



Univerza v Ljubljani
Fakulteta *za gradbeništvo in geodezijo*

Public participation and participatory planning

Why is public participation important in spatial planning and
water management?

Equal opportunities for cooperation

- How can we define the public?
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- Who is the public? Which population groups are involved in the public?
- Do we all have equal opportunities to participate in various democratic processes?
- Is democracy, law and social equity the same for all?
- Does every voice count?
- What are vulnerable population groups?
- How can we be involved?



Not all people have enough knowledge to express their opinions, or their knowledge is not recognized as good or relevant enough



- Not all people are heard
- Especially vulnerable groups
 - Children
 - Elderly
 - Homeless
 - Immigrants
 - Young moms ...

Participation

Participation therefore means that we give voice
also to those who are usually quiet



Democracy

Participation is more...

- ... than just asking people what they want,
- ... it's also:
 - clarification
 - collecting ideas
 - discussion
 - facing different stakeholders (NGOs, businesses, various organizations ...)
 - active action
 - Cooperation
 - ...

Participation is now thought to be a **pre-requisite** for sustainable development.

What is participation?

- Describe the process of public participation in spatial planning or other processes in your country!

What is participation?

... according to the big players ...

- “... Is the process through which stakeholders **influence and share control** over priority setting, policy-making, resource allocations and access to public goods and services”. (The World Bank)
- “... means that people ... are **involved** in economic, social, cultural and political processes that influence their lives”. (United Nations Development Programme)
- “... stands for a partnership based on **dialogue** between the different partners involved.... This requires **negotiation** rather than the dominance of a project agenda that has been defined from outside. (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD))

What is participation?

- On interventions in the space, **people react very differently**, and in the process of cooperation, there is a need to aware about these differences
- It is rarely possible **to take into account all the expectations in a solution**, but accepting a new one in the space for an individual is easier if he knows the different solutions and responses of other people.



What is public participation?

- At the very beginning of cooperation, it is necessary to determine:
 - **the mode,**
 - **content and time of cooperation** so that the terms of the cooperation are clearly understood by all participants.
- Too big expectations of participants can be a major obstacle to the running and results of the work.
- It is right that at the beginning of the process **financial opportunities for cooperation are explained.**

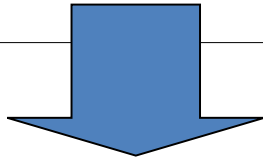


**So why should we bother with
participation?**

- The essence of involving users in planning processes lies in
 - community mobilisation and empowering it (to find out the real needs)
 - sharing resources, ideas, responsibility,
 - achieving a **greater level of satisfaction with new solutions**,
 - making the project sustainable,
 - providing a more personal attitude of users to new solutions and thus to more responsible use of space (increase sense of ownership).
- The process in which planners are more likely to rely on public participation and direct collaboration with users, is called the **opening profession to the public**.
- **The information era** encourages an individual to reestablish contact with the profession and also to seek different opinions and solutions for his or her problems.

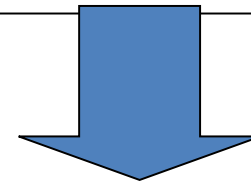
Dialogue between an expert and a user is required

- New solutions are always created in the dialogue **between experts and users**



The planner needs to know very well the wishes, habits and also the taste of the client, and, last but not least, know how much a new object can cost. The planner has even harder work when he creates an object in which there will be several different users at the same time. At that time, he can not take into account each individual among them; therefore, he participates with them in a different way and considers the user as an abstract person.

- **Active participation of users** in strategic and project planning is practiced by all developed countries in the world



