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## DELIVERABLE REPORT

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## Reviewers list

Name	Institution	Date

## List of abbreviations

Abbreviation:	Definition
DEMo4PPL	Digital Education Modules 4 Participatory Planning
IUTP	Integrated Urban Transport Projects
NSDC	National Spatial Development Concept
PPL	Participatory Planning
SPA	Spatial Planning Act
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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**Figure 1.** Organisation of planning processes in Bulgaria (adapted form National Spatial Development Concept)

## 1. Introduction

This overview of the participatory planning practice in Bulgaria has been elaborated within the frame of the Erasmus+ project “Digital Education Modules 4 Participatory Planning” (DEMo4PPL) with the aim to review and outline the planning and participatory planning practices as a basis for the elaboration of an interdisciplinary modular training curriculum about the participatory planning using digital tools.

The report presents the general planning framework in Bulgaria along with the legislative setting about the public engagement in the planning processes together with the best-practice examples of public participation on local, regional and national level. It was delivered via combined desk and field research including surveying of the implementation of public participation concept as an integral governance element, regarding planning and the utilisation of traditional and digital forms to streamline public participation while identifying success factors and challenges. In general terms, the report contributes to raising comprehensive understanding approached participatory planning (PPL) practices, tools, policies, and approaches at national and local level.

Though the participatory processes belong to the general governance policies of the country and are not sector-specific, detailed information about planning in the areas urban mobility, land use, rural development and tourism destination management is considered as areas of main research interest and education of the universities partnering in the DEMo4PPL Project.

## 2. Methodology

The overview was elaborated following a common research methodology created for the DEMo4PPL project that passed through the following steps:

### *Step 1. Identification of scientific fields of interest*

This is a separate step implemented for both Activities 2.2 and 2.3 of DEMo4PPL Project. The produced work documents were uploaded in the shared workspace of the project. Based on an open-ended questionnaire, for each department/branch/institute involved in the project, the partners are asked to briefly describe:

- the subject of studies,
- the general objectives of the study program,
- the current research interest,
- and, finally, to indicate the scientific field(s) that they consider focusing on for the DEMo4PPL education modules. As for the latter, the UNESCO ISCED-F 2013 may be used (available [here](#)).

### *Step 2. Survey*

The survey's goal is to collect data and comprehensive knowledge about participatory planning practice at the national level in each participating country. The survey results after the required consent of respondents will supplement the literature review required to produce the country's report. Step 2 consists of three parts:

### *Part A. Planning fields and participation*

An open-ended questionnaire is addressed to 20 participants per country which are considered experts in the identified scientific fields (5 experts / field / country, 20 experts in total / country). This part of the survey targets practitioners, decision makers and local authorities. It is proposed that the participants complete the questionnaire on paper, either in person or by email ('self-administered paper questionnaires'). Each participant is asked to respond to the following questions regarding his/her own scientific field of expertise:

1. How much important or/and urgent is this field in terms of spatial planning?
2. Which is the spatial level of this planning field (e.g. national, regional, local)?
3. Is there any institutional obligation for mandatory participation and consultation processes concerning planning processes?
4. Apart from the possible institutional obligations for mandatory participation and consultation processes in the field, are there any non-institutional/informal participation processes?
5. Are there any mechanisms to ensure the integration of the participation outcomes in the final planning product?
6. What are the main success factors and impediments as regards participation processes in the field in your country?
7. Please list up to three good practices of public participation in your field.

