

Strategic partnership funded by Interreg Baltic Sea Region  
Programme  
Project: “Empowering Participatory Budgeting in the Baltic Sea  
Region – EmPaci”

## Documentation of 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot

**Bielsko-Biała (Poland)**

*(for the full report of all pilot municipalities, see main document)*

### GoA 2.3 Output 2

December 2021



EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

---

**EmPaci**

**Status: Final**

Responsible for the content solely publisher/presenter; it does not reflect the views of the European Commission or any related financial body. Those institutions do not bear responsibility for the information set out in the material.

## Content

<b>Bielsko-Biała/Poland</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Situation before the PB implementation</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Development of the 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. Implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Results of 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5. Assessment of 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot and enhancement for 2<sup>nd</sup> PB pilot</b>	<b>17</b>

## Bielsko-Biała/Poland

### 1. Situation before the PB implementation

#### Municipality-related factors

##### 1. The PB is implemented for

- ☐ District ☒ Municipality ☐ Planning region

##### 2. The budget cycle of the public authority is

- ☒ Annual ☐ Bi-annual

##### 3. The financial situation of the public authority characterised by

- ☐ Excess revenues ☒ Nearly balanced revenues and expenses ☐ Excess expenses

##### 4. With respect to the repayment of incurred debt, the public authority is confronted with

- ☐ No difficulties ☐ Difficulties to repay debts over an extended period of time

##### 5. In the public authority, the council always has the final decision right about the implementation of voted PB projects (by local/national) laws and regulations:

- ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, it is prescribed by local/national laws.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

It is prescribed by an own PB regulation.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Citizen-related factors

##### 6. The citizenry is composed as follows:

- 6a. Number of citizens: 170 663 – 2019r.  
 6b. Share of females (% of citizens): 52,73% (89 995) – 2019r.  
 6c. Share of persons aged below 18 (% of citizens): 17,39% (29 677) – 2019r.  
 6d. Share of persons aged 65 and above (% of citizens): 21,39% (36 503) – 2019r.  
 6e. Share of unemployed persons (% of citizens): 1,07% (1 830) – 2019r.  
 6f. Share of unemployed females (% of unemployed persons): 54,7% (1 001) – 2019r.

##### 6f. Particularities of the population are the following:

At the end of 2019 year the population of Bielsko-Biala amounted to 170 663 people, with a population density of 1 371 people/km<sup>2</sup>. Almost 53% of the total population are women, which gives the number of 89 995 people.

At the end of 2019, nearly 1/4 of the population of Bielsko-Biala was included in the post-working age group, and more than 17% people did not reach the age of 15, which is the lower limit of the productive age. In working age (with different retirement threshold for women and men) there were over 97 000 residents, which constituted over 57% of the total.

At the end of 2019 the unemployment rate in Bielsko-Biala was 1,07%. Unemployment ratio for men in working age was 1,6% and for women 2,2%.

## PB process-related factors

### 7. PB is prescribed by law in the country / public authority:

☒ Yes ☐ No

**7a. If yes, based on this law / regulation:** Act of 8 March 1990 on Municipal Self-Government (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 506)

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190000506/T/D20190506L.pdf>

### 8. PB was implemented before the EmPaci PB pilot:

☒ Yes ☐ No

*If yes:*

☒ City-level ☐ District ☐ Region

#### 8a. How many PB cycles have been completed before the EmPaci PB pilot in 2020?

7 (edition 2014 – 2020) (*indicate number of completed cycle*)

#### 8b. Does an own PB regulation/statute already exist?

☒ Yes ☐ No

#### 8c. The PB process of previous PB cycles is:

The first edition of the participatory budget of Bielsko-Biala was based on experience and organizational and legal solutions developed and implemented by other cities in Poland. Budget: 444 444 EUR. In the first edition, 171 projects were submitted 108 of them were positively verified. 28 481 eligible residents participated in the vote, i.e. 20,6% of those entitled.

The second edition of the participatory budget of Bielsko-Biala amounted to 833 333 EUR. In the second edition of the participatory budget, the residents submitted a total of 79 projects (including 32 city-wide and 47 residential projects). 62 projects were positively verified (24 city-wide and 38 residential). The number of valid votes cast was 10 626 – 7,15% of persons entitled to vote.

