

Whose the city is?

The concept of social participation

Dr Joanna Zuzanna Popławska
jpopla@sgh.waw.pl

The lecture conducted within: Jean Monnet Module “EU Cities. Future of European Cities: Towards inclusive, sustainable and smart urban development”, grant nr 101175178 ERASMUS-JMO-2024-HEI-TCH-RSCH

Agenda

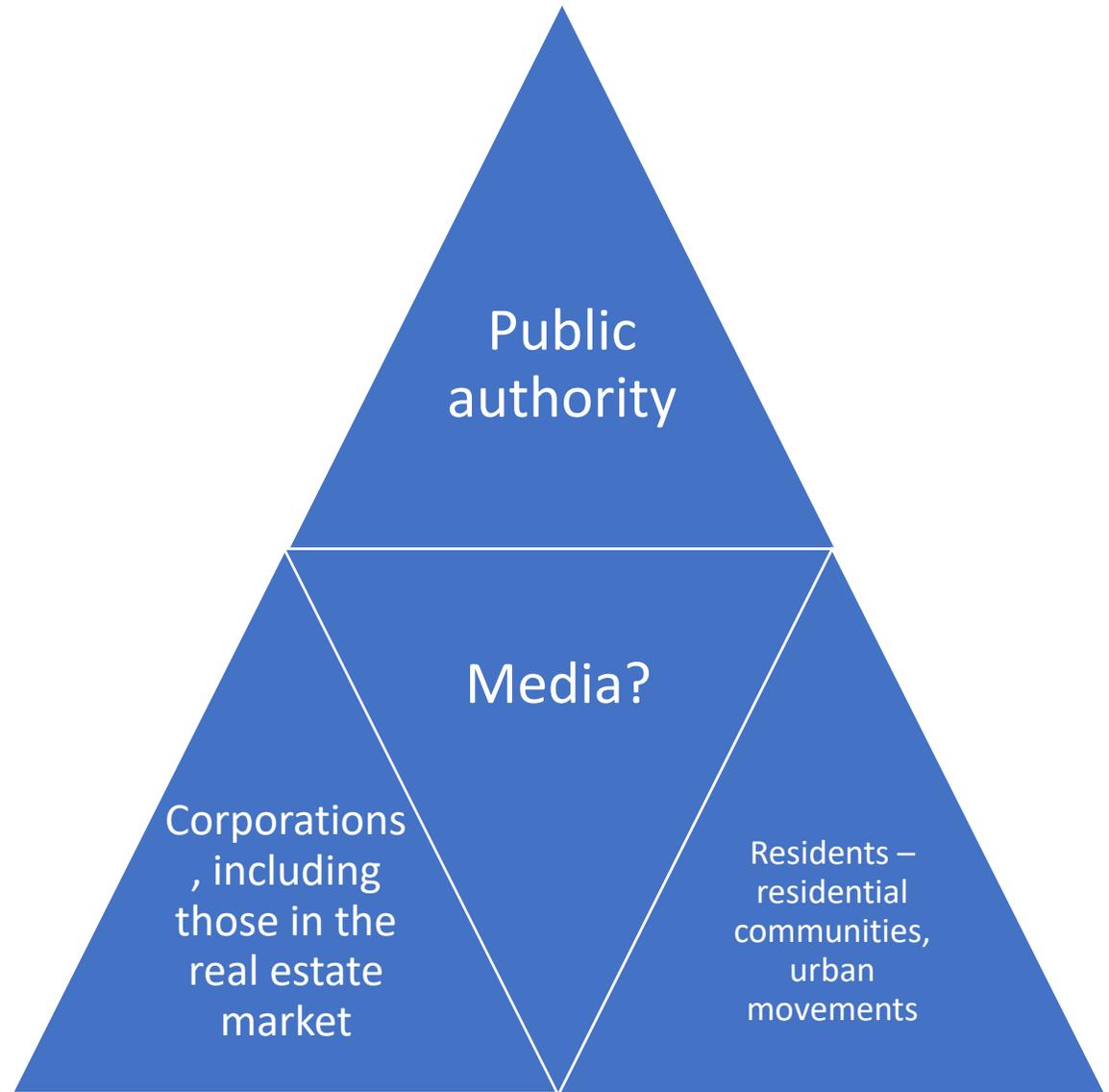
1. Social participation and actors involved
2. Social movements – urban movements
3. Urban protests
4. Participatory budget

Whose the city is? – discussion

Who is actually involved in the urban governance?

