

Gaia Participatory Budgeting for Youth

Name of the organisation

Municipality of Gaia

Website of the organisation

[Municipality of Gaia](#)

Location of the organisation

<https://www.cm-gaia.pt/pt/cidade/juventude/>, 4400 Gaia, Portugal

E-mail address of the organisation

juventude@cm-gaia.pt

Good practice aspect(s)/themes of youth work

- Participation of young people in decision making

Good practice category

Concrete tool

Good practice aim & purpose

The main objectives of Gaia Participatory Budgeting for Youth are:

- To emphasize the quality of democracy and its tools, spreading the good values of democracy;
- Promote youth participation in decision making processes;
- to reinforce the commitment of Gaia different youth(s);
- To support global approaches, strengthening European citizens and SDG'S;
- To make a clear contribution to the city global development - smart investment, resilience and, in the last chapter, raising life quality standards;

Good practice description

Gaia Participatory Budgeting for Youth is an opportunity that the Municipality of Gaia provides to all young people of Gaia (13-30 yo) to be effective change makers on the daily life of the city.

On 2023 GPB + Youth edition, a slice of 240 thousand euros of municipal budget were reserved to projects thought and defined by young people. It is divided in three areas: creativity, culture and sports; environment and sustainability; and social inclusion. Projects can be submitted until a total amount of 40 thousand euros. Through voting process, young people select two winning projects per area. Winning projects are implemented in the following year.

There is a submission period, in where youth workers go to schools and parishes in order to present GPB + Youth and show project's concrete benefits. After that period, a technical committee composed by several municipal departments/members of youth council/ youth national representatives select which projects can or can't have green light for the voting stage.

After the voting stage and the public ceremony, projects are implemented by municipal services. In all the process, there is full presence of young people.

This is the 4th edition of GPB and participation of young people has increased from edition to edition.

Good practice result & concrete effects

The clear involvement of young people in the decision making process and a clear statement: if you vote you can make the difference. If you vote things happen;

The implementation of several projects is making the difference: a first animal park was born in Gaia due to GPB + Youth; a gym for the elderly; a project called "STOP Bullying", composed by a handbook and a board game destined to prevent bullying in elementary schools and kindergartens; a sensorial garden; a multigenerational park for all; and "Believe in Future", a project destined to make a solid bridge between companies and young people in universities are some examples of what's being implemented so far;

On an immaterial approach, we can realize that GPB + Youth is an effective contribution for the feeling of belonging to Gaia, and an effective tool to promote youth participation. In fact, even the areas of participation are defined together with young people.

Good practice chapter of the European Charter on Local Youth Work

Youth work policy