

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

Documentation of 2nd PB pilot

Bielsko-Biała (Poland)

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

GoA 2.3 Output 4

December 2021



EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

EmPaci

Status: Final

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Content

Content	2
Bielsko-Biała/Poland	3
1. Situation before the 2 nd PB implementation	3
2. Development of the 2 nd PB pilot	4
3. Implementation of the 2 nd PB pilot	7
4. Results of the 2 nd PB pilot	12
5. Assessment of PB pilot and potential for enhancements	18

Bielsko-Biała/Poland

1. Situation before the 2nd PB implementation

Have there been any major changes in the key data about municipality-related or citizen-related factors compared to the previous PB pilot?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Changes occurred to the following aspects:

Citizen-related factors

6. The citizenry is composed as follows:

- 6a. Number of citizens:** 169 756 – 2020r.
- 6b. Share of females (% of citizens):** 52,77% (89 574) – 2020r.
- 6c. Share of persons aged below 18 (% of citizens):** 17,51% (29 732) – 2020r.
- 6d. Share of persons aged 65 and above (% of citizens):** 26,04% (44 209) – 2020r.
(+5% points, + ca. 5 000 persons)
- 6e. Share of unemployed persons (% of citizens):** 1,67% (2 832) – 2020r.
- 6f. Share of unemployed females (% of unemployed persons):** 53,39% (1 512) – 2020r.

6f. Particularities of the population are the following :

At the end of 2020 year the population of Bielsko-Biala amounted to 169 756 people, with a population density of 1 363 people/km². Almost 53% of the total population are women, which gives the number of 89 574 people.

At the end of 2020, more than 1/4 Bielsko-Biala residents were in the post-working age group (21,4% in 2019), and almost 15% 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 95 000 residents, which constituted over 56% of the total.

At the end of 2020 the unemployment rate in Bielsko-Biala was 3,00%. Unemployment ratio for men in working age was 2,6% and for women 3,3%.

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: (provide name and link):

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>

7b. The law has changed compared to the 1st PB pilot with respect to the following rules (if applicable): n/a

2. Development of the 2nd PB pilot

Citizen- and PB process-related factors

9. PB is implemented to realize the following objectives:

The PB 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 residents 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.

9a. Which objectives have changed compared to the 1st PB pilot? Have objectives been added or abandoned? n/a

10. The following target groups are aimed to be involved in PB, and why:

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

11. In case an analysis of citizen satisfaction of the 1st PB pilot has been conducted before developing the 2nd PB pilot, the following needs of citizens were taken into account for the 2nd PB pilot's implementation:

During the implementation of the 2nd Pilot Action, consultation points continued to be run where advisory services were provided to residents. This provided all interested persons with a direct opportunity to consult their ideas. As it resulted from the satisfaction analysis conducted in the 1st Pilot Action, over 90% of respondents were in favour of this form of communication.

PB process-related factors

12. The following steps were undertaken to develop ideas and concepts for the 2nd PB cycle and the following changes were implemented compared to the 1st PB pilot:

Since the participatory budget in Bielsko-Biała operates on the basis of the Act of 8 March 1990 on Municipal Self-Government and all legal regulations cannot be changed, and thus it is not possible to formulate new concepts of PB, after consultations with the City Council Office it was decided that the 2nd cycle of PB will be held on the same principles as the first.

13. Citizens were involved in the development of the 2nd PB cycle the following way and the following changes were implemented compared to the 1st PB pilot: n/a.

14. Citizens were informed about the initiation of the 2nd PB cycle in the following way and the following changes were implemented compared to the 1st PB pilot:

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 and in local media and promotional materials. In addition, a social media promotional campaign was carried out with a reach of over 48 000 residents.

