

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORLD ATLAS**

# **PARTICIPATORY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**DEBATE** ENGAGING CITIZENS IN DISCUSSING  
REVENUES: CHALLENGES, EXPERIENCES AND  
LESSON LEARNED



**OCTOBER 2020**

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# PARTICIPATORY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

## GROTTAMMARE



### **I. Name of the country where the experience is/was located**

Italy.

### **II. Name of the City**

Grottammare.

### **III. Name of the Region**

Marche.

### **IV. Name of the organization that promoted the experience**

Municipality of Grottammare.

### **V. Typology of the organization that promoted the experience**

Municipal Government.

### **VI. Name of the process**

Participatory Partnership Agreement (Accordo di programma partecipato).

### **VII. Dates or year(s) in which the citizens engagement happened**

2004.

### **VIII. Was the experience formally part of PB?**

No, it was a parallel/separate process, even if this place had an ongoing PB.

## **IX. Short description of the methodology of the experience**

The regular municipal administrative action has - often - to face problems of different origin linked to the local/territorial specific context. In Grottammare, one these critical issues which appeared quite complicated to solve with ordinary policies, was the internal mobility in the "Vecchio Incasato", a dense settlement developed in the medieval period, which looks strategic for its high historical - cultural and, therefore, touristic value.

The main problem, which had clearly emerged during the assemblies of Participatory Budgeting, was that of car traffic. So, to solve the problem, the Municipal government organised a "spin-off" of participatory budgeting, i.e. a series of assemblies aimed at finding - together with local inhabitants and other interested citizens - a shared solution for the old narrow streets of that area.

The participatory process led to an interesting result, which was not only the closure of the historic centre to cars, but also led to the offer of inhabitants to contribute in the co-financing of public works.

This transition from a dimension of co-decision to one of co-implementation was a crucial moment in the transformation of the "Grottammare Partecipativa" system framework; in fact, it has shown that awareness and civic responsibility, stimulated by the direct involvement in the decision-making, are intended as a tool and resource available to the whole community.

The Mayor, at the time, considered that any "representative" structure (negotiating with leaders or speakers of the area) would be useful to take radical decisions, so that the idea of the open assemblies where individuals could expose their views and offer their solutions - eventually leading to a majority vote - were absolutely necessary.

## **X. Short description of the results of the experience**

The first result of the process was certainly to arrive at a courageous and radical solution, such as the closure of the neighbourhood to vehicular traffic, reducing the conflict that could have arisen from this idea if it had been proposed by the municipality. This was not the case for other neighbouring municipalities that tried to take a similar decision, but on the base of a top-down proposal.

Furthermore, citizens actively participated in the construction of the work by supporting the cost of purchasing the remote controls for opening and closing the bars used to interdict the area to cars, as well as the and the lockers to guarantee free spaces to residents in the parking lots.

## **XI. Some data on participants**

The majority of local residents (mainly aged citizens) packet the three public assemblies. Unfortunately, no official memories are publicly still available, so to be bale to expose the exact number of participants and how many lockers and commands were paid by local residents.

## **XII. Weblink or other sources**

There is no web-memory anywhere on this participatory process.

## **XIII. Name and address of the person who answered the questions**

Luigi Merli, Mayor of Grottammare from 2004 to 2013.

Support offered by Pierpaolo Fanesi (civil servant at Grottammare Municipality).

