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# The Development of Participation Budget in the Civic Society of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodship

**Key words:** civic budget, participation, identity, kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship, civil society

### Introduction

Taking into account forms of undertaken social activities, most of all one can distinguish consultations with inhabitants in issues concerning: landscape management, the functioning of health care, culture and sports units, and recently planning the civil budget. Understood as such, social participation is possible due to the access to public information, information flow and the exchange of information between citizens and public authorities/ administration. Participation, in Latin *particeps*, means taking part, and in English *participation* taking part by individuals in a larger group, formation, project or institution. Bearing such a meaning, public participation will indicate activities aimed at the participation of citizens, legal subjects and various organizations in public life of a particular community. It ought to be comprehended as the participation in processes of undertaking and fulfilling projects and decisions concerning the development and functioning of a city, borough, residential estate, or even as it is possible in Ukraine, a street. Therefore, public participation may manifest itself in multitude of ways, includ-

ing public activity, or citizens' involvement, as electoral participation, or obligatory participation. Within social participation develops the participation of citizens in disposing of the budget means to realize tasks referring to the functioning of a city and its administrative units. The opportunity to take part in the process of creating a participation budget strengthens the awareness of each inhabitant of the fact that they can actively participate in managing the issues of their local community. Such a creative opportunity of each citizen's participation in the selection of aims and means for their achievement influences on the sense of worth, and is an added value to an individual identity, and additionally affects its development.

There are various forms of consultations in the institution of civil budget, which in limited way may deserve the form of direct democracy according to the law that is currently in force. Yet, in places where civil budget has been passed, there is an actual participation of inhabitants in spending budget means for chosen city, borough or residential area projects. Despite the lack of legal regulation which makes the basis for establishing civic budgets, one ought to appreciate the increasing

the stimulation of inhabitants to activity, which is indispensable in creation of civil society.

The article aims at the assessment of a phenomenon of the development of civil budget basing on the example of cities in kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship throughout the period of several years. The research method applied in conducting the study was a comparative analysis conducted on the basis of information included on the Internet sites in cities and communes. The study also takes into account the outcome of other researches.

### Legal conditioning of participation budget in Poland

The participation of a society in performing power affects the shaping of citizens' awareness referring to their legal and actual status, thus it influences their identity. In identity understood as, „a complex of images, feelings, judgements, memories and projections of a subject, which he relates to himself, are also such elements as: self-awareness of an individual, the awareness of continuity and remaining oneself in changing life conditions, the awareness of participation of a subject in social groups, the ability to make interpersonal and group comparisons<sup>1</sup>. Regardless of the significance of the ascribed national identity of cultural accents, more and more frequently the identity of a higher rank, i.e. European identity, is being searched for<sup>2</sup>. There also emerged doubts whether the development of European identity would result in the decomposition of a national identity<sup>3</sup>. An individual identity, personal one, stems from the need for uniqueness and is shaped by the need to search for and create the meaning of life<sup>4</sup>. An identity of a human being is the vision of oneself, imagination of who one is. A personal identity concerns an individual and is shaped due to the need to search and create the meaning of life, which is characteristic for a human being<sup>5</sup>. The shape of an individual identity is affected by the opportunity of social participation,

i.e. the opportunity of active participation of citizens in organization of a civil society.

The term of social participation includes the involvement of citizens in activities of structures and institutions in a democratic state, which means the participation in the institutions of public authority as well as organizations of public sector managed by them<sup>6</sup>. In the sphere of public finances one encounters civil participation in the process of establishing the institutions of participation budget, called also civil budget<sup>7</sup>. It seems that auxiliary facilities of local self-government, such as councils and administration of boroughs, or councils and administration of residential estates ought to play significant part in the process of establishing civil budgets<sup>8</sup>. Although, representatives of these units are closest to inhabitants and know best their problems, expectations, and needs, in fact they are most frequently not treated as partners in taking financial decisions that are most important in cities<sup>9</sup>. Article 5a of the Act on Commune Self-government is the legal basis for the institution of civil budget<sup>10</sup>. It grants the authorization to conduct consultations with inhabitants of a commune on its area in cases of significance for a commune. It ought to be remarked though, that it is merely a possibility, not an obligation. Moreover, the result of such a kind of social consultations is not binding for commune authorities.

In the process of establishing civic budget it is more a social agreement rather than a legal one, since commune authorities declare that decisions of inhabitants concerning the choice of assignments to be realized will be treated by them as binding. However, in case of making such a social agreement between councilors and citizens, enforcing it by citizens would not have any social basis, and as such would be impossible. It is so since

<sup>6</sup> J. Graczyk, *What is Participation*, [http://www.decdujmyrazem.pl/partycypacja/co\\_to\\_jest\\_partycypacja\\_\\_.html](http://www.decdujmyrazem.pl/partycypacja/co_to_jest_partycypacja__.html), [23 10 2015].

<sup>7</sup> A. Strzelecki, *Participation Budget*, in: *Local Self-government in Poland. Selected Aspects of Functioning*, ed. Z. Bukowski and S. Kamosiński, the Publishing house of Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz 2014, p. 254–257

<sup>8</sup> A. Strzelecki, „*The Shaping of the Institution of Civil Budget in Poland*”, in: „*Zeszyty Naukowe WSG – Ekonomia* 7/2015 vol. 26” Wyższa Szkoła Gospodarki, Bydgoszcz 2015, p. 179.

<sup>9</sup> *The Functioning of Auxiliary Facilities of a Commune in Selected Cities of śląskie Voivodship*, <http://bonafides.pl/publikacje/funkcjonowanie-jednostek-pomocniczych-gminy-wybranych-miastach-województwa-slaskiego/>, [09 12 2015].

<sup>10</sup> The Act of 8<sup>th</sup> March 1990 on local self-government (Dz. U. 1990 nr 16, poz. 95 – tekst jednolity. w Dz. U. z dn. 04 04 2016 r. poz. 446).

<sup>1</sup> W. Kamiński, *An Adult Individual in the Situations of Endangered Identity*, In: *The Introduction to andragogy*. Ed. T. Wujek, Warszawa 1996, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>3</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>4</sup> E. Górnikowska-Zwolak, *The Social Role of Woman in Silesian Tradition against the requirements of Modern Society. Dilemmas of coherent identity*, In: *Education towards Global Order*. Ed. T. Lewowicki Warszawa 2002, p. 223.

