

A differentiated assessment model for participatory projects, associated with local initiatives support program

Modelo de evaluación diferenciada para proyectos participativos asociados con los planes de apoyo para iniciativas locales

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Abstract

The objective of the article is to develop a differentiated approach to assessment of different participatory budgeting projects, LISP projects in particular. This approach should consider the possibility of obtaining different social effects, associated with the efficiency values of national projects in force. Basic criteria are for the projects that can be implemented in any area of local initiatives support and variables are for each of possible areas, in which the projects in question can be implemented. The article proposes a calculation formula for assessment and tests suggested methodology. The results of the conducted tests have shown that the author's approach, employed in the study has facilitated the change of the ultimate and rating projects values.

Key words: participatory budgeting, participatory project, local initiatives support program, methodology, differentiated assessment

Resumen

El objetivo del artículo es desarrollar un enfoque diferenciado para la evaluación de diferentes proyectos de presupuesto participativo, los LISP en particular. Este enfoque considera la posibilidad de obtener diferentes efectos sociales, asociados a los valores de eficiencia de los proyectos nacionales vigentes. Los criterios básicos son para los proyectos que se pueden implementar en cualquier área de apoyo a iniciativas locales y las variables son para cada una de las áreas posibles, en las que se pueden implementar los proyectos en cuestión. El artículo propone una fórmula de cálculo para la evaluación y la metodología sugerida para las pruebas. Los resultados de las pruebas realizadas han demostrado que el enfoque del autor, empleado en el estudio, ha facilitado el cambio de los valores finales y de calificación de los proyectos.

Palabras clave: presupuestación participativa, proyecto participativo, el plano de apoyo para iniciativas locales, metodología, evaluación diferenciada.

1. Introduction

In terms of global trends, it is worth mentioning that participatory projects have been implemented in Africa, Latin America, North America, Asia, Europe and Oceania (Dias Nelson (2018)).

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As for the Russian Federation, nowadays over 40 regions have different programs for implementation of participatory budgeting projects there. Among these programs are the following: “Let’s decide together”, “Your budget”, “The Yenisei shore”, “Public initiatives support program”, “Collaboration”, “Citizens budget initiative”, “Budget for people” etc.

In these cases, several project assessment approaches can be used: the selection procedure is based on calculated criteria, stipulated by regional or municipal regulatory documents; the projects are selected by a voting of the residents (without any criteria); the projects are being selected by an expert board.

The international scientists have devised various project selection criteria. For instance, some programs use Quality of Life Index, for the projects ought to deal with poor city districts (Dias Nelson, 2018). However, most approaches require that the population should participate in project selection procedure by voting (Sintomer Y., Herzberg C., Rocke A., Allegretti G. (2012)).

The local initiatives support program (hereinafter LISP) is the most widespread tool of participatory budgeting implementation in Russia (Dias Nelson, 2018, Participatory budgeting world atlas, 2019). Many scientific works define LISP as a promising way of stimulating people to use municipal budget funds more efficiently. (Mironova S.M. , 2017).

The efficiency of LISP projects is being assessed at preimplementation stage, during the tender, in which the participants compete for a regional budget grant. The assessment is carried out in accordance with the procedure, stated in regulatory documents of a particular region of the Russian Federation (Tsurkan M. et al, 2016).

Nowadays, unified criteria are used to assess the efficiency of projects, implemented in different areas. The employed weight ratios make it impossible to understand the peculiarities of social effects that can be obtained from such actions as for example, roads repair or sport facility construction

There are many studies devoted to different efficiency assessment methods for the projects that use budget funds.

Kjersti Granås Bardal (Kjersti, 2020] dwells on the divergences that may arise, when we use a “cost-benefit” approach to assess public funded projects. This author has analyzed the projects that have been implemented in Norway.

Ján Buleca and Ladislav Mura have studied a quantitative approach to the assessment of the public management efficiency. This approach can be employed by means of a data development analysis and further applied to projects (Buleca and Mura, 2014).

Walczaka and Rutkowska (2017) pointed out that it is possible to calculate ratings of participatory budgeting projects by a fuzzy “Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution” (hereinafter – TOPSIS) method. The authors dwell on the participatory budgeting cases in Poland and discuss the best way to apply this method there.