15. These were the (internal and external) main promoters and success factors in the development of the 2nd PB cycle and the following changes appeared compared to the 1st PB pilot:

Bielsko-Biała Municipality Council

15a. Has an Advisory Board been installed to develop the 2nd PB run? If yes, please describe composition and organisation: Bielsko-Biała Municipality Council:

- Director of the Municipal Council Office
- Deputy Director of the Municipal Council Office

15c. These were the role models that were used as an inspiration for own PB

The Bielsko-Biała Commune has a lot of experience in PB implementation. The participatory budget in Poland was introduced relatively late, in compared to well known international examples such as those in Brazil. In 2013, the city of Bielsko-Biała joined the implementation of the participatory budget for the first time.

16. These were the main opponents and hindrances in the development of the 2nd PB cycle and it was coped with these in the following way:

The only obstacle resulting from the implementation of the PB in 2021 is the continuing state of COVID-19 pandemonium. Therefore, on 7 April 2021, the Mayor of Bielsko-Biała decided to change some deadlines resulting from the adopted schedule of the Civic Budget of Bielsko-Biała for 2022.

First of all, the changes included the extension of the deadline for submission of project proposal forms by the residents and extension of the deadline for voting on the positively assessed projects.

The amended deadlines included:

- Submission of project proposal forms by residents - from 23 March to 14 May 2021 (inclusive);
- Formal evaluation of projects - until 20 May 2021;
- Evaluation of projects with regard to their location by the appropriate Housing Estate Councils - until 18 June 2021;
- Substantive evaluation of projects, including compliance with the law and technical feasibility - until 30 June 2021;
- Voting of residents for positively verified projects - from 23 September to 9 October 2021 (inclusive).

17. A project team for the 2nd 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.

18. For the IT part / online implementation of the PB, the following considerations and steps were taken and the following changes were implemented compared to the 1st PB pilot

As in the 1st Pilot Action, in the 2nd Pilot voting for the participatory budget took place (in addition to traditional methods) electronically using a specially prepared form on the PB website. When voting electronically, you can use any device with access to the Internet, such as a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet:

<https://obywatelskibb.pl/glosowanie-elektroniczne-i-tradycyjne-wazne-informacje>

Comparison with the 1st PB pilot:

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 2nd PB pilot: n/a

19c. Of these suggestions, the following were not implemented in the 2nd PB pilot due to the following reasons: n/a

20. The following documents, manuals, regulations were developed and used during the development of the 2nd PB cycle: https://partycypacjaobywatelska.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/BP_krokpokroku.pdf

3. Implementation of the 2nd 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 2022, is already the 9th 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 and in local media and promotional materials.

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

There were no changes between the 1st and the 2nd pilot.

Stage II: Submission of projects by residents

Every resident of Bielsko-Biała could apply for the implementation of one city and one 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.

There were no changes between the 1st and the 2nd pilot.

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 also considers whether the estimated cost of the realization of the city project does not exceed 700 000 PLN (\approx 155 500 EUR) gross, whereas the gross cost of the district project was 200 000 PLN (\approx 44 400 EUR).

There were no changes between the 1st and the 2nd pilot.

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.

There were no changes between the 1st and the 2nd pilot.

A total of 19 245 valid votes were cast via the Internet and voting cards, including 9 209 votes for city-wide projects and 10 036 votes for housing estate projects.

Stage V: List of selected projects to be implemented in 2022.

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.

There were no changes between the 1st and the 2nd pilot.

21a. Total annual PB budget (in EUR and %-change of 1st PB pilot): 1 644 444 EUR (-26%)

(In view of the difficult situation related to the pandemic, the Mayor of Bielsko-Biała decided to change the financial resources earmarked for the next edition of PB.)

21b. Annual PB budget per citizen (in EUR and %-change of 1st PB pilot): 9,67 EUR (-25,7%)

21c. If applicable, budget earmarked for related internal work, communications etc.: n/a

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

Definition of persons: Residents

Number of eligible persons (in total): 169 956 (all citizens, no age limit)

Number of participating persons (% of citizens): 11,32%

A city-wide project may be submitted by resident of Bielsko-Biała, and a district project may be submitted by resident of the given District to which the project relates. Each resident of Bielsko-Biała (there is no age limit) can vote for one city-wide project and one of district projects, in which the resident is based.

