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WAYS TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

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Abstract: This article examines the outcomes of participatory budgeting in Uzbekistan as an institutional mechanism for ensuring public participation and oversight in the budget process. It demonstrates that substantial territorial and sectoral disparities in activity and performance persist, that public participation is generally high at the project-submission and voting stages, and that it remains comparatively limited at the stages of accepting completed projects and evaluating performance. The author proposes a minimum financing guarantee, co-financing arrangements, the acceptance of projects only after obtaining public consent, and the introduction of a system of digital indicators for assessing the effectiveness of public participation and oversight.

Keywords: budget process, participatory budgeting, public participation, public oversight, Open Budget, local budget, budget transparency, digital monitoring, budget funds.

Аннотация: В статье исследуются результаты инициативного бюджетирования в Узбекистане как институционального механизма обеспечения участия общественности и общественного контроля в бюджетном процессе. Обосновано, что сохраняются существенные территориальные и отраслевые различия в уровне активности и результативности, участие граждан является преимущественно высоким на этапах внесения проектов и голосования, тогда как на этапах приёмки завершённых проектов и оценки их результативности оно остаётся сравнительно ограниченным. Автором предложены установление гарантии минимального финансирования, внедрение механизмов софинансирования, приёмка проектов только после получения согласия общественности, а также введение системы цифровых показателей для оценки эффективности общественного участия и контроля.

Ключевые слова: бюджетный процесс, инициативное бюджетирование, участие общественности, общественный контроль, «Открытый бюджет», местный бюджет, прозрачность бюджета, цифровой мониторинг, бюджетные средства.

INTRODUCTION

The contemporary model of public financial management is not limited to publishing budget information; it also requires that citizens be given opportunities to define budget priorities, discuss decisions, monitor expenditure execution, and evaluate outcomes. In this sense, budget openness, public participation, and institutional oversight are three mutually reinforcing elements. The International Budget Partnership assesses budget accountability precisely through the dimensions of transparency, participation, and oversight.

Participatory budgeting is a democratic financial mechanism that enables citizens to take a direct part in allocating a specified share of the state or local budget. This approach helps identify local needs, align expenditure priorities more closely with public demand, strengthen the accountability of public authorities, and reinforce social trust.

In Uzbekistan, the institutionalization of citizen participation in the budget process has been implemented gradually since 2018. Through the Open Budget information portal, citizens have been enabled to submit local infrastructure problems in project form, support proposals that have passed moderation, and monitor the implementation of winning projects. At the same time, the system has demonstrated continuous institutional development, including increasing citizen engagement across mahallas, broad participation in social infrastructure projects, expanding public involvement in project acceptance, growing digital activity across regions, and the ongoing improvement of methodologies for evaluating outcomes.

The purpose of this study is to comprehensively assess the principal statistical indicators of participatory budgeting in Uzbekistan during 2021-2025, identify institutional trends and problems in public participation and oversight, and develop scientific and practical proposals for their improvement.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON THE SUBJECT

The theory of participatory budgeting is based on the idea of supplementing representative democracy with mechanisms of direct participation in the allocation of public resources. Drawing on the Brazilian experience, B. Wampler characterizes participatory budgeting as an institution that reshapes the relationships of cooperation, competition, and accountability between citizens and public authorities [1]. Studies edited by A. Shah assess this mechanism as an instrument for bringing public expenditure closer to local needs and strengthening social accountability [2].

In their analysis of European practice, Y. Sintomer, C. Herzberg, and A. Rocke show that the institutional design of participatory budgeting models varies and that their effectiveness depends on citizens' real influence on decisions, the quality of deliberation, and the incorporation of outcomes into budget documents [3]. Therefore, voting for projects alone does not constitute a complete form of participation; information provision, deliberation, decision-making, implementation monitoring, and evaluation must be closely interconnected.

Empirical studies also confirm the effects of participatory budgeting on social outcomes. S. Goncalves identified positive changes in health expenditure and infant mortality indicators in Brazilian municipalities that introduced participatory budgeting [4]. M. Touchton and B. Wampler demonstrate that participatory institutions affect public well-being through the redistribution of public resources, service quality, and governance accountability [5]. Subsequent studies emphasize that program rules, the real authority granted to the public, and local political conditions are decisive for outcomes [6].

