

Track 6 - Participation and Governance

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Planning, Participation and Governance.

Institutional fragmentation; multiplication of agencies and complex webs of relationships; breakdown of established networks; disparity of powers and responsibilities across different tiers and departments of governmental and non-governmental bodies; increasing role of market forces in the spatial distribution of development; and, confusion over 'who does what'. Against this background it is understandable that, more and more, spatial planning is looked upon as spatial governance. Governance might be intended just as the ecological adaptation to complexity or as the devising of a new form of societal participatory guidance. If we take that stand then effective spatial planning can only take place if it is connected to civil society through wider governance mechanisms. A main challenge becomes the creation of effective governance capacity in the midst of an increasing diversity of actors, institutions, and interests. The recognition of the significance of governance capacity, and of the value of a wide range of actors in forming that capacity has led to the expansion of policy making space and engagement of actors. In terms of spatial planning processes, actors may be drawn from beyond the boundaries of the formal institutions of government, spread among public, private and voluntary sectors, and, in the case of large metropolitan areas, straddle the boundaries of different political and administrative jurisdictions. In situations where formal government systems are ineffective or lack respect, fragmentation and diversity is also experienced, often in very acute forms.

We fully realize that this includes a clear and persistent call upon the civil society for a renewed civic engagement and this track looks for discourses, episodes, cases on emerging governance capacity (a strong and active civil society) of places. This track looks for practices mobilizing a broadly-based effort to introduce more effective spatial planning and how this may help to build better governance capacity and sufficient state capacity and resources at different levels. Cases that create favorable conditions to enable effective governance and collective spatial action.