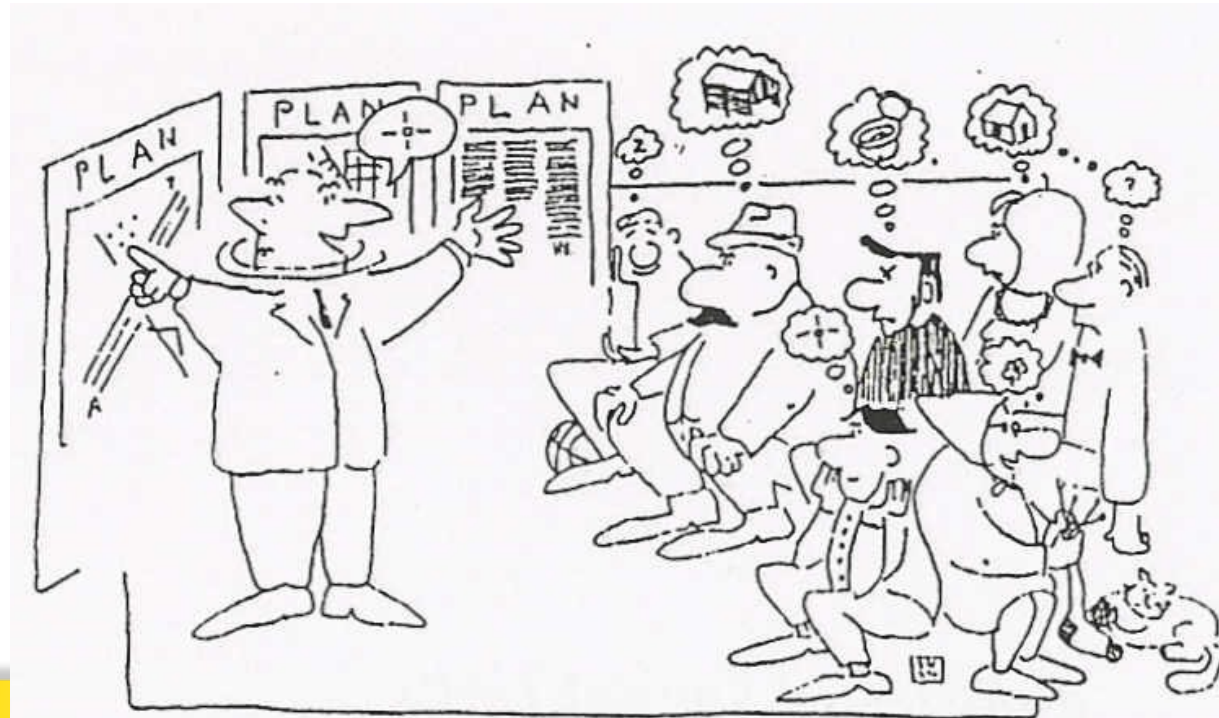
Thus, users and planners want the new solution to be as good as possible, so experts in involving the users in the planning process do not understand it as a censure profession, but as a way of work leading to better results.

Stakeholders and their role in the planning process

- local community - municipality
- politics - decision making
- experts
- public administration
- sectoral services
- investors / owners
- publicity - participation (interests, needs, knowledge, responsibility)
- non-governmental organizations

- **The systems and techniques** of coordination of interests enable the participation of various interest communities and individuals.
- **The effects of cooperation** are very different and range from users' satisfaction with solutions to a better connection between users.

- In different life situations, **affiliated communities** find themselves better than isolated individuals.