The third edition of the participatory budget was based on the tried and tested solutions used in the first and second editions. The budget was 833 333,00 EUR. 128 project proposals were registered at the City Hall. This number included 79 residential projects and 49 city-wide projects. The number of valid votes cast was 10 899.

The fourth edition of the participatory budget was based on the tried and tested solutions used in the second and third editions. The budget was 833 333 EUR. In total, 86 city-wide and residential projects were positively verified. A total of 39 458 valid votes were cast in the online and direct voting.

The fifth edition of the participatory budget contained several changes compared to the previous ones. The budget was 1 000 000 EUR. 106 project proposals were registered. In this number, there were 80 residential projects and 26 city-wide projects. A total of 61 913 valid votes were cast in the online and direct voting.

The sixth edition of the participatory budget was based on the tried and tested solutions used in the fifth edition. The budget was 1 000 000 EUR. 60 project proposals were registered. In this number, there were 46 residential projects and 14 city-wide projects. A total of 13 959 valid votes were cast in the online voting.

The seventh edition of the participatory budget was based on the tried and tested solutions used in the fifth and sixth editions. The budget was 1 333 333 EUR. 83 project proposals were registered. In this number, there were 62 residential projects and 21 city-wide projects. A total of 13 895 valid votes were cast in the online and direct voting.

#### **8d. PB was initiated based on the initiative of the following persons or group of persons:**

In 2013, the city of Bielsko-Biała joined the implementation of the participatory budget for the first time. This is thanks to the councilors of the Bielsko-Biała City Council, who put forward an initiative to create such a budget as a form of social consultations. To this end, a special team composed of councilors was established. The team were headed by the vice-president of the City Council, Jarosław Klimaszewski. After several months of discussions and meetings with representatives of city auxiliary units, non-governmental organizations and residents, the principles of the participatory budget was created.

#### **8e. The main actors in implementing previous PB cycles were:**

In Bielsko-Biała, the PB was implemented by the PB Team consisting of all those interested in getting involved in such work - residents, councilors, officials. Every inhabitant could join the team at any time and regardless of the degree of advancement in its work. The persons who participated in the whole process of work on the PB regulations and who organized the findings and conclusions resulting from the team's discussions were the officials coordinating the implementation of the PB mechanism in the local government.

#### **8f. The main success factors of previous PB cycles?**

Both the rules governing the participatory budget as well as the voting rights have changed over the course of the editions. The nature of the projects submitted and the amount of funds allocated by the city authorities to the entire participatory budget also changed. Also the maximum amounts for project proposals submitted by residents were adapted. It should be emphasized that from the very beginning the

Participatory Budget of Bielsko-Biała was aimed at disseminating the idea of activating residents, including the development of civil society. Thanks to this type of consultations, the city was given the opportunity to familiarize itself with the residents' expectations on an annual basis, as well as to gain the ability to raise their abilities in organizing social discourse.

**8g. The main hindrances and limitations experiences during previous PB cycles were:**

Opponents stress that the participatory budget has been depreciated, and its role has declined in recent years, becoming a kind of fashion for local government authorities and a façade activity. Antagonists claim that after the first wave of optimism, disappointments related to the increasingly visible appropriation of the participatory budget by municipal organizational units trying to save their budgets through project proposals submitted by dependent applicants have come. Some have observed attempts to appropriate participatory budgets by community councils. It points out the unfavorable phenomenon of allowing a large number of investment projects aimed at saving neglected road infrastructure or modernization of public facilities, which should be financed from sources other than the participatory budget. Opponents say that problems with timely implementation of winning tasks have also discouraged residents from submitting projects. Some critics explicitly point out that media coverage around the participatory budget serves only local government authorities awaiting re-election.

## 2. Development of the 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot

### Citizen- and PB process-related factors

**9. PB is implemented to realize the following objectives:**

The participatory budgeting process should follow clear rules, a set of rules, known to all process participants before starting the entire procedure, and which should not be subject to changes during the process. Another element is the openness of the participatory process, which should be based on uncomplicated and understandable procedures, and the organizers should ensure their transparency and provide assistance and support at individual stages for all those willing to join the entire process. Therefore, it was important to make sure that a wide group of residents were informed about the possibility of participating in the participatory process. To this end, a consultation point was established to advise residents on preparing and submitting the project to the participatory budget.

