



# OPEN DEMOCRACY FOR ALL:

## A LOOK INTO PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN ÁGUEDA





# Águeda

47.729 Inhabitants (Census, 2011)

Population density – 142,4 inh/km<sup>2</sup>

+200 dynamic local Associations

## Who & Where

Industrial territory (metalworks, lighting and housing appliances, electronics, two-wheel sector, ...)



**Águeda**



... Human Smart City

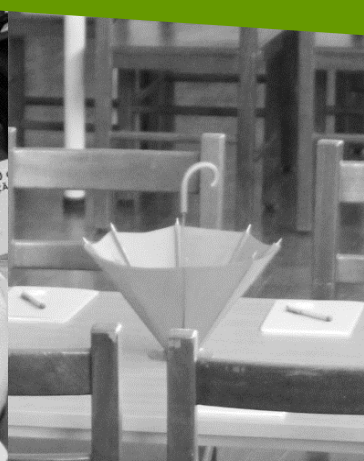
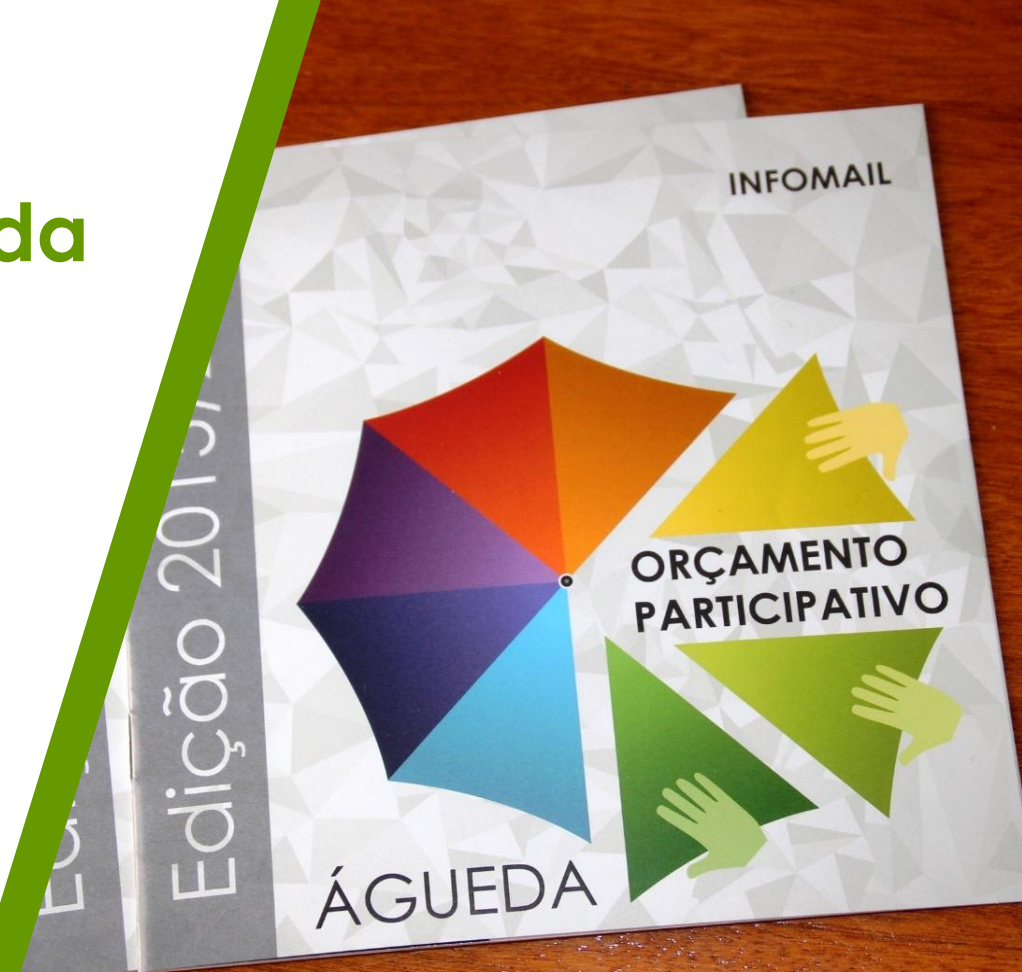
**Citizen-centred Technology  
Transparency  
Education  
Active Citizenship**