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem.

a councilor must not be burdened in his free mandate by any obligation referring to the manner of executing it. The fulfilling of promises during the consultation of assignments included in a participation budget on principle depends on the formulation of procedures regulating the introduction of civil budget. When they grant authorities the possibility to alter assignments selected by inhabitants, or their voice is treated as a suggestion, it may be assumed that there is a risk of alteration or the collapse of a civil budget. It results from the practice in other countries (e.g. in cities of northern Italy)<sup>11</sup>.

A circle of people entitled to participation in social consultations, determined in a law, poses a significant problem referring to social consultations. The Act on Commune Self-government points at inhabitants directly. It is confirmed by the court sentence issued on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001 by Wojewódzki Sąd Administracyjny (provincial administrative court) in Wrocław<sup>12</sup>, which emphasised in the judgement that it is not a competence of a commune organ (art. 5a of the Act on Commune Self-government) to determine subjective rights conditioning the right of a commune inhabitants, i.e. individuals inhabiting a town within its area, to participate in consultations. In the majority of passed civil budget regulations there are notations, however, which determine the criteria for inhabitants entitled to participate in social consultations concerning the creation of such a budget. The criteria are as follows: the requirement of permanent registration of residence, unlimited active capacity, being 18, 16, or even 15. For instance, in Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Włocławek, Grudziądz and other cities individuals living there who are over 16 can participate in consultations concerning the creation of a civil budget<sup>13</sup>. In Włocławek an additional criterion has been introduced, stating that each suggestion of an inhabitant must be supported with signatures of minimum 15 inhabitants<sup>14</sup>. In Chełmno nad Wisłą there is a state-

ment in the regulations, that there is the requirement of enclosing to the form the list of minimum 25 people supporting a particular project, who are over 16 and have permanent registration of residence in Chełmno on the day of forwarding of a project<sup>15</sup>.

The term of an inhabitant who can participate in social consultations concerning the creation of civic budget must not be identified with the legal status of an individual holding the right of franchise. Depriving a commune inhabitant of public rights, election rights or interdiction does not mean depriving him of the right to participate in consultations<sup>16</sup>. It was confirmed by Wojewódzki Sąd Administracyjny in Opole in the decision from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006, stating in the decision from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 that, „a council does not have the legislative delegation to limit the circle of individuals entitled to participate in consultations to the inhabitants holding franchise”<sup>16</sup>. What is of interest in the above case is the standpoint of the Supreme Administrative Court, which in the decision from 26<sup>th</sup> July 2002 pointed that, „the rules and manner of conducting consultations do not contain the determination of subjective rights deciding on the right of an individual to participate in consultations. All people are equal towards the law and have the right to be treated equally by public authorities<sup>17</sup>. The limitation of constitutional freedoms and rights can be expressed in the Act exclusively<sup>18</sup>. Therefore it must be assumed that the limitation of individuals entitled to participate in consultations only to e.g. those who hold franchise means the violation of constitutional rules”<sup>19</sup>.

In communes where auxiliary facilities are present, some of them were entitled for consultations within the process of creation of participation budgets<sup>20</sup>. In some cases also non-government organizations and others

<sup>11</sup> K. Bandarzewski, *Ekspertyza-dotyczaca-budzetow-obywatelskich.pdf*, [www.maszglos.pl/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/](http://www.maszglos.pl/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/) [11 12 2017].

<sup>12</sup> Sygn. akt III SA/ Wr. 20/11.

<sup>13</sup> *Wyniki głosowania*, [www.bdgbo.pl/2017/11/wyniki-glosowania.html](http://www.bdgbo.pl/2017/11/wyniki-glosowania.html), [11 12 2017], Karta do głosowania. Budżet partycypacyjny w Toruniu 2917, [www.torun.pl/sites/default/files/pictures/bp2017/bp\\_2017\\_karta\\_do\\_glosowania\\_int.pdf](http://www.torun.pl/sites/default/files/pictures/bp2017/bp_2017_karta_do_glosowania_int.pdf), [12 11 2016], Budżet obywatelski miasta Włocławek na rok 2018, <https://wloclawek.budzet-obywatelski.org/>, [12 11 2017]. Resolution of the Grudziądz City Council [Uchwała Rady Miejskiej Grudziądz], [www.haszgru.pl/uploads/files/Uchwa%C5%82a%20GBO%202017%20XXIX\\_95\\_16.pdf](http://www.haszgru.pl/uploads/files/Uchwa%C5%82a%20GBO%202017%20XXIX_95_16.pdf), [03 03 2017].

<sup>14</sup> An Appendix to a Decree No 111/2016 of the Presi-

dent of Włocławek 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016.: [www.bip.um.wlocl.pl/zarządzenie-nr-1112016-prezydenta-miasta-wloclawek-z-dnia-20-kwietnia-2016-r-w-sprawie-konsultacji-z-mieszkancami-i-procedury-wdrażania-budzetu-obywatelskiego-miasta-wloclawek-na-rok-2017](http://www.bip.um.wlocl.pl/zarządzenie-nr-1112016-prezydenta-miasta-wloclawek-z-dnia-20-kwietnia-2016-r-w-sprawie-konsultacji-z-mieszkancami-i-procedury-wdrażania-budzetu-obywatelskiego-miasta-wloclawek-na-rok-2017).

<sup>15</sup> The Rules of a Civil Budget of the town of Chełmno, [http://www.bip.chemno.pl/?cid=1601&bip\\_id=6369](http://www.bip.chemno.pl/?cid=1601&bip_id=6369), [02 03 2017].

<sup>16</sup> Sygn. akt II SA/Op. 207/06, The Central Base of Administrative Courts Sentences

<sup>17</sup> Art. 32 par. 1 of The Constitution of the Polish Republic from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1997 (Dz. U. 1997 nr 78 poz. 483 – tekst ujednolicony Dz. U. z 2009 nr 14, poz. 946).

<sup>18</sup> Art. 31par. 3of the Constitution of the Polish Republic.

<sup>19</sup> Sygn. akt II SA/ Wr 1116/02 -unpublished.