Until now, Bielsko-Biała has regularly provided space for debate with the inhabitants in the form of annual meetings. However, due to the amendment of the Act on Municipal Self-Government, once established, the rules of the PB procedure are no longer subject to significant changes, so these meetings were abandoned.

**10. The following target groups are aimed to be involved in PB:**

Inhabitants of the Bielsko-Biała Commune especially the elderly and those not using the Internet.

**11. Based on the analysis of the citizen survey, the following needs of citizens were taken into account for PB implementation:**

In order to reach a larger group of people from different backgrounds and of different ages, a consultation point was organized to advise residents on the preparation and submission of the project.

**PB process-related factors****12. The following steps were undertaken to develop ideas and concepts for the PB process:**

In Bielsko-Biała the participatory budget operates under the Act on Municipal Self-Government of March 8, 1990. Residents decide in direct voting about the part of the commune budget expenditure once for a year. Tasks selected within the participatory budget are included in the budget resolution of the commune. The commune council during the work on the draft budgetary resolution may not delete or change significantly the tasks selected within the framework of the participatory budget. The legislator stipulated that in cities with poviat rights, the implementation of the participatory budget is obligatory. The amount allocated for distribution within it must be at least 0,5% of the municipality's expenditure included in the last submitted budget report. Detailed provisions referring to the procedures for the participatory budget procedure will be codified on the basis resolution of individual municipalities.

Therefore, all legal regulations concerning PB in Bielsko-Biała cannot be changed, and thus it is not possible to formulate new PB concepts.

**12a. Internal training activities were organised:**

☐ Yes ☒ No

The training activities, due to COVID-19, were postponed to early 2021 in the form of webinars for officials.

**13. Citizens were involved in the development of the PB cycle the following way:**

Not applicable.

**14. Citizens were informed about PB initiation in the following way:**

Residents are informed on an ongoing basis about the essence and principles of the implementation of individual stages through the official website at [www.obywatelskibb.pl](http://www.obywatelskibb.pl) and in local media and promotional materials.

**14a. An own dissemination & communication plan was developed for this:**

☐ Yes ☒ No

**15. These were the (internal and external) main promoters and success factors in the development of PB:**

Bielsko-Biała Municipality Council

**16. These were the main opponents and hindrances in the development of PB and it was coped with these in the following way:**

The participatory budget as an instrument involving the inhabitants in the life of the local self-government community has its supporters and opponents. Opponents stress that the participatory budget has been depreciated, and its role has declined in recent years, becoming a kind of fashion for local government authorities and a façade activity. Antagonists claim that after the first wave of optimism, disappointments related to the increasingly visible appropriation of the participatory budget by municipal organizational units trying to save their budgets through project proposals submitted by dependent applicants have come. Some have observed attempts to appropriate participatory budgets by community councils. It points out the unfavorable phenomenon of allowing a large number of investment projects aimed at saving neglected road infrastructure or modernization of public facilities, which should be financed from sources other than the participatory budget. Opponents say that problems with timely implementation of winning tasks have also discouraged residents from submitting projects. Some critics point out explicitly that media coverage around the participatory budget serves only local government authorities awaiting re-election.

Local government authorities continue to support the idea of a participatory budget and reach a broad group of its recipients to the widest extent, in particular through broadly understood educational and information campaigns and to create a space for social discourse.

**17. A project team for the PB development was formed:**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**17a. If yes, the project team was composed of the following functions and it was organized as follows:**

The team consists of employees of the Municipal Council Office. The team has been operating since 2013.

**17b. When and where are different types of resources (people, knowledge, funding) needed and made available in the pilot cases**

At various stages of the team's work and at various stages of developing the principles of the local PB model, experts dealing with this mechanism were consulted, as well as representatives of other local governments, who are responsible for running PB in their municipalities.

**18. For the IT part / online implementation of the PB, the following considerations and steps were taken:**

For several years now, in Bielsko-Biała, you can vote for a participatory budget electronically using a specially prepared form on the PB website. By voting electronically, you can use any device with access to the Internet, such as a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, tablet:

[https://obywatelskibb.pl/aktualnosci/20200904/124/glosowanie\\_elektroniczne\\_i\\_tradycyjne\\_wazne\\_informacje.html](https://obywatelskibb.pl/aktualnosci/20200904/124/glosowanie_elektroniczne_i_tradycyjne_wazne_informacje.html)



**19. In case PB existed before the 1st pilot by the EmPaci project:****19a. The following suggestions for changes were made from the EmPaci team to improve the process:**

Therefore, all legal regulations concerning PB in Bielsko-Biała cannot be changed, and thus it is not possible to formulate new PB concepts.