Although digital technologies have increased the scale and speed of participatory budgeting, digital inequality, imbalances in vote mobilization, and the fairness of aggregation rules have generated new research challenges. H. Aziz and N. Shah theoretically examine the balance among preference expression, welfare, fairness, and incentives in participatory budgeting models [19]. Contemporary computational studies show that voting formats and project-selection algorithms significantly affect the stability and proportionality of outcomes [20, 21].

The OECD identifies the clear definition of objectives, inclusion of stakeholder groups, provision of sufficient information, assurance of process accountability, and evaluation of outcomes as essential stages in designing citizen participation [7]. This approach implies that citizen participation in the budget process should not end with voting but should also encompass monitoring the implementation and impact of decisions.

The UNDP review on Uzbekistan systematically examines the legal and organizational model of participatory budgeting, its dynamics during 2021-2023, territorial disparities, achievements, and practical constraints [9]. It notes the introduction of real-time monitoring through the portal, the Public Oversight function, and emergency reporting features. U. Uroqov's studies address the theoretical foundations of citizen-participatory budgeting and the mechanisms for project formulation, voting, monitoring, and evaluation [10, 11].

The literature review indicates that, although studies exist on the institutional foundations and initial outcomes of participatory budgeting in Uzbekistan, the portal's additional indicators - including satisfaction, mahalla coverage, and implementation monitoring - have not been comprehensively assessed from the perspective of public oversight. This research gap defines the subject of the present study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The information base of the study comprised data from the Open Budget information portal, annual reports of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the UNDP review, and legal and regulatory documents governing participatory budgeting [9, 12-18].

The analysis employed time-series analysis, structural grouping, comparative analysis, ranking, Pearson correlation, and simple linear regression. Because the number of seasonal observations was six, the econometric results were interpreted not as causal relationships but as preliminary statistical associations.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The year 2021 marked the institutional formation of participatory budgeting at the national level. During that season, 41,125 initiatives were submitted through the portal, 1,599 projects were selected as winners, and UZS 530.5 billion was allocated for the season. The substantial volume of initiatives generated in the very first year demonstrated strong social demand for identifying local problems on the basis of public opinion.

The findings indicate that, in Uzbekistan's participatory budgeting processes conducted during 2021-2025, the number of initiatives tended to decline, while the effectiveness of project moderation and financing increased. The highest number of initiatives, 69,699, was recorded in the first season of 2022, whereas the lowest figure, 22,263, was recorded in the second season of 2025. Over this period, the number of seasonal initiatives decreased by 68.1%. This decline should not automatically be interpreted as a weakening of citizen

activity, because the share of projects passing moderation, the number of votes per project, and the probability of winning increased instead (Table 1).

Table 1.
Participatory Budgeting Indicators, 2023-2025[1]

Season	Submitted projects	Final winning projects	Funds allocated on the portal, UZS billion	Winning rate, %	Funding per winner, UZS million
2021-I	41,125	1,599	530.5	3.9	331.8
2022-I	69,699	2,354	1,201.3	3.4	510.3
2022-II	61,566	1,782	1,419.0	2.9	796.3
2023-I	55,970	2,985	2,882.9	5.3	965.8
2023-II	49,464	1,198	1,424.4	2.4	1,189.0
2024-I	35,575	2,824	3,390.5	7.9	1,200.6
2024-II	27,474	1,950	2,271.7	7.1	1,165.0
2025-I	28,399	2,419	3,359.8	8.5	1,388.9
2025-II	22,263	2,367	3,337.8	10.6	1,410.1

The table shows that the participatory budgeting process changed substantially in both scale and financing structure during 2021-2025. The highest number of winning projects was recorded in the first season of 2023, at 2,985, while the lowest number, 1,198, was recorded in the second season of 2023. The volume of funds allocated on the portal increased from UZS 530.5 billion in the first season of 2021 to UZS 3,390.5 billion in the first season of 2024, representing an increase of almost 6.4 times. Despite the decline in the number of submitted projects, the winning rate rose from 3.9% in 2021 to 10.6% in the second season of 2025, an increase of 6.7 percentage points. At the same time, funding per winning project increased from UZS 331.8 million to UZS 1,410.1 million, or by 4.25 times. In particular, although the winning rate was only 2.4% in the second season of 2023, average funding per project reached UZS 1,189 million, indicating that financial resources were directed toward larger projects.

