Communities and Their Role in Exercising the Right to Local Self-government. *Modern Problems of Science and Education*, (2-2). URL: <https://science-education.ru/ru/article/view?id=22862>.
- [15] Ukhanova Y.V., Paranishcheva I.V. (2019). Prerequisites and Involvement of the Rural Population in the Practice of Civic Participation. *Problems of Territory Development*, 4(102): 132–147.
- [16] Yukhanov N.S. (2009). Russian Civil Society: General, Specific, Singular. In: Civil Society: Theory and Contemporary Practice in the Global and Russian Dimensions (Round Table Materials, 15.09.2009). *Bulletin of RUDN. Political Science Series*, 4: 106–109.
- [17] Bianchi C, Nasi G and Rivenbark W.C. (2021). Implementing Collaborative Governance: Models, Experiences and Challenges. *Public Management Review*, 23(11): 1581–1589.
- [18] Gilman H.R. Democracy Reinvented: Participatory Budgeting and Civic Innovation in America. Washington DC, 2016. 200 p.
- [19] Hillery G.A. Jr. (1955). Definitions of Community: Area of Agreement. *Rural Sociology*, 20(2): 111–123.
- [20] Murphy J.W. and Casanova F.O. (2023). Community-based Work and Participatory Budgeting. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 67(4): 492–504.
- [21] Schugurensky D. and Mook L. (2024). Participatory Budgeting and Local Development: Impacts, Challenges and Prospects. *Local Development & Society*, 5(3): 433–445.
- [22] Staples L. (2012). Community Organizing for Social Justice: Grassroots Groups for Power. *Social Work with Groups*, 35: 287–296.
- [23] Touchton M., McNulty S., Wampler B. (2022). Participatory Budgeting and Community Development: A Global Perspective. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 67(4): 520–536.
- [24] Williams G. (2004). Evaluating participatory development: tyranny, power and (re)politicization. *Third World Quarterly*, 25(3): 557–578.