**19b. Of these suggestions, the following were implemented in the PB pilot: -****19c. Of these suggestions, the following were not implemented in the PB pilot due to the following reasons:**

-

**20. The following documents, manuals, regulations were developed and used during the development of the PB process:** [https://partycypacjaobywatelska.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/BP\\_krokpokroku.pdf](https://partycypacjaobywatelska.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/BP_krokpokroku.pdf)

### 3. Implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot

**21. These are the general steps of the PB process after final approval:****Stage I: Education and information campaign**

The Participatory Budget, implemented in 2021, is already the eighth edition in Bielsko-Biała. Each edition arouses interest among the residents, which results in the current number of submitted projects and the number of people participating in the voting for approved projects. Residents were informed on an ongoing basis about the essence and principles of the implementation of individual stages through the official website at [www.obywatelskibb.pl](http://www.obywatelskibb.pl) and in local media and promotional materials.

Moreover, an educational and information campaign was conducted through social media: Facebook, Twitter, leaflets and posters.

**Stage II: Submission of projects by residents**

Every inhabitant of Bielsko-Biała could apply for the implementation of his or her city or district project within the amounts provided for in the Participatory Budget. The project of the task is submitted on the appropriate form together with the required attachments and statements, which is available on the website or for download at designated points of the Municipal Office, including Consultation Points. The application for a city project must be supported by signatures of at least 30 Bielsko-Biała residents. No list of support is required for a district project.

**Stage III: Evaluation and evaluation of projects**

The submitted projects were verified for formal, legal and technical correctness. The cost estimate of the project and the possibility of its execution were also checked. The applicants had to bear in mind that the verification took into account the fact that the estimated cost of the realization of the city project could not exceed 800 000 PLN ( $\approx$  178 200 EUR) gross, whereas the gross cost of the district project was 280 000 PLN ( $\approx$  62 400 EUR).

#### Stage IV: Residents' vote on projects

All the municipal and housing estate projects, which passed the full verification, took part in the vote. It was possible to vote both electronically using a specially prepared interactive voting form on the website and in the traditional way, i.e. through voting cards.

As part of Stage IV, a promotional campaign was conducted in social media, among others on Facebook and Instagram, encouraging the residents of Bielsko-Biała to take part in the vote. The advertisement was addressed to the residents of Bielsko-Biała living in an area with a diameter of 6 miles from the city center, aged 18 to 65+, of all genders and speaking Polish. Moreover, a group of non-standard recipients was created, including locally engaged users. Remarketing campaigns were also conducted, including those based on a group of so-called Lookalikes, i.e. people similar to specific users of the ARR Facebook page.

A total of 14 627 valid votes were cast via the Internet and voting cards, including 6 132 votes for city-wide projects and 8 495 votes for housing estate projects.

#### Stage V: List of selected projects to be implemented in 2021.

After counting the collected votes, the Mayor of Bielsko-Biała gave a list of recommended projects with a detailed amount for each project. A complete summary of the voting process was made public along with information on the results.

**21a. Total annual PB budget** (city + district projects): 2 222 222 EUR

**21b. Annual PB budget per citizen:** 13,02 EUR

**21c. If applicable, budget earmarked for related internal work, communications etc.:** Not applicable

**21d. The PB has been designed as direct democratic tool** (citizens' vote = final decision):

☒ Yes ☐ No

**21e. The PB is designed for**

☐ Region/City projects only ☐ District projects only ☒ Both

**21f. Persons eligible participating in the PB:**

Age limits: no age limit

Definition of persons: A city-wide project may be submitted by an inhabitant of Bielsko-Biała, and a district project may be submitted by an inhabitant of the given District to which the project relates. Each inhabitant of Bielsko-Biała (there is no age limit) can vote for one city-wide project and one district project, however, only the inhabitant of the District to which the project relates can vote for a district project.

Number of persons (in total): 170 663

Number of person (% of citizens): 100%.