**The only Portuguese Municipality certified with  
EFQM “Recognised for Excellence” 4 Stars**



# Participatory Budget of Águeda

1. Citizens decide on €500.000 of the Municipal Budget (~10%)
2. Deliberative and municipal scope
3. Citizens - 16 yo and over - may present proposals in local sessions and later on vote the projects (up to €50.000 each project)

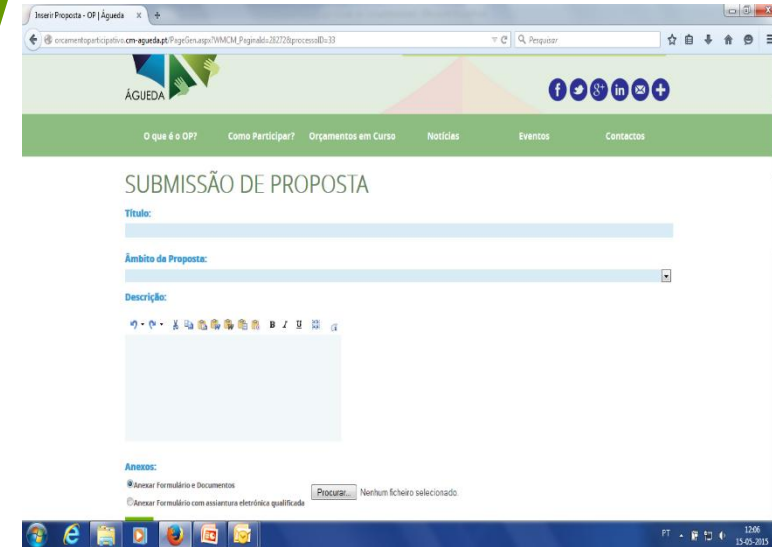


# Communication

1. Participatory Platform – <http://op.cm-agueda.pt>

2. 36.000 Infomails per year to the residents:  
1<sup>st</sup>) description of PB-Águeda; 2<sup>nd</sup>) projects for voting

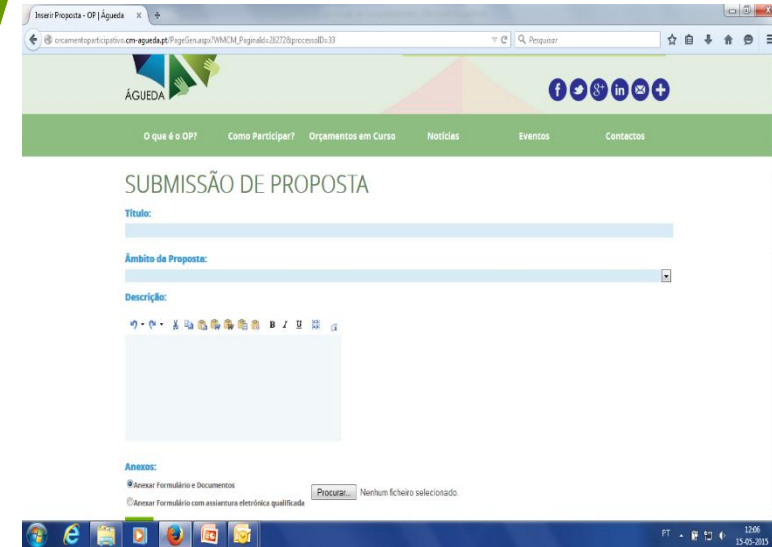
3. Website of the Municipality of Águeda –  
[www.cm-agueda.pt](http://www.cm-agueda.pt)





# Communication

4. E-Newsletter to over 10,500 local email contacts
5. Promotion of videos produced with ÁguedaTV about the PB @ [www.cm-agueda.pt](http://www.cm-agueda.pt) + YouTube
6. Continuous update of info @ local, regional and national media
7. Municipal [facebook.com/cmageda](https://www.facebook.com/cmageda)



# Action-Reflection-Action

1. Weekly meetings of the PB Committee (CAT) – Heads of Divisions, Technical Units, Member of Municipal Assembly, under the Mayor's coordination
2. Issues are identified, strategies to deal with are discussed, i.e. solutions are not delayed





# Action-Reflection-Action

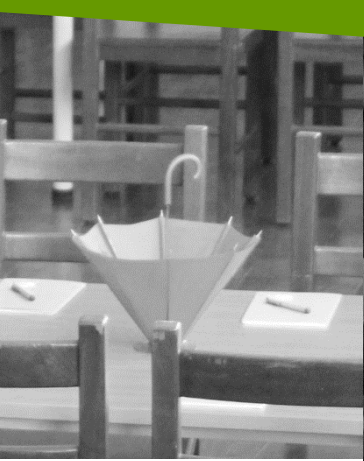
3. Continuous improvement throughout the process and its different phases (Definition & Execution of the Budget)