No changes have been implemented compared to the 1st PB pilot.

21g. The following actions were taken to ensure that only eligible persons made proposals / voted:

Not applicable - everyone could submit a project/vote. According to the PB regulations in Poland, if you are not a resident of the city you cannot vote/submit a project. Verification is done through the residential address so no action is taken in this regard.

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 8.03.2021
- Stage II: Submission of projects by residents – from 25.03. to 14.05.2021
- Stage III: Evaluation and evaluation of projects – from 15.05to – 15.09.2021
- Stage IV: Residents' vote on projects – from 23.09. – 9.10.2021
- Stage V: List of selected projects to be implemented in 2022. – 21.10.2021

23. As key learnings from the 1st PB pilot, these aspects were considered when implementing the 2nd PB pilot:

The implementation of the 2nd Pilot Action took place in the same way as the 1st Pilot.

24. For citizen involvement in the PB-phases (e.g. information, proposal, 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 residents 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 20 district projects and 7 all-city projects

Consultations lasted from March to May 2021.

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 residents 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 20 district projects and 7 all-city projects

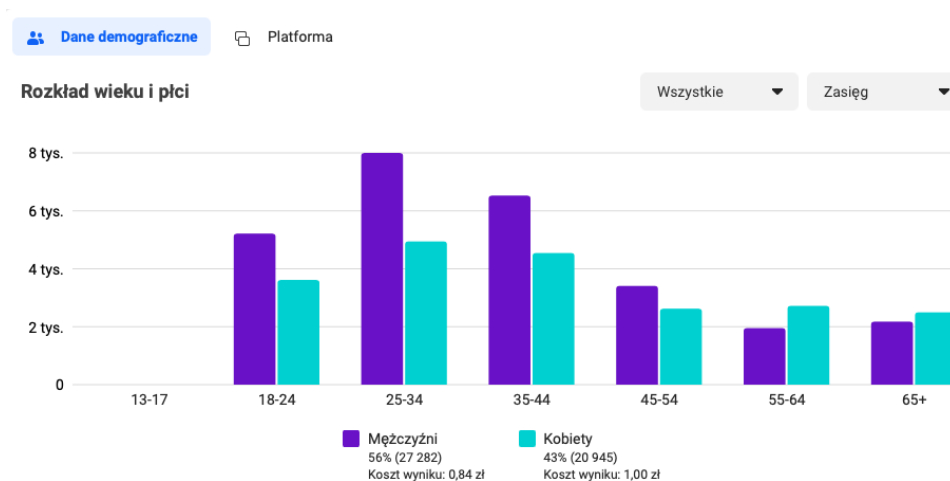
Consultations lasted from March to May 2021.

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

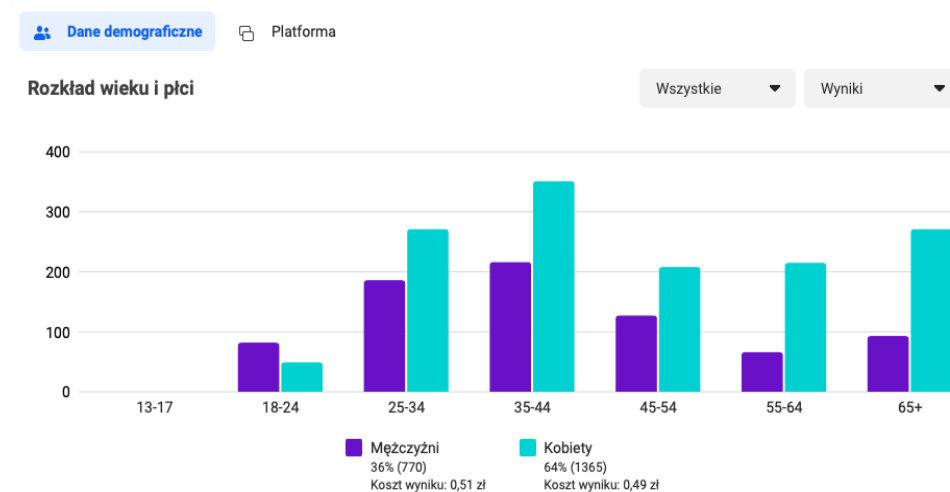
Two promotional campaigns were conducted in social media, including Facebook, encouraging Bielsko-Biała residents to take part in the vote. The advertisement was addressed to the residents of Bielsko-Biała living in an area with a diameter of 6 miles from the city center, aged 18 to 65+, of all genders 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.

