***International Conference***

**“Citizens’ Participation as a Development Resource:**

**Russian and International Experience with Participatory Budgeting”**

*September 7, 2018*

**Moscow, Manezh Central Exhibition Hall**

**Background**

Over the last ten years, Russia has seen dramatic development of participatory budgeting (PB) practices. More than 40 Russian regions (half of all regions) already employ PB practices; more than ten thousand projects have been identified with citizens’ participation, totaling 7 billion rubles ($117 million). In fact, in just the past two years there has been a five-fold increase. The high pace of development of PB in Russia can be explained by three key factors. First, the institutional context in which Russian practices are implemented has helped facilitate PB (e.g. an administrative structure and division of powers among different levels of government, and by established local governance practices. Second, BP’s popularity is related to the fact that projects are mostly initiated and financed at subnational level and benefit from co-financing (cash inputs) by citizens and businesses as well as competitive selection of project ideas initiated by the public. Third, PB benefits from a well-directed methodological, information and institutional support of provided by the government (Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation).

Russia’s accumulated experience to date may be of interest to countries with similar administrative and budget systems (in particular, countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia seeking to launch/promote participatory practices). Also, benchmarking Russian experience against the best European PB approaches (Portugal, France, Italy, Spain) could be mutually beneficial. The intensification of the experience exchange will promote the development of international communities of experts and practitioners in the field of participatory budgeting, as well as the inclusion of citizens' participation in the relevant agenda of international organizations.

**Objectives:**

* present Russian PB experience and benchmark it against the best global practices;
* discuss opportunities and context for implementing PB practices in Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
* discuss the role and goals of the government in supporting and regulating participatory practices.

The conference participants will address the following issues:

1. What is the current state and development paths of participatory budgeting (PB) in Russia and globally?
2. What are specific features of the Russian PB model, and how it differs from international practices? Which models and practices are applicable in Eastern Europe and Central Asia?
3. What is the role of governments and municipal authorities in supporting PB practices?

**Audience (up to 150 participants)**

* representatives of the government bodies of the Russian Federation
* representatives of financial authorities from the Russian regions
* representative of financial authorities from Eastern Europe and Central Asia
* representatives of international organizations (World Bank, GIFT)
* Russian PB experts.

**Design**

The conference will comprise three sessions (a plenary and two panel discussions) and award ceremony for the winners of Russian citizens’ budgets and participatory budgeting competitions.

***Plenary session «New Horizons for Developing Participatory Budgeting (PB) Practices in Russia and Globally»*** will review the current state and prospects of PB in Russia and in other countries. Leading Russian and international policy-makers, experts, practitioners, representatives of international organizations will discuss various country approaches and share their vision regarding opportunities to use citizens’ participation as a development resource.

***Panel discussion “The Role of Government in Supporting and Regulating Citizens’ Participation in Public Infrastructure Development”*** will discuss goals, objectives and specific mechanisms used to support PB practices by the government, as well as the need and scope of their government regulation.

This is especially relevant for Russia and other countries that currently consider legislative initiatives in the PB area.

***Panel discussion “Models and Tools for Interaction with Citizens in Participatory Budgeting Practices”*** will address specific PB models, mechanisms and procedures with a focus on communication, awareness-raising and advocacy interaction between different governments and the public.

***Award ceremony*** for the winnersof two participatory budgeting and citizens’ budgets competitions***:***

* competition of citizens’ budgets presentations held by the Finance University under the RF Government in 2018;
* competition of the Moscow Financial Forum for financial authorities of Russian regions; nomination “For the Promotion of Participatory Budgeting”.

**Agenda of the Conference**

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| **12.00 – 13.30** | **Plenary session**  ***“New Horizons for Developing Participatory Budgeting (PB) Practices in Russia and Globally”***  Моderator: **Dmitriy Shatokhin**, Senator from the Komi Republic, member of the Federation Council Committee on Budget and Financial Markets  Speakers:   1. **Alexei Lavrov**, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation 2. **Andras Horvai**, Country Director and Resident Representative, World Bank 3. **Vladimir Vladimirov**, Governor, Stavropol krai 4. **Аnna Kharchenko**, Minister of Finance, Sakhalin region 5. **Juan Pablo Guerrero,** Director of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, the USA 6. **Adrià Duarte,** Coordinator, International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) 7. **Yves Cabannes**, Professor Emeritus, Development Planning, University College London, UK |
| **13.30-14.30** | **Lunch** |
| **14.30 – 15.30** | **Panel discussion**  ***“The Role of Government in Supporting and Regulating Citizens’ Participation in Public Infrastructure Development***”  Моderator: **Vladimir Vagin**,Head, Initiative Budgeting Center, Financial Research Institute (NIFI) under the Russia Ministry of Finance  Discussants:   1. **Еkaterina Butzkaya**, Minister of Finance, Ulyanovsk region 2. **Ivan Shulga**,TTL, PB Project in Russia, World Bank 3. **Nelson Dias**, Coordinator, Association of Municipalities Implementing Participatory Practices, Portugal 4. **Giovanni Allegretti**, Co-Chair, Independent Authority for the Promotion of Participation (APP), Tuscany, Italy 5. **Victor Lutenco**, Advisor to the Mayor, Chisinau, Moldova. |
| **15.30-16.00** | **Break** |
| **16.00 – 17.00** | **Panel discussion**  ***“Models and Tools for Interaction with Citizens in Participatory Budgeting Practices”***  Moderator:**Ilya Sokolov**, Head, Lab for Fiscal Policy Studies, RANEPA  Discussants:   1. **Sergei Romanov**, Director, Department of Budget Methodology and Public Sector Financial Reporting, Russia Ministry of Finance 2. **Alexei Korabelnikov**, Chairman, Finance Committee of Saint-Petersburg 3. **Galina Kurlyandskaya,** Director of the Center for Fiscal Policy 4. **Lena Langlet,** Senior Advisor, Citizens' Dialogue Project, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) 5. **Josh Lerner**, Executive Director of The Participatory Budgeting Project, the USA |