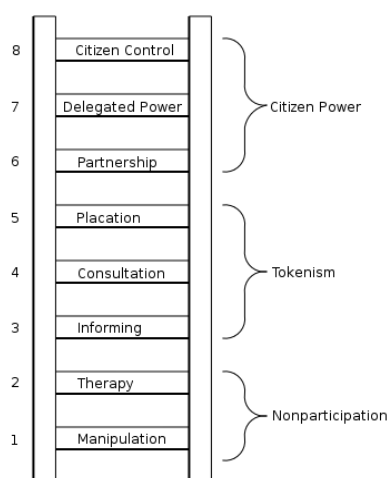


COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON ABSTRACTS/ SPANISH GROUP

Public Participation in City Design

First of all, notice that the Ladder of Citizen Participation chart contains a mistake. The Therapy rung belongs to the “Non-participation” level instead of belonging to the “Degrees of citizen tokenism” level.



Some general considerations about ICT and participation

A high rate of the population lacks access to the new technologies and sometimes they are often the most in need, the elderly or other vulnerable groups. In 2012, 27% of the overall Slovenian population has not used internet during the last year and more than 40% was not even able to send an email with attached files¹. As successful implementation of ICT tools might be accompanied by specific measures and strategies which ensure the meaningful participation of the whole population, whether through increasing e-literacy investments or including analogical space of participation available for those groups of the population. In addition, and despite the ICT tool could be very powerful providing a new channel for participation, it must be integrated in a wider strategy which ensure a real influence in relevant issues of the population. It is the only way to avoid or overcome the “Placation” level in the Ladder of Citizen Participation.

Some general questions about ICT and participation

¹ Eurostat, Industry, Trade and Services Survey, *information society statistics* (available at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database)

Could social movements be included? How many stakeholders will be involved in that sort of process? Could they interact with each other? Is it possible in a virtual context? Is democratic a participation channel restricted to a part of the population? Could a virtual/digital channel be the only one?

[Some questions about the scope of your paper: the participation process in Slovenske Konjice.](#)

Will your paper deal with other aspects of the participation by means of ICT apart from this case study? If you will not cover other aspects, why do you think it is sufficiently representative? A research must be a global concern, try to tackle your paper from a general point of view of participation.

Steps towards energy efficiency in historical districts. Budapest how to rehabilitate old housing buildings in a sustainable manner

Your paper deals with several topics that have been also studied in our Department: integrated urban renewal, intervention in the historical districts, town planning-related energy consumption...

The consideration of social and economic issues in urban rehabilitation policies is mentioned in your abstract. We aim you to emphasize the importance of these topics and the need to integrate urban rehabilitation with social questions, avoiding the gentrification. We aim you also to consider the rehabilitation of buildings in a more integrated vision of urban rehabilitation (land uses, public space, mobility, accessibility...), that are also essential for energy consumption.

Which neighborhood in central Budapest are you studying? Some areas of Budapest downtown have been strongly affected by gentrification processes related to tourism, tertiary uses or new inhabitants with higher incomes. The traditional mixing of different uses and social classes in the downtown is turning into some kind of "museum city". In this context, wrong rehabilitation policies could be used as a "tool" in this process of gentrification. Have you considered this issue? How can we prevent these effects in the implementation of rehabilitation policies?

The purpose of planning revisited: Challenges in achieving sustainable energy goals in historical cities of the European Union

Understanding that is a very interesting topic may be too ambitious to develop it in just ten pages. It might be more interesting to focus on only one of the two selection criteria provided.

In these way, we could be able to have a broader and deeper view of the policies and practices for energy efficiency in European historic districts, for example.

In this aspect, it could be very interesting to know if they rely on subsidies, if they are focusing only on building rehabilitation instead of thinking in neighborhoods's regeneration, or if this practices or policies are easily exportable to other countries.

New sustainable strategies of rome's historic district

I would recommend clarifying the strategies proposal in order to give the reader a structured idea of the research. Furthermore, it seems to be a confusion between implementing passive strategies that affect the envelope of the building, aimed at reducing energy demand, and active strategies such as photovoltaic panels to reduce the amount of primary energy needed. In addition, it should be clarified the use of a 'plant for the recovery of gray water and rainwater' that will mainly reduce drinking water consumption. I would suggest gathering different retrofitting actions into a scheme with different hierarchies.

In addition, I would expect you to show how the research deals with legal and heritage barriers.