

Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Experience data (complete the information below in a clear and concise manner)

Title of the experience: En Miljon Idéer (One million ideas)		
Name of the city or region: Trelleborg		
Inhabitants of the city or territory: 45 000		
Country: Sweden		
Institution presenting the candidacy (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience): Trelleborg Municipality		
Website of the experience or institution: https://www.trelleborg.se/ / https://www.trelleborg.se/kommun-politik/en-miljon-ideer/		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: Facebook LinkedIn Twitter		
Start date of the experience: 2020		
End date of the experience (if operational, indicate "ongoing"): Ongoing		
Budget of the experience (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation): 6 million Swedish Krona (SEK)		
Type of candidacy (Mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	X
	Continuity of an experience	
Type of experience (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	X
	Participatory planning	
	Standing council	

Application Form

	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.		
	Public Hearing/Forum		
	Poll/referendum		
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces		
	E-government/Open government/Digital platforms		
	Citizen initiative		
	Other (specify):		
<p>Objective of the experience</p> <p>(Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)</p>	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		X
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		
	Community empowerment		X
	To empower non-organised citizens		X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		
To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public			
Territorial area	All the territory	Local	X

Application Form

(Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)		Regional	
	District		
	Neighbourhood		X
Thematic area (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Governance		
	Education		
	Transport		
	Urban management		
	Health		X
	Security		
	Environment/Climate change and/or urban agriculture		X
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements.		X
	Culture		
	Housing		
	Job creation		
	Decentralization		
	Local development		
	Training/learning		
	Economy and/or finances		
Legal regulations			
Social inclusion			

Application Form

	All	
	Other (write the topic)	
<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice Mark with an X in the right column (more than one option can be chosen) You can also add the specific target</p>	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well- being	X
	SDG 4 - Quality education	
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 - Climate action	X
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	

Application Form

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links if you consider it appropriate.

Context

*In a **maximum of 300 words**, it presents the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, the territory in which the experience takes place.*

Trelleborg is Sweden's southernmost municipality with a long coastline. The countryside around Trelleborg town is mainly agricultural but there are also around 40 small villages with between 50 and 200 inhabitants each and five slightly larger settlements with up to 2000 inhabitants each. The countryside is overall economically well-off, but this is not true for all areas. There is considerable socioeconomic variation: large agricultural establishments, newer areas with detached housing (with many families with children), older villages with mixed populations (where many older people live), and older villages which have seen declining populations, but which over the last years have seen an uptick in low-income residents, (including new arrivals to Sweden). Public transport is well developed in the larger settlements but not in the smaller villages.

Even before the Participatory budgeting (PB) process started there was a good spirit of collaboration between the municipality and the informal village councils (Byaråd) and civic associations. There are around 20 Byaråd and even more associations in the countryside in Trelleborg municipality. Before the PB process there was a special grant scheme aimed at local rural association which was distributed in collaboration with the Village councils.

Precedents

*Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins, if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city/municipality/region. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (**maximum 300 words**)*

The Participatory Budget process *En miljon idéer* ('One million ideas') aims to renew rural development work in Trelleborg and to increase the opportunity of citizens to affect change and actively participate in local issues. The aim was also to broaden participation to include citizens who are not active in local associations and to get a broader range of perspectives, including the views of children and young people.

The Participatory budget focused on three areas - improving the leisure activities for older people, improving the leisure activities for children and young people, and environmental improvements. These themes were selected because it was felt that the rural areas had been neglected when it comes to investments in these areas.

Trelleborg municipality has been inspired by participatory budgeting processes in other Swedish municipalities. Compared to other Swedish municipalities Trelleborg has allocated a

Application Form

larger budget to ensure that citizens will notice real changes as a result of the process. In the years 2020 and 2021 Trelleborg Municipality allocated 5 million SEK (approximately half a million euros) per year. For 2022 the budget has been increased by an additional million aimed at investments by civic associations active in the rural areas.