**21g. The following actions were taken to ensure that only eligible persons made proposals / voted:** Not applicable - everyone could submit a project/vote

**22. These were the specific dates planned for the PB process after final approval of the PB development:**

- Stage I: Education and information campaign – from 1.03.2020
- Stage II: Submission of projects by residents – from 23.03. – 20.05.2020
- Stage III: Evaluation and evaluation of projects – from 21.05. – 2.09.2020
- Stage IV: Residents' vote on projects – from 21.09. – 5.10.2020
- Stage V: List of selected projects to be implemented in 2021. – 13.10.2020

**23. These amendments were made to the plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic:**

- the deadline for submission of project proposals has been extended
- training for residents was abandoned, and online counseling was introduced instead

**24. For citizen involvement in the PB-phases (e.g. information, proposal, co-creation, voting phase), the following steps were taken and events organized:**

A consultation point was set up to provide advice during the project submission and evaluation phase. The inhabitants of the community could obtain all the information about when and how to submit a project, as well as during the completion of formal comments.

The counseling was carried out for a total of

- project submission stage = 24 district projects and 8 city-wide projects
- opinion stage = 15 district projects and 3 city-wide projects

Consultations lasted from May to June 2020.

**25. For the activation of specific target groups of the PB, the following steps were taken and events organized:**

A consultation point was set up to provide advice during the project submission and evaluation phase. The inhabitants of the community could obtain all the information about when and how to submit a project, as well as during the completion of formal comments.

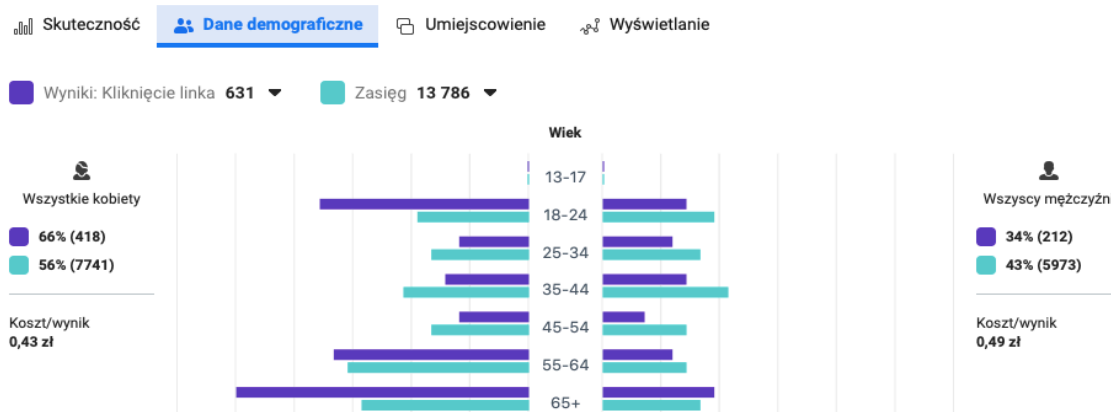
The counseling was carried out for a total of

- project submission stage = 24 district projects and 8 city-wide projects
- opinion stage = 15 district projects and 3 city-wide projects

Consultations lasted from May to June 2020.

**25a. For the activation of women into the PB, the following steps were taken and events organized:**

The conducted information campaign in social media reached 13 786 people, 56% of whom were women (7 741).



## 26. The following actions were taken to provide information about PB in a citizen-friendly manner:

A promotional campaign was conducted in social media, among others on Facebook and Instagram, encouraging the inhabitants of Bielsko-Biała to take part in the vote. The advertisement was addressed to the residents of Bielsko-Biała living in an area with a diameter of 6 miles from the city center, aged 18 to 65+, of all genders and speaking Polish. Moreover, a group of non-standard recipients was created, including locally engaged users. Remarketing campaigns were also conducted, including those based on a group of so-called Lookalikes, i.e. people similar to specific users of the ARR Facebook page.

## 27. The following actions were especially taken to achieve a high participation rate:

- a promotional campaign in social media was conducted
- counseling was carried out in hours friendly to residents

## 28. The following steps were taken to train the own actors for PB:

A series of webinars was planned, which had to be postponed to the beginning of 2021 due to COVID-19.