### *Part B. Participatory processes in practice*

Part B of the survey focuses on the scientific field of interest that was identified by each partner at Step 1 (5 experts / field) and aims to shed light on more detailed aspects of participatory planning in each country examined, both on institutional and planning practice level. It is suggested that each partner administers the questionnaire in person ('face-to-face interviews'), as this is a mode that allows for a high degree of control over the survey environment and can result in higher response rates. Each participant on the survey is asked to respond to the following questions regarding the specific scientific field of expertise:

1. What are the participation objectives in terms of aspiration/motivation (e.g. democratization, advising) and targeted output (e.g. mapping out diversity, reaching consensus)?
2. What (e.g. costs, equipment, staff) and how many (in case that relevant data are available) resources are allocated for accomplishing participatory processes? Are these resources separate or additional to the resources allocated for planning processes?
3. Which is/are the stage(s) of the planning process, where participatory endeavours are embedded (e.g. problem and goal definition, analysis of the current situation and its dynamics, developing/evaluating/selecting scenarios/solutions, formulating policy framework/measures)?
4. Which is/are the type(s) (e.g. stakeholders, experts, decision-makers) and planning jurisdiction of the coordinator(s) involved?
5. Which is/are the type(s) (e.g. public, stakeholders, experts, decision-makers) and spatial level (e.g. national, regional, local) of the participants involved?
6. What is the level of participants' engagement (e.g. manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power, citizen control)? What is the impact of participation regarding decision-making?
7. Which are the specific (obligatory/optional) participation methods (e.g. Focus Groups, World Café, Charrette;), techniques (e.g. Brainstorming, Crowdsourcing, Mind Mapping) and means

of information/communication (e.g. Fact Sheets, Tree Diagrams, Geographic Information Systems) used in physical (face-to-face), digital or hybrid participatory processes?

### *Part C. Good practices*

Part C corresponds to a practice-based approach that will support the completion of the reports. It is based on the review of a selection of representative cases related to the identified scientific fields of interest (at least 5 cases per partner). A template has been prepared by SEMPXPA to help systematize all information needed to comprehend the characteristics of the case study and its value as regards participatory planning.

Desk research involved gathering and analysing existing information, data, and resources related to participatory planning and forms of digital participatory planning in Bulgaria where existing. The field methodology included two main elements: (i) identification of areas of interest and research and planning and (ii) survey to gather practice-relevant data about participatory planning practice at the national level in Bulgaria.

The identification of the areas of interest was based the subject of studies, general objectives of the study programs, current research interests and indication of the scientific field(s) that the partnering higher education institutions consider focusing on for the DEMo4PPL education modules. Thus the fields of *Land use planning, Rural development and planning, Tourism (Destination) management and Planning, Urban mobility* were identified.

A questionnaire about Part A. Planning fields and participation and Part C Part C. Good practices was distributed to 15 experts working in different aspects of planning process in the period between 1/03/2024 and 20/03/2024 and the results of their replies are summarized in the replies below.

Based on full questionnaires, including all three parts A, B and C, five interviews with professionals in planning, governance and tourism destination management governance were performed to review the practice of participatory planning and its reference for tourism sector as described further.

## **3. Planning fields and participation**

### **3.1. Importance and urgency in terms of spatial planning**

#### *Spatial planning and planning fields*

The national territorial planning in Bulgaria is regulated by two main legal acts – the Regional Development Act (2008) and the Spatial Planning Act (2001). The first regulation pertains to strategic planning for spatial and regional development, while the second one governs territory development concerning investment design and construction. The primary article of the Strategic Planning Act (SPA) outlines the principles of this legislation, aimed at fostering sustainable development and creating favourable conditions for the population's living, working, and recreational activities. Spatial planning extends strategic regional foresight to the territory, and conversely, regional strategic planning is reliant on a sound territorial foundation established through spatial planning (Moteva, 2018).

While the Regional Development Act regulates for citizen participation in the integrated territorial planning and development at local and municipal level and the Spatial Planning Act refers to stakeholder participation in specific property-related issues, the National Spatial Development Concept (2013-2025) recognizes that citizen participation in spatial planning in Bulgaria is essential for creating sustainable, functional and liveable spaces and that it contributes to the democratic process, improves the quality and acceptance of planned projects, promotes innovation and strengthens social cohesion.