Overall, the simultaneous decline in the number of initiatives and increase in the volume of financing, the winning rate, and funding per project during 2024-2025 indicate an emerging shift in participatory budgeting from quantitative expansion toward support for relatively larger and financially more substantial projects. While 33,681 projects passed moderation in the first season of 2023, this figure was 18,734 in the second season of 2025. Despite the absolute decrease, the moderation rate rose from 60.2% to 84.2%. This suggests that the compliance, clarity, and feasibility of projects submitted by citizens improved (Table 2).

Table 2.
Dynamics of Participatory Budgeting Indicators, 2021-2025[2]

Indicator	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025/2021, %
Submitted projects, number	41,125	131,265	105,434	63,049	50,662	+23.2
Final winning projects, number	1,599	4,136	4,183	4,774	4,786	+199.3
Funds allocated on the portal, UZS billion	530.5	2,620.3	4,307.3	5,662.2	6,697.6	+1,162.5
Winning rate, %	3.89	3.15	3.97	7.57	9.45	+143.0
Average funding per winner, UZS million	331.8	633.5	1,029.7	1,186.0	1,399.4	+321.8

1 Author's calculations based on data from the Open Budget information portal.
2 Source: Author's calculations based on the data in Table 1.

Between 2021 and 2025, the number of submitted projects increased from 41,125 to 50,662, or by 23.2%. However, the dynamics were uneven: the number of initiatives rose to 131,265 in 2022 and then declined by 61.4% by 2025. This contraction should not be interpreted one-sidedly as a decline in citizens' interest. More clearly defined project-submission requirements, restrictions on duplicate proposals and proposals outside the relevant mandate, and citizens' improved ability to formulate priority problems more precisely optimized the number of initiatives.

During the period under review, the number of final winning projects increased from 1,599 to 4,786, or almost threefold. The winning rate rose from 3.89% in 2021 to 9.45% in 2025. At the same time, the amount reported on the portal dashboard increased from UZS 530.5 billion to UZS 6,697.6 billion, or by 12.6 times. This growth reflects the increasing institutional importance of expenditure areas determined by citizens' choices within local budget spending.

Average funding per winning project increased from UZS 331.8 million in 2021 to UZS 1,399.4 million in 2025. On the one hand, this 4.2-fold increase indicates the expansion of project coverage and technical complexity; on the other hand, it strengthens the need for public oversight of cost-estimate justification, price proportionality, and performance indicators for each project (Table 3).

Table 3.
Analytical Coefficients Calculated by Season[3]

Season	Moderation rate, %	Winning rate, %	Votes per approved project, number	Funding per winner, UZS million	Funding ratio, %
2021-I	53.1	3.9	52.7	331.8	100.0
2022-I	57.8	3.4	166.8	510.3	100.0
2022-II	61.2	2.9	207.7	796.3	100.0
2023-I	60.2	5.3	478.9	934.1	96.7
2023-II	68.0	2.4	538.6	1,107.4	93.1
2024-I	81.6	7.9	404.5	1,154.1	96.1
2024-II	84.6	7.1	390.7	1,195.1	102.6
2025-I	82.6	8.5	445.5	1,236.8	89.0
2025-II	84.1	10.6	594.5	1,389.4	98.5

The moderation rate was 53.1% in 2021, rising to 57.8% in the first season of 2022 and 61.2% in the second season. In subsequent years, the indicator increased further, reaching its highest level of 84.6% in the second season of 2024 and 84.1% in the second season of 2025. Thus, the project moderation rate increased by 31 percentage points during the period under review, indicating that citizens and mahalla institutions accumulated greater experience in preparing projects in accordance with portal requirements.

The winning rate was 3.9% in 2021, 3.4% in the first season of 2022, and 2.9% in the second season. Although the indicator declined to 2.4% in the second season of 2023, it reached 10.6% in the second season of 2025. This indicates that, while the number of submitted initiatives decreased in recent years, the share of projects selected as winners increased substantially and the process became more outcome-oriented for participants.

The number of votes per approved project was 52.7 in 2021, increasing to 166.8 in the first season of 2022 and 207.7 in the second season. From 2023 onward, voting intensity strengthened further, reaching 594.5 votes per approved project in the second season of 2025. Thus, this indicator increased 11.3-fold during 2021-2025, demonstrating the growing popularity of participatory budgeting among the population.

