

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORLD ATLAS

THEMATIC COUNCIL ON REVENUES

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

JULY 2020

JOAN BOU GELI

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del poble”

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THEMATIC COUNCIL ON REVENUES

SANTA CRISTINA D'ARO



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

Spain.

II. Name of the City

Santa Cristina d'Aro.

III. Name of the Region

Catalonia.

IV. Name of the organization that promoted the experience

Municipality of Santa Cristina d'Aro.

V. Typology of the organization that promoted the experience

Municipal Government.

VI. Name of the process

Thematic Council on Revenues.

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

2009 and 2010.

VIII. Was the experience formally part of PB?

Yes.

IX. Short description of the methodology of the experience

Between mid-September and mid-October of each year (2009 and 2010) the Neighborhood Assemblies and Thematic Assemblies of PB were convened.

During the celebration of the Neighborhood and Thematic Assemblies of participatory budgeting, volunteers were asked to participate in the Thematic Council to debate the revenues of the municipal budget. This Thematic Council met twice throughout the year:

1) a first meeting during the first half of October was used to discuss the different sources of municipal income, as well as for explaining the different tax figures and their collection terms and modalities. The agreements reached were then debated in the Citizens Council and, once approved by this Council, they were sent to the Town Hall Team to serve as the basis for the elaboration of the different key fiscal ordinances for the subsequent elaboration of the budgets.

2) A second meeting in mid-April was used to present the current year's budget and the previous year's budget final figures.

X. Short description of the results of the experience

During the development of this experience, the different taxes were debated and a conclusion was reached about maintaining the taxes as they had been previously established in order to maintain the level of services that the City Council was providing.

For complying with decisions of services and investments approved in the different assemblies of Participatory Budgeting, maintaining the same tax rates and services' fares was considered as necessary. But participants asked to defer payment of taxes, splitting them into three different payment deadlines. Such request was approved and ratified in the fiscal ordinances, being applied to every year thereafter.

XI. Some data on participants

All persons who voluntarily registered during the implementation of the PB Neighborhood and Thematic assemblies could participate in this Thematic Council. In general, about two representatives per assembly (for a total of about 40 people) signed up to participate in it.

Participants were mainly middle-aged and retired adults (we suppose they were the people most concerned about paying taxes). Younger people should be further encouraged to become interested in participating in the debate on income.

XII. Weblink or other sources

Nothing (they were removed by the new administration).

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

Joan Bou Geli, Councilor for Finance and Participatory Budgeting of the Santa Cristina d'Aro City Council during the years 2003-2011.

