

# CENTRO DE ESTUDOS SOCIAIS

Laboratório associado

FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

[www.ces.uc.pt](http://www.ces.uc.pt)



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra



## “Bridging the Gap: Improving Local Governance with Participatory Budgeting and e-Participation”

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION | COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHY OF GOVERNANCE

Annual Conference 2012 | New Challenges for Local Governance

Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon | Lisbon | 12-13 April

Francisco Freitas | [franciscofreitas@ces.uc.pt](mailto:franciscofreitas@ces.uc.pt)  
Giovanni Allegretti | [giovanni.allegretti@ces.uc.pt](mailto:giovanni.allegretti@ces.uc.pt)  
Nelson Dias | [nelson.dias@in-loco.pt](mailto:nelson.dias@in-loco.pt)



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

## The Research Project

- Funded by *Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia* (FCT) [PTDC/CS-SOC/099134/2008]
- Coordinated by the Centre for Social Studies (CES)
- Partnership with a research centre (CET-Dinamia) and a NGO (In-LoCo)
- Devoted to the analysis of Participatory Budgeting experiences in Portugal and Cape Verde
- Multidisciplinary team (encompasses sociologists, an architect, a GIS technician, a psychologist...)
- 4 PhD candidates are conducting research activities alongside the project
- 9 case studies are currently under way

☐ Lisbon's **Participatory Budget** is one of the considered cases



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

## Lisbon - Outline of the Participatory Experience

- Since 2008 and following UN-Habitat guidelines (2004)
- Upfront approach in presenting and updating the norms and regulations
- A participatory cycle per year, no disruptions until this moment
- 'Deliberative power' – citizens are entitled to take decisions
- Several activities conducted every year (e.g. submitting the proposals, technical analysis, presenting the projects, poll, process evaluation...)
- Currently there are two convergent pathways for participation: Local Assemblies and e-Participation disposals
- The PB represented 5% of the total financial capacity of the city council (2011/12)
- The PB is another tool that is employed to advance the engagement of citizens in local governance



## Lisbon - Outline of the Context

- Lisbon is the capital city and encompasses 53 parishes
- Circa 547.000 inhabitants (INE, 2012)
- Land area: 84,8 Km<sup>2</sup>
- City council personnel: 10.500 individuals
- The PB team has ±10 non-permanent members
- ✓ Citizen participation in policy-making:
  - \_PB and Schooling PB (experimental project)
  - \_Agenda 21 Local
  - \_Plano Local de Habitação
  - \_Programa dos Bairros e Zonas de Intervenção Prioritária (BIP/ZIP)



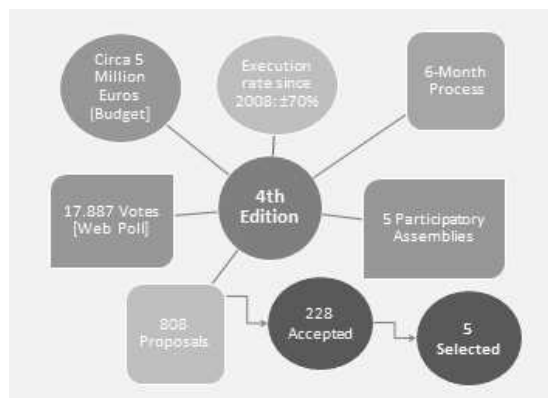
## WEB2.0



The screenshot shows the Lisboa Participa website with a blue header containing navigation links like 'LINKS CML', 'REGISTO / LOGIN', and 'ORÇAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO'. The main content area features a green banner for 'OP 2012/2013' and a black banner for 'ORÇAMENTO PARTICIPATIVO'. Below these are sections for 'NOTÍCIAS' (News) and 'orçamento participativo' with a deadline of '31 de Maio'. The footer includes the 'Câmara Municipal de Lisboa' logo and various social media icons.



## PB Lisbon - Some Facts (2011/12)



## PB Lisbon - Some Figures

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>Participants</b>				
Web Portal	1.732	6.958	12.681	>17.000
Proponents	247	533	767 (332)	331 (--)
Votes	1.101	4.719	11.570 (313)	17.887 (--)
<b>Proposals and Projects</b>				
Submitted	580	533	927 (492)	808 (391)
Projects	89	200	291	228
Fields of Intervention	3	13	13	--

Source: CML



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

## Lisbon PB – The Assessment



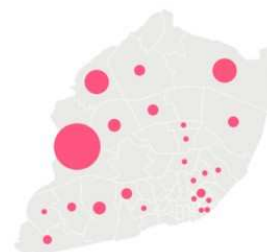
Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

### Surveying the Participants:

**In-Person Meetings/Assemblies:** participatory observation; a questionnaire containing both closed and open-ended questions was distributed (n=127)

**e-Participation:** web portal statistics; data georeferencing and analysis; web survey conducted through the official web portal (n=2855)

