

Focus Group

Participatory Budgeting

FAQ

We have come up with some FAQs, which might be relevant for you with regard to the focus group:

1. What is the purpose of the FOCUS GROUP?

The FOCUS GROUP on PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING should work as a tool for more transparency and continuity within the NECE Network. The FOCUS GROUP provides an international-wide platform that is designed to promote the exchange of information and experience and the learning of good models of participatory budgeting.

2. What is the status of the FOCUS GROUP today?

The FOCUS GROUP is the newest one established and in its process of development and is still open for new members and proposals regarding contents and methods. This FOCUS GROUP aims to present models of participatory budgeting and to kick off new initiatives on the subject.

In this context, a workshop of the FOCUS GROUP is going to take place from 11-12 October 2013 in Berlin in order to discuss approaches and future working methods and the presentation of the FOCUS GROUP at this year's NECE Conference from 14-16 November 2013 in The Hague.

3. What could be the added value for national projects?

The FOCUS GROUP can basically contribute to and organise an exchange of practical approaches and conceptual frameworks within this specific field on a European level.

The added value for a single project could be:

1. Broadening and internationalizing of the know-how
2. Using a specific network within the network
3. Cooperation across countries in order to raise funds (EU projects)

4. How do we define participatory budgeting? What will be the focus of the focus group?

Participatory budgets have the potential to strengthen collaboration between citizens, politics and administration. With this instrument, citizens are prompted to increase participation and empowerment in public life. The participatory budgeting focus group provides an international-wide platform that is designed to promote the exchange of information and experience and the learning of good models of participatory budgeting. The participants themselves decide about the specific focus of the focus group once they meet either via online tools or at the European workshop on 11-12 October 2013 in Berlin prior to the next NECE Conference from 14-16 November in The Hague (the Netherlands).



5. Who can join the FOCUS GROUP?

The group is open for all persons with a professional interest in citizenship education and participatory budgeting: be it on a practical or an academic level. We are hoping, of course, for a good mix of practitioners and more academically oriented participants. In order to achieve a good level of continuity within the group, we welcome long-term commitment to the focus group (at least for a year).

6. Who is responsible for the focus group within the NECE Network?

Petra Grüne from the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb (Germany) and Jochum de Graaf, as well as Roelof Martens from ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law (the Netherlands), who are coordinating the building of our FOCUS GROUP, have taken this initiative to kick off this new format within the NECE network.

7. How can I join the FOCUS GROUP?

Just send an email to focusgroup-pb@lab-concepts.de with a very short summary of your motivation and interest in joining (max. 500 words).

We would be delighted if you could support us during the preparations with proposals on topics and projects.

Please send us any recommendations you might have for other participants as well as for topics and presentations to: focusgroup-pb@lab-concepts.de

We are looking forward to your reply.

Kind regards
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