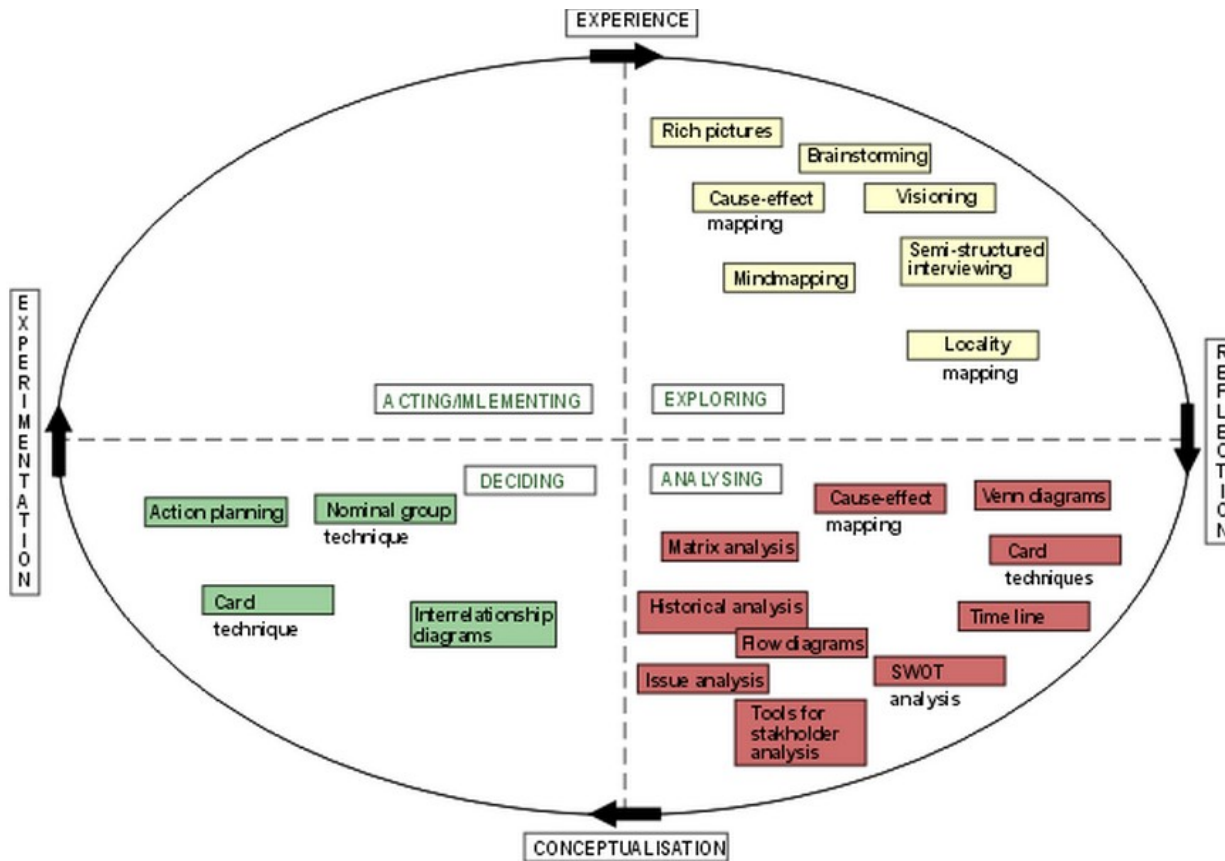


- Education for participation becomes the content of the general education system and programs for the education of spatial planners.
- Integrating users into the spatial planning process can be active or passive:
 - passive techniques are the research and study of users
 - active ones mean an active dialogue between the profession and the users.

<http://www.participatedb.com/>

Examples of participatory planning approaches

(Source: Barreto-Dillon, L., Seecon International GmbH)



Purposes of the tools

- Gaining ideas
- Organising and ranking
- Analysing factors
- Collecting information
- Planning
- Monitoring and evaluating