<sup>20</sup> e.g. in Bielsko-Biała, Gdynia, Wałbrzych, Kargowa.

were entitled by commune organs<sup>21</sup> to present their participation proposals. Such a practice was questioned by Wojewoda Śląski (provincial governor), who in supervising authority's solution discredited the regulations included in the resolution of Rada Miasta Bielsko-Biała (City Council) in this respect<sup>22</sup>. In the statement of invalidity of the resolution of Bielsko-Biała city, wojewoda decided that the regulations included in the resolution that entitle legal entities and organizational units without legal personality to forward projects within civil budget are inconsistent with art. 5a par. 2 of the Act on Commune Self-government, stating that consultations are conducted with the inhabitants of a commune.

In Poland civil budgets are as a rule created on the basis of a commune council resolutions, rarely basing on a decree of an executive organ. It seems that a resolution of a decision making body is a better solution. In the situation when a commune council disagrees with an executive organ, a decision of the latter one may not favour the creation of civil budget and its development. Moreover, the creation of civil budget requires explanatory and promotion activities, which results in the necessity of cooperation between both organs of commune self-government. It is also worth noting that it is the council that decides on the amount of budget expenditure and its allocation.

Although, participation budget makes it possible for inhabitants to forward their motions, ideas and projects, it does not mean the entitlement to overtake greater responsibility for a city. Hence, there frequently appears an opinion that strengthening position of people in power is the hidden aim, whereas allowing a bigger group of inhabitants to joint managing of a city may not be the goal. Thus, the opportunity of the inhabitants' participation in creating budget is merely a tool for undertaking minor alterations. Therefore, even though there undoubtedly is the stimulation of inhabitants and various social circles activity, as well as liberation of grassroots civil energy, in numerous cases this mechanism may be taken advantage of in order to neutralize the opposition towards the authorities, and even antagonizing opponents, drawing their attention to a fraction of budget means<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> e.g. in Rybnik, Wałbrzych, or Sochaczew.

<sup>22</sup> The Supervisory Decision no NPII.4131.1.459.2013 from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

<sup>23</sup> A. Celiński, Urban Policy – excess inquiries, insufficient replies, Publica.pl, 25 October 2013, p. 38. <http://publica.pl/teksty/polityka-miejska-nadmiar-pytan-niedobor-odpowiedzi>, [26 12 2016].

### Civic activity in the process of participation in civil budgets

The cities where civil budget has not been created are: Inowrocław, Brodnica, Nakło n. Notecią, Żnin, Golub Dobrzyń, Tuchola, Więcbork, Mogilno i Koronowo. In Brodnica, however, the first civil budget is to be created in 2018 and 600 thousand PLN<sup>24</sup> has been allocated for the realization of projects chosen by inhabitants. In Inowrocław, on the other hand, there is a different situation, where in such a relatively big town the President of Inowrocław is not in favour of civil budget. Agnieszka Chrzęszcz, his spokesperson, is claiming that Ryszard Brejza listens to inhabitants and analyses their proposals, and during recent numerous meetings with citizens of Inowrocław there has not been any suggestion regarding the subject of so called civil budget. *Gazeta Pomorska*, which presents a different opinion, has invited inhabitants of Inowrocław to take part in a survey. Almost as many as 87% of respondents supported the idea of creating civil budget in Inowrocław. Whereas only 10% voted „no”, and 3% took no stand-point in this matter<sup>25</sup>.

Other smaller towns without civil budget are as follows: (in aleksandrowski district) Nieszawa, (in brodnicki district) Górzno, (in bydgoski district) Koronowo and Solec Kujawski, (in Golubsko-dobrzyński district) Golub-Dobrzyń and Kowalewo Pomorskie. (in grudziądzki district) Łasin and Radzyń Chełmiński, (in inowrocławski district) Janikowo, Kruszewo and Pakość, (in lipnowski district) Dobrzyń nad Wisłą and Skępe, (in mogileński district) Mogilno and Strzelno. (in nakielski district) Kcynia, Mroczka, Nakło nad Notecią and Szubin (in radziejowski district) Piotrków Kujawski, (in sępoleński district) Więcbork, (in świecki district) Nowe (in tucholski district) Tuchola, (in włocławski district) Brześć Kujawski, Chodecz, Izbiца Kujawska, Kowal, Lubień Kujawski, Lubraniec (in żniński district) Łabiszyn i Żnin.

The below table presents data concerning the process of the development of civil budgets in cities of kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship.

<sup>24</sup> PAK, Wybórą inwestycje w formule tzw. budżetu obywatelskiego. Co wymyślą brodniczanie?, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/brodnica/a/wybora-inwestycje-w-formule-tzw-budzetu-obywatelskiego-co-wymysla-brodniczanie,11524136/](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/brodnica/a/wybora-inwestycje-w-formule-tzw-budzetu-obywatelskiego-co-wymysla-brodniczanie,11524136/), [09.XII.2016]

<sup>25</sup> D. Nawrocki, Budżet obywatelski w Inowrocławiu? Apel Sławomira Szeligi. <http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/inowroclaw/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-inowroclawiu-apel-slawomira-szeligi,10016864/>, [09 12 2016]

**Table 1.** Civil budgets in towns and communes of kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship.

no.	city, commune	Number of inhabitants in thousands	The size of a civic budget In millions of PLN in years			The size of expenditure in a town budget in 2017 mln zł	The share of a civic budget in the expenditure of town budget in % 6/7
			2015	2016	2017		
1.	Bydgoszcz	359,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	2 034,0	0,25
2.	Toruń	203,0	6,5	6,6	7,03	1 184,7	0,59
3.	Włocławek	108,0	1,0	3,0	3,5	614,8	0,57
4.	Grudziądz	99,0	2,0	2,0	3,0	515,7	0,58
5.	Świecie	26,0	–	1,0	1,0	169,2	0,59
6.	Chełmno	20,0	0,05	0,1	0,1	68,2	0,15
7.	Rypin	16,0	–	0,25	0,25	80,4	0,31
8.	Chełmża	15,0	–	0,1	0,35	54,7	0,64
9.	Lipno	14,0	–	–	0,1	33,8	0,29
10.	Wąbrzeźno	14,0	0,3	0,3	0,3	56,9	0,53
11.	Aleksandrów Kujawski	12,0	–	–	0,1	44,4	0,22
12.	Ciechocinek	11,0	–	–	0,35	48,1	0,72
13.	Gniewkowo	11,0	–	–	0,2	53,4	0,37
14.	Kamień Krajeński	2,4	–	0,2	0,2	48,2	0,41
15.	Sępólno Krajeńskie	9,3	–	–	0,2	57,9	0,34
16.	Radziejów	6,0	–	0,15	0,15	23,1	0,65
17.	Janowiec Wielkopolski	4,1	–	–	0,07	35,1	0,20
18.	average	x	x	x	x	x	<b>0,43</b>
19.	Gmina Barcin	7,8	–	0,3	0,3	70,0	0,42
20.	Powiat Toruński	103,8			0,2	93,5	0,21