Whose the city is?

Who is actually involved in the urban governance?



Social participation

- „citizens' participation in the management of public affairs of the community of which they are members'
- participation of residents in **formal and informal self-organization processes** aimed at **improving living conditions in the local community**
- It means willingness to cooperate without applying hierarchical subordination of partners (...)



Social participation

Tools for social participation:

Public authorities elections

Referendum

Public consultations

grassroots social action in support of or against the changes taking place-
urban movements

participatory budget

protests

- Who of you participated in any of these forms of social participation?

What are the advantages and risks of engaging inhabitants into urban governance?

Advantages of social participation

- **The active use of social participation tools promotes:**
- creating an urban space in line with the expectations of the inhabitants
- integration of residents,
- creating local identity,
- strengthening the sense of identity with the city,
- increasing the sense of responsibility for the city,
- controlling public authorities

Criticism of social participation

- **Risks of social participation:**
- No participation of a representative group of the urban community
- The beneficiaries of social participation are often strong, well-organised groups – mainly the middle class
- Different level of knowledge of the urban community about participatory tools and rights (depends on the country)
- Low level of participation
- Low effectiveness of protests and grassroots action

Social movements in the city - urban movements in the era of the Internet

Classic view of social movements

actions aimed at realising a specific social change or stopping a process that is already taking place

uninstitutionalised and unformalised nature (or not fully institutionalised and formalised)

network of organisations, collective entities and entities striving to achieve specific objectives

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

1. Urbanization
2. Industrialization
3. Popularization of education
4. The development of modern technologies
5. Growing social inequalities
6. „Movement society” – activist ideology
7. Development of democratic regimes
8. Availability of resources

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

1. Urbanization

- cities - the area of intense contacts, interactions, communication between people
- it became easier to formulate collective views, articulate shared values and ideologies
- easiness to organize gatherings

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

2. Industrialization

- Gathering of large masses of employees in factories and factory estates
- Frequent contacts of people whose lifestyle, problems and aspirations are similar
- Such conditions are conducive to forming a common opinion, agreeing action strategies and organizing collective protests
- What kind of social movement in Poland was initiated in a shipyard?



Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

3. Popularization of education

- Gathering masses of students in one place
- Creation of sensitivity and awareness of social, economic and public problems

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

4. The development of modern technologies

What kind of modern technologies does social movements use most often?

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

4. The development of modern technologies:

Social Media

- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube

E-mail

- Requests for public information
- Online petitions
- Newsletters

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

The development of modern technologies:

- creating public opinion
- fast communication,
- quick spread of ideas
- easy recruitment of new members
- independence of the effectiveness from access to capital, and mainstream media
- low transaction costs
- independence from geographical location and temporal accessibility of its members
- conducting effective actions with a relatively low number of people involved
- new social divisions

Threats

- members of social movement that are not active at all
- anonymous participants of discussions online- irresponsible, aggressive statements – further division of society
- spread of disinformation

Regulation of content that has been published

- Facebook, YouTube policy
- The pressure of governments and authorities towards further regulations

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

5. **Growing social inequalities** – growing level of social dissatisfaction
6. An activist ideology in a modern society – social participation – **„movement society”**
7. **Development of democratic regimes** (instead of dictatorial, authoritarian, totalitarian)
 - constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech, association and public gatherings;
 - revolutions erupt when power is weaker, loses rigor and the law is less strict

Conditions favorable for shaping, mobilizing and developing social movements

8. Availability of resources

- spare time and energy of members of social movements,
- technical resources, premises, printing machines, megaphones, etc.