Speaking about the participatory budgeting experience in Russia, it should be noted that “the employed project assessment methods and types of efficiency differ, depending on the aspects that are considered. Consequently, the ways of calculating benefits and expenses and determining time intervals are also different” (Novikova, 2009 and Keidia, 2020].

Russian experts believe that within the framework of participatory budgeting there are two ways to assess efficiency of projects that use regional funds.

The first way is to treat region as a subnational entity of the Russian Federation and to identify regional features and peculiarities that can influence assessment.

The second way is based on the principles of assessment, employed for profitable investment projects.

The assessment method proposed by G.V. Bobylev, N.V. Gorbacheva, A.V. Kuznetsov is a striking example of the described principle (Bobylev, Gorbacheva, Kuznetsov, 2008). This method is described in details by Parfenova (2009).

However, this method prevents us from making a differentiated assessment of projects, which will consider various social effects of projects in different areas.

The objective of the study is to develop a differentiated approach to assessment of different participatory budgeting projects, LISP projects in particular. This approach should consider the possibility of obtaining various social effects, depending on the area, in which participatory budgeting is implemented.

The following tasks should be managed to reach this goal: to develop a pattern that will permit us to generate assessment values; to suggest possible assessment values and their weight ratios; to test and check these new methods, using several projects that are being implemented in different areas; to make conclusions about the impact of the proposed methods on project selection procedure (rating calculation), to compare current methods.

2. Methodology

There have been several stages in the study in question. The first stage presents the analysis of the current assessment method for LISP participatory projects, as well as the performance values for national projects and their regional elements.

The second stage presents a differentiated assessment model for LISP participatory projects. This model was derived from the analysis, made at the previous stage. When we speak about the second stage, it should be noted that both basic and variable assessment criteria have been set in this period. The variable criteria are exemplified by two possible areas of LISP projects implementation.

By developing a model the authors resorted to a simple heuristic method of a multi-criteria assessment, which is based on the multi-criteria utility theory (a SMART method), proposed by W. Edwards (Ishizaka and Siraj, 2018).

The variables have been distributed to twelve possible areas of LISP projects implementation. The mentioned areas correspond to local issues, stated in the Federal Law 131-FL on local governance.

It is worth mentioning that the proposed methodology may be classified as TOPSIS, if the region has set the minimal amount of points that a project should get to be able to participate in the LISP. C.L. Hwang, K. Yoon (Hwang and Yoon, 1981], Jahanshahloo, Lofli, Izadikhah (2006] mention that it is obligatory to set maximum (reference) and minimum values, if we want to use a TOPSIS method.

The third stage presents a testing of the suggested differentiated assessment model.

The proposed methodology was applied in the Tver region (Russia) as area under testing. LISP projects have been implemented there since 2013. The current assessment methods are similar to those, used in Kirov and Nizhny Novgorod regions, Stavropol and Khabarovsk Territories, the Republic of Bashkortostan.

By developing and testing the methods, the authors have laid a special emphasis on the projects that have been implemented in urban and rural settlements.

In rural settlements, there is an increased number of applications, as well as finished LISP projects, despite the fact that participatory budgeting abroad is a rather efficient tool, aimed at involving citizens in the process of city management (Velinov, Ashmarina and Zotova, 2020).

3. Results

3.1. The notion of a differentiated assessment in terms of LISP participatory projects

Speaking about assessment methods, it is worth mentioning that most regions, which use LISP programs, prefer an additive model, where the products of values for a certain criterion and its weight ratio act as an algebraic sum.

As for assessment methods, the ratios are mainly distributed in such a way that financial indicators of a project turn out to be more important than its social impact.

Current regulatory documents state that in Tver region the assessment of LISP project efficiency is carried out by unified criteria, by variables of weight ratios for such criteria. The criteria are classified into 4 groups:

- **Criteria for project tender, conducted in order to provide a regional budget grant for implementation of LISP projects, implemented in regional municipal districts (excluding projects, implemented in urban and rural settlements in Tver region);**
- **Criteria for project tender, conducted in order to provide a regional budget grant for implementation of LISP projects in regional municipal districts (for projects, implemented in urban and rural settlements in Tver region);**
- **Criteria for project tender, conducted in order to provide a regional budget grant for implementation of LISP projects, implemented in urban districts (excluding projects, implemented in municipal units of Tver region, which have been reorganized and therefore after reorganization don't have the status of a town district);**
- **Criteria for project tender, conducted in order to provide a regional budget grant for implementation of LISP projects, implemented in urban districts (for projects, implemented in municipal units of Tver region, which have been reorganized and therefore after reorganization have obtained the status of a town district).**

Within this study, projects implemented in municipal districts are the projects that require purchase of special equipment – new project type that appeared in Tver region in 2019.