Objectives of the experience

*What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience (**maximum 100 words**)*

To increase participation and ensure a more equal involvement from citizens, as well as giving politicians a better foundation for decisions relating to rural development.

To build capacity in local associations and to ensure that rural development funding is allocated according to local needs in a way which is seen as fair and legitimate.

To change perceptions that rural areas are side-lined and under-funded.

Methodology

*Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels (**maximum 300 words**)*

Trelleborg Municipality invites citizens living in the countryside to submit ideas for investments that would improve the leisure activities for children and young people and/or older people and/or environment improvements. After the municipality has had a chance to review the proposals (to see that they meet the criteria) all residents in the area are given the opportunity to vote for proposals. Their votes determine the winning proposals.

Due to the pandemic the work so far has mainly used digital tools; with information on the web and Facebook as well as well as digital workshops. Regular newsletters are sent to the civic associations, who have been encouraged to spread information and come up with ideas. Schools in the area have been engaged and pupils have worked to create ideas for submission. *En miljon idéer* has as a process been used in democracy/civic education in schools.

In the PB processes for 2020 and 2021 the funding decisions were solely based on the number of votes received. An issue has been that civic associations have used established networks to lobby for proposals which benefited the associations and the larger settlements in the rural areas. Each winning proposal could cost a maximum of one million SEK. However, many proposals were written to use the maximum amount (meaning that fewer proposals were funded overall). This has led to criticism from the smaller settlements and villages where residents felt that they stood no chance to be successful. In response to this the criteria for 2023 has been changed so that proposals with smaller budgets are prioritised and that each village will get at least one proposal realised. In addition, the budget was increased to allow room for investments in the capacity of local civic associations – allowing them to be more active in delivery.

Application Form

Innovation

*Explain what you consider most innovative in the practice. (**maximum of 150 words**)* The larger scale of the budget (compared to other Swedish PB processes) has made a real difference - both in terms of willingness to take part and the actual projects funded.

The process has made it possible to conduct investments and projects in rural areas which in many cases have been wanted by residents for some time.

The process has also been very adaptable and has quickly responded to feedback and criticism.

Internationally PB has mainly been an urban phenomenon but in Trelleborg it is explicitly used in a rural context.

Inclusion

*Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible and how you have achieved it. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Feelings of inclusion are vital to ensure that the PB can reach and benefit the whole rural area. Focussing too much on one specific group could lead to us missing important aspects and perspectives. In carrying out the work we have built on our knowledge of the various communities that live in rural areas in Trelleborg municipality. We have managed to reach the following groups through the process:

- Children and young people have been reached through schools and were very engaged in the process
- Young people above school age and adult citizens have been reached to a good degree
- We have struggled to reach local businesses and there is a challenge not to give preference to individual companies in the PB process.
- We have reached civic associations and organised citizens to a high degree

-

Application Form

Communication

*What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience so that the population knows about it and gets involved. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

- We contacted children and young people through pre-schools and schools, using email and information to teachers and head teachers
- We contacted young people over school age and adults through civic associations, ads in the local press, information on the municipal website, and Facebook
- We reached local businesses through networks, local ads, and Facebook
- We reached civic association through email newsletters

Articulation with other actors

*It explains how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this joint. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Civic associations have engaged through their local networks and reached both the members of the associations and their relatives and friends. The whole area has been reached through flyers. Schools have actively worked with *En miljon idéer* as part of their democracy curriculum.

The involvement of young people has been shaped locally - in one school they had their own internal voting and only sent in one idea. Other schools took time out of the class to work on the process and then the teacher sent in all the different ideas. The lower classes 1-3 have sent in drawings or made vision boards. Older classes have had more specific improvements in mind.

Evaluation:

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether citizenship has participated in the evaluation of the practice (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

Evaluation has been carried out through email questionnaires to civic associations and to all citizens through Facebook. Citizens, civic associations and schools have been encouraged to leave comments and suggestions at meetings, by telephone and email. Suggested ideas have been used in the further development work of the PB process.

