

INVITATION

Opening Conference

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**International
expert workshop and conference**

**Public involvement in urban and regional
planning processes: The contribution of
science, practice and administration**

18–20 January 2007
JOANNEUM RESEARCH

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Opening Conference

18 January 2007
Seminarraum Stempfergasse 5–7
Graz, Austria

Scope of the workshop

Institute of Sustainable Techniques and Systems

Public involvement (participation) is a key element of two central strategies followed by modern European societies:

- First, participation of citizens in shaping their future is perceived as a prerequisite for sustainable development.
- Second, the call for public involvement is an expression of strengthening good governance and democracy towards an empowered civil society.

The importance of concrete public involvement in spatial planning processes is recognised at the international level. Decision makers in public administration and the private sector are increasingly involving citizens at early stages of infrastructure planning and resource use planning. Science provides basic and applied research, developing approaches and methods of public involvement.

Beyond national policies, basic EU documents and research programmes broach the issue of the relation between civil society, democracy and administration. In the context of the EU enlargement process and the growing together of European societies, it is of outstanding importance to develop common answers to the following questions:

- What do we consider as “citizens involvement”? What are goals of public involvement in spatial planning at the national/EU level – and what is the real situation?
- What can be learned via best practices? What is the concrete benefit of participation for society and administration? What are the obstacles and challenges?
- What is the role of science in supporting participatory processes? What kinds of research questions for future common projects should be raised and answered?
- How could we contribute to the building up of an international cooperation network on the subject „participation/public involvement in spatial planning processes“?

The workshop **Public involvement in urban and regional planning processes (18–20 January 2007)** will contribute to finding relevant answers to these questions during two days of intense exchange, consisting of a conference and an internal expert workshop. It will bring together a selected group of researchers and practitioners from South East Europe and Austria. These researchers are experts in the fields of applied research on urban planning, regional/spatial planning, traffic planning or evolution of society and democracy.

Opening conference

You are cordially invited to participate in the opening conference. The conference is the first important step towards this experts dialogue. The workshop participants will

present their experiences from different technical angles and different societal contexts and discuss them with the audience.

The language of the opening conference is english.

Conference programme

18 January, 2 pm – 6 pm, Seminarraum Stempfergasse 5–7

Welcome address

Hofrat Mag. Ludwig Rader, FA 1E, Land Steiermark – Austria (to be confirmed)

Hon.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Pelzl, JOANNEUM RESEARCH – Austria

The role of spatial planning for the European integration process

Dr. Rado GENORIO, Government office of European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia (to be confirmed)

Public Involvement in spatial planning:

challenges to the planning profession in SEE “transition countries”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena DIMITROVA,

Department of Urban Planning, University of Architecture Sofia – Bulgaria

Analysis of the public debate on reconstruction of Slomšek Square in Maribor

Jože KOS GRABAR, univ. dipl. inz. geod.,

ZUM urbanizem, planiranje, projektiranje d.o.o. – Slovenia

The participatory urban development project “Zielgebiet Gürtel” in Vienna

DI Philipp RODE, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna,

Institute of Landscape Architecture – Austria

Public concern and participation in the decision making process – Bucharest examples

Anca CRISAN, Sociologist, URBANPROIEKT – Romania

Coffee break

The PETUS decision support system

Dr. Norbert PLASS,

Institute of Sustainable Techniques and Systems, JOANNEUM RESEARCH – Austria

Planning processes in Serbia: The Vracar plateau

Vesna VLADISAVLJEVIC, B. Sc. arch., Urban Planning Institute of Belgrade – Serbia

Evaluating public involvement

in regional development programmes – the LEADER+ example

Mag. Daniele HAIBÖCK-SINNER,

Institute of Sustainable Techniques and Systems, JOANNEUM RESEARCH – Austria

Spatial education: bringing space values into the focus of education

Maja SIMONETI, M. phil., Landscape architect – Slovenia

Open discussion

Closing remarks

Dr. Miroslav Polzer, ASO Ljubljana – Slovenia

Buffet

Moderation

Dr. Gudrun Lettmayer,

Institute of Sustainable Techniques and Systems, JOANNEUM RESEARCH – Austria

Information / Registration

This event is organized by JOANNEUM RESEARCH,
Institute of Sustainable Techniques and Systems
 (www.joanneum.at/nts) in co-operation with
 ASO Office Ljubljana, supported by ASO Office Sofia,
 Federal Government of Styria (FA1E – Europe Direct, A3 – Science and Research),
 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
 and JOANNEUM RESEARCH.



For any detailed information, please contact:

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Time / Location

18 January, 2 pm – 6 pm

Land Steiermark – Seminarraum Stempfergasse 5–7, 8010 Graz

For organizational reasons, your registration is required!

Title, Name

Company

Address

Phone/Fax

E-mail