### *Citizen participation*

Citizen participation in spatial planning processes is a key component for the development of sustainable and inclusive urban and rural environments. In Bulgaria, as in many other countries, the involvement of citizens in planning the spaces in which they live, work and relax, is becoming increasingly important and urgent though underdeveloped for the time-being.

This is due to a few main reasons:

- Active participation of citizens in spatial planning processes ensures that citizens' needs, interests and proposals are reflected in the final plans and projects. This leads to a higher degree of public acceptance and satisfaction with the planning projects, which is fundamental for their successful implementation.
- Civic involvement helps to identify local problems and needs that may be overlooked by spatial planners due to their complexity or specific nature. In this way, the solutions that are adopted are more comprehensive and tailored to the specific environments.
- Citizen participation promotes greater transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. When citizens have the opportunity to observe, comment and contribute to the planning process, this reduces the risk of corruption and inefficiency, increases trust in institutions and helps to build a more responsible and engaged society.
- Citizen participation in spatial planning processes supports innovation and creative approaches to problem solving. The diversity of opinions and perspectives can lead to the discovery of new, out-of-the-box solutions to improve the quality of life in urban and rural areas.

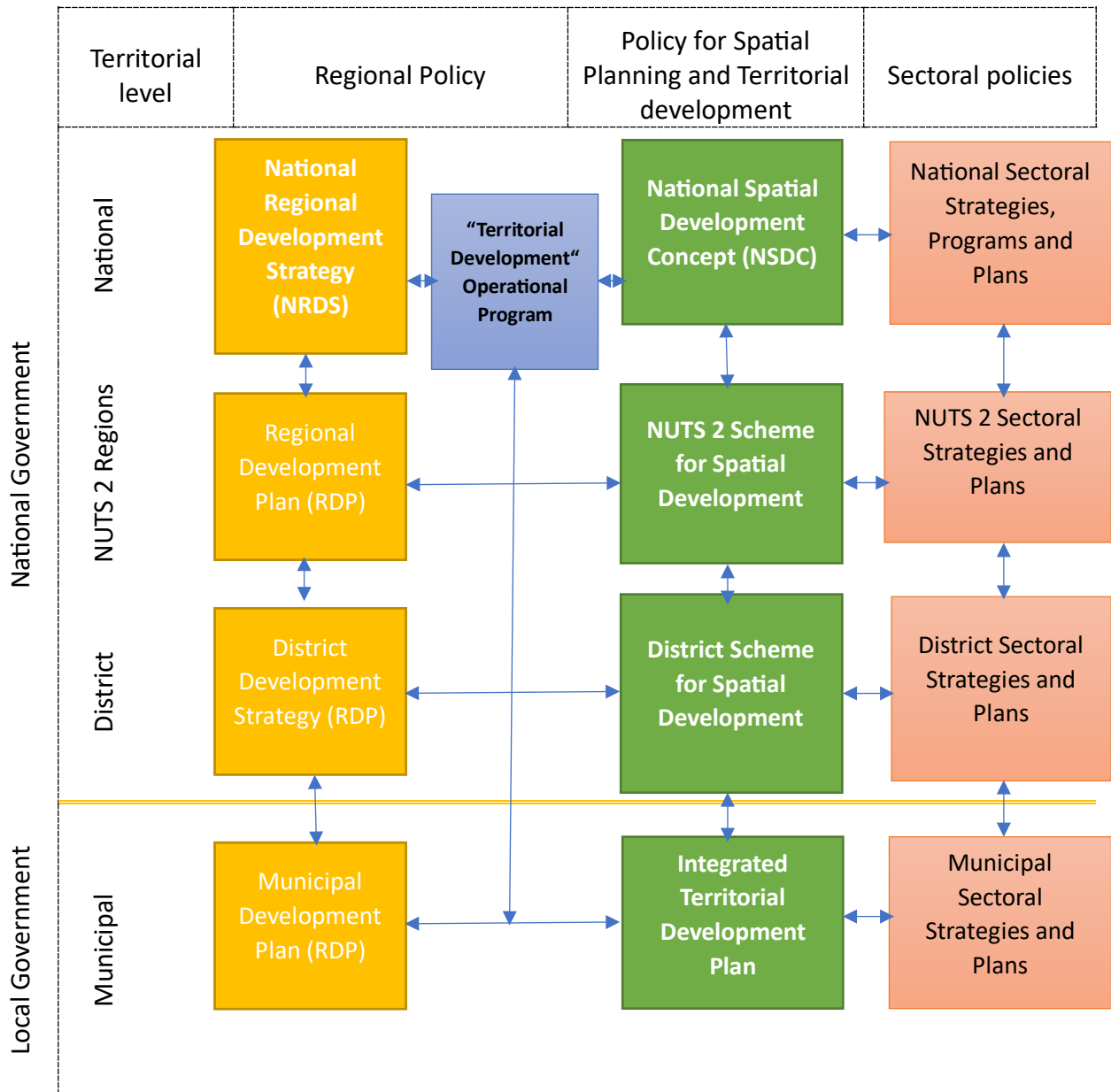
The mobilization of civic expertise in terms of spatial planning is very important for Bulgaria as given the national challenges and the fact the spatial policy is most implemented through the integrated territorial development plans at the local level.