Source: own study based on public information bulletins on the Internet

The institution of civil budget in kujawsko-pomorskie is constantly developing, which is proved by the number of towns which have passed such budgets. While in 2015 there were 6 of them, in 2016 their number increased to 11, which is the growth of 83.3%, and in 2017 the number of towns with a civil budget amounts to 17, which means that there has been the growth of 54.5% as compared to the previous year. An average indicator of the share that civil budgets have in overall budget expenditure in 2017 is 0.43% which is not substantial. Among big cities the lowest indicator of the share of civil budgets in overall expenditure in 2017

is in Bydgoszcz, whereas the largest in Toruń (0.59%), Grudziądz (0.58%) and Włocławek (0.57%). Amongst smaller towns the largest share in overall budget expenditure should be noted in: Ciechocinek (0.72%), Radziejów (0.65%), Chełmża (0.64%) and Świecie (0.59%). Also passing civil budgets in Barcin commune and toruński district is worth noting.

Table 2 presents data illustrating the number of votes given in consultation processes in creating civil budgets. It shows a certain image of inhabitants' activity, as well as the scale of expenditure per 1 statistic inhabitant in this budget.

**Table 2.** The activity of inhabitants in shaping civic budget in kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship.

no.	city, commune	Number of inhabitants in thousands	Number of votes in civil budget 2016 in thousands	% share of inhabitants voting in budget in overall population	Civic budget per 1 inhabitant in PLN			The dynamics of development of civil budget perone inhabitant in %	
					2015	2016	2017	2016/2015	2017/2016
1	Bydgoszcz	359,0	30,2	8,4	13,9	13,9	13,9	100,0	100,0
2	Toruń	203,0	21,4	10,5	20,3	32,5	34,6	160,1	106,5
3	Włocławek	108,0	12,8	11,9	9,2	27,7	30,9	301,1	116,5
4	Grudziądz	99,0	23,0	23,2	20,2	20,2	30,3	100,0	200,6



Tab. 2 – continue

no.	city, commune	Number of inhabitants in thousands	Number of votes in civil budget 2016 in thousands	% share of inhabitants voting in budget in overall population	Civic budget per 1 inhabitant in PLN			The dynamics of development of civil budget perone inhabitant in %	
					2015	2016	2017	2016/2015	2017/2016
5	Świecie	26,0	6,5	25,0	–	38,5	38,5	–	100,0
6	Chełmno	20,0	3,4	17,0	2,5	5,0	5,0	200,0	–
7	Rypin	16,0	1,04	6,5	–	15,6	15,6	–	100,0
8	Chełmża	15,0	4,4	29,3	–	6,7	23,3	–	347,8
9	Lipno	14,0	0,5	3,6	–	–	7,1	–	–
10	Wąbrzeźno	14,0	3,0	21,4	2,1	2,1	2,1	100,0	100,0
11	Aleksandrów Kujawski	12,0	b. d.	–	–	8,3	8,3	–	100,0
12	Ciechocinek	11,0	0,893	8,2	–	–	31,8	–	–
13	Gniewkowo	11,0	0,7	6,4	–	–	18,2	–	–
14	Kamień Krajeński	2,4	b. d.	–	–	83,3	83,3	–	100,0
15	Sępólno Krajeńskie	9,3	b. d.	–	–	–	21,5	–	–
16	Radziejów	6,0	0,9	15,0	–	2,5	18,8	–	752,0
17	Janowiec Wielkopolski	4,1	0,6	18,4	–	–	17,1	–	–
18	Średnia 1–17	x	x	14,6	11,4	21,4	23,5	197,7	109,8
19	Gmina Barcin	7,8	1,4	24,1	–	–	38,5	–	–
20	Powiat Toruński	103,8	17,2	16,5	–	–	1,9	–	–

