

Porto Alegre - Results achieved in 15 years of Participatory Budgeting (1989-2003)

- a.** Housing: It was possible to expand the average number of units produced locally, from 493 per year in the period 1973-1988, to 1,000 per year from 1989-2003, which allowed Porto Alegre, for the first time, to contain the growth of the housing deficit.
- b.** Street paving: The existing deficit of paved roadways was reduced from 690 km in 1998 to 390 km. In 2003, the PB helped to improve access to collective transportation and public infrastructure in the poorest areas of Porto Alegre.
- c.** Access to water and basic sanitation: The percentage of dwellings with access to treated water rose from 94.7 per cent in 1989 to 99.5 per cent in 2002; the proportion with access to the municipal sewer network grew from 46 per cent in 1989 to 84 per cent in 2002; and the percentage of liquid waste that is treated went from 2 per cent in 1989 to 27.5 per cent in 2002.
- d.** Education: The number of public schools rose from 29 in 1988, to 84 in 2002, with a corresponding increase in enrolment from 17,862 students to 55,741 students. In addition, the range of educational services offered was broadened to include Adult Literacy and Youth and Adult Education, which were integrated into the public education system. Also, through the PB the Child Care Compact was created, which today reaches 126 child care institutions, serving 10,000 children.
- e.** Health: Although health only appears since 2000 as one of the three priorities of the PB, public health management is an integral responsibility of the municipal government. This is in spite of the virtual freeze in the amount of the annual transfers from the central government. The Mayor today commits close to 18 per cent of the expenditures of the central administration for health, compared to an annual average of less than 10 per cent during the decade of the 1980's.
- f.** Social Welfare: This area was only included in PB priorities from 1997 onwards. The various activities currently underway address a number of groups, such as people with special needs, children and youth at risk, homeless people, victims of violence, elderly in situations of abandonment, low-income families and others.

Source: Baierle, S. in Base Document, in: UNDP (2004): 72 FAQ about Participatory Budgeting, p. 24