2. Old vs. New social movements

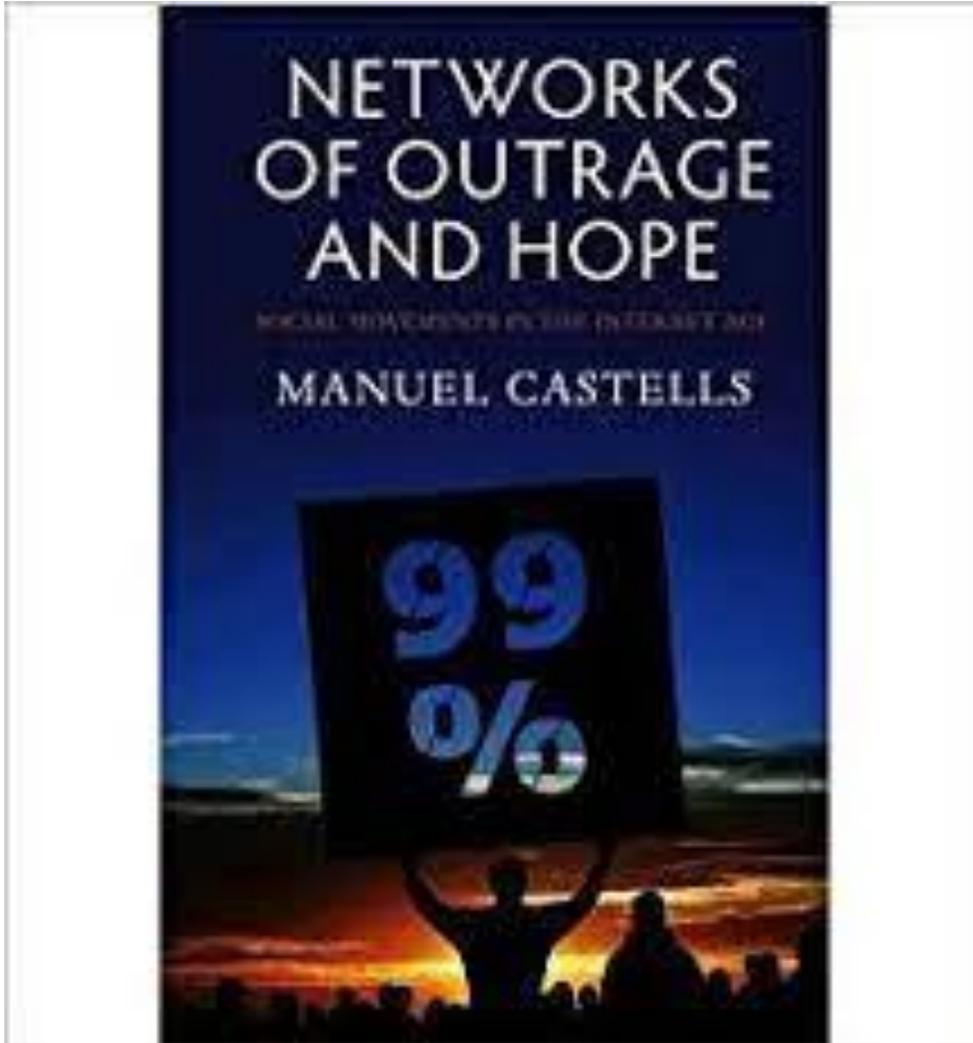
Old social movements

- connected with social class, job categories, social stratification
- example: workers 'and peasants' movements- mobilization in defense of interests (usually material) of a given group

New social movements

- connected with some idea – not a social stratification
- organized across social class divisions, social stratification, occupational groups

Social movements in the era of Internet



activities of social movements are manifested "on the Internet and via the Internet"

different groups of people carrying out activities to a specific extent via the Internet connect, organise and mobilise

(M. Castells)

Social movements in the city – urban movements

Causes of urban movements creation

conflicts of interest:

- with the real estate market companies and their plans

- Often the defense of urban greenery, areas of great historical value

Different visions for the development of the city

Frustrations resulting from the inability to meet specific needs and achieve the objectives pursued

Whose interests represent urban movements?
Middle-class, elite or poor people's movements?

