

Stadtidee Aarau — Switzerland's First City-Wide Participatory Budget Using the Method of Equal Shares

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Switzerland

Quality score: 93/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Aarau's first city-wide participatory budget (2023-24) used the Method of Equal Shares to allocate CHF 50,000, funding 17 of 33 shortlisted projects across every district — versus roughly 7 costlier projects under plurality voting — per a peer-reviewed AAAI/AIES evaluation and th

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	3/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-29

City of Aarau (Stadt Aarau), with ETH Zurich-affiliated researchers — accessed 2026-07-29

Stadt Aarau — Stadtidee project page — accessed 2026-07-29

Yang et al. (AAAI/AIES) — Designing Digital Voting Systems for Citizens — accessed 2026-07-29

Stadtidee Aarau — Abschlussbericht (final report) — accessed 2026-07-29

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