Public Involvement Frameworks: Experiences from the EU Research Project TRANSPLUS

Carlo Sessa

Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems (ISIS) - Roma
Session 5:
Public Engagement in Transportation Planning

Public Involvement Frameworks: experiences from the EU Research Project TRANSPLUS

Carlo Sessa
Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems - Rome
Why TRANSPLUS?

Transport, Land Use, Sustainability

TRANSPORT SYSTEM

ACCESSIBILITY

ACTIVITIES

LAND USE
Why Sustainability?

Economic growth is associated with:

• Increasing agglomeration of activities in the leading urban poles

• Urban sprawl

• Increasing disparity with the rural regions

• Increasing travel

and related adverse impacts on the environment and social cohesion
Why integration of land use and transport?

This is essential to achieve sustainability through:

- Reducing the need to travel and car dependency
- Reducing the consumption of open land
- Reducing disparities in the access to basic services and quality of life without hampering the growth of urban and regional economies
What have we studied?

• Examples of integrated planning strategies

• Examples of land use policies aiming to reduce the need to travel (forward policies)

• Examples of transport policies aiming to improve accessibility by alternative transport modes (backward policies)

• Examples of implementation processes

• Participation of citizens and stakeholders
Where have we studied?

- In 25 cases across EU and NAS countries:

  Austria: Wien
  Denmark: Aalborg
  Finland: Helsinki
  France: Nantes, Orleans
  Germany: Cologne, Dresden, Munster, Tubingen
  Italy: Brescia, Roma
  Malta: Valletta
  Poland: Tricity, Warsaw
  Portugal: Evora, Lisbon
  Romania: Bucharest, Ploiesti
  Spain: Barcelona, Bilbao
  Slovakia: Bratislava
  Netherlands: Amsterdam, Groningen
  United Kingdom: Bristol, Croydon, Merseyside
What have we produced?

- 20 Deliverables available at www.transplus.net
- TRANSPLUS Guidelines (draft version available)
- A methodology to analyse structural compatibility and transferability of useful practices
- An appraisal of participatory approaches in LUT planning and implementation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of public engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information</strong> (Basic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Consultation of concerned citizens (often legally required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dialogue</strong> (Participation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information of a broader public, Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active, process-oriented participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-operation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External decision-process Changes in attitudes and behaviour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why we need public participation?

• To improve the quality of resulting plans
• To ease the effective implementation of plans
• To develop a common basis for following action programs
• To avoid and/or solve conflicts
• To raise awareness of problems
• To initiate learning processes
• To encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour
• To empower people
How to achieve successful public participation?

**WHAT?**
- Objectives and issues
- Context and preconditions
- Funding

**WHO?**
- Target audience
- Stakeholders/partnerships
- Initiator / leadership / responsibilities

**HOW?**
- Concept/programme
- Integration in overall strategy
- Organisation/Timing
Actors and Stakeholders

City Administration
- Transport planning
- Land use planning
- Other departments

Policy Makers
- City council
- Local council
- Regional/National

PT operators
Service providers
Business/Industry
Investors
Developers
Stock-holders

Problem Identification
Option Generation
Impact Assessment
Decision-Making
Policy Implementation
Monitoring & Evaluation

Community groups
Associations
Initiatives
Unions
Media

GENERAL PUBLIC
Citizens – Users – Commuters – Visitors
Integrating participation steps into a policy cycle

**IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES**
- Information Provision:
  - introduction of plans/ projects
  - incentives for participation
- Information Gathering:
  - problem definition
- Information Exchange:
  - problem definition

**POLICY DESIGN**
- Information Provision:
  - introduction of plans/ projects
  - incentives for participation
- Information Exchange:
  - discussion of planning drafts
- Deliberation:
  - elaboration of concepts

**POLICY EVALUATION**
- Information Provision:
  - awareness raising
- Information Gathering:
  - evaluation of the outcome

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**
- Information Provision:
  - announcement
  - awareness raising
- Deliberation:
  - implementation of plans
  - solution of conflicts
# Public Involvement Frameworks

| Basic framework | Historic context and planning-culture  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Continuous dialogue between authorities and citizens / social capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Short-term at the local level** | „Discussion“ of limited plans/programs with relevant groups of stakeholders  
|                | Process, structure, management  
|                | Moderation, consensus building |
| **Short-term at the city /regional level** | Information/engagement about/for city-/regional wide plans/programs  
|                | Complexity of processes and actors  
|                | Communication, co-operation |
## Pros and Cons of Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td>Leadership problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Process management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance</td>
<td>Conflicts, missing consensus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credibility</td>
<td>Missing interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td>Exclusion (of social groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>Populism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and efficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Costs
- Duration

### Communication – Engagement - Empowerment
Final conclusions and recommendations to foster participatory planning

The participatory process should be planned, managed and properly resourced (TQM approach)

Considering openly the results of participation is key to stimulate real involvement of citizens and stakeholders

Elected members are themselves important stakeholders, and they should play a key role in making participatory planning

The regional scale of spatial planning is the more appropriate to foster innovative and enduring approaches involving the public and a range of stakeholders – at local, regional, national level
Final conclusions and recommendations to foster participatory planning

Implementation and monitoring is too often neglected. There is the need:

- to build continuing cooperation and inclusion into the process of implementation (e.g. through use of incentives)
- to ensure monitoring that commitments are being delivered

City planners and external professionals need both to be trained in negotiation/mediation and to see their role more as an essential component of governance and not only a specialised, more technical function
Final conclusions and recommendations to foster participatory planning

Providing a “starting document” can facilitate public engagement in the planning process.

Avoiding “consultation fatigue” is a key-factor for the success of participatory approaches.

“Capacity building” is a pre-requisite to tackle with social exclusion in planning processes: not all citizens are equally prepared and skilled to take part in active participation, they should be backed up by supporting measures preparing them to public engagement.
For Further Reading

Deliverable 5: Promoting the Integration of Citizens and Stakeholders in Urban Decision Making (incl. Bibliography)

Deliverable 6: TRANSPLUS Guidelines

www.transplus.net