- Whose interests are represented by urban movements in your countries?

Urban protests

RIGHT TO THE CITY AND
"TURKISH SUMMER,,

[Jadaliyya - The Right to the
City Movement and the
Turkish Summer](#)

[Everywhere is Taksim -
CounterPunch.org](#)

„the conflict concerns different visions of urban space

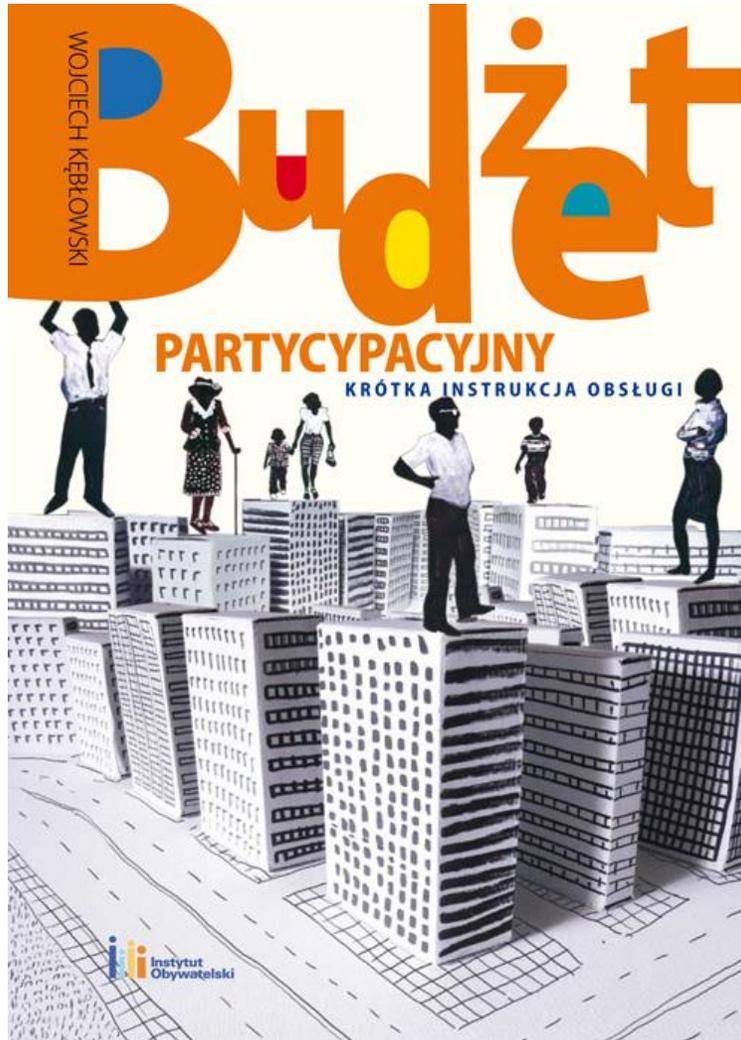
– the ruling elite and the people who live, work and spend their free time here in Istanbul."





Participatory budget, Porto Alegre (Brazil)





Participatory budget - is the process by which residents decide to spend a certain part of the budget of a district or city.

Citizens decide about the projects that will be introduced.

Participatory budget

- Do you have such a tool in your cities?
- What do you think about it?

SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS BY RESIDENTS



Review



PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS BY AUTHORS AND DISCUSSION



Vote



IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED PROJECTS

- ❑ social dialogue as an integral part of the citizens' budget;
- ❑ the possibility of disposing of specific and limited financial resources;
- ❑ city-wide and district-wide activities;
- ❑ transparency of the choices made by residents;
- ❑ monitoring of investments carried out;
- ❑ treated as a permanent and forward-looking process.