Source: own study on the basis of: public information bulletins on the Internet and: Wyniki głosowania, [www.bdgbo.pl/2017/11/wyniki-glosowania.html](http://www.bdgbo.pl/2017/11/wyniki-glosowania.html), [11 12 2017], Budżet partycypacyjny Torunia, [www.torun.pl/pl/miasto/budzet-partycypacyjny-torunia-2017](http://www.torun.pl/pl/miasto/budzet-partycypacyjny-torunia-2017), [12 11 2016], Budżet obywatelski miasta Włocławek na 2016 r., [www.wloclawek.pl/pl/artykuly/62/budzet-obywatelski-miasta-wloclawek-na-rok-2016](http://www.wloclawek.pl/pl/artykuly/62/budzet-obywatelski-miasta-wloclawek-na-rok-2016), [11 11 16], Grudziądzki budżet obywatelski. Które projekty wygrały? Sprawdź, <http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/grudziadzka/grudziadzki-budzet-obywatelski-2017-ktore-projekty-wygraly-sprawdz>, 120, [11 12 2017], PAK, Wybiorą inwestycje w formule tzw. budżetu obywatelskiego. Co wymyślą brodniczanie?, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/brodnica/a/wybiora-inwestycje-w-formule-tzw-budzetu-obywatelskiego-co-wymysla-brodniczanie](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/brodnica/a/wybiora-inwestycje-w-formule-tzw-budzetu-obywatelskiego-co-wymysla-brodniczanie), 11524136/, [09 12 2016], Budżet obywatelski gminy Świecie, <https://budzetobywatelski.swiecie.eu/aktualnosc/wyniki-g%C5%82osowania>, [11 12 2017], M. Smół, Ogłoszono wyniki głosowania w Budżecie Obywatelskim w Chełmnie, [www.chelmno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/ogloszono-wyniki-glosowania-w-budzecie-obywatelskim-w-3741912,art,t,id,tm.html](http://www.chelmno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/ogloszono-wyniki-glosowania-w-budzecie-obywatelskim-w-3741912,art,t,id,tm.html), [06 03 2017], Budżet obywatelski 2018 – wyniki głosowania, [www.bip.chelmza.pl/9701,budzet-obywatelski](http://www.bip.chelmza.pl/9701,budzet-obywatelski), [02 03 2017], Budżet obywatelski Rypin 2018, [www.rypin.budzet-obywatelski.org/wyniki](http://www.rypin.budzet-obywatelski.org/wyniki), [08 03 2017], R. Kudel, Budżet obywatelski Lipna na 2017 rok. Znamy wyniki głosowania mieszkańców, [www.lipno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-lipna-na-2017-rok-znamy-wyniki,3875698,art,t,id,tm.html](http://www.lipno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-lipna-na-2017-rok-znamy-wyniki,3875698,art,t,id,tm.html), [13 11 2016], Budżet obywatelski Wąbrzeźna. Znamy już wyniki, [www.budzetobywatelski.wabrzezno.com/znamy-juz-wyniki-budzetu-obywatelskiego/](http://www.budzetobywatelski.wabrzezno.com/znamy-juz-wyniki-budzetu-obywatelskiego/), [13 11 2016], J. Aleksandrowicz, Budżet obywatelski 2017 w Aleksandrowie Kujawskim. Poznaliśmy wyniki głosowania mieszkańców, [www.aleksandrowkujawski.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-2017-w-aleksandrowie-kujawskim,3830830,art,t,id,tm.html](http://www.aleksandrowkujawski.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-2017-w-aleksandrowie-kujawskim,3830830,art,t,id,tm.html), [17 12 2016], J. Aleksandrowicz, Mieszkańcy Ciechocinka wybrali. Sześć zadań z budżetu obywatelskiego do realizacji, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/ciechocinek/a/mieszkanicy-ciechocinka-wybrali-szesc-zadan-z-budzetu-obywatelskiego-do-realizacji,10787406/](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/ciechocinek/a/mieszkanicy-ciechocinka-wybrali-szesc-zadan-z-budzetu-obywatelskiego-do-realizacji,10787406/), [11 12 2017], (dan), Budżet obywatelski w Gniewkowie. Skąd tak duża frekwencja, <http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/inowroclaw/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-gniewkowie-skad-tak-duza-frekwencja,12691738> [11 12 2017], Budżet obywatelski w gminie Sępólno Krajeńskie, <https://www.gmina-sepolno.pl/index.php/161-budzet-obywatelski-w-gminie-sepolno-krajenskie-na-2018-rok> [11 12 2017], Budżet Obywatelski Gminy Kamień Pomorski na 2016 rok, <http://www.kamienpomorski.pl/pl/news/bud%C5%BCet-obywatelski-gminy-kamie%C5%84-pomorski-na-2016-rok>, [12 12 2017], wyniki wyboru zadania do budżetu obywatelskiego na 2017 rok, <https://www.um-janowiecwlkp.pl/index.php/o-miescie/9-ogolne/1188-wyniki-wyboru-zadania-do-budzetu-obywatelskiego-na-2017-rok>, [11 12 2017]

Data presented in table 2 prove that in 2016 the average involvement of inhabitants in 14 cities of kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship (taking into account no data in 3 cities), measured with the participation of voting inhabitants against the overall population was 14.6% with the average budget per one inhabitant of 21.4 PLN and the dynamics of this indicator 197.7% as compared to 2015 and intended 109.8% in 2017. The largest share of voting inhabitants is to be noted in three cit-

ies: Chełmża – 29.3%, Świecie – 25% and Grudziądz – 23.2%, whereas the lowest number of inhabitants voting in civil budget was in Lipno – 3.6%, Rypin – 6.5%, and Gniewkowo 6.4%. In three largest cities the level of participation was similar, i.e. from 8.4% to 11.9%. It is worth noting the high percentage of voting for civil budget in Barcin – 24.1%. A large share ought to be also noted in toruński district.

Without the verification of votes given (although the number of votes presented on the Internet might be doubtful), anyhow the average of votes – 14%, or even a more realistic number between 8 and 12% of the overall population, proves a noticeable activity of inhabitants. It might indicate that in these units of local self-government in which civil budget has been introduced there is the increase in the awareness of citizens referring to the possibility of influencing on the shape of local community in which they dwell. They are willing to affect the appearance of their town, commune, residential area, and wish to participate in a variety of projects enriching cultural and sports life. One may also notice that this type of activity has the influence on the higher level of security of inhabitants. The examples presented below may confirm the transformation of the status of inhabitants from passive to active.

### The study on selected examples of civil activity

In Bydgoszcz there were 15 924 votes in written form (74.21%) and 6 317 in electronic (25.79%) given for the civil budget. The ones entitled to vote were the inhabitants of Bydgoszcz over the age of 16. Projects that gained the highest number of votes were marked green and included for the realization in the city budget<sup>26</sup>. Also opinion of Housing Estate Councils, which in this edition were expressed at the stage of verification before the voting was held, were taken into account. Representatives of councils also participated in a team verifying motions. Within the Civil Budget of Bydgoszcz the majority of motions concerned retrofitting recreational and sports areas, constructing pavements and park sites, and developing video surveillance. Citizens of Bydgoszcz forwarded also projects associated with creating beauty spots, sites for books available within bookcrossing scheme, as well as marking additional contraflow for cyclists in the city centre<sup>27</sup>.

In Toruń 131 community and city projects were voted for by 21 411 inhabitants, who gave altogether over 60 thousand votes. 48 projects acquired approval, out of which the largest support (2799 votes) in city

pool went for the project of constructing a multifunction playfield at the intersection of Iwanowskiej and Prüfferów streets, estimated for 370 thousand PLN. Large support (2618) was given to the renovation of kennels in the shelter in Przybyszewskiego street – 100 thousand PLN. The idea of organizing the edition of Lux Fest on St Nicolas day, estimated for 350 thousand PLN, was voted for by 2415 inhabitants.

Also project „Odpoczywaj w lesie” („Rest in forest”), voted for by 2103 people, is to be realized. The plan includes as well the construction of walking and jogging paths, cycling routes, installation of benches and open air gyms in Bielawy forest. The cost of the enterprise was estimated for almost 1.3 mln PLN<sup>28</sup>.