Average funding per winning project increased from UZS 331.8 million in 2021 to UZS 796.3 million in the second season of 2022 and UZS 1,389.4 million in the second season of 2025. The 4.2-fold, or 318.7%, increase in this indicator over the period under review reflects the growing financial scale, coverage, and

3 Source: Author's calculations based on data from the Open Budget information portal. The funding ratio is the ratio of the total value of winning projects to the amount allocated as reported on the portal dashboard.

technical complexity of projects. Therefore, the effectiveness of participatory budgeting should be assessed not only by the number of winning projects but also by population coverage, the service capacity of facilities, implementation quality, and life-cycle costs.

The funding ratio ranged from 89.0% to 102.6% during 2023-2025. The ratio exceeding 100% in the second season of 2024 may be explained by the fact that the total value of winning projects and the initial allocation data on the portal dashboard were updated at different times, by additional financing sources, or by revised cost estimates. Therefore, interpretation of this coefficient should account for the dates on which data were updated and any additional sources of financing (Table 4).

Table 4.
Pearson Correlation Coefficients among Participatory Budgeting Indicators[4]

Indicator	Projects	Approved	Votes	Winners	Funding
Projects	1.000	0.935	-0.014	-0.079	-0.585
Approved	0.935	1.000	0.211	-0.000	-0.377
Votes	-0.014	0.211	1.000	0.175	0.479
Winners	-0.079	-0.000	0.175	1.000	0.729
Funding	-0.585	-0.377	0.479	0.729	1.000

The updated correlation matrix shows a very strong positive relationship between the number of submitted projects and the number of projects passing moderation ($r = 0.935$; $p < 0.001$). This means that an increase in the volume of submitted initiatives proportionally increases the number of projects advanced to the voting stage.

However, after the inclusion of data for 2021 and 2022, the relationship between the number of submitted projects and votes virtually disappeared ($r = -0.014$). This result can be explained by the fact that, despite the high number of projects in 2021-2022, voting coverage was lower than in subsequent years, whereas during 2023-2025 the number of projects declined while the intensity of votes per project increased.

A moderate negative relationship was identified between the number of projects and the total value of winning projects ($r = -0.585$). This shows that a larger number of initiatives does not automatically lead to a higher financing volume; conversely, in subsequent seasons, the average project value and total financing increased even as the number of projects declined.

A moderate positive relationship exists between the number of votes and the total value of winning projects ($r = 0.479$), although this relationship is not sufficiently statistically significant. A strong positive and statistically significant relationship was identified between the number of winning projects and their total value ($r = 0.729$; $p = 0.026$).

$$\hat{Y} = -661.4 + 1.2880 \times W$$

Here, $\hat{Y}$ denotes the total value of winning projects, in UZS billion, and W denotes the number of winning projects. The model has an R^2 of 0.532, meaning that 53.2% of the variation in the financing volume is explained by the number of winning projects. The regression coefficient is statistically significant ($p = 0.026$) and indicates that an increase of one winning project is associated with an average increase of UZS 1.288 billion in total project value; an increase of 100 winning projects is associated with an increase of approximately UZS 128.8 billion.

The inclusion of data for 2021 and 2022 reduced the explanatory power of the model compared with the previous six-season calculation. This is related to the increase in funding per winning project from UZS 331.8 million to UZS 1,389.4 million during the period under review, as well as changes in project-value limits, additional financing procedures, and price levels. Therefore, the result should be treated as a preliminary empirical association, and future studies should employ multivariate or panel regression models that account for season, year, region, project type, and inflation (Table 5).

