



Human Smart City - Mińsk Mazowiecki

Engaging residents in local decision-making processes



In Mińsk Mazowiecki there are several instruments which encourage residents to take part in decision-making processes. The city hall invites the citizens to present their ideas in the participatory budget program, which includes voting by general public. There have been 4 successful editions which led, amongst others, to the implementation of a youth center, kids' playground or a series of educational events about procedures in case of natural disasters. Another tool is a local initiative which empowers informal groups to submit ideas for projects with the citizens' contribution in kind or financial.

The city is aware that civic participation is a long-term process and it involves challenges on both sides: clerks and citizens. The city puts efforts into engaging in strategic undertakings such as Human Smart City project focused on designing common spaces. Throughout series of expert trainings and communication with residents we have learnt that instead of asking for concrete solutions, it's more valuable to discover what the people's needs are taking into account the opinions and possibilities. The best findings come out of profound diagnosis of needs and working out solutions in cooperation and dialogue with all the stakeholders.

As a result of series consultations undertaken during community picnics the professionals managed to develop proposals for arranging common public spaces reflecting people's preferences and expectations. It's crucial to change the mindset of public administration employees that efficient public service is not about imposing own ideas but about recognizing and meeting the citizens' needs. The above can be reached by a continuous and active gaining knowledge and exchanging good practices during professional trainings.

More information here (in Polish): <https://www.minsk-maz.pl/700,human-smart-city>