

# STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION TO INNOVATIVELY CO-CREATE LIVEABLE CITIES

## Involvement of stakeholders will enhance the success of sustainable solutions to urban land use conflicts as addressed in the UN and EU Urban Agendas

### Why we need to act ? ▶ Balancing interests

Urban development and creating livable cities involve a huge variety of stakeholders, such as private households, businesses, planning authorities, land developers, conservationists. Urban land use is in constant transition due to the varying needs of different stakeholders. Sustainable urban land management is primarily concerned with the continuous search for a transparent and legitimate balance between the different interests. Moreover, it is about balancing these needs and pressures of urban dynamics with the opportunities and constraints of the environment and human well-being. The fundamental challenge is to create livable cities that integrate the different interests of the various stakeholders involved through the co-creation of acceptable solutions and finding appropriate instruments for resolving land-use conflicts resulting from this interplay of interests.

### What we will gain ? ▶ Co-creation for sustainable urban land-use management

Against this background, stakeholder participation seems a promising approach in order identify mutual benefits but also conflicts between different interests.

The high demand for land leads to land-use conflicts, while well-designed and well-managed green and blue infrastructure may provide a range of ecosystem services to different actors simultaneously. Co-creation, in which different stakes are integrated and simultaneously addressed through smart design, may be the key to minimize urban land-use conflicts. Participation processes, related infrastructure and tools may also provide a platform for knowledge exchange and communication. However, a wide range of open questions has to be answered to exploit the full potential of participatory processes and to enhance decision-making in terms of legitimacy, acceptance and local ownership of the outcomes.

Different participatory approaches may entail pros and cons in any given context and in the course of planning and project development. The extent to which such stakeholder participation can occur without becoming too politicized needs to be established.

Stakeholder participation may bring along transaction costs and may reduce predictability of planning processes. So there is a need to identify cost-effective solutions and tools to realize the full potential of participation for supporting urban planning.

### Key research areas

The INSPIRATION bottom-up approach shows an impressive variety of local and regional participatory approaches, e.g. on stakeholder involvement in land use planning and land and soil management. These experiences also generated numerous research questions, on methods, best practices, cost-effectiveness, and stakeholder motivation to ensure inclusive decision making and social empowerment.

Research is needed to synthesise and systematise previous experiences in order to learn lessons from successes and failures and to develop standards and procedures for future use.

### How to become active?

Contact your INSPIRATION national contact at [www.inspiration-agenda.eu](http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu) for further information on this topic.



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