Total Number of Questions	54
Array Filters [i.e. optional subsequent questions]	13
Short Text Entry Boxes [i.e. other option(s)]	20
Open-Ended Questions	2



**Sociographic Characteristics  
[Profiles]**

**'Offline'**

**'Online'**

Age Groups

>65

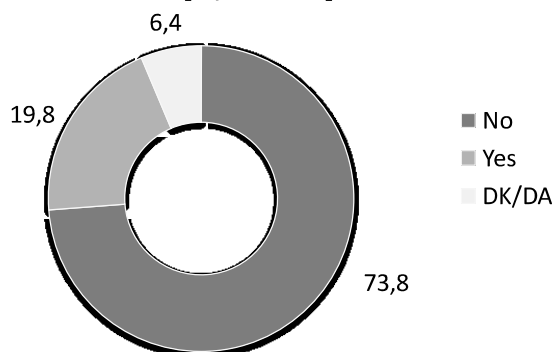
[26; 35]

Currently living in Lisbon?

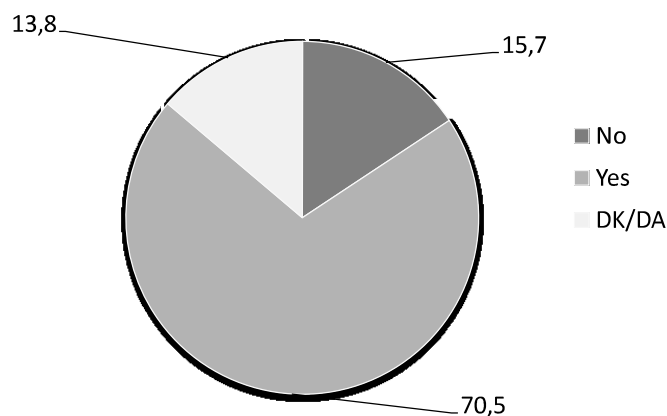
Yes

Yes

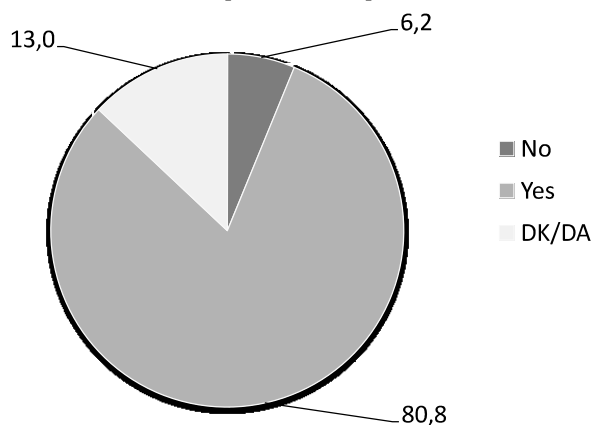
**PB as way to link the political body and the citizens?  
[% , n=2673]**



**Voted for the last local election?**  
[% , n=2855]

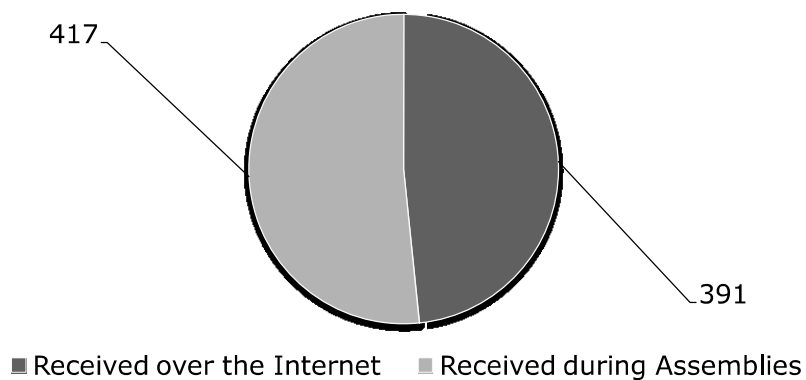


**Voted for the last national election?**  
[% , n=2855]



## Can the PB be seen as a Governance Tool? Some Results.

### Citizens and the Submitted Proposals (n)







Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

Question	Scale	Valid/DA	Mean	Standard Deviation	Variation Coefficient



Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

## Final Remarks

- PB in Lisbon proves to be useful in terms of bringing citizens to the political arena
- Organized groups are able to mobilize more resources inside this process (i.e. lobbying)
- Online and Offline participation is build around completely different groups of citizens
- In Lisbon, it became clear that e-Democracy is not as inclusive as necessary
- The mandatory resource is political will
- PB can work as 'democracy inside democracy', since citizens are invited to participate in a upper level and therefore influence the priorities





Centro de Estudos Sociais  
Laboratório Associado  
Faculdade de Economia  
Universidade de Coimbra

Thank You!