29. If applicable, the following steps were taken to train actors in other municipalities (outside EmPaci-project): Not applicable

## 4. Results of 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot

### 31. The PB was limited to certain areas of the budget or priorities of programmes only:

- ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### 31a. Proposals and votes were limited to the following areas / priorities:

There were no limitations.

**Proposal phase:****32a. The proposal phase was implemented in the following way:**

Each inhabitant of Bielsko-Biała could submit an application for the implementation of their city-wide or housing estate project within the amounts provided in the Civic Budget. The project of the task is submitted on the appropriate form together with the required attachments and statements, which is available on the website or for download at designated points of the Municipal Office, including Consultation Points. The application for a city-wide project must be supported by signatures of at least 30 Bielsko-Biała residents. No list of support is required for a housing estate project.

As part of the stage, a Consultation Point called "I submit a project" was run, where the residents were advised on preparing and submitting a project to the participatory budget.

**32b. Number of citizens participating:** 69

**32c. Participation rate (% of citizens):** 0,041%

**32d. Number of proposals received in total:** 69

**32e. Main categories of proposals:**

Among the city-wide projects you can find those that are:

- dedicated to the youngest residents of the city or their slightly older colleagues, as well as those supporting seniors and people with special needs;
- those that focus on ecology, development and management of urban green areas, as well as those that are guided by the proverb "in a healthy body a healthy spirit";
- accumulate artistic values or take care of the safety of residents and
- support the development of the scientific or business sphere of the city.

The district projects concerned such topics as:

- modernization of playgrounds, playgrounds, treadmills; renovation of streets, sidewalks, footbridges;
- creation of local parking lots;
- development of areas for parks, squares, dog runways, outdoor gyms, sports facilities;
- equipping housing estate libraries, Municipal Cultural Centre or local Voluntary Fire Service units.

The aim of these projects is mainly to improve the conditions of functioning of the residents of the estate and to bend over their expectations in terms of culture, sports, education, etc.

**32f. Information provided to citizens after completion of the proposal phase:**

On the official website of the Participatory Budget of Bielsko-Biała detailed descriptions of registered projects have been published, which correspond to the content contained in the project proposal forms submitted by their authors.

**Feasibility check:****33a. A feasibility check of proposals or voted projects was implemented:**

☒ Yes, of the proposals      ☐ Yes, of the voted projects      ☐ No

**33b. The feasibility check was implemented in the following way:**

The submitted projects were verified for formal, legal and technical correctness. The cost estimate of the project and the possibility of its execution were also checked. The applicants had to bear in mind that the verification took into account the fact that the estimated cost of the realization of the city-wide project could not exceed 177 777 EUR gross, whereas the gross cost of the housing estate project was 62 222 EUR.

**33c. If applicable, political decision-makers were involved in the feasibility check in the following way:**

Not applicable

**33d. If applicable, citizens making specific proposals were involved in the following way:** Not applicable**33e. The difficulties that became apparent through the feasibility check:** None**33f. As a result of the feasibility check, the PB process should be changed as follows:** Not applicable**33g. Ratio of ideas given vrs. plans that make it to voting stage:** 72%**Voting phase:****34a. The voting phase was implemented in the following way:**

In the current edition you could vote:

- 1) electronically using a specially prepared form on the PB website and
- 2) traditionally by means of a ballot paper issued in "Voting Points".

Voting electronically, you could use any device with access to the Internet such as a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, tablet.

**34b. Each citizen was given the following number of votes:**

Every inhabitant of Bielsko-Biała (there is no age limit) could express his or her support by voting for one city-wide project and one local (housing estate) project, however, only the inhabitant of the housing estate to which the project relates can express support for the (local) project.

**34b. Number of citizens voting:** 10 666**34c. Participation rate (% of citizens):** 6,25%**34d. Number of votes received in total:** 14 627**34e. Results of the votes (which projects with which amounts and votes were winning):****City-wide projects:**

- 332 trees and 5 branches – 1 965 votes
- BB Firefighter's Training Ground – 1 377 votes