In order for citizen participation to be effective, it is necessary to ensure appropriate mechanisms and channels of communication between citizens and authorities and to ensure that every opinion is taken into account. This requires not only commitment from local and national authorities, but also an active stance and willingness to participate from citizens themselves.

## **3.2. Spatial level**

Spatial planning in Bulgaria is closely linked to the applied regional development tools and is described in a comprehensive integrated concept based on the strategic approach. The National Spatial Development Concept for the period 2013-2025 is the main policy document about regional

and spatial development, which defines the long-term objectives, goals and priorities of the state policy to reduce the imbalance in the development of the national territory and its consistency with other horizontal policies. It provides for Integration of spatial planning with regional and sectoral planning through territorial coordination of sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes directly or indirectly related to spatial development.



**Figure 1.** Organisation of planning processes in Bulgaria (adapted form National Spatial Development Concept)

Accordingly, and as already described, the spatial planning by its nature is not sectoral planning, but is oriented to all sectors, because it organizes and balances sectoral activities in space, on the territory. Hence, it refers to all sectors on the given territory. The spatial schemes and plans are the



spatial expression of the integrated development policy of society, the spatial expression of the economic, social, cultural and environmental policy of the whole society.

The Territorial Development Operational Program is to enhance the attractiveness of regions and municipalities and reduce disparities between them through five priority axes of particular relevance to the NSDC, as follows:

- Sustainable and integrated urban development;
- Regional and local accessibility;
- Sustainable tourism development;
- Local development and cooperation.

A significant milestone in Bulgaria's spatial reforms and associated public participation is set by the process of decentralization processes mandated by the Constitution of Bulgaria and the Law on Local Self-Government and Local Administration (1991) which stipulate that municipalities and their settlements have the authority to govern and foster the development of their surrounding areas. As per the Constitution of Bulgaria (1991), the country's territory is organized into municipalities and districts. Municipalities serve as primary administrative-territorial units responsible for local governance, while districts function as administrative entities for implementing state governance at the local level. In that civic participation in the special planning process can influence the decision-making process either on central governmental level (that also includes the NUTS2 regional and district levels that do not have legal personality and autonomy) or the local decentralized level.

