Participatory Democracy Program: return to public policies built with the population.

The Laboratory of Public and Social Policies (LAPPUS), through the Luigi Bobbio Center for Studies in Deliberative Democracy, with support from the Architecture and Urbanism Course of the Vale do Rio dos Sinos University (UNISINOS) and with certification from Faculdade Meridional College (IMED), presents the following Program in Participatory Democracy: return to public policies built with the population.

1- CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE

From the beginning of the 1990s, Porto Alegre established itself as the capital of participatory democracy. The city has been internationally recognized for the performance of its social movements and for the experience of Participatory Budgeting (PB), which changed the relationship between the municipal government and society by giving space for residents of all regions of the city and to the municipal councils and forums to participate in the elaboration of municipal policies.

Porto Alegre has become a constant source of studies and research, receiving many people - Brazilians and foreigners - who wanted to better understand the phenomenon of inversion of spending priorities of the public budget and the direct participation of communities in the city decision-making process.

Countless doctoral theses, master's dissertations, papers, and reports have been produced covering different aspects of PB. As a result, the experience has also been replicated in other cities, receiving contributions and adaptations so that it could better be conducted in different scenarios.

According to the World Atlas of Participatory Budgeting, a collaborative publication coordinated by the Portuguese NGO OFICINA, more than 11,000 cities around the world practice participatory budgeting. Institutions such as the World Bank and the UN-Habitat, as well as universities and
international research institutions, study, disseminate and advocate for the adoption of participatory practices. The recognition by these institutions demonstrates the relevance that the participatory budgeting experience possesses even after 30 years of its beginning in the capital of the State of Rio Grande do Sul.

Despite all the success achieved globally, Participatory Budgeting and other participatory democracy practices in the city have faced a crisis, with the loss of their importance in the local political scene. There are many causes of this crisis. However, these causes have not yet been studied with the necessary depth for a complete diagnosis. At the same time, and perhaps because of the crisis itself, the number of surveys on Porto Alegre's PB has declined considerably in recent years, especially since 2006.

Our program aims to encourage researchers, public sector servants, and decision-makers to contribute to the reflection on the dynamics of participation, the processes of mobilization, the advances, and impasses of this rich experience of participatory democracy lived in our city.

At the end of the program, each participant must submit an article on the experiences of participatory democracy in the city, pointing out possible limits and alternatives. These articles will be published on the website of the Laboratory for Public and Social Policies (LAPPUS) and may be included in publications on research sites and universities.

2 - CONTENT AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

It is possible to participate in the Program in person or online.

Participants who opt for the face-to-face modality will be able to choose to visit Porto Alegre in August (GROUP 1) or in November (GROUP 2).

The program consists of 7 steps:

STEP 1) Preparatory phase

STEP 2) Visit to Porto Alegre

STEP 3) Lectures and debates

STEP 4) Research with on-site visits and interviews

STEP 5) Feedback on the program
STEP 6) Article writing

STEP 7) Final general meeting

For candidates who choose the virtual format, the program offers the possibility of participating in a set of four lectures and debates that will take place simultaneously with the group that chooses the face-to-face modality (STEP 3). These lectures will be held with specialists, local activists, municipal councilors, representatives of social movements, local authorities, researchers from universities located in Porto Alegre, as well as personalities active from the genesis of PB to the present day. The lectures will be followed by debates. Selected candidates who opt for the virtual-only modality will also receive assistance in conducting interviews with local actors in Porto Alegre (STEP 4), according to the availability of the interviewees and technical conditions for online transmission. At the end of the interviews, participants in the virtual-only modality will participate in all other stages, that is, STEP 5 (feedback), 2 meetings with LAPPUS mentors to organize the article (STEP 6), as well as the final general meeting (STEP 7).

For selected candidates who choose the face-to-face program, online preparatory activities will be carried out to guide and coordinate the program, visits, and verification of the necessary travel documentation (STEP 1). During the period of stay in Porto Alegre (STEP 2), those enrolled will participate in 4 lectures followed by debate sessions (STEP 3) and will carry out visits, interviews, and on-site observations (STEP 4). After the participants return to their countries of origin, an individual interview will be held for feedback on the program (STEP 5) in addition to 2 meetings between LAPPUS participants and mentors to organize the article about their impressions (STEP 6). Finally, they will participate in the final general meeting with all other participants (STEP 7).

The delivery of the article (STEP 6) must occur within 90 days after the end of the stay in Porto Alegre.

The period of stay in Porto Alegre will be 10 days, with the participant being able to choose to be part of GROUP 1 or GROUP 2.

GROUP 1: From 16th to 25th of August 2021.

GROUP 2: From the 8th to 17th of November 2021.

During the visiting days and on interviews in Porto Alegre, participants will be accompanied by researchers from LAPPUS.
3 – DUTIES FROM LAPPUS

LAPPUS will be responsible for organizing virtual and face-to-face activities. In the face-to-face activities in Porto Alegre, LAPPUS will monitor the participants in the visit and interview schedules, providing the conditions for researchers to visit emblematic spaces that facilitate the understanding of the current Participatory Budgeting system. Visits, interviews, lectures, and face-to-face and virtual debates will include specialists, local activists, municipal councils, social movements, local authorities, researchers from Universities located in Porto Alegre, as well as personalities active since the genesis of the Participatory Budgeting to the present day. These activities aim to provide reflections and allow debates that can contribute to the research work to be carried out. These sessions will be prepared in coordination with the project participants, to better meet the needs of the researchers.

