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Educational material for students

Participating in So Easy+

workshops in Nova Kakhovka, Ukraine

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This material is made for educational purpose and has an indicative role, to show the most interesting, promising directions of developing project proposals concerning the city life and addressing the city problems. A modern approach, link to the most known and discussed sociological, urbanistic and environmental theories is indispensable. Furthermore this material can't serve as a full description of mentioned problems – all the contrary – it's a glossary which shows where to search and where to look for additional information (look at the Bibliography). It bases also on our own experience as a Foundation, as we consider the problems and subjects mentioned as promising while designing projects.

Consultation tools:

The public engagement should be open, relevant, proactive, equitable, partnership-based, ethical, responsive, accessible, available, and balanced through education and communications. The aim of a city consultation is to institutionalise the participatory decision making process. Poor city administration is often the result of weak rapport with civil society, particularly where bureaucratic and unresponsive modes of administration are the norm.

City / Stakeholder consultations

City consultations bring together local authorities, the private sector, community representatives and other stakeholders within a city to discuss specific issues and solutions to key urban problems. They are a continuous process of dialogue among stakeholders and the city government. Stakeholder consultations should be held in strategic moments (e.g. initial survey) to ensure the agreement on key issues and build momentum for change. They serve to identify the main problems and where they impose the biggest social costs. The findings should be publicly endorsed by all stakeholders.

Working groups

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Can serve to build consensus reached at the public consultation, add variety of perspectives. They derive legitimacy from existing institutions and exist only as long as it takes to finalize negotiations on strategies to be adopted by the Steering Group.

Proposition papers

Can be elaborated by working groups or by their subcontracted committees to provide more specific information on detailed, specific issues. They could also recommend possible areas of action based on their analysis.

Urban pact

The results of the city consultation and the results from the working groups and proposition paper strategies can be summarised in a draft document committing all stakeholders to fulfill their responsibilities. An urban pact serves to formalize the collective vision, concretise commitment, raise public awareness and mobilize support. The urban pact should be signed in the second stage of the city consultation, ensuring the attention of the media and providing the citizens possibility to offer their input.

Action planning

A document that defines the specific activities and the roles / responsibilities of each stakeholder in their implementation. It can define the short-, medium- and long term. This stage requires significant negotiation / solving conflicts between competing perspectives.

Demonstration projects

Small-scale, short-term projects to improve consultation process / build ownership among the stakeholders to build momentum. The purpose of such projects is to provide a learning framework to build confidence and experience, to emphasize that action is being taken, and to facilitate the replication, scaling-up and institutionalization of successful implementation in a later stage.

Communication within the consultations

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Should be timely, all inclusive, responsive, transparent, collaborative, and provide opportunities for the engagement of the Community Groups and the Community at large at all phases via many communication modes.

Partnerships

Relationships that reflect constructive, respectful, meaningful, inclusive and compassionate partnerships aimed at achieving outcomes built upon all voices

Inclusive Public Process

Public process accessible to all community members via many communication modes

Responsive Dispute Resolution:

The value of dispute resolution that commit to jointly resolve disagreements to ensure that consultation proceeds in a balanced, timely and productive manner.

Early Involvement

Involvement at all stages of City policy development, including inception, issue identification, concept development, design and implementation.

On-line consultations

One benefit mentioned was that people could provide input on things like Public Hearings, which many people have difficulty attending.

The on-line (private company designed) tool offers participation in quick polls, surveys, discussions, brainstorming, and idea testing. The tool is available to anyone 16 years of age and older who is a city resident, taxpayer or is a business owner or operator.

The online consultation can be applied for very well defined / closed problems e.g. to decide if a bridge should be only pedestrian or also accessible for bikes (Toronto), but as well to define more strategic issues for the city. In Toronto the consultation of *the city long-term financial plan was opened for the public and held*. The public's input on some challenging questions about how the City can manage expenses, raise revenue and optimize its assets

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was consulted on public . People could share input, ideas and solutions at a series of public meetings or by participating online. The following scheme was applied:

Information about the consultation, including background reports and engagement opportunities, a series of online surveys and two rounds of community meetings, is available at investinginto.ca. The public is also invited to participate in the conversation on social media, using the hashtag #InvestinginTO.

The consultation process is being conducted in two phases:

Phase

1

- *The first of three online surveys is open from November 9 to 20 for the public to provide input on what the City should consider as it makes decisions about long-term financial sustainability.*
- *A second online survey – open from December 5 to 23 will gather input on long-term financial options and strategies related to expenditures, revenue and assets.*
- *A series of in-person community meetings will be held (schedule and details below). For all meetings, the open house will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation at 7 p.m. Visit investinginto.ca to register to attend, request accommodations or attend via webcast.*

Consultation toolkits will be available online in early December for groups and organizations who wish to conduct their own meetings.