Nevertheless, citizen participation in spatial planning processes can happen at different levels, depending on the scope, scale and specificities of the planned projects and initiatives at:

- Local level: This is the level of participation closest to citizens. It involves participation in the planning and development of specific neighbourhoods, streets, parks and other public spaces within a city or municipality. Citizens participate through public hearings, workshops, surveys and various forms of direct democracy such as referendums on specific projects. At this level, participation is direct and has an immediate impact on the quality of life of the local population. Decisions are taken by the municipal councils and municipal administrations that have a planning autonomy.
- Regional level: Citizen participation at the regional level covers the planning and development of broader territories, which may include several localities or entire regions. This includes the development of regional development plans, infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and transport links, and environmental and natural resource protection projects. Involvement at this level is often through public consultation, discussion of strategic documents and participation in thematic working groups. Decisions are taken by the involved ministerial administrations and distance between the citizens and decision-making levels is wide.
- National level: At the national level, citizen participation refers to the involvement of citizens in the discussion and formulation of national policies, strategies and legislation that have an impact on the spatial planning and development of the country as a whole. Here, participation can occur through national public consultations, participation in the discussion of draft laws, giving feedback and suggestions through official channels such as public e-participation portals and petitions.

The laws that govern civic participation in the different territorial activities refer to the:

- Law on Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government
- Law on Statutory Acts
- Law on Administrative-Territorial Planning
- Code of Administrative Procedure
- Law on Access to Public Information
- Regional Development Act
- Law on Public Finance
- Law on Municipal Debt
- Spatial Planning Act
- Municipal Property Act
- Law on Tourism
- Environmental Protection Act, and a number of others.

In terms of the specific research interests, identified in DEMo4PPL project, the following specific legislative norms need to be considered:

- Land use

The Spatial Planning Act outlines the primary avenues for land utilization and the criteria for their determination. The key legislative companion to the Spatial Development Act is Ordinance No. 7, enacted in 2003, which delineates guidelines for various spatial areas and development zones. Both the SPA and the first article of the Ordinance emphasize that regulations concerning territorial structure and the allocation of land for construction purposes must prioritize efficient land utilization and preservation of natural balance (Nikolov, 2013) (Moteva, 2018).

- Rural development

The National Regional Development Strategy 2012-2022, governed by the Regional Development Act, outlines the overarching vision for agricultural territories at the national level. This strategy encompasses various rural areas, including peripheral regions, underdeveloped areas and those earmarked for targeted support. Emphasis is placed on harnessing the specific potential of agricultural territories, fostering economic convergence, and ensuring environmental preservation within these regions (Nikolov, 2013).

The Spatial Planning Act and the Law for Preservation of Agricultural Lands also regulate rural development planning. The NSDC focuses significantly on agricultural lands, stressing the importance of integrating peripheral urban areas of major cities into spatial development strategies and plans for more efficient land use planning. This approach underscores that smart spatial planning helps to restrict uncontrolled urban expansion.

- Tourism management

Tourism is regulated by the Law on Tourism (2013) and the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Republic of Bulgaria (2014-2030) that systematizes the vision, strategic objectives, priorities, activities, the implementation of which will lead to the establishment of sustainable schemes for the development and management of tourism activities. These documents do not have relevance to spatial planning and in general no sector-specific spatial planning regulations are in place.

The Law on Tourism defines the creation of tourist regions, covering the whole territory of the country, and managed by tourism area management organizations, however these regions have the purpose of forming regional tourist products and carrying out regional marketing and advertising

together with policy synchronization (Art. 15). Still, the Law on Tourism provides for territorial consistency and territorial integration in terms of planning, stipulating that the tourist regions shall cover the entire territory of the country and shall be consistent with the municipal administrative boundaries, and the territory of a municipality may not be divided between two regions and may not belong to two different tourist regions at the same time.

- Urban mobility

Since the programming period of 2007–2013, the large Bulgarian cities have undertaken integrated urban transport projects (IUTP) as part of the Integrated Plans for Urban Regeneration and Development under the Operational Programme "Regional Development" within the EU Cohesion Policy. Aligned with fundamental European planning principles, these projects incorporate rules for necessary civic engagement as outlined in the methodology for integrated urban regeneration and development planning. Serving as a foundation, these plans pave the way for additional measures aimed at fostering sustainable mobility forms, including the enhancement of public transport, pedestrian pathways, and cycling networks (Kovachev, Slaev, Nozharova, Nikolov, & Petrov, 2018).