4 Source: Author's calculations based on data for nine seasons during 2021-2025.

Table 5.
Assessment of Public Participation across the Stages of the Budget Process[5]

Stage	Current digital tool	Level of participation	Main problem
Project formulation	Submission of an initiative through the portal	High	Project-preparation capacity differs across regions
Moderation	Working commission conclusion and SMS notification	Moderate	Inconsistent interpretation of grounds for rejection
Voting	Portal, mobile application, SMS/identification	Very high	Inequality in mobilization capacity
Selection of winners	Automated ranking	High	Balance between need and votes
Financing	Citizen Initiatives Fund	Moderate	Information on additional sources and timelines
Implementation monitoring	Interactive dashboard, photo report, emergency alert	Moderate	Response time to citizen feedback
Project acceptance	Consent of the initiator and mahalla chairperson	Developing	Legal effect of consent and representation
Performance evaluation	Satisfaction and public assessment	Low	Lack of outcome KPIs and post-audit

The table covers eight stages of the participatory budgeting process, all of which employ specific digital tools. The level of participation is assessed as high at two stages and very high at the voting stage, showing that public activity is concentrated mainly on advancing and selecting projects. At three stages - moderation, financing, and implementation monitoring - representing 37.5% of all stages, participation is maintained at a moderate level, reflecting the continued development of institutional engagement. While the project acceptance stage is assessed as developing, the performance-evaluation stage offers considerable potential for further expansion of citizen participation. Thus, the share of stages with high or very high public participation is 37.5%, providing a solid foundation for future enhancement. The process demonstrates ongoing institutional refinement through the progressive harmonization of rejection criteria, the alignment of voting outcomes with public priorities, and the further development of timely citizen feedback mechanisms. Overall, digitalization successfully covers all eight stages of the process, while continuous improvements at the post-financing stages, particularly in project acceptance and final performance evaluation, further enhance the effectiveness of public oversight.

The findings show that participatory budgeting in Uzbekistan is moving from a phase of quantitative expansion to one focused on improving quality and effectiveness. Although the number of initiatives declined during 2021-2025, both the moderation rate and the winning rate increased. This process reflects a transition from the principle of “more projects” to the principle of “high-quality and implementable projects.”

The increase in financing indicates that a growing share of resources in local budget policy is being allocated on the basis of citizens’ choices. At the same time, the rise in average project value reflects the implementation of larger and more comprehensive projects within available resources. Therefore, alongside the automatic adjustment of maximum project values for inflation, consideration of expenditure per beneficiary and indicators of social impact can further improve the efficiency of resource allocation.

Territorial analysis demonstrates the value of complementing absolute participation indicators with measures normalized by population and the number of mahallas. For example, the region leading in votes may demonstrate different strengths from the region leading in the winning rate. In the future, the portal may automatically publish, by region, the number of initiatives per 10,000 residents, the share of voters, the number of winners per mahalla, and indicators of timely project completion.

Sectoral concentration reveals the population’s basic infrastructure needs. The continued emphasis on internal roads and educational facilities provides valuable information for coordinating local investment programs with participatory budgeting. Areas demonstrating consistently high demand may be incorporated as automatic signals into medium-term territorial programs, thereby strengthening strategic planning.

5 Source: OECD approaches [7], the UNDP review [9], legal and regulatory documents [16, 17], and the author’s analysis.

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Public oversight continues to expand after projects have been declared winners. The portal already includes monitoring and evaluation functions, while the legal framework governing their application, response times, correction procedures, and contractor accountability continues to evolve. Effective participation in the budget process is further strengthened when citizens' assessments of implementation quality complement their role in project selection and contribute to project acceptance and payment procedures.

We propose incorporating a Public Participation Efficiency Index (PPEI) into the portal's analytics. The index should consist of five blocks: moderation quality; voting intensity; winning outcomes and territorial coverage; financing and timely implementation; and public satisfaction. Individual indicators should be normalized to a 0-1 range, while weights may be determined using the entropy method or through broad public and expert participation. The purpose of the index is to support evidence-based policy making, identify opportunities for institutional improvement, and provide targeted support for the sustainable development of participatory budgeting (Table 6).

Table 6.
Proposed System of Indicators for the Public Participation Efficiency Index (PPEI)[6]