Advantages:



- building trust to the local government and its representatives;
- involving social groups to participate in public debate;
- equality of officials and residents in decision-making;
- building social capital

Disadvantages:

- can serve as a political tool for officials;
- exclusion of uncommitted social groups;
- shifting responsibility to society;
- can cause social conflicts

RAPORT: BUDŻET OBYWATELSKI W POLSKICH MIASTACH



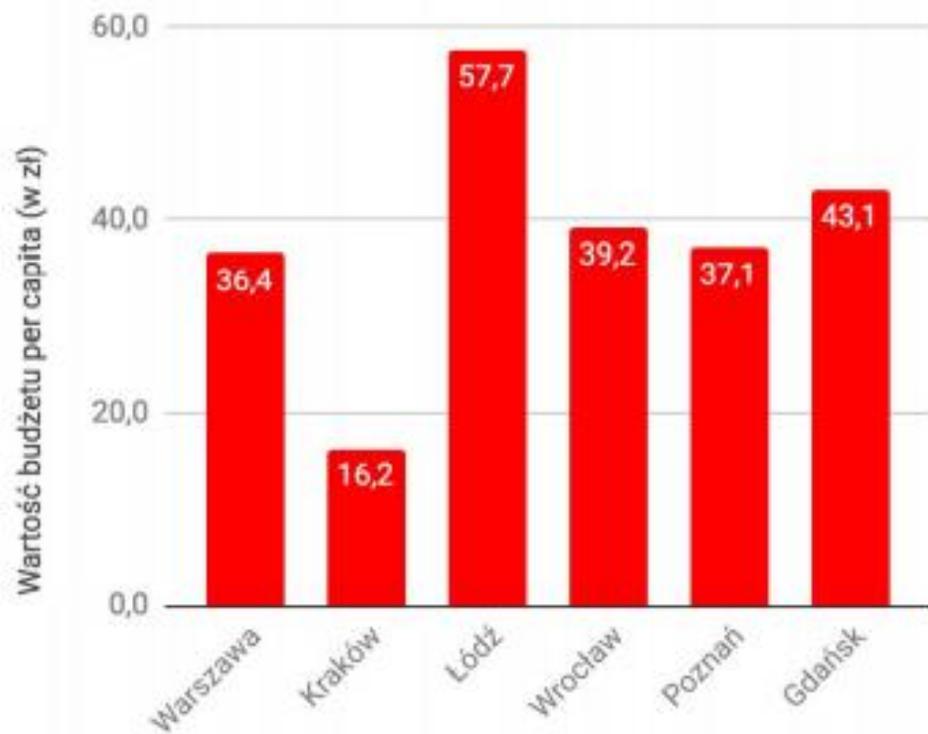
Voters in civic budgets of the 6 largest cities in Poland

Głosujący w Budżetach Obywatelskich 6 największych miast Polski
(Warszawa, Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk)