In addition, some other ordinances associated with the Spatial Planning Act refer to the elaboration of urban mobility plans:

- schemes of transport and communication systems as part of the settlement or municipal territorial development plan (Ordinance 8 from 2001 on content of spatial development plans);
- detailed communication and transport plans (Ordinance 8 from 2001);
- master plan for traffic organization (Ordinance 1 from 2001 on traffic organization);
- sustainable urban mobility plans (mentioned in amendments from 2017 of Ordinance 2 on the transport and communication systems in urbanized areas)

### **3.3. Institutional obligation for mandatory participation and consultation processes**

The survey within DEMo4PPL project identified a number of general and specific elements about the institutional obligations to perform participation and consultation process with citizen involvement.

In the context of spatial planning, citizen participation and public consultations are key elements in ensuring transparency, accountability and the inclusion of diverse perspectives and interests in the decision-making process. In Bulgaria, there are various institutions and legislative frameworks that provide for mandatory citizen participation in these processes.

#### *Institutions*

1. Local authorities (municipalities): The local authorities play a central role in the spatial planning processes at the local level. They are responsible for the development and adoption of development plans, zoning plans and other spatial planning documents that directly affect the lives of local communities.

2. Ministry of the Regional Development and Public Works (MRDPW): This institution is responsible for the development and implementation of national policy on spatial planning, construction and regional development. The Ministry coordinates and supervises regional and national development strategies.

3. District Government Bodies: They coordinate the development and implementation of regional development strategies and plans, involving citizen participation at the regional level, however, they do not have decision-making power that belongs either to the MRDPW or the municipalities.

#### *Processes*

1. Public hearings: Many spatial plans and projects require public hearings to enable citizens and stakeholders to express their views, suggestions and concerns.
2. Public consultations: Prior to the adoption of important strategic documents, regulations or plans, public consultations are held to allow citizens to read the proposed documents and give their input. In addition to the legal framework, the Council for Administrative Reform of the Council of Ministers approved Standards for Public Consultation.
3. Digital participation: With the development of information and communication technologies, online platforms for citizen participation are increasingly used, allowing citizens to participate in spatial planning processes remotely. To this end the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria maintains an on-line portal for public consultations - <https://www.strategy.bg/> - where all normative acts and strategies both at central governmental and municipal level are published for consultation and discussion by the citizens. In addition, an on-line portal for access to public information - <https://pitay.government.bg/> - is maintained to allow citizens to request access to documents elaborated by the authorities that are not freely available in the public domain. Mobile applications and interactive maps are used in large urban municipalities (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and others) to present the public traffic system and to gather opinions on the implementation of the public traffic services in real times.

#### *Legislative provisions*

1. Spatial Planning Act: this Act regulates the main aspects of spatial planning and construction in Bulgaria, including procedures for citizen participation in the development of spatial plans and projects. It stipulates that:
  - The draft plans for the regulation and construction of residential complexes are subject to public discussion before submission to the expert councils on spatial planning (Article 22, paragraph 4);
  - The change of use of territories and land plots intended for landscaped areas shall be permitted after public discussion and after a decision of the Municipal Council adopted by a two-thirds majority of the total number of councillors - (Art. 62a, para. 3);
  - The draft General Development Plan (GDP) of a municipality, part of a municipality or locality shall be published on the website of the municipality and shall be subject to public discussion before submission to the expert councils on spatial planning (Art. 127, para. 1)
  - In cities with a district division, public hearings on the master plan shall be organised in all districts on a compulsory basis, and shall be combined with and form part of the consultation procedure for the environmental assessment and/or the compatibility assessment organised under the Environmental Protection Act and/