Table 1 presents comparison of weight ratio criteria for 4 mentioned groups.

The table 1 shows that the assessment ratios for LISP projects that can be implemented both in urban and rural settlements are less equitable.

Each group has its own assessment constituents. For example, the ratios for urban districts that have undergone reorganization will differ from urban districts that haven't done it yet.

Table 1
Values of criteria for LISP projects
tender, conducted in Tver region.

Criterion	B ₁	B ₂	B ₃	B ₄
Project financing efficiency	0,55	0,40	0,50	0,50
Citizens participation in the process of decision making, regarding the issue that the project has to solve	0,15	0,20	0,10	0,10
Project social efficiency	0,15	0,30	0,20	0,20
Public awareness	0,15	0,10	0,20	0,20

B₁ – values of criteria for the projects, implemented in urban and rural settlements;

B₂ – values of criteria for the projects that imply special equipment purchases;

B₃ – values of criteria for the projects, implemented in urban districts;

B₄ – values of criteria for the projects, implemented in reorganized urban districts.

Source: compiled by author on the basis of Decree № 3-нр, dated 19th of February, 2016 “On certain issues of LISP project implementation in Tver region and revocation of some decrees of Ministry of Finance in Tver region”

For instance, if we are trying to assess the financing efficiency of LISP projects, which are implemented in urban districts that haven't undergone all the necessary procedures, then we should use the following assessment constituents and ratios:

- The rate of project financing by means of population funds in cash (% of project total) – 0,25;
- The rate of project financing by means of earnings from legal entities in cash (% of project total), excluding earnings from both municipal and non-profit enterprises and organizations – 0,15;
- The rate of project financing by means of non-profit enterprises in cash (% of project total) – 0,10;
- Also, if we are trying to assess the financing efficiency of LISP projects, which are implemented in urban districts that have been reorganized, then we should use the following assessment constituents and ratios:
- The rate of project financing by means of population funds in cash (% of project total) – 0,25;
- The rate of project financing by means of earnings from legal entities in cash (% of project total), excluding earnings from both municipal and non-profit enterprises and organizations – 0,15;
- The rate of project financing by means of funds that are transferred to regional budgets for taking necessary measures pursuant to applications delivered to members of the Legislative Assembly in Tver region (% of project total) – 0,05;
- The rate of project financing by means of non-profit enterprises in cash (% of project total) – 0,05.

The authors suggest an assessment method for efficiency of projects, implemented in urban and rural settlements. This method will suit for infrastructural projects in both urban districts.

The authors believe that the assessment method for LISP projects that require purchase of special equipment doesn't need to be improved.

Here are the project types that can be implemented both in urban and rural settlements, as well as in urban districts: cultural facilities and facilities that are used for public and mass cultural events, public services and amenities (parks, mass recreation places, etc.); water supply and discharge facilities; street lightning facilities; highways and facilities on them; playgrounds; sport facilities; burial sites; fire protection facilities; personal service facilities; facilities for disposal of solid domestic wastes.

There are 2 new LISP project types that can be implemented in Tver region:

museum facilities– for all municipal units;

heat supply facilities – for urban and rural settlements

Nowadays LISP projects that have something to do with infrastructural object of municipal districts are not being implemented in Tver region. The author argues that this fact exerts a negative impact, as in this case the capacities of participatory budgeting are limited.

This method distinguishes between basic and variable criteria of assessment. Basic are common for all the possible areas of project implementation pursuant to FL 131 and variable are specific for each area. The total amount of weight ratios is equal.

3.2. Consideration of national priorities in the process of LISP project assessment

Variable social efficiency factors can be identified, taking into the account efficiency values, set in regional national projects. The conducted research has helped to establish relations, stated in table 2. Area under testing – Tver region.

Table 2
The correlation between participatory projects implementation areas and regional projects, aimed at attaining national priorities (Tver region).