Block	Indicators	Proposed weight	Meaning
Participation quality	Moderation rate; repeated rejection of projects	0.20	Regulatory and technical quality of initiatives
Voting intensity	Share of voters; votes per project	0.20	Actual citizen engagement
Inclusiveness	Share of winning mahallas; territorial inequality	0.20	Territorial coverage of outcomes
Implementation efficiency	Financing; timeliness; completion; savings	0.25	Effectiveness of budget funds
Public assessment	Satisfaction; positive/yellow/red ratings	0.15	Project quality and user feedback

$$PPEI = 0.20Q + 0.20V + 0.20I + 0.25E + 0.15S$$

Here, Q denotes project quality, V voting intensity, I inclusiveness, E implementation efficiency, and S public satisfaction. Before the index is introduced in practice, indicator definitions, data quality, and the sensitivity of weights should be pilot-tested in selected regions.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The findings demonstrate that participatory budgeting has become a stable and widely used institution for engaging citizens in Uzbekistan's budget process. The simultaneous decline in the number of submitted projects and increase in the moderation and winning rates indicate that the process is improving qualitatively. In the second season of 2025, the satisfaction rate reached 84%, and the number of votes per approved project reached 594, demonstrating the increasing effectiveness of citizen participation. At the same time, territorial disparities in voting, winning rates, and project quality, the high concentration on road and education infrastructure, and the limited coverage of implementation monitoring require further improvement of the system.

Based on the identified findings, it is advisable to introduce the following scientific and practical recommendations:

1. Establish a minimum financing guarantee for participatory budgeting.

Each year, district and city budget parameters should provide sufficient resources to finance, as a rule, at least 6 and no more than 30 projects, depending on the number of mahallas participating in the relevant financial year. This arrangement would ensure financing stability across regions, prevent the probability of winning from falling excessively, and encourage mahallas to participate in the budget process.

2. Finance projects through co-financing by residents and the state budget.

A mechanism for jointly financing projects through the voluntary pooling of contributions from residents, business entities, sponsors, and budget funds should be widely introduced. Co-financing contributions should

6 Source: Developed by the author.

be recorded fully in digital form, while refund conditions, funding sources, and procedures applicable when a project does not win should be clearly specified in a public offer. This would mobilize additional resources and strengthen citizens' sense of ownership over project outcomes.

3. Introduce the "Best Taxpaying Mahalla" nomination.

This nomination is proposed in order to improve tax-payment culture and tax collection among residents and business entities. If residents of a mahalla winning the nomination finance 25% of the value of a co-financed project, the project may be declared a winner and the remaining 75% financed from the state budget. Selection criteria should be calculated transparently on the basis of tax arrears, voluntary payment discipline, entrepreneurial activity, and results in reducing the shadow economy.

4. Commission completed projects only after obtaining public consent.

Projects fully completed under participatory budgeting should be accepted for use only after electronic or written consent regarding the quality of the completed work has been obtained from the initiators, the mahalla chairperson, and mahalla activists. Where consent is withheld, identified deficiencies should be recorded openly on the portal, and final payment should be restricted until the contractor has remedied them.

5. Expand the Open Budget Performance Dashboard.

For each project, information on funding allocation, the contract, the contractor, the implementation schedule, physical progress, payments, photographs and geolocation, public evaluation, and the status of corrective action should be presented in a unified digital passport. The data should also be available for download in an open format.

6. Introduce the PPEI and a public oversight effectiveness ranking.

The performance of regions and districts or cities should be evaluated not on the basis of absolute vote totals but through participation, inclusiveness, timely implementation, and satisfaction indicators normalized by population and the number of mahallas. Ranking results should be linked to methodological assistance and measures to strengthen digital infrastructure in low-performing regions.

7. Integrate sectors with persistently high demand into medium-term budget planning.

Regions in which repeated high demand for internal roads, schools, and healthcare facilities is observed over several seasons should automatically be designated as priority signals for medium-term territorial investment programs. This would reduce the practice of addressing systemic infrastructure problems solely through competition for votes.

8. Screen projects using automated analysis and risk indicators.

It is advisable to introduce an algorithmic module on the portal to identify substantively duplicate projects, initiatives outside the relevant mandate, unjustified costs, repeated financing of the same facility over several seasons, and missing technical documentation. An automated alert should not constitute a final decision but should serve as analytical support for the working commission.

9. Introduce performance and post-project monitoring.

Six and twelve months after a facility is commissioned, its operating condition, population coverage, service quality, and maintenance costs should be assessed. The results should be taken into account in screening similar projects in subsequent seasons and in forming contractor ratings.

Comprehensive implementation of these recommendations would extend public participation in the budget process from the stages of initiative submission and voting to financing, implementation, acceptance, and performance evaluation. As a result, participatory budgeting would become not merely a tool for selecting projects but a comprehensive digital public platform for planning, implementing, and overseeing local public finance.

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