

“Empatia” (whose acronym means ‘Enabling Multichannel Participation Through ICT Adaptations’) is funded under the Commission's Horizon 2020 CAPS programme, as grant agreement No 687920. Over the next 2 years, a multidisciplinary consortium of partners from different fields are committed to advance ICT-based community participation, with more transparency, accountability, and smart voting processes. This project will also focus on the critical relation between online and in-person participation developing and testing methodologies to assure proper consistency between these two channels. EMPATIA will run pilots on participatory budgeting, to engage large number of citizens in the construction of budgetary and financial documents of their representative public institutions.

The ultimate goal of participatory budgeting processes is to improve democratic legitimacy by increasing the participatory role of citizens. This goal requires designing, evaluating and making publicly available an advanced ICT platform for PB, which can be adapted to different local, social and institutional contexts. The project advances the state of the art in ICT-based participatory innovations, with new toolkits coming both from the public sector (e-government and e-democracy tools) and from the private and larger social sector (civic media, social collaborative networks, social entrepreneurs, non-profit social charities etc).