Type of LISP participatory project	National and regional projects	Efficiency factors
Cultural facilities and facilities that are used for public and mass cultural events, museum facilities	National project “Culture”: regional project «On maintaining the highest level of development for cultural infrastructure (“Cultural environment”)	A recreational facility (similar to a social club), a museum facility or libraries are being constructed (reconstructed)
Public services and amenities (parks, mass recreation places, etc.)	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Environmental impact reduction by eliminating the most hazardous facilities of accumulated environmental damage, as well as illegal dumps within the cities”	– A land plot has been recultivated; – an illegal dump has been eliminated; – Exists a positive impact or the most hazardous facilities of accumulated environmental damage have been destroyed <i>The factors suit for rural settlements</i>
	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Preservation of unique water facilities”	– water facilities restoration; – Clearing of water facilities shorefront
	National project “Culture”, there is no regional project	<i>Indirectly:</i> creation or restoration of memorable sites, related to the military history of the Russian Federation; – Existence of military burials
Water supply and discharge facilities;	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Pure water”	Improvement in quality of potable water through upgrading the water-supply and/or water treatment systems (changing quality and safety values of potable water supply); – construction of potable water supply facilities and/or water treatment facilities
	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Volga stream restoration”	Decrease in volume of polluted effluents that are directed to the Volga or other rivers that flow into it

Type of LISP participatory project	National and regional projects	Efficiency factors
Street lightning facilities	Regional project “ Road activities agenda for 2019-2024 in terms of general purpose highways and objects that belong to street-road network”	Decrease in numbers of road accidents, i.e. resolving the issue or improvement of the dangerous and damaged site of the road
	National project “Ecology”	<i>Indirectly (not stipulated by a regional project):</i> Implementation of the best technologies available (energy-efficient or energy-saving ones)
Highways and facilities on them;	Regional project “Road activities agenda for 2019-2024 in terms of general purpose highways and objects that belong to street-road network”	– <i>Decrease in numbers of road accidents, i.e. resolving the issue or improvement of the dangerous and damaged site of the road</i>
	National project “Small and medium businesses”: regional project “Establishment of farming support system and incentivitation of agricultural cooperation”	<i>Indirectly</i>
Playgrounds	National project “Demography”	<i>Indirectly</i>
Sport facilities	National project “Demography”: regional project “Sport is a lifestyle”	A facility for individual trainings, aimed at fulfilling the National athletic exercise set “fit for labor and defense”, has been built or reconstructed (fully or partially) – <i>direct involvement of citizens in national project</i> A facility for arranged sport activities has been built – <i>direct involvement of citizens in national project</i> A plane facility has been created or reconstructed Special sport and technical equipment has been purchased for playgrounds A facility for hosting sport events has been built or reconstructed
	National project “Education”: regional project “Success for every child”	<i>Indirectly:</i> The material and technical foundations have been updated, so that rural schools are able to carry out sport activities properly
	National project “Demography”: regional project “Public health promotion”	<i>Indirectly:</i> There is a system that incentivizes citizens to lead a healthy lifestyle
	National project “Demography”: regional project “Elderly people”	Promotion of healthy lifestyle among elderly people: providing all the necessary conditions for the elderly people to be able to train regularly
Burial sites	National project “Culture”, there is no regional project	<i>Indirectly:</i>

Type of LISP participatory project	National and regional projects	Efficiency factors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creation or restoration of memorable sites, related to the military history of the Russian Federation; – Existence of military burials
Fire protection facilities	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Forest preservation”	<i>Indirectly:</i> forest fire prevention
	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Preservation of unique water facilities”	<i>Indirectly:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water facilities restoration; – Clearing of water facilities shorefront
Personal service facilities	<i>Indirectly</i>	<i>Indirectly</i>
Facilities for disposal of solid domestic wastes.	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Integrated system of solid household wastes disposal”	<i>Indirectly:</i> Separate waste collection and providing other proper conditions for recycling
	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Environmental impact reduction by eliminating the most hazardous facilities of accumulated environmental damage, as well as illegal dumps within the cities”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A land plot has been recultivated; – an illegal dump has been eliminated; – Exists a positive impact or the most hazardous facilities of accumulated environmental damage have been destroyed
	National project “Ecology”: regional project “Environmental impact reduction by eliminating the most hazardous facilities of accumulated environmental damage, as well as illegal dumps within the cities”	
Heat supply facilities	National project “Ecology”	<i>Indirectly (not stipulated by a regional project):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – implementation of the best technologies available – energy efficient or energy saving ones; – Decrease in total volume of pollutants in the atmospheric air

Source: compiled by authors

3.3. Difficulties in reaching the effectiveness of participatory projects

The proposed approach supposes that the calculations should be made per the following formula:

$$P_e = \sum_{k=1}^i K_i \times W_i \quad (1)$$

Where P_e – efficiency assessment value for a participatory budgeting project;

K_i – A criterion for efficiency assessment of a participatory project;

W_i – Weight ratio, employed for a criterion for efficiency assessment of a participatory project.

