



SMART-U-GREEN

GOVERNING CONFLICTING PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE URBAN RURAL CONTINUUM

Urban landscapes witness transformations that affect the quality of both the urban landscape, and the quality of life. Such transformation (including bottom-up initiatives, community gardens, and more) come with conflicts involving many actors. Together with local governments, businesses, citizen initiatives and NGOs, Smart-U-Green has analysed existing governance structures for their capacity to create sustainable and inclusive urban landscape solutions, in the Netherlands, France, Italy, Croatia, Russia, and Ukraine.

THREE MAIN GOVERNANCE OBJECTIVES THAT CREATE CONFLICTS

Results reveal three main governance objectives that tend to create conflict over urban landscape design. The first is to preserve ordinary urban landscapes; these are spaces people associate with identity and belonging. The second is to create environmentally sustainable urban landscapes. The third governance objective is to create economically viable urban landscapes. Current governance practices and routines make it difficult to generate urban landscapes design that are considered sustainable from both ecological and economic perspectives. Smart-U-Green found that existing conflicts are exacerbated by a governance bias towards projects that make building and transport infrastructure- over the ones that create new green spaces or that preserve existing spaces.

INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACE, MORE GREENERY AND GOVERNING CONFLICTS

In trying to find areas of consensus between different stakeholders, the project adopted an interviewing method where interviews choose from pictures of a variety of urban landscape features. Although carried out in different countries, the project revealed two universal desires with regards to urban landscapes: more public space that is “inviting, lively and offers a sense of belonging” and the principle of more greenery in the urban landscapes. SMART-U-GREEN also highlights that democratic decisions and sustainability-oriented-decisions don’t always marry in urban landscape governance. Some people have lived in urban environments for such a long time that natural environments actually feel unnatural and hence unwanted to them.

And as for conflicts, coalitions (especially between government and citizens) are more motivated to persist when searching for solutions that satisfy everyone. Governments must reflect carefully on their existing political cultures if they want to genuinely generate urban landscape solutions that make their citizens happy and works in the long run.



PROJECT FACTS

Duration: 2017-2020

Involved Cities: Drechtsteden, Regione Marche, Grand Reims, Zagreb, Pskov, Mahilioŭ

Partners: DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam, SAAD, University of Camerino, IATEUR IRCS, Université de Reims, Regio Drechtsteden, Marche Region, Grand Reims, University of Guelph, University of Zagreb, Pskov State University, EKAPRAEKT, CIVILSCAPE

Budget: 1.101.000 EUR

Web: www.smartugreen.eu/project/

Result interview: jpi-urbaneurope.eu/smartugreenresults

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