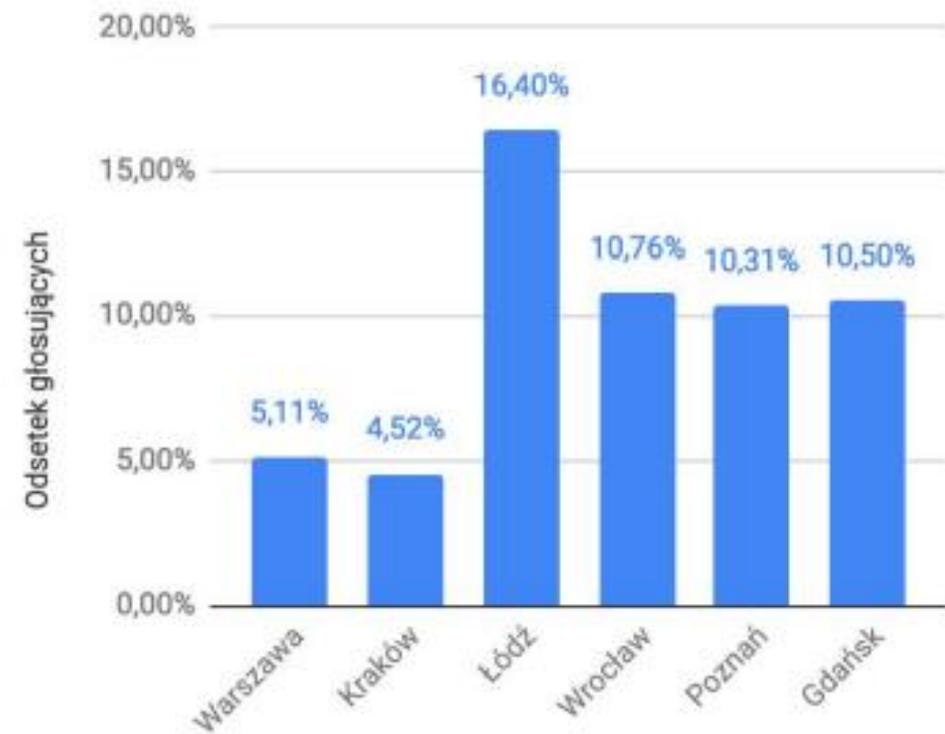
Budget value per capita

Wartość budżetu w przeliczeniu na mieszkańca (w zł)



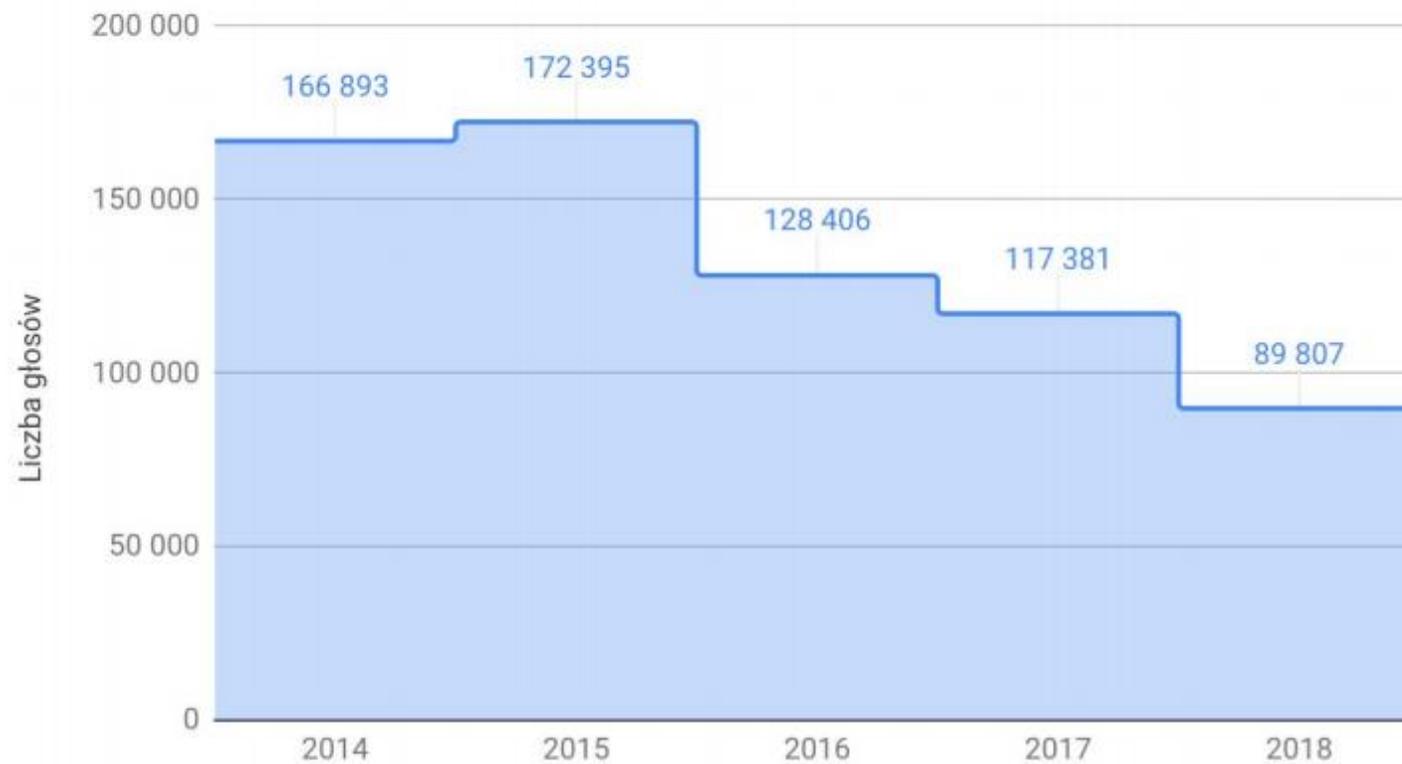
Turnout in civic budgets of the largest Polish cities