**District projects:**

Estate	Project	Votes
Aleksandrowice	Walkway with safe and marked crosswalk	45
Biała Krakowska	"Mini Boulevards on the Niva River."	154
Biała Północ	Resting place - the Rosta housing estate park	86
	Development of green areas for a soccer pitch	71
Biała Śródmieście	Modernization of the playground "BIAŁA ŚRÓDMIEŚCIE"	465
Biała Wschód	"Residential Friendly Library" - Modernization of the District Public Library and renovation of the housing estate sidewalks	91
Bielsko Południe	Bielsko Południe - greenery with history in the background	139
	Parking for residents in the Grażyny housing estate	139
Dolne Przedmieście	Improving pedestrian safety by renovating sidewalks in the area of buildings at 1.3 Starobielska Street; 4 Asnyka Street; 3 Czecha Street	91
Górne Przedmieście	Improving safety on foot by replacing the pavement in the area of buildings at Sobieskiego Street / Moniuszki Street	186
Grunwaldzkie	Integration - from childhood to seniority	139
Hałcnów	Hałcnów Skatepark	405
Kamienica	Recreation and leisure mini-park at Grondysa Street in Kamienica	360
Karpackie	Family recreation area	206
Komorowice Krakowskie	Revitalization of sports and recreation space at the Primary School No. 29	637
Komorowice Śląskie	Extension of the athletic track at the Primary School No. 30	154
Kopernika	Polish Mother's Square	159
Leszczyny	Residential Service - modernization of the training and operational base of the Voluntary Fire Brigade Bielsko-Biała Leszczyny and purchase of equipment	157
Lipnik	Integrated Lipnik (order, recreation, safety, activity)	264
Mieszka I	A town of traffic and jumping away on the school premises on Asnyka Street	106
Mikuszowice Krakowskie	Equipping the multifunctional auditorium and ceramic studio of the MDK Culture Center in Mikuszowice Krakowskie, operating until December 2019 as a Lighting Room located in a pre-war building at 302 Żywiecka Street in Bielsko-Biała	273
Mikuszowice Śląskie	Recreation area for dogs in Olszówka	197
Piastowskie	Improving road traffic safety by replacing the pavement of Księcia Przemysława Street	161

Polskich Skrzydeł	Renovation of the pedestrian route in the Polish Wings housing estate on the section between Ikara Street and the pavilion at 8 Trzech Diamentów Street	134
Stare Bielsko	Culture Education Safety	260
Straconka	Straconka my home	200
Wapienica	Construction of pumptrack and revitalization of Manhattan in Wapienica	473
Wojska Polskiego	A win-win friendly estate	218
Złote Łany	Modernization of a publicly accessible pitch for children and youth from the Złote Łany housing estate	540

**34e. Total PB budget realized / implemented:** 1 899 348 EUR

**34f. Was part of the total PB budget unused?**

☐ No ☒ Yes, unused ☐ Yes, otherwise designated

**If yes, why was part of the budget unused?**

In order for a project to be included in the list of selected projects, it had to be supported by at least 2% of the residents of a given housing estate. Unused funds in the amount of 322 873 EUR come from the district where the projects did not receive the required support.

**34g. Information provided to citizens after completion of the voting phase:**

After counting the collected votes, the President of the City of Bielsko-Biała defined a list of recommended projects with a detailed amount for each project. A complete summary of the voting process was made public along with information on the results.

On the basis of the list of recommended projects, the departments or city organizational units competent for the implementation of specific, winning projects in 2021 were established. For this purpose, the President of the City issued an appropriate order.

**34h. Extent to which the approved projects can be realized:**

Accepted projects may only concern tasks that can be carried out within one budget year (2021) and fall within the competence of the municipality. In the case of tasks that require a location in a specific area, it must be an area where the municipality can legally spend public funds on these tasks.

**34i. Timeframe planned to realize the approved projects:** 2021 year



**34j. Extent to which citizens were involved in the realization of the approved projects:**

During the implementation of the winning projects in 2021 the designers will work closely with the Municipality. They may, for example, agree to change their location or merge their project with another one.

**35. Citizens were informed about the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot in the following ways:**

Please post link to accountability report:

<http://empaci.eu/index.php?id=40>

[https://obywatelskibb.pl/aktualnosci/20201012/128/dziekujemy\\_za\\_udzial\\_w\\_glosowaniu.html](https://obywatelskibb.pl/aktualnosci/20201012/128/dziekujemy_za_udzial_w_glosowaniu.html)

**36. Other actors involved (e.g. local council) were informed about the completion of the 1st PB pilot in the following ways:**

Municipal authorities - at monthly meetings for public officials

## 5. Assessment of 1<sup>st</sup> PB pilot and enhancement for 2<sup>nd</sup> PB pilot

**37. Objectives for PB as specified in Question 9 were reached as follows:**

Having regard to the fact that the last two editions of PB in our city did not enjoy so much interest from both authors of ideas and voters, and taking into account the pandemic period, we believe that this edition had good results.