LAPPUS will also provide transport conditions in Porto Alegre for all visits, as well as translation into the following languages: English and Italian.

4 - APPLICATIONS

To apply for the Participatory Democracy Program: return to public policies constructed with the population, it is necessary that interested parties fulfill the following requirements:

4.1 - Minimum 18 years of age; professional, academic, or associative link with public or private institutions, as well as undergraduate or graduate students from universities or other teaching and research institutions.

4.2 - Filling in the online form (https://forms.gle/tovCdFYr4sRW4GJs6) and sending it to lappus@lappus.org by 30th of April 2021.

4.3 - Sending the following documents to the email from lappus@lappus.org until the 30th of April 2021:

   - Professional or university curriculum (PDF file)

   - Reference letter issued by a Professor or person with professional or academic performance in participatory decision-making processes (PDF file)

   - Text with a maximum of 2000 words explaining your research field and why you would like to participate in the Program (PDF file).
4.4 For candidates who opt for the face-to-face stay in Porto Alegre, they must present proof of travel health insurance to cover medical expenses during their stay in Brazil prior to the visit.

The analysis of the applications received will be carried out by the group of researchers and directors of LAPPUS. Depending on the number of applications, objective and equity criteria will be observed, with 50% of the selected people being women, black people, and scholarship students from countries in the global south.

5 - COSTS

The registration fee for the Program in virtual form is €300 (three hundred euros).

The enrollment fee for the Program in person is €600 (six hundred euros), which includes, in addition to internal transport in Porto Alegre, also solidary accommodation and a daily meal at a restaurant indicated by LAPPUS for 10 days.

Payment for registration must be made through the bank account of LAPPUS in a single payment or in two installments as follows: €300 (three hundred euros) up to 30 days before the start of visits in Porto Alegre and the remaining €300 (three hundred euros) until 10 days before the start of the visits.

For candidates who choose the virtual only format, the value is €300 (three hundred euros) and must be paid up to 30 days before the beginning of the first lecture (16th of July 2021).

Failure to pay on the dates indicated will result in the exclusion of the selected candidate.

In case of withdrawal of the candidate who has paid the full amount of €600 (six hundred euros) within 30 days prior to the start of the visit to Porto Alegre, half of the amount (€300 three hundred euros) will be returned, excluding the transfer fees. In this case, the candidate will have the right to follow the Program in a virtual format only.

The selected applicants are responsible for the costs of traveling to Porto Alegre, as well as food, costs for a visitor visa (if needed), travel health insurance and eventual medical expenses.
The registration fees must be transferred to the LAPPUS bank account with the receipt sent to lappus@lappus.org:

**Bank details for transfers in Brazil:**

**BANCO DO BRASIL**

Laboratório de Políticas Públicas e Sociais - LAPPUS

Agency: 3537-8

Account number: 31626-1

National Register of Legal Entities (CNPJ): 0769667 / 0001-78

**Bank details for international transfers:**

- **IBAN:** BR2100000000035370000316261C1 (LAPPUS Code).
- **SWIFT:** BRASBRRJSBO (Code BANCO DO BRASIL).

### 6 - **SCHEDULE (Main dates in 2021 and 2022)**

- **MARCH** 25th - Opening for applications.
- **APRIL** 30th - Deadline for submission of applications.
- **MAY** 15th - Disclosure of selected candidates on the LAPPUS website.
- **JULY** 16th - Deadline for bank transfer of the first installment of € 300 (three hundred euros) (GROUP 1 - face-to-face) and deadline for bank transfer of € 300 (three hundred euros) for participants of the virtual-only modality.
- **AUGUST** 6th - Deadline for bank transfer of the second installment of € 300 (three hundred euros) (GROUP 1 - in person).
- **AUGUST** 16th - 1st Lecture with debates and beginning of on-site visits (GROUP 1).
- **AUGUST** 19th - 2nd Lecture with debates.
- **AUGUST** 23rd - 3rd Lecture with debates.
- **AUGUST** 25th - 4th Lecture with debates.
- **AUGUST** 25th - End of on-site visits (GROUP 1).
- **OCTOBER** 8th - Deadline for bank transfer of the first installment of € 300 (three hundred euros) (GROUP 2).
• OCTOBER 30th - Deadline for bank transfer of the second installment of € 300 (three hundred euros) GROUP 2).
• NOVEMBER 8th - Start of on-site visits (GROUP 2).
• NOVEMBER 17th - End of on-site visits (GROUP 2).
• NOVEMBER 25th - Final date for delivery of the article for participants of the virtual only modality and for the face-to-face participants of GROUP 1.
• FEBRUARY 17th, 2022 - Final date for the delivery of articles to in-person participants in GROUP 2

7 - SANITARY SITUATION

In the absence of sanitary conditions for the visit to Porto Alegre due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Program provided for in this notice will be carried out only online and the registration fee will be € 300 (three hundred euros), which must be paid until July 16th, 2021.

8 - CERTIFICATION

Program participants who complete all stages will be certified by Faculdade Meridional college (IMED) as a university extension activity.

9 - OMITTED CASES AND DOUBTS

Missing cases and doubts in this notice will be decided by the board and researchers and collaborators of LAPPUS.

10 - CONTACT

Information will be provided by email (lappus@lappus.org) or by WhatsApp +55 51 984788450.


Marcelo Sgarbossa
and the LAPPUS team