Frekwencja w Budżetach Obywatelskich największych polskich miast



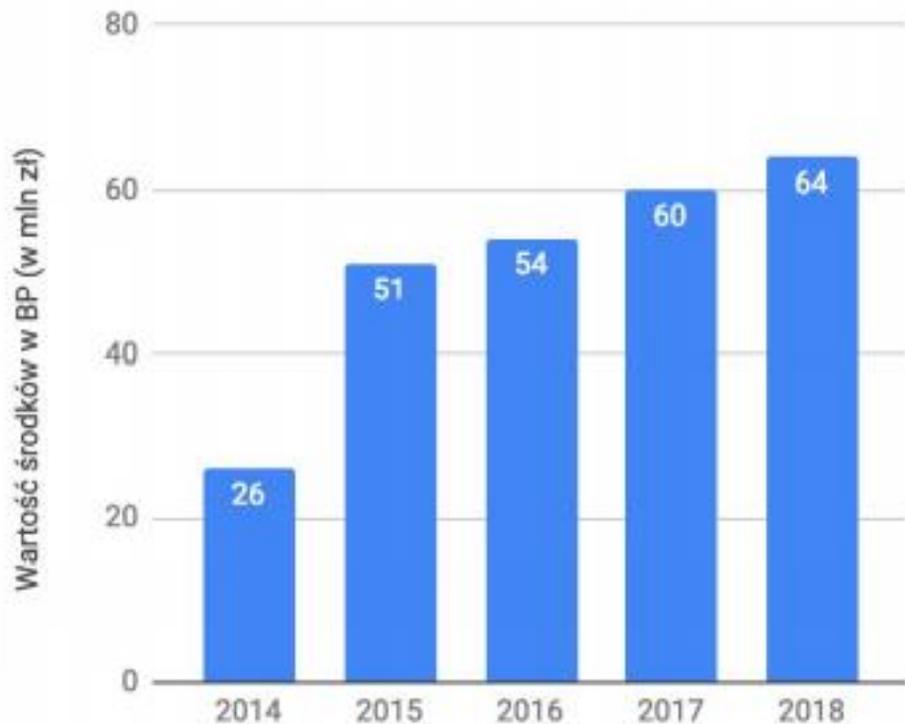
Number of voters in the citizens' budget in Warsaw

Liczba głosów oddanych w warszawskim Budżecie Partycypacyjnym



Value of funds allocated to projects in the Warsaw participatory budget (millions of PL)

Wartość środków przeznaczonych na projekty w warszawskim BP (w mln zł)



Number of projects participating in the vote under the Warsaw participatory budget

Liczba projektów biorących udział w głosowaniu w ramach warszawskiego BP