Two social media awareness campaigns were conducted:

- the 1st during the project submission stage (reached 48 227 people, thereof 43% women (20 945))



- 2nd during the voting phase (reached 159 866 people, thereof 64% women (102 315))



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:

On 2, 3 and 19 March 2021, webinars were conducted on communication with residents and community engagement in terms of effectiveness of outreach to residents, as well as ease of implementation.

The webinars were addressed to representatives of the Bielsko-Biała City Hall and city organisational units responsible for PB implementation. They were attended by 22 persons.

The topics of the webinars included:

- the parties involved in cooperation with the residents and how to address them;
- communication and public engagement processes - how to organise them?
- obstacles and problems - how to solve them?
- proceeding with the implementation of a participatory budget in the municipality

On 3, 4 and 5 November 2021 training was conducted on communication with citizens involved in the participatory budget process in the city of Bielsko-Biała.

The trainings were attended by 20 people.

The subject matter of the training included:

- entities involved in cooperation with the residents and how to address them;
- communication and public involvement processes - how to organise them?
- obstacles and problems - how to solve them?
- how to implement a participatory budget in the municipality

29. If applicable, the following steps were taken to train actors in other municipalities (outside the EmPaci-project): n/a

4. Results of the 2nd PB pilot

Proposal phase:

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

Each resident 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.

Number of Online Accounts (if applicable): 78

Number of interrupted proposal procedures (if applicable): data not available

32b. Number of citizens participating: 101

32c. Participation rate: 0,060% (increase of 0.019% compared to 1st pilot)

Percentage of females: 26,73% (no data from 1st pilot)

32d. Number of proposals received in total: 101

Submitted online: 78 (57,78%) - no data from 1st pilot

Submitted by paper-and pencil: 57 (42,22%) - no data from 1st pilot

Submitted otherwise? How?: n/a

Innovativeness of proposals

Number of “new” proposals (number and %-change compared to 1st PB pilot): 101 (100%)

Number of resubmitted proposals: 0

Co-Creation of proposals

If applicable, number of originally not feasible proposals that were reworked together with the proposer: n/a

If applicable, number of proposals that were reworked together with the proposer: n/a

32e. Main categories of proposals:

The city-wide projects were dominated by those focusing on the development and improvement of the sports and recreation zone in our city, i.e.: sports fields, pumptrack, playgrounds, parks, including theme parks and green areas, picnic spots and cultural events. We could also observe an increase in the number of health care projects dedicated to different age groups. There were also projects containing - to a greater or lesser extent - historical, ecological or educational aspects, as well as those supporting local culture and raising the tourist attractiveness of our city.

As in previous years, the majority of housing estate projects concerned the following topics: modernisation of playgrounds, sports fields, running tracks, renovation of streets, pavements, footbridges, creation of local car parks, development of sites into parks, squares, gardens, dog runs, outdoor gyms, sports facilities (including the extension and modernisation of existing ones), provision of equipment for housing estate libraries, Municipal Cultural Centre, schools or local Voluntary Fire Brigade units. The aim of these projects is mainly to improve the living conditions of the residents of a particular housing estate and to address their expectations in terms of culture, sport, education etc.