The response rate has been considerably lower than we had hoped. Most people who responded felt that the system was unfair towards the smaller villages. The size of villages and settlements varies which means that smaller villages cannot get enough votes to be successful even if the whole village were to vote for a proposal. Many people also felt that the maximum budget per project was too large, and they'd rather see more (and smaller) projects

Application Form

funded. To meet these requests, we changed the rules for the year 2022. Villages who have not had a project financed through the PB process to date will be prioritised regardless of the number of votes they receive. We split the overall budget into several smaller pots. One proposal can be funded for a maximum budget of 1 million SEK, four suggestions can be funded for up to 400K SEK, four proposals up to a maximum of 250K and ten proposals for up to 100 K SEK. The expectation is that the new rules will mean that the whole rural area feels involved and that more proposals will be funded and delivered each year.

In the future we will continue to send out the survey form and explore other ways of capturing the views and opinions of citizens.

Impacts and results

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and which are their profiles. What have been the impacts on public policies, on the functioning of the administration and on citizens. (In a **maximum of 300 words**)*

En miljon idéer has led to more citizens being able to influence what the municipality funds in their local area. Many proposals that have been submitted but not received enough votes for funding have subsequently been developed into e-petitions and have been submitted for consideration through this process. Under 2020 and 2021 we received over 220 proposals and 7300 votes.

In the first year, six different ideas were carried out – including an outdoor gym, a new playground and a pedestrian bridge. We have seen similar effects in both the northern and southern rural areas. In the Northern area supported projects include a bathing jetty and beginner golf course.

It is hard to say exactly how many people have been engaged in total as both schools and civic associations have organised broader discussions and then sent in amalgamated suggestions. It is possible to show however that the process has had a good spread over the whole rural area. The majority of those who submitted proposals have been pupils or people connected to civic associations or schools. Proposals that received a lot of votes are often ones that have been considered as important in the local area for many years.

Hopefully the involvement of citizens will have a spill over effect on other parts of the municipality and get people to get more involved in representative democracy as well.

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

A summary of the experience: origin, objectives, operation, results, monitoring and evaluation (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before, this summary is the

Application Form

one that will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**)

En miljon idéer is focussed on the rural areas in Trelleborg municipality. The rural area has around 15000 inhabitants and has been divided into two areas for the purpose of the participatory budgeting process. Dividing up the rural area into a north and a south area has made it easier to create engagement and to increase the dissemination of the process. Within the municipality two strategists and one communications officer work on the process on a day-to-day basis. There is a steering group with a membership of politicians and staff from other parts of the municipality. The PB process funds activities and investments related to leisure activities for children and young people, leisure activities for older people as well as environmental improvements. The participatory budget has increased in 2022 from 5 million SEK to 6 million SEK, where 1 million SEK are allocated for support to associations. This will create an opportunity for making it possible to involve the civic association in the delivery of funded proposals.

The submission of proposals and voting happens though a digital platform. Those who do not feel comfortable with a digital tool can contact the municipality by telephone, email or by visiting the physical support centre. The goal is that it should be as easy as possible to submit proposals and vote. Numerous online workshops have been organised under the proposal submission phase to discuss proposals and to share practical information about the process.

During 2020 and 2021 over 220 proposals were submitted and they received 7300 votes. Of the submitted proposals 12 have gone on to delivery. Examples include playgrounds, outdoor gyms and swimming piers and other. We have learnt a lot through the first two years. We have had to manage challenges around legal aspects, finances, logistics and the practical delivery. Based on our learnings and evaluation we have made several significant changes to the process.

2022 we changed the process so that smaller villages that to date have not received any funded proposals will be prioritised regardless of how many votes they get. Several budgetary limitations were instituted to ensure that more and smaller proposals would be funded and not just a couple of larger ones. We will work continually with evaluating the process and changing it based on learnings and viewpoints.