Tools can be used at different stages in the planning cycle


European framework

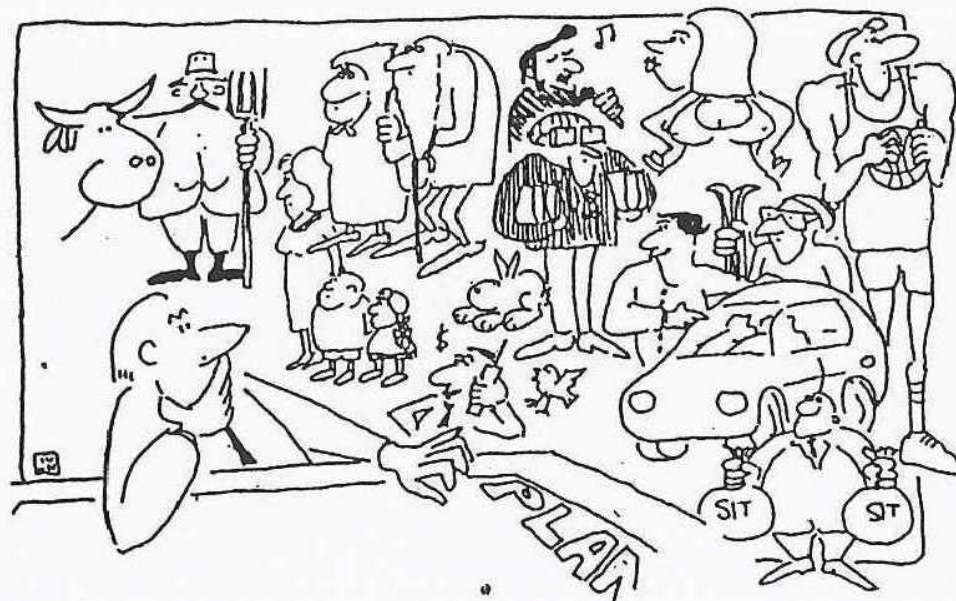
- ▶ The European Charter on Regional Spatial Planning (Torremolin Charter, 1983), mentions the **need for active public participation** in the spatial planning process as important for the success of development initiatives and for creating the developmental attractiveness of the environment.
- ▶ **Arrhus Convention (2004)** on the access to information, public participation in decision and access to legal protection in environmental matters.
- ▶ It mainly sets out the needs after:
 - ▶ inclusion of the public at an early stage of planning,
 - ▶ public participation in local, regional and trans-regional projects,
 - ▶ the integration of European social and socio-economic functions, for example by non-governmental organizations,
 - ▶ the integration of the younger generation, which can affect the interest in planning development and for effective and innovative participation in it.
- ▶ Both documents were signed by Slovenia as well.

Legally (formally) defined public participation

- In drawing up spatial plans that anticipate interventions and changes in space, it is necessary to achieve **the highest possible level of social consensus**.
- Since the planned changes in the space always concern the wider public, it is essential that this option has the potential to contribute.
- The inclusion of the public in the spatial planning process is therefore also **legally prescribed**.
- The process of preparing a spatial document enables **formal public participation**, and the condition for this is the knowledge of **the procedure and tools** through which the public can express their interest.

Formal public participation

- **Public disclosure** is an opportunity for the general public to become acquainted with the act and to make comments and opinions.
 - On the comments and proposals made at the time of the public announcement, the draftsman must keep a record and take a position on them, and ensure that the spatial act is supplemented in accordance with the positions to the comments and proposals.
 - The public can give their opinion through various media (electronic, written mail, telephone, in person, on display).
- 



- ▶ The formal public cooperation is understood as an **agreed minimum of public participation** in the spatial planning process provided by the state for balancing different interests in space.
- ▶ This is a formal, prescribed cooperation that does not depend on the good will, readiness, resources and time of the planner, investor or administration.
- ▶ The legally foreseen cooperation encourage local communities, planners and investors to include users in the preparation of the most appropriate possible solution in space, as needed.
- ▶ **BUT...**
- ▶ There is a whole range of interventions where such efforts for **informal cooperation are particularly advisable**:
 - ▶ new interventions in space, which also have well-recognized environmental impacts and
 - ▶ arrangements of public open spaces, which significantly determine the way of life and the quality of living in a place.

Informal public participation

- Informal cooperation is any involvement of the public, user groups and individuals in spatial planning and planning processes in **order to achieve greater consensus on planned arrangements, regulation and maintenance of space.**
- Informal forms of cooperation arise in agreement with investors and administrations and are often aimed at further publicizing projects and obtaining various information for the preparation of the project.
- Although it is well known that the effects of informal forms of cooperation can be really important for the implementation of spatial interventions, many investors still find it difficult **to provide resources and time** for exchanging opinions and coordinating solutions.
- Instead, today in the spatial planning, investors are trying to use the advertising methods to persuade users that the solutions that they have imagined are the best possible

Civil Initiative

- ▶ For the needs of successful participation in the planning processes, the **public is organized into different interest groups** and acts in the interests of advocacy of the interests of nature, special groups of inhabitants according to the place of residence, or in terms of the need for space.
- ▶ In a modern state, **civil society** in general takes on an important role in the governance of the state, both in terms of control and cooperation in finding the best possible solutions.
- ▶ **Politics** is increasingly accepting organized civil society as a development partner.
- ▶ A modern state is interested in organizing the public in **non-governmental organizations**, which in the long-term take over the advocacy of certain interests in spatial planning.