Phase 2

- *A final online survey and a second series of in-person community meetings is planned to gather input on the governance and financial management required for long-term financial sustainability.*

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The findings from the consultation will provide advice for Council and the City Manager as the City sets out to develop its Long-Term Financial Plan. The Plan will guide financial decision-making over the long term, and put Toronto on a path to financial sustainability.

It will also help address structural financial issues, as expenditures continue to rise faster than revenues, and ensure the City of Toronto continues to run well, spends public money wisely and delivers the programs and services residents need and want over the long term.

See: city speaks initiative in Surrey <https://www.cityspeaks.ca/Portal/default.aspx>

<http://www.citizenspace.com/info>

Architectural workshops

Activities hold in different schemes engaging students, professional designers, citizens in designing or building together an intervention in the public space. Depending on the external frames – like usage of determined material or specific place, but usually the time + budget is limited. The architectural workshop is a unique civic action model that encourages activist action in public space in collaboration with the local authorities. Sometimes the workshops have the competitive factor like in <http://www.72hoururbanaction.com/about> where the designers in different places in the world have just 72 hours to solve a common / similar architectural problem. In Soeasty.eu workshops the participants frequently come from different countries (EU/Non EU), the number of participants is limited but in the end a tangible intervention in the public space has to be completed. The intervention promotes the debate about different problems bothering the local society: like communication barriers, lack of safe public space for children to formalized public space created in a non-participatory way. The workshops hold in public space open the citizens to discuss with architects / young designers about the quality of the area, their expectations, reforms hold in the public space, etc. Frequently this method is used in countries in transition, in international Democracy building programs.

Gentrification

Gentrification is a process of renovation and revival of deteriorated urban neighborhoods by means of influx of more affluent residents, which results in increased property values and the displacing of lower-income families and small businesses. This is a common and

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controversial topic in urban planning. In a community undergoing gentrification, the average income increases. Poorer pre-gentrification residents who are unable to pay increased rents or property taxes may find it necessary to relocate.

Informal settlements

The negative results of unplanned informal settlements frequently lead to destruction of environmentally sensitive

protected lands, forced - sometimes violent - removal of transient populations from public lands, and unsafe living conditions, like those living on steeply sloped hillsides or on top of piles of dangerous waste (Hacker, 2013)

Furthermore, the lack of services like running

water, sewage disposal, trash collection, transportation availability, and basic healthy food

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lead to a massive deficit in the health of citizens living in these impoverished areas, leading to more emergency room visits, increased mental health problems, and preventable deaths (Kahan, 2013)

Zoning laws

A method that could legitimize the needs of informal housing

settlements by providing a way to create a formal organization that could ask funds to improve access to services. Zoning laws could protect the communities of informal housing by providing them with a relatively safe place to live continuously, without fear of forceful removal or separation from friends, family, neighbors).

Community gardens

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Community gardens are parcels of land usually owned by government or nonprofit organizations for city residents to take part in the growing trend of urban agriculture. Each parcel of land is divided into individual garden plots for locals to cultivate homegrown fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Expertise, purpose, and presentation vary from garden to garden. . These gardens supplement nutritional needs, provide a recreational outlet, and encourage social interactions between diverse social groups.

Sharing economy

A sharing economy is an economic model in which individuals are able to borrow or rent assets owned by someone else. The sharing economy model is most likely to be used when the price of a particular asset is high and the asset is not fully utilized all the time. Example: AirBnB, shared offices. Criticism of the sharing economy often involves regulatory uncertainty. Businesses offering rental services are often regulated by federal, state or local authorities; unlicensed individuals offering rental services may not be following these regulations or paying the associated costs, giving them an "unfair" advantage that enables them to charge lower prices.

“Right to the City” concept

The **right to the city** is an idea and a slogan that was first proposed by Henri Lefebvre in his 1968 book *Le Droit à la ville*. Lefebvre summarizes the idea as a "demand...[for] a transformed and renewed access to urban life". The concept was incorporated by various movements like squatter movement, some African citizen movements, Brasilia city hall. It's a 40 years old radical concept, is presently renewed and discussed on institutional level, by various municipalities, NGOs and even UNESCO.