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

Number of positive comments on implementation (if applicable): n/a

Number of negative comments on implementation (if applicable): n/a

Feasibility check:

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

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

Number of feasible proposals: 66

Percentage of feasible proposals (% of proposals received in total): 65,34%

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

The submitted projects were verified for formal, legal and technical correctness. The cost estimation of the project and the possibility of its execution were also checked. The applicants had to bear in mind that the estimated cost of the realization of the city-wide project may not exceed 155 500 EUR gross, whereas the gross cost of the housing estate project was 44 400 EUR.

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

33d. If applicable, citizens making specific proposals were involved in the following way: n/a

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: n/a

33g. As a consequence:

Number of feasible proposed projects /feasible voted projects

Number of passed checks: 66

Number of not feasible proposed projects /not feasible voted projects

Number of failed checks: 35

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.

Additional for online tools:**Number of Online Accounts:** 14 367**Number of discontinued voting procedures:** data not available**34b. Each citizen was given the following number of votes:**

Each residents of Bielsko-Biała (there is no age limit) could express support by voting for one city-wide project and one local (housing estate) project (in which the voting resident is based) .

34b. Number of citizens voting : 14 367 (-1,78%)**Ratio of females of total (%):** 57,40% (+1,82%)**34c. Participation rate (% of residents):** 8,46% (+2,21%)**34c. Number of votes received :** 19 245 (+24%)**34d. Results of the votes (which projects with which amounts and votes were winning):**City-wide projects:

- Searching for Joe Biden's ancestral Guardians of the Church – 1 724 votes
- Green playgrounds – 1 419 votes

District projects:

Estate	Project	Votes
Aleksandrowice	Bicycle and roller track, asphalt Pumptrack in Lotnicza Street next to the airport	207
Beskidzkie	Retrofitting of the "Green Corner" leisure and recreation area in the Beskidzki estate	273
Biała Krakowska	Walking has POWER or Slow Renewal of the pavement in Waleriana Łukasińska Street	146
Biała Północ	Extension of the park in the Rosta residential area	142
Biała Śródmieście	Modernisation of the playground "Biała Śródmieście 2"	204
Biała Wschód	Playground "Education and Play" and "Resident Friendly Library"	89
Bielsko Południe	Forest Park in Kamienicka Street. Creating conditions for rest and recreation in natural surroundings	224
Dolne Przedmieście	Improvement of road traffic safety by replacement of road surface in ul. Czecha in the area of the building ul. Czecha 3	103
Górne Przedmieście	Gallery of Contemporary Art in the Secondary School No. 8 in Bielsko-Biała	205
Grunwaldzkie	Integration from Junior to Senior 2	161

Hałcnów	Together for Halcnów	477
Kamienica	Mini multi-functional pitch in Kamienica	530
Karpackie	Dream library - a modern cultural and educational facility in the Carpathian Settlement	411
Komorowice Krakowskie	Komorowice Krakowskie - the colours of life - from local threats to documenting celebrations - OSP and House of Culture in service of everyday and festive life of the district	274
Komorowice Śląskie	Everyone can save a life	131
	Renovation of the grass pitch at Primary School No. 30 in Bielsko-Biała	105
Kopernika	More movement, little boy - purchase and installation of an integration fitness set and other recreational equipment with a fence for Kindergarten No. 1	182
Leszczyny	Always ready to help	185
Lipnik	In the centre of Lipnik	202
Mieszka I	Estate garden with flowering meadow and resting place	80
Mikuszowice Krakowskie	Playground in Mikuszowice Krakowskie - additional equipment	229
Mikuszowice Śląskie	Purchase of a Fire and Rescue Vehicle and construction of a parking place	402
Piastowskie	Improving road traffic safety by replacing the surface of Księcia Przemysława and Piastów Śląskich streets	151
Polskich Skrzydeł	Renovation of the car park and pavements in the Polish Wings housing estate near the Health Clinic	167
Słoneczne	"Development of physical activity space" - installation of selected outdoor gym equipment	160
Stare Bielsko	Stare Bielsko 2021 - Culture and safe education	475
Straconka	Traffic town and yard games on the premises of Primary School No. 26	264
	Equipping firemen-rescue workers of the Voluntary Fire Brigade in Bielsko-Biała Straconka who have been guarding the safety of the Straconka district and the city of Bielsko-Biała for 115 years with personal protective equipment and purchasing books, equipment, materials and supplies for the branch of the Beskid Bookshop - Library in Straconka according to the list	154
Śródmieście Bielsko	Pavement renovation in Luther Square	108
Wapienica	Digital Primary School No. 32 in Wapienica - modernisation of computer labs and school network	810
Wojska Polskiego	A Friendly Housing Estate for All	256
Złote Łany	Modernisation of a sports field for children and young people on the "Langiewiczza" housing estate	283