- First of all, the launch of the consultation point did not exclude from the participatory process elderly people who do not have the IT equipment and knowledge to effectively submit their own ideas.
- Secondly, the preparation of a project proposal and the elimination of irregularities accompanying the project submission procedure showed the real value of the projects as thoughtful and responsive to local needs. In the participatory process it is extremely important for the residents to make mature decisions, with the expected full awareness of responsibility for the choice made.
- Thirdly, our analysis of the results of the early editions indicated the exhaustion of the ideas of applicants locating projects in urban space. This could have been a disturbing phenomenon that required an appropriate response. Thanks to our counseling, we were able to direct the authors of the ideas to locate their project proposals in such a way that they would meet the expectations of a given community and respond to their problems.
- Fourthly, the pandemic period associated with COVID-19, which occurred exactly when the call for design proposals for PB was announced, could have caused the interest of authors of ideas to drastically decrease. However, comparing this year's edition and the previous ones, it can be concluded

that they are similar, and our work at the Consultation Point resulted in the interest of this year's edition.

**38. Besides the objectives for PB as specified in Question 9, the following additional issues can be seen as a success for the PB pilot:**

As far as the structure of voters is concerned, we were most interested in some facts:

- Firstly, the most numerous group that was the recipient of our social media information campaign were persons 65+. Thus, this group accounted for 37% of all voters, which makes us think that this group is one of the more active.
- Secondly, the gender structure has shown for many years that women are a more involved group in the participation process. Polish women are better educated than men and since 2000 more of them have university degrees. Along with a better education, women's professional aspirations grow. At work, they can be more compulsory, more accurate and more motivated. They also have a strong sense of responsibility for their loved ones and their own environment, which makes them more interested in politics, participate more actively in public life and are more interested in social issues.
- Thirdly, we see the need to involve more children and young people in the participation process, which we hope will be successful thanks to the lack of age restriction and an effective educational campaign.

Unfortunately, in our commune there are no statistics on the distribution of voters in district, which could give more information about the needs of a given group.

**39. Some objectives for PB as specified in Question 9 were not reached due to the following reasons:**

Not applicable

**40. To our knowledge, the following elements of the PB process are innovative compared to other PB initiatives in the BSR:**

The last edition of PB breaks with the previous practices, focusing on the quality of dialogue between the office and the residents and, most importantly, on an in-depth dialogue between the residents themselves in individual districts.

The strength of PB is replacing the discussion on individual projects with a discussion on the needs of the whole district. This is facilitated by consultation points, whose task is to conduct cyclical meetings with residents in each district of the city. These meetings start with mapping and diagnosing the needs of the district, through collecting ideas for projects, and finally, together with the residents and with the help of officials, develop specific projects to be implemented.

### **41. The PB benefitted from the transnational approach of the EmPaci project in the following way:**

On the basis of the developed training materials, a series of webinars for officials will be organized in order to summarize this year's PB edition and its implementation next year and to prepare for the 2022 PB edition.

### **42. These changes are already planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> PB pilot to better reach objectives of PB:**

In the next edition of PB we want to examine the possibility of organizing voting with blockchain. As it is not an easy undertaking due to legal aspects, we would like to present to the Municipality the advantages of blockchain, i.e.:

- Thanks to its decentralization and the applied public key cryptography technologies, any attempts to falsify the results can be immediately caught;
- tracking of voting results can be done in real time;
- ease of voting from around the world via the internet;
- possibility to change the vote until the voting is closed.

### **43. These changes are already planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> PB pilot to better involve target groups:**

The following actions are planned:

- a campaign in social media, which has already clearly shown us that the largest group of recipients are people aged 65+.
- no age limit, which would allow the youngest group of residents to participate in the participatory process, which could also lead to achieving their own goals.
- sealing the voting system and eliminating the irregularities accompanying voting with cards. In the participatory process it is extremely important that the residents make mature decisions, having full awareness of the responsibility for the choice made.