The amount of money meant for spending within the Civil Budget of Włocławek was 3.5 mln PLN in 2017. The inhabitants of Włocławek filled 12 824 voting cards, out of which 9748 were in written form, and 3076 on the Internet<sup>29</sup>. The following projects were qualified for realization: continuation of equipping the playground at Przedszkole Publiczne (kindergarten) No32 and adjusting it for the needs of the disabled, 350 thousand PLN (1308 votes), a shelter for cats in the animal asylum, 200 thousand PLN (1343 votes), parking sites (250 thousand PLN (405 votes), playground at Przedszkole Publiczne (kindergarten) No 13, 300 thousand PLN (1628 votes), the extension of sports and recreation infrastructure at Szkoła Podstawowa (the elementary school ) No 12, 200 thousand PLN (333 votes), establishing of the system of city surveillance of a housing estate, 200 thousand PLN (272 votes), creation of a library playground in Michelin 350 thousand PLN (452 votes) and more playgrounds for around 300 thousand PLN, a gym in Łokietka park for 100 thousand PLN (427 votes). The inhabitants of Zawisze decided on the construction of a fence at Zespół Szkół (complex of schools) No 8 and Biblioteka Publiczna (public library) No 1 for 250 thousand PLN (283 votes), creation of sports and recreation complex at Szkoły Elektryczne (high school) for 700 thousand PLN (700 votes)<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> Budżet partycypacyjny Torunia 2017, [www.torun.pl/pl/miasto/budzet-partycypacyjny-torunia-2017](http://www.torun.pl/pl/miasto/budzet-partycypacyjny-torunia-2017), [12 11 2016].

<sup>29</sup> Budżet obywatelski miasta Włocławek na 2016 r., [www.wloclawek.pl/pl/artykuly/62/budzet-obywatelski-miasta-wloclawek-na-rok-2016](http://www.wloclawek.pl/pl/artykuly/62/budzet-obywatelski-miasta-wloclawek-na-rok-2016), [11 11 16],

<sup>30</sup> J. Juszczynska, Budżet obywatelski Włocławek 2017. Poznaliśmy wyniki głosowania [www.wloclawek.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-wloclawek-2017-poznalismy-wyniki,3847804,artgal,t,id,tm.html](http://www.wloclawek.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-wloclawek-2017-poznalismy-wyniki,3847804,artgal,t,id,tm.html), [14 013 2017].

<sup>26</sup> WIBO, Program 5/6 Bydgoski Budżet Obywatelski 201, zet., <https://www.assecods.pl/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Szablon-Case-Bydgoszcz.pdf>, [12 12 2017]

<sup>27</sup> Wyniki głosowania na projekty Bydgoskiego Budżetu Obywatelskiego w 2017 roku, <http://www.bdgbo.pl/>, [12 12 2017].

In Grudziądz the following city assignments were selected<sup>31</sup>: the modernization of a swimming pool basin, baths, and cloakrooms in the swimming pool of Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących No 2 (high school) in Grudziądz for 186 334.07 PLN (597 votes), the construction of multifunction playfield for ball games in I Liceum Ogólnokształcące (high school) in Grudziądz for 249 930 PLN (580) votes, the construction of a playground in Szkoła Podstawowa No 4 (elementary school) in Grudziądz estimated for 99 990 PLN (114 votes). When it comes to community assignments the following ones acquired the support: the extension of sports and recreation complexes, the construction of athletics and football facilities, playgrounds for children, revitalization of St Catherine's garden and the area of a nearby church of St Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr in Grudziądz, as well as the construction of traffic lights and signs at pedestrian crossings.

In Inowrocław the city authorities were not convinced for the idea of establishing civil budget. According to Agnieszka Chrzęszcz, the spokesperson of the president of Inowrocław, the manner of constructing a budget is not currently of significance for Inowrocław inhabitants<sup>32</sup>, since the projects they forward are approved of. The president has the knowledge on problems and expectations of inhabitants, due to his meetings with inhabitants of all housing estates. According to what the spokesperson of the President of Inowrocław claims during the meetings with inhabitants there was not a single motion forwarded or a remark referring to so called civil budget. The situation looks different according to a survey conducted by *Gazeta Pomorska*. If the fact of establishing civil budget in Inowrocław was voted for by readers of „*Pomorska*”, the initiative would have been realized by now. *Gazeta* invited inhabitants of Inowrocław to take part in a survey, in which as many as 87% of respondents were in favour of creating civil budget in Inowrocław. Only 10% voted against it, and 3% did not take a standpoint in this matter<sup>33</sup>.

Brodnica introduced civil budget relatively late. The authorities were discouraged with the experience of

some self-governments, where thorough civil budget a gate was opened for additional investment in schools<sup>34</sup>. On the list of selected projects within civil budget in Brodnica three are 43 out of 144 assignments, which will be realized for 6 mln 440 thousand PLN. Over half of them, 53% of projects, concern recreation (playgrounds, gyms, sports fields) for over 4.2 mln PLN. Road projects make the second largest group – 19%, for 1.5 mln PLN. What is interesting, a relatively large group of projects, 7%, regards pets. The value of these assignments amounts to 120 thousand PLN. The remaining ones make 21% and will consume a little over half a million PLN<sup>35</sup>.

In Świecie within civil budget a million PLN was allocated by the commune for fulfilling participation assignments, 700 thousand PLN of which was meant for town of Świecie and 300 thousand for the rural areas of the commune. The value of a single enterprise could not be larger than 350 thousand PLN. Valid votes were given by 6567 inhabitants, 3 thousand of which by the Internet. In Brodnica the leading project was the one of purchasing a fire engine for Ochotnicza Straż Pożarna „Ratownik” (a voluntary fire brigade) for 290 thousand PLN, which gained as many as 16108 points. The second position was held with 11396 by the project of creating a recreation area in Różana street, for 329,5 thousand PLN. As the third one qualified for the realization was to be the one gaining a sufficient number of points, however not exceeding 80.5 thousand PLN. The criterion of maximal amount was exceeded by projects that took the third and fourth positions, namely Open City Gallery, for 285 thousand PLN and the modernization of sports fields in Żwirki i Wigury street (346 thousand PLN). Therefore, the third selected project was the one of creating the network of bike stands „Świecie na rowerach” (Świecie on bikes), which was the fifth one when it comes to the number of gained points (1828 points), but its value was estimated for 33.6 thousand PLN<sup>36</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> Budżet partycypacyjny Grudziądza. Jakie projekty wygrały?, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/grudziadz/a/budzet-obywatelski-grudziadz-jakie-projekty-wygraly,9979749/](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/grudziadz/a/budzet-obywatelski-grudziadz-jakie-projekty-wygraly,9979749/), [16 03 2017].