34e. Total PB budget realized / implemented : 1 592 852 EUR (-16 %)

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

- ☐ No ☒ Yes, unused
- ☐ Yes, otherwise designated (e.g. follow up costs or projects implemented in previous PBs)

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 51 592 EUR come from the district where the projects did not receive the required support.

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

Number of delayed proposal implementations /feasibility checks: ----

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 2022 were established. For this purpose, the President of the City issued an appropriate order.

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

Accepted projects may only concern tasks that can be carried out within one budget year (2022) 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.

34h. Timeframe planned to realize the approved projects: in 2022

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

During the implementation of the winning projects in 2022 the proposers 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 2nd PB pilot in the following ways:

Link to accountability report: <https://obywatelskibb.pl/wyniki>

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

36a. Number of increased contacts outside of the PB process: none

5. Assessment of PB pilot and potential for enhancements

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

Taking into account the last editions of PB in our city, we believe that this edition brought good results.

- Firstly, the launch of the consultation point did not exclude older people from the participatory process, who do not have the IT equipment and knowledge to effectively submit their own ideas.
- Secondly, the number of projects submitted to the PB increased by 46% compared to the 1st pilot
- Thirdly the number of votes cast was 24% higher than in the 1st edition of the Pilot Action

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:

Regarding the structure of the voters, we were most interested in some facts:

- Firstly, the most numerous group that was the recipient of our social media information campaign were people aged 35-44, who were much less active in the previous Pilot Action. The 65+ group was again very active (second place).
- Secondly, the gender structure has shown for many years that women are the group more involved in the participation process. Polish women are better educated than men, and since 2000 more and more of them have higher education. With better education, women's career aspirations increase. At work they can be more dutiful, more precise and more motivated. They also have a strong sense of responsibility for loved ones and their own environment, which makes them more interested in politics, more active in public life and more concerned about social issues.
- Thirdly, we see the need for greater involvement of children and young people in the participation process, which we hope will be achieved by having no age limits and an effective educational campaign.

Unfortunately, in our municipality there are no statistics on the distribution of voters in the districts, which could give more information about the needs of a particular group.

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

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

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, which task it 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, dissemination and communication materials, webinars were organised for officials and residents on the subject of communication and cooperation of local government with residents.

42. These changes are recommended for future PB processes to better reach objectives of PB:

Since in the 1st pilot it was not possible to organise voting using blockchain, as the undertaking is not easy due to legal aspects, we propose to the Municipality to present the advantages, that is:

- Thanks to its decentralisation and the public key cryptography technologies used, any attempt to falsify the results can be immediately caught;
- tracking of voting results can be done in real time;
- the ease of casting votes from all over the world via the Internet;
- the ability to change your vote until the close of voting.

43. These changes are recommended for future PB processes to better involve target groups or to better represent the eligible persons:

Recommended actions:

- a social media campaign to involve people under 18 and over 65
- the tightening of the voting system and elimination of irregularities associated with voting by ballot. In the participatory process it is extremely important that residents make mature decisions, fully aware of the responsibility for their choices.

44. The pilot municipalities plans to run PB also in the future

☒ Yes ☐ No