While more and more of the 23 local district governments of Budapest introduce participatory budgeting frameworks with different methodologies, in 2020 the Municipality of Budapest has launched its own.
Basic information

TARGET AREA
The program covers the entire area of Budapest. There is no budget distribution for districts, or any other area-based territorial units.

ELIGIBILITY
Any person over the age of 16 who lives, works or studies in Budapest is eligible to submit ideas and/or vote.
Compliance with eligibility criteria is self-declared during registration.

PLATFORMS
Submission of ideas and voting are primarily done through the website, but a limited number of off-line options are also available.

BUDGET
Each year 1,000,000,000 HUF (~2378 K EUR on 10.2022 exchange rate) is allocated on participatory budgeting
In order to ensure the thematic diversity of projects to be implemented, ideas were to be submitted in different categories that reflect the aims of the strategy of Budapest.

**2020-2021**
Total budget: 1.000.000.000 HUF (~2800 K EUR)

**GREEN BUDAPEST**
- Budget: 700 K EUR
- Project size: up to 140 K EUR

**CARING BUDAPEST**
- Budget: 700 K EUR
- Project size: up to 140 K EUR

**WHOLE BUDAPEST**
- Budget: 1400 K EUR
- Project size: up to 700 K EUR

*The aim of the Whole Budapest category was to support larger projects that may affect the entire, or at least a big part of the city’s population.*
Instead of the Whole Budapest category, in year 2 there were small and large projects in all 3 categories.

**2021-2022**
Total budget: 1,000,000,000 HUF

- **GREEN BUDAPEST**
  - Budget: 933 K EUR
  - Project size:
    - Small projects up to 140 K EUR
    - Large projects 140-370 K EUR

- **CARING BUDAPEST**
  - Budget: 933 K EUR
  - Project size:
    - Small projects up to 140 K EUR
    - Large projects 140-370 K EUR

- **OPEN BUDAPEST**
  - Budget: 933 K EUR
  - Project size:
    - Small projects up to 140 K EUR
    - Large projects 140-370 K EUR
In order to strengthen the competitiveness of local ideas, in year 3 we have created a separate category for proposals with a location and for those that affect the whole city or may have a location that will be determined later.

**2022-2023**

Total budget: 1.000.000.000 HUF (~2378 K EUR on 10.2022 exchange rate)
https://otlet.budapest.hu/

The website is in Hungarian.
Only ideas that meet the following criteria can be approved:

• The idea does not affect private or state property (it may affect city or district property with the approval of the district municipality)

• It fits in the budget

• It creates something new (its aim is not only renovation or maintenance of something that already exists)

• Does not affect regulatory or legislative issues

• It serves public interest and does not contain offensive or exclusionary content

Ideas can have specified locations or can name a developmental goal without identifying where it should be realised (for example: more public toilets throughout the city)
The process in a nutshell

The submission of ideas is followed by the approval process performed by the departments of the City Hall, involving district municipalities if necessary. Ideas can be merged or slightly altered in the development phase. Ideas that get the most votes – up to the budget – will be implemented by the municipality.

In year 1 and 2 the list of ideas open for voting was compiled with the contribution of a citizens’ assembly in order to reduce the number of projects. In year 3 all approved ideas will be subject to voting.
**15 ideas to be implemented**

Urban forests
Installation of bicycle stands throughout the city
More drinking fountains in the city
Community features in St Stephen's Park
Greener and more liveable Mester Street
Renovating and renting out empty homes to people experiencing homelessness
Exemplary public toilets in Budapest
Animal therapy programmes in nursing homes
Creating a community space for disabled and able-bodied people
Seating areas on the Danube embankment
Providing free sports facilities
Pedestrian crossing at Astoria
Creation of a legal graffiti wall
Adult Autistic Leisure and Cultural Centre
Rehabilitation home “On the Periphery of Budapest”
18 ideas to be implemented

- Green walls in the city centre
- Shading of public pedestrian spaces
- Improvements to facilitate cycling on Szent István boulevard
- Creation of community gardens
- More greenery in the city centre
- Making pedestrian crossings safer
- Shared day care for children and pensioners
- Inclusive playground and community park
- Covered bicycle storage in housing estates
- Pedestrian crossings in priority locations
- Composting bins and raised beds in nurseries, promoting the culture of composting
- Community "do-it-yourself" workshops
- Installation of outdoor urinals on an experimental basis
- More benches in parks and public spaces
- Application that rewards active transport
- Make official documents accessible to the public
- Legal street art actions
- Improve safety on cycle paths and lanes
Please feel free to submit any questions regarding Budapest Participatory Budgeting
nyitott@budapest.hu