<sup>32</sup>

<sup>33</sup> D. Nawrocki, Budżet obywatelski w Inowrocławiu? Apel Sławomira Szeligi, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/inowroclaw/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-inowroclawiu-apel-slawomira-szeligi,10016864,](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/inowroclaw/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-inowroclawiu-apel-slawomira-szeligi,10016864,)[09 12 2016].

<sup>34</sup> (PAK) Brodnica przeznaczy ponad pół miliona na pomysły ludzi, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/brodnica/a/brodnica-przeznaczy-ponad-pol-miliona-na-pomysly-ludzi,10911827/](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/brodnica/a/brodnica-przeznaczy-ponad-pol-miliona-na-pomysly-ludzi,10911827/), [16 03 2017].

<sup>35</sup> Przedstawiamy wyniki głosowania na budżet partycypacyjny, [www.nowosci.com.pl/dzielnice/a/przedstawiamy-wyniki-glosowania-na-budzet-partycypacyjny,10892175/](http://www.nowosci.com.pl/dzielnice/a/przedstawiamy-wyniki-glosowania-na-budzet-partycypacyjny,10892175/), [16 03 2017].

<sup>36</sup> Budżet obywatelski w Świeciu. Już wiemy na co wydamy milion złotych, <http://www.pomorska.pl/gminy-w-kujawsko-pomorskiem/gmina-swiecie/wiesci-z-gminy/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-swieciu-juz-wiemy-na-co-wydamy-milion-zlotych,10759536/>, [12 12 2017].



In Chełmno the ones entitled to vote on projects were inhabitants with permanent registration of residence, over the age of 16. Presented projects could have the value between 2.5 to over 89 thousand PLN. The largest number of votes (1302) were given for the purchase of two 10-people dragon boats for SSW Dragon for 62 thousand PLN. The second position, with the support of 1135 people, was taken by the modernization of a playground in Osnowskiej street, for 83 thousand PLN, whereas the third one with 959 votes by a motion concerning the purchase of a respiratory protection device with equipment and stationary sensors<sup>37</sup>.

In the town of Wąbrzeźno 15 projects were forwarded for civil budget, 5 of which dropped out for various reasons during verification process. The number of assignments was limited solely by their overall value which could not exceed the value of civil budget, i.e. 300 thousand PLN. In the voting that was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 3508 forms were handed in, as many as 574 of which were invalid. Amongst the reasons of invalidity there was the violation of the rule of voting once, giving the number of projects and their overall value, and crossing outs that made a form illegible. The most votes were given for the projects: „Rozwój Klubu Aktywnych Kobiet” (Development of Active Females Club) for 30 thousand PLN, the purchase of catamaran for 40.600 PLN, the multimedia system for MBKP parish for 32.000 PLN, the reconstruction of beach and resort for 150.000, and the memory hall of Wąbrzeźno fire brigade for 109.400 PLN. The last assignment, however, was not approved for the realization since it exceeded the budget limit<sup>38</sup>.

In Ciechocinek 893 participated in the voting. One person could vote for more than one project. 1536 votes were given for 10 assignments within projects forwarded by inhabitants, which passed the verification process. The vast majority of votes (574) supported the creation of a town beach and managing the area on the Vistula River. According to the report from the voting the following assignments gained the most votes: the purchase of equipment for Ochotnicz Straż Pożarna (voluntary fire brigade) (331 votes), the purchase of external defibrillator (153 votes), the purchase of the equipment for

Harcerskie Ochotnicze Pogotowie Ratownicze (Voluntary Scouts Emergency) (132), a playground in Mieszka I street (56 votes), and the construction of speed humps and signs in the streets of Osiedle Królów (a housing estate) (46 votes)<sup>39</sup>.

In Aleksandrów Kujawski 100 thousand PLN was separated from the town budget or so called civil budget. The municipal office received 11 projects. A commission appointed by the mayor selected 6 out of them, which were voted for. As the mayor, Andrzej Cieśla, informed over one and a half thousand inhabitants voted. The majority of votes supported the project of open air gyms between Szczygłowskiego and Prusa streets, and Szkolna and Długa streets., as well as the one situated between Szkolna, Pogodna nad Parkowa. Their cost was estimated for around ninety thousand PLN<sup>40</sup>.

In Lipno the winning one was the project regarding the construction of Akacyjowa street estimated for 98 thousand PLN. Since the amount of civil budget was established at 100 thousand PLN it was the only initiative of inhabitants to be realized. The project acquired 209 votes. Among the projects which did not qualify, on the second position there was the project of an open air gym at Szkoła Podstawowa No 3 (an elementary school) in Lipno, for 20 thousand PLN. This idea gained the support of not only the inhabitants of nearby blocs of flats but also the teachers of „Trójka”, 283 votes. The project of rebuilding the seat of Miejski Ośrodek Pomocy Społecznej (the city centre of social assistance) in Włocławska street estimated for 85 thousand PLN acquired 130 votes. The remaining projects gained below one hundred votes<sup>41</sup>.

In Radziejów, after the promotion action of participation budget launched by the authorities, the inhabitants forwarded eight assignments. As a result of voting the majority of votes were given for the modernization and establishing a new energetic network in the area of a family allotment „Stokrotka” (210 votes). The second

<sup>37</sup> M. Smół, Ogłoszono wyniki głosowania w Budżecie Obywatelskim w Chełmnie [www.chelmno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/ogloszono-wyniki-glosowania-w-budziecie-obywatelskim-w,3741912,art,t,id,tm.html](http://www.chelmno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/ogloszono-wyniki-glosowania-w-budziecie-obywatelskim-w,3741912,art,t,id,tm.html), [06 03 2017].

<sup>38</sup> Budżet obywatelski Wąbrzeźna. Znamy już wyniki głosowania, [www.budzetobywatelski.wabrzezno.com/znamy-juz-wyniki-budzetu-obywatelskiego/](http://www.budzetobywatelski.wabrzezno.com/znamy-juz-wyniki-budzetu-obywatelskiego/), [13 11 2016].

<sup>39</sup> Szczęść zadań z budżetu obywatelskiego do realizacji, [www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/ciechocinek/a/mieszkanicy-ciechocinka-wybrali-szesc-zadan-z-budzetu-obywatelskiego-do-realizacji,10787406/\[28 12 2016\]](http://www.pomorska.pl/wiadomosci/ciechocinek/a/mieszkanicy-ciechocinka-wybrali-szesc-zadan-z-budzetu-obywatelskiego-do-realizacji,10787406/[28 12 2016]).