Private-public partnership

Can be defined as defines a “long-term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility, and remuneration is linked to performance” (PPP Knowledge LAB). An increasing number of countries are enshrining a definition of PPPs in their laws. Have to be distinguish of public procurement or privatized sectors. In some

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jurisdictions, and in particular civil law counties that follow the tradition of the Code Napoleon, a distinction is made between public contracts such as concessions, where the private party is providing a service directly to the public and taking end user risk, and PPPs, where the private party is delivering a service to a public party in the form of a bulk supply.

Public Hearings

A public hearing is a type of public meeting to allow citizens the chance to voice opinions and concerns over a decision. Abigail Williamson and Archon Fung define a public hearing as “an open gathering of officials and citizens, in which citizens are permitted to offer comments, but officials are not obliged to act on them or, typically, even to respond publicly”. The public hearings are mostly held by local or central governments and concerning controversial decisions.

Citizen budget

A Citizens Budget is a simpler, less technical version of a government’s budget specifically designed to present key information to the public. Citizens Budgets can vary widely in focus, content, and length and be presented in a number of ways, ranging from a simple brochure to a comprehensive report. These excellent examples of Citizens Budgets showcase different approaches and styles.

Translating technical budget documents and financial jargon into language that is accessible to ordinary people is a key challenge. Visualizations and illustrations can help to articulate key information. Governments should also disseminate their Citizens Budgets as widely as possible, using local languages and different forms of media (<http://www.internationalbudget.org>)

Participatory budgeting

Participatory budgeting is a process of democratic decision-making and deliberation and a type of participatory democracy, in which ordinary people decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent.

PB generally involves several basic steps:

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1. Community members identify spending priorities and select budget delegates
2. Budget delegates develop specific spending proposals, with help from experts
3. Community members vote on which proposals to fund
4. The city or institution implements the top proposals

Environmentally sensitive areas / significant areas in the city

To be defined in time of any investment / city planning issues

Charette

Is an intense period of design or planning activity. It may refer to any collaborative session in which a group of designers drafts a solution to a design problem.

While the structure of a charrette varies, depending on the design problem and the individuals in the group, charrettes often take place in multiple sessions in which the group divides into sub-groups. Each sub-group then presents its work to the full group as material for further dialogue. Such charrettes serve as a way of quickly generating a design solution while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diverse group of people. Look at charrettes held in Nova Kakhovka (www.garnank.org), Hola Prystan (www.gopriplus.org) and Tbilisi (www.lamazikalaki.org)

Rain garden

A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns. A rain garden is dry most of the time. It typically holds water only during and following a rainfall event.



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Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 90% of nutrients and chemicals and up to 80% of sediments from the rainwater runoff. Compared to a conventional lawn, rain gardens allow for 30% more water to soak into the ground.

In the design of a rain garden, typically six to twelve inches of soil is removed and altered with tillage, compost and sand to increase water infiltration. The type of alteration to the soil depends on the current soil type, so it is a good idea to obtain a soil test.

Rain gardens are generally constructed on the downside of a slope on your property and collect rainwater runoff from the lawn, roof and/or the driveway. Once water collects in the rain garden, infiltration may take up to 48 hours after a major rainfall. Also, rain gardens incorporate native vegetation; therefore, no fertilizer is needed and after the first year, maintenance is usually minimal. (<http://www.groundwater.org>)

Urban floodings

Between others types of floodings, the urban flooding is specific in the fact that the cause is a lack of drainage in an urban area. It may seriously disturb the daily life of the city, even if the the water level usually does not reach life endangering heights.

As there is little open soil that can be used for water storage nearly all the precipitation needs to be transport to surface water or the sewage system. High intensity rainfall can cause flooding when the city sewage system and draining canals do not have the necessary capacity to drain away the amounts of rain that are falling. Water may even enter the sewage system in one place and then get deposited somewhere else in the city on the streets.

Smog

When we talk about smog today, we're referring to a more complex mixture of various air pollutants—nitrogen oxides and other chemical compounds—that interact with sunlight to form ground-level ozone that hangs like a heavy haze over many cities in industrialized countries. Smog which occurs mainly because of air pollution, can also be defined as a mixture of various gases with dust and water vapor. Smog also refers to hazy air that makes breathing difficult. The atmospheric pollutants or gases that form smog are released in the



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air when fuels are burnt. When sunlight and its heat react with these gases and fine particles in the atmosphere, smog is formed. It is purely caused by air pollution. Ground level ozone and fine particles are released in the air due to complex photochemical reactions between volatile organic compounds (VOC), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). These VOC, SO₂ and NO_x are called precursors. **The main sources of these precursors are pollutants released directly into the air by gasoline and diesel-run vehicles, industrial plants and activities, and heating due to human activities.**

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