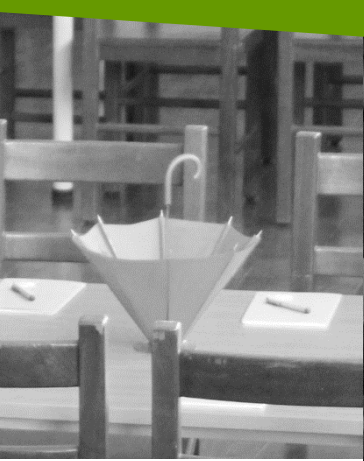
# Assessment

1. Understand the profile of the participants (age, gender, origin, education, return rate)
2. Understand their concerns and interests, as well as assess citizen satisfaction



# Assessment

- 3. Identify barriers throughout the process
- 4. Identify improvement opportunities
- 5. With independent external consultant; accompanies the process (unbiased view)

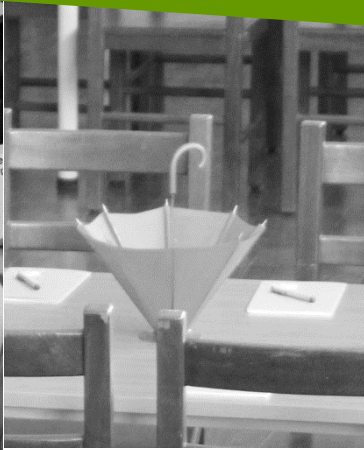




# What difference has it made?

PB-Águeda is followed by a sociological study to understand participation habits:

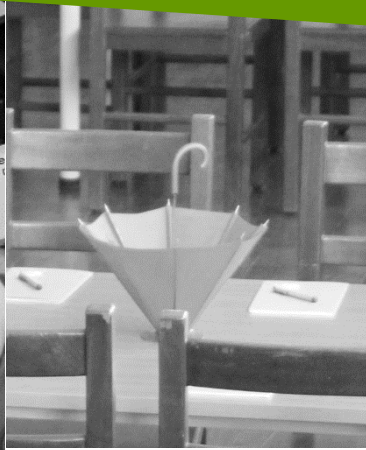
1. Age, gender, origin, education level, involvement in local associations
2. Understand skills (vs needs) in information and communication technologies





# What difference has it made?

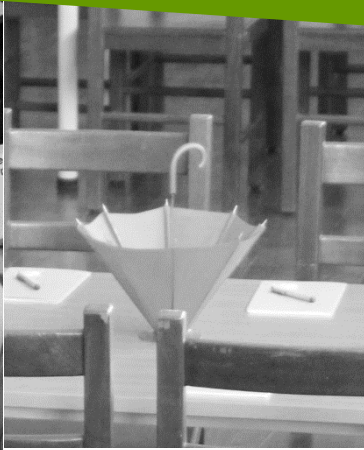
3. Knowledge about population needs, fitting them in appropriate programmes outside PB-Águeda
4. Involvement of the entire municipal services in PB-Águeda
5. Best National Participative Practice in 2015 (Network of Participative )





# Why should your city use it?

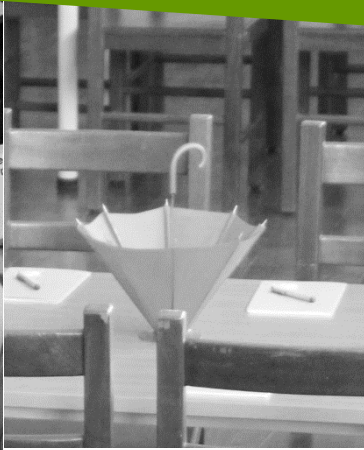
1. It's inclusive, in terms of digital literacy, writing skills, access to participatory sessions, conciliation of family life and active citizenship
2. It has the potencial to attract an increasing number of new participants





# Why should your city use it?

3. It boosts mutual trust and communication between Municipality / Citizens
4. It has the capacity to attract an increasing number of new participants
5. It allows the assessment of citizen satisfaction towards City management





<http://op.cm-agueda.pt>

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“NÃO TENHAMOS

PRESSA, MAS NÃO

PERCAMOS TEMPO.”

“LET US NOT RUSH, BUT LET'S NOT WASTETIME”