<sup>40</sup> Budżet obywatelski 2017w Aleksandrowie Kujawskim Pozналиśmy wyniki głosowania mieszkańców, [www.aleksandrowkujawski.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-2017-w-aleksandrowie-kujawskim,3830830,art,t,id,tm.html](http://www.aleksandrowkujawski.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-2017-w-aleksandrowie-kujawskim,3830830,art,t,id,tm.html), [16 03 2017].

<sup>41</sup> R. Kudel, Budżet obywatelski Lipna na 2017 rok. Znamy wyniki głosowania mieszkańców, [www.lipno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-lipna-na-2017-rok-znamy-wyniki,3875698,art,t,id,tm.html](http://www.lipno.naszemiasto.pl/artykul/budzet-obywatelski-lipna-na-2017-rok-znamy-wyniki,3875698,art,t,id,tm.html), [13 11 2016].

position was taken by the project of revitalizing city forest through the animation of an obstacle course (180 votes). Not fewer, since 170 people, were for constructing parking sites in Chopina and M. Dąbrowskiej streets<sup>42</sup>.

In Barcin the inhabitants forwarded 14 projects within the consultations of civil budget. The civil budget was 370 thousand PLN, including 300 thousand for the assignments in town and 70 thousand in sołectwo (an administrative unit). 1539 people, and in sołectwo Piechcin 458 people, participated in the voting, either in electronic form or in a polling station. The following assignments were selected: the overall management of the area along LWP street (501 votes), SymPaTyczna Olimpiada (252 votes), Tajemnice pałuckich legend (262 votes), the construction of a complex court for a beach volleyball in Barcin (353 votes), Po Barcinie z Jakubem Wojciechowskim (35 votes)<sup>43</sup>.

The success of civil budget in Toruński district is best proved by projects realized in the previous edition of civil budget. In 2016 altogether 22 assignments were realized, including 17 in local pool and 5 in a district one. 200 thousand PLN was allocated for them. The majority, six, of realized projects regarded the creation of open air gyms in: Bierzgłowo, Biskupice, Chełmża, Gronowo, Łążyn and Silno. Thanks to the efforts of local activists there was also created a beach volleyball court in Krobia. I Forum Biznesu Powiatu Toruńskiego (forum of the toruński district business), which almost 200 people took advantage of, is also an initiative worth continuing. In music meetings „Muzyka Mistrzów” held in Czernikowo two concerts took place—one of Żuki tribute band of The Beatles, and the second one „Korowód wspomnień” devoted to the music of Marek Grechuta and Czesław Niemen<sup>44</sup>. In the second edition of the civil budget of toruński district intended for 2017 the verification and counting of votes in a district pool for 12 projects, for which there were overall 17243 votes, has been completed. 4 projects have been qualified for realization<sup>45</sup>.

<sup>42</sup> J. Młodecka, Mieszkańcy Radziejowa zdecydowali, na co przeznaczą 150 tys. złotych, [www.aleksandrowkujawski.nasze-miasto.pl/arttykul/mieszkanicy-radziejowa-zdecydowali-na-co-przeznacza-150-tys,3897724,art,t,id](http://www.aleksandrowkujawski.nasze-miasto.pl/arttykul/mieszkanicy-radziejowa-zdecydowali-na-co-przeznacza-150-tys,3897724,art,t,id), [13 11 2016].

<sup>43</sup> Budżet obywatelski, [http://www.barcin.pl/strona-94-budzet\\_obywatelski.html](http://www.barcin.pl/strona-94-budzet_obywatelski.html), [11 12 2017].

<sup>44</sup> K. Lietz, Budżet obywatelski w powiecie bez tajemnic, [www.nowosci.com.pl/region/wokol-torunia/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-powiecie-bez-tajemnic,11680336/](http://www.nowosci.com.pl/region/wokol-torunia/a/budzet-obywatelski-w-powiecie-bez-tajemnic,11680336/), [28 12 2016].

<sup>45</sup> Ibidem.

## Conclusions

Civil budgets, which finds the evidence in presented examples, are rather randomly presented wishes of inhabitants, frequently justified, yet not always the most urgent or necessary in the hierarchy of the needs of inhabitants in a particular residential estate or borough. It happens that there is created another football pitch, square, a play area for children, however nearby there are non-hardened streets, there are no pavements for pedestrians, no sewage system, there is the shortage of parking space, and roads not renovated for years. The increasing popularity of establishing civil budgets in Poland brings also such a conclusion that a lot of self-governments take advantage of this instrument not due to the need of inhabitants participation in the realization of budget expenditure and common urban policy, but by using civic budget participate in various consultation processes. Some of them might not deserve to be a fully legal form of direct democracy and ought not to be identified with the authentic participation of inhabitants in a particular unit of a local self-government<sup>46</sup>. Nevertheless, in these communities where civil budgets have been introduced, regardless of actual intentions of the creators of this form of social consultation, there has been created a different sense of their own citizenship among the inhabitants. Even if these were initiatives basing on forwarding and selecting projects, mainly in the area of broadly comprehended education and culture, they resulted from the reality surrounding inhabitants and futile, so far, attempts to change it for better.

Being able to co-decide, even in a limited scale and form in spending their public funds, inhabitants enrich their civil awareness. In this way they shape their new civil identity, founded not only on the historic past, but also on shaping the present. Shaping the identity of citizens in a particular local community bases on the opportunity of their real influence on altering the existing reality, which as far as I am concerned, participation budget is meant for. Therefore, even taking into account some discrepancies of legal and organizational character of this institution, this process ought to be supported, since it favours the creation of civil society.

<sup>46</sup> B. Sorychta-Wojczyk, *The Conditions of Using Civil Budget in Public Administration in Poland*, Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Śląskiej 2015 Seria: organizacja i zarządzanie z. 78 Nr kol. 1928, Politechnika Śląska Wydział Organizacji i Zarządzania Instytut Zarządzania i Administracji, Gliwice 2015, p. 425.

The more and more vivid development of civic budget, which finds the evidence in kujawsko-pomorskie voivodship, disposes towards legal sanctioning of this institution. Thus, the regulation role of the state is indispensable in this respect. Since it is the role of state organs to control law abiding, and in case there is none or there are loopholes in it, to perform a legislative activity necessary in this matter. All these ought to be a part of a broad consultation process not only with the participation of local self-government units, but also non-government organizations and other subjects.

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