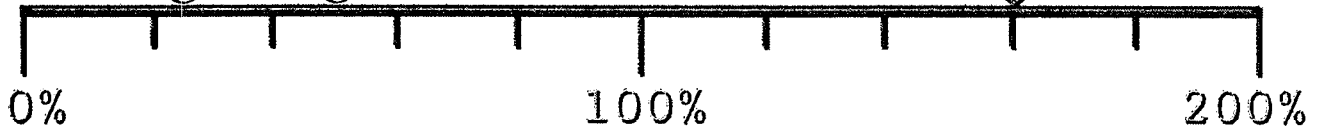


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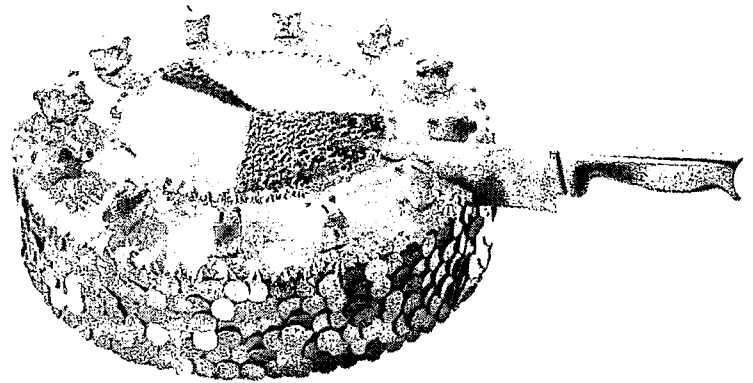
DEMOS Budget
The interactive budget planner

A budget is a city's engine,
but hardly anyone can understand it.
UNTIL NOW!
With DEMOS-Budget,
the online budget planner by
Intech Innovation GmbH,
cities can provide for
transparency and citizen-friendliness.

Making budgets understandable



DEMOS-Budget is an Internet platform that makes it possible for citizens to take part in municipal budget planning. Using genuine figures as its basis, the application displays an actual budget. Members of the public can draw up their own budgets and adjust the initial one as they see fit. Each change to a budget item is added to or deducted from the total budget in real time. The system's only immutable rule is that the total sum of money available may not and cannot be exceeded. Any increase in spending must be balanced by savings elsewhere. Alternatively, savings can either be reinvested in a different area or used for amortisation.



DEMOS-Budget – the budget planner

An initiative of mutual benefit: as members of the public develop a feel for local authority budgets, both intuitively and through learning by playing, they gain an understanding of the scope and limits of budgetary planning. And in return, municipalities acquire more information about the desires and needs of their citizens, since the DEMOS-Budget interactive budget planner enables cities to create opportunities for debate with the public about future avenues for development or new projects.

The budget planner displays the actual budget in such a way that it is possible to gain a realistic insight into the scope and limits of municipal politics. The various levels of classification enable the adjustment of budget items to have a direct bearing on a local authority's individual areas of responsibility.

The user as a virtual mayor

The complexity of the budget planner alters according to the degree to which the user immerses him or herself in the subject – from a game to a level verging on reality. Users learn what it means to implement political dreams against a background of limited resources and spending required by law.

TuTech Innovation GmbH offers metropolitan and local authorities a variety of options for using DEMOS-Budget: as a stand-alone application or as a module in the DEMOS participatory platform; as a communication tool on the authority's website or in support of a comprehensive participation programme.

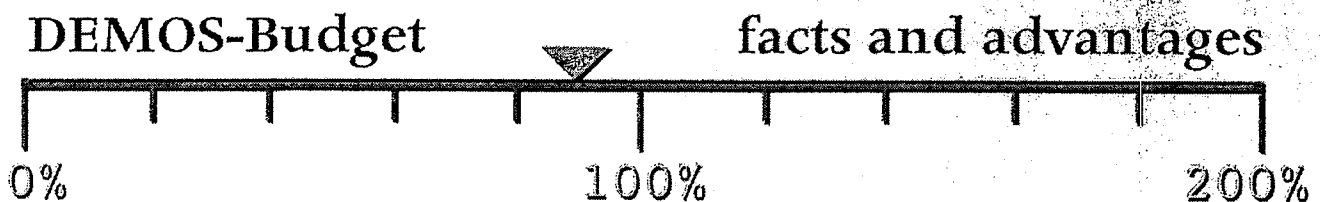
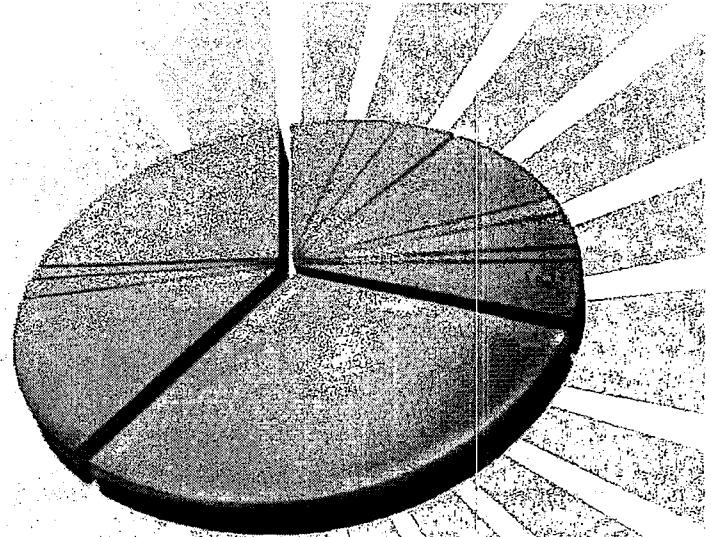
Feedback

"To start with it's exciting, then it gets tricky, and by the third phase you're really annoyed, because you have to present a balanced budget. At the end, you really feel sorry for the people responsible for budgets."

Corny Litmann on the Hamburg budget debate
(President of FC St. Pauli football club)

"A good idea: not only their elected representatives, but citizens too should have their own say in what their taxes are spent on. The budget planner is easy to use, but it is no arbitrary numbers game: the books have to balance in the end."

Spiegel Online



- Communicate the scope and limits of local authority budget-setting in an intelligent and innovative way.
- Use the tool to explain the meaning of individual budget items.
- Let the public participate in making important decisions.
- Identify citizens' desires and priorities at an early stage.
- Generate acceptance for budget consolidation.
- Create more transparency - and thus more local democracy.
- Integrate the planner in the political process: create opportunities for discussion.

Advantages for users:

- The platform is largely self-explanatory.
- Levels with differing degrees of complexity help create a realistic model without confusing the user with the finer points of cameralistics.

Advantages for providers:

- The application is simple to configure.
- Its appearance can be individually adapted.
- Budget data and additional background information can be easily imported and maintained using a content management system.