Criteria for the efficiency assessment of LISP participatory projects may be similar to those, established in many regions, excluding variable criteria set by author.

The basic criteria are: assessment of project financing efficiency (a proposed weight ratio – 0,2); citizens participation in the process of decision making, regarding the issue that the project has to solve (a proposed weight ratio – 0,3); project social efficiency (a proposed weight ratio – 0,35 and 0,15 of this amount belong to basics); public awareness (a proposed weight ratio – 0,15).

Variable share of social efficiency of different projects – 0,2.

Proposed basic criteria for assessment of LISP participatory projects, implemented in urban and rural settlements in Tver region are described in table 3.

Table 3
Proposed basic criteria for assessment of LISP participatory projects,
implemented in urban and rural settlements in Tver region.

Sequence number	Tender criteria	Values for tender criteria	Points	Weight ratio
Basics				
1.	Project financing efficiency assessment, including:			0,20
1.1.	The rate of project financing by means of budget funds of municipal unit in Tver region (% of project total)	> 35,00%	100	0,1
		≥ 30,01% ≤ 35,00%	80	
		≥ 25,01% ≤ 30,00%	70	
		≥ 20,01% ≤ 25,00%	60	
		20,00%	40	
1.2.	The rate of project financing by means of population funds in cash (% of project total)	> 7,00%	100	0,05
		≥ 5,01% ≤ 7,00%	80	
		≥ 3,01% ≤ 5,00%	70	
		3,00%	60	
1.3.	The rate of project financing by means of earnings from legal entities in cash (% of project total), excluding earnings from municipal enterprises and organizations	> 7,00%	100	0,05
		≥ 5,01% ≤ 7,00%	80	
		≥ 3,01% ≤ 5,00%	70	
		≥ 1,01% ≤ 3,00%	60	
		≥ 1,00%	40	
		No financing	0	
1.4.	The rate of project financing by means of funds that are transferred to regional budgets for taking necessary measures pursuant to applications, delivered to members of the Legislative Assembly in Tver region (% of project total)	> 50,00%	100	0,05
		≥ 40,01% ≤ 50,00%	90	
		≥ 30,01% ≤ 40,00%	80	
		≥ 20,01% ≤ 30,00%	70	
		≥ 10,01% ≤ 20,00%	60	
		≥ 5,01% ≤ 10,00%	50	
		≥ 5,00%	40	
		There is no financing	0	
2.	Citizens participation in the process of decision making, regarding the issue that the project has to solve:			0,30
2.1.	Number of citizens, who participate in the process of decision-making, regarding the project itself and the issue that this project has to solve (per a meeting protocol)	> 50	100	0,20
		≥ 25 ≤ 50	90	
		≥ 25	80	

Sequence number	Tender criteria	Values for tender criteria	Points	Weight ratio
2.2.	The video recording of the meeting	Available	100	0,10
		Not available	0	
3.	Project social efficiency, including:			0,35
3.1.	Share of citizens who gain benefits from project implementation (beneficiaries) (% of the total population of the settlement in Tver region)	> 60,00%	100	0,15
		≥ 40,01% ≤ 60,00%	80	
		≥ 20,01% ≤ 40,00% inclusive	60	
		≥ 20,00%	40	
Variables that can influence social efficiency values (depending on project type)				0,20
4.	Public awareness, including:			0,15
4.1.	Preliminary discussion activities, (surveys, questionnaires, preliminary meetings, door-to-door reports, etc.)	Preliminary discussion	100	0,05
		There is no preliminary discussion	t	
4.2.	Print media (hereinafter media) are employed to tell the citizens about the project before meeting	Print media are employed to tell the citizens about the project before meeting	100	0,05
		Print media are not employed to tell the citizens about the project before meeting	0	
4.3.	Press exposure of the meeting results	There is some data on meeting results with reference to a chosen project, number of meeting participants, population contribution	100	0,05
		There is some data on meeting results with reference to a chosen project, without mentioning the number of meeting participants and/or population contribution	50	
		There is no data on meeting results in press	0	
Total:				1

Source: compiled by authors

Let's dwell on some variable criteria, as exemplified by several classifications.

For projects that belong to classification "Cultural facilities and facilities that are used for public and mass cultural events, museum facilities" we can use variable criteria, stated in table 4.

Table 4

Variable criteria that are used to assess the efficiency of LISP projects that belong to the group “Cultural facilities and facilities that are used for public and mass cultural events, museum facilities”.

Sequence number	Tender criteria	Values for tender criteria	Points	Weight ratio
3.2	Social effects potential	$\geq 1,5$	100	0,1
		1,25–1,49	80	
		1–1,24	60	
		0,5–0,99	40	
3.3	Preventive actions that help not to stop the process of rendering services	Available	100	0,1
		Not available	0	

Source: compiled by authors

The potential of social effects can be calculated by the formula:

$$P_s = \frac{E_p + M_c}{R_m} \quad (2)$$

where P_s is the potential of social effects that result from LISP projects, belonging to the group “Cultural facilities and facilities that are used for public and mass cultural events, museum facilities”;

E_p –The number of participants, who attended free events, conducted at the facility area in a year, previous to application year;

M_c – The number of participants, who attended free clubs, related to the facility in a year, previous to application year;

R_m –The number of inhabitants of municipal unit, in which the LISP project is to be implemented in a year, previous to application year.

For projects that belong to the group “Highways and facilities on them” exist the following variable criteria: roads repair in breakdown and danger zone and (or) near to social facilities (no more than 500 meters); vehicle access improvement for farming, for manufacturing facility. The weight ratio for the first criterion is 0,15, for the second one is 0,05.

Each criterion may be “available” and “not available”,

If value of the criterion is set as available, it gets 100 points, if the value is described as not available, it gets 0 points.

The authors believe that by assessing efficiency it is necessary to regard multiplying ratio ($K_1= 1,01$) for rural areas (projects, triggered by village community). Stimulating ratio ($K_2= 1,02$) for settlements, where the project is launched on territories, which haven’t participated in LISP programs for more than 2 years.

3.4. A differentiated assessment testing in terms of LISP participatory projects

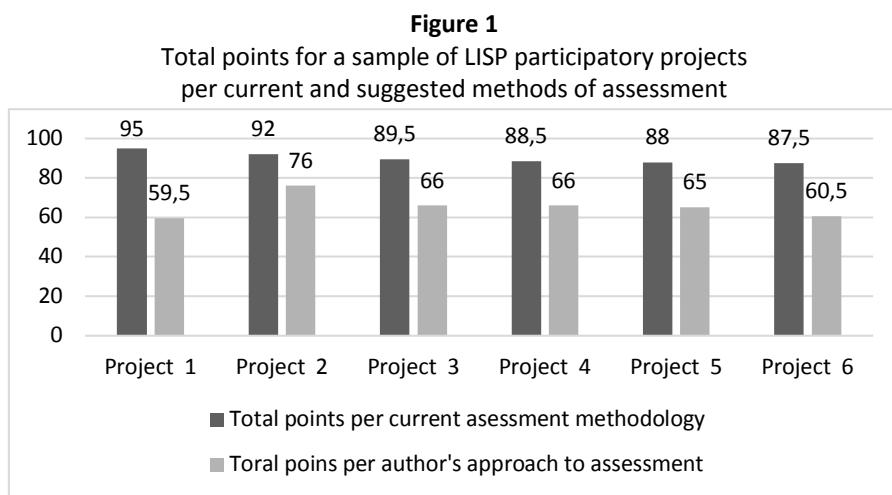
While making calculations the authors have resorted to the open data of the Ministry of Finance of Tver region. Here are the assessment values and ratios for LISP projects for 2018, the later data is not available.

Objects under testing – 20 projects that were implemented in rural areas and have obtained the highest points at the tender, performed pursuant to the procedure that was valid in 2018.

When the authors obtained values using adjusted or input data, it turned out that there were 6 municipal units' projects, to which the proposed calculating formula can be applied:

- “Overhaul of artesian borehole in Skvortsovo village (Skvortsovskoe rural settlement, Toropetsky district, Tver region)” (project 1);
- “Restoration and improvement of firewater ponds in Zabelino village, Central street near building № 17 and in Stroiteley lane against building № 2” (project 2);
- “Protection of water wells in villages Borki, Bolshoe Pitschalino, Zuevo and Lunevo of rural settlement Zubtsovsokoe (Zubtsovsky district, Tver region)” (project 3);
- “Restoration and improvement of a civil cemetery in Tikhmenevo village (rural settlement Itomlya, Rzhevsky district, Tver region)” (project 4);
- “Roof overhaul for a club of Zhukovskoe forestry: village Bobrovets, Andreapolsky district, Tver region (project 5);
- “Arrangement and improvement of a playground in Rivitsky village” (rural settlement Zarechenskoe, Maksatihinsky district, Tver region”) (project 6).

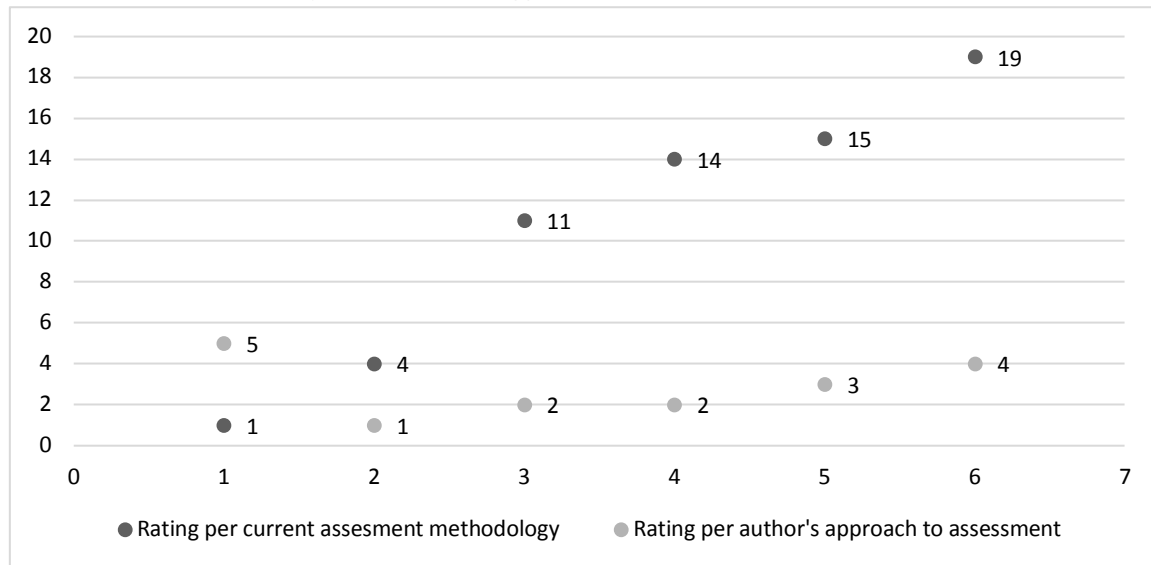
The results of testing of suggested methods are depicted in fig.1. The changes of total points are considered.



Source: compiled by authors

As the points have been recalculated, the ratings of projects have also been changed. Fig.2 illustrates both previous and changed values.

Figure 2
Ratings for a sample of LISP participatory projects
per current and suggested methods of assessment



Source: compiled by authors

4. Conclusions

The conducted research has driven us to the following conclusions:

The current assessment method for LISP participatory projects, exemplified by Tver region, is an additive model, in which the most relevant value is the product of criteria and the weight ratios of financial indicators. Using the methods mentioned above, it turns impossible to assess social effects that can result from the implementation of projects in different areas;

A differentiated assessment of LISP participatory projects can contain both basic (common for all projects) and variable criteria (that are focused on peculiarities of social effects, which can be obtained in the process of project implementation);

Speaking about variables, it worth mentioning that the national project performance values and their regional elements can be taken into consideration;

The test results of the suggested methods have shown that these methods can influence overall project points and consequently, its rating. This, in its turn, will trigger the redistribution of a regional budget grant between projects;

A differentiated approach will cause the necessity to change regional regulatory documents, in which the methods of LISP participatory projects assessment are set.

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