How to communicate with the public

- Graphical messages that are text-fitted
 - Make the public an appropriate message (to understand it)
 - The message must be understandable, attractive, with the main emphasis, too often too transatlantic and too complex
 - As a rule, plans, sketches, drawings
 - Models
 - Perspective, axiometric views
 - Photomontages
 - 3D models
 - Visualization
- Media
 - Indirect / one-sided communication via media (printed, visual)
 - Direct / two-way communication at a public debate, public disclosure
 - Personal communication
 - Mass communication

In praxis...

The practice of deciding on interventions in the environment and their effects on the environment is characterized by a different understanding of solutions that are not necessarily unique and desirable.

From the point of view of an individual participant, they have a greater or lesser degree of impact, such as:

- ▶ NIMET – not in my election time
- ▶ DIMET – done in my election time
- ▶ NIMBY – not in my backyard
- ▶ BANANA-Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhera Near Anything

An example of online participation

The screenshot shows the All Our Ideas website in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays <http://www.allourideas.org/>. The page features a navigation bar with links: HOME, CREATE, ABOUT, and BLOG. The main heading is "All our ideas" in a large, stylized font, with a subheading "CREATE. CONTRIBUTE. DISCOVER." below it. A central diagram illustrates the process: "create a question" (represented by a question mark icon) leads to "collaborate with others" (represented by a group of people icon), which then leads to "discover the best ideas" (represented by an exclamation mark icon). Below this diagram, there are three columns of text:

- What is this?**
All Our Ideas is a platform that enables groups to collect and prioritize ideas in a transparent, democratic, and bottom-up way. It's a suggestion box for the digital age.
[Learn more](#)
- How does it work?**
You can use All Our Ideas to create a website where visitors can vote on ideas and upload new ones. The intuitive and fun voting process yields powerful results.
[See an example](#)
- Get started!**
Click on the link below to get started with All Our Ideas. It is free, easy, and built on open source technology. Create your own interactive suggestion box and start discovering.
[Create a question](#)

At the bottom, there are three sections:

- Support:** This project is supported by grants from Google and CITP at Princeton University.
- Open Source:** All Our Ideas is open source software. Feel free to review, remix, redesign, or contribute.
- Log In:** [Create Your Own Question](#) [About](#)

An example : Bristol, Anglija

- ▶ Experts together with representatives of the local government are obliged to ensure that the interests and opinions of all users, including those who do not want or can not come to public debates, take into account when preparing solutions and plans.
- ▶ Spatial planners are increasingly involved with the users in their work by organizing workshops, seminars and surveys with questionnaires at the time of the plan.
- ▶ In doing so, specific solutions will include specific users who will use the space.

network Development – Consultation

8. 40 - 100 participants present

Knowle West Regeneration Framework & Outline Planning Application For Filwood Broadway –

Framework Development

'Knowle West Futures Conference' – Event 1

- To develop the work done already on the future of Knowle West by local residents, with the following outcomes:
 - Development of the draft 'Vision' and draft 'Objectives' for Knowle West.
 - Formation of a group called the Knowle West Team to guide the plan.
 - Signing up for the draft Vision and objectives to enable the next stage - event 2



'Knowle West Futures Exhibition' – Event 2

- To show the work from the Futures Conference at the 'Filwood FunDay' Community Event.
 - The Knowle West objectives and vision were explained to local people, who were invited to feedback and results overall showed strong support for them.



- For more information visit www.bristol.gov.uk/kwrf and www.knowlewest.co.uk



urbaninitiatives



Knowle West Regeneration Framework & Outline Planning Application For Filwood Broadway –

Framework Development

'Knowle West Team Workshops' – Events 3,5.1 & 5.2

- Over three workshops, these sessions involve looking at how the area could be best designed to deliver the Knowle West Vision And Objectives.
- Included playing the 'neighbourhood' game, to consider the best places for improvements like new education and community facilities, new shops and housing, as well as new employment locations and better open spaces.



- Emerging ideas for Knowle West are under discussion and not yet agreed, however will be developed into options for wider community consultation mid November.