

Porto Alegre Participatory Budgeting — The Original Citizen Budget Assemblies

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Brazil

Quality score: 86/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Porto Alegre's 1989 invention of neighbourhood budget assemblies raised sewer/water coverage from 75% to 98% of households by 1997 and became the world's most replicated governance innovation — before political support collapsed and the city suspended it in 2017.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	1/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	3/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[Municipality of Porto Alegre \(Orçamento Participativo\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[World Resources Institute — Porto Alegre: Participatory Budgeting and the Challenge of Sustaining Transformative Change](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

[World Bank — Brazil: Toward a More Inclusive and Effective Participatory Budget in Porto Alegre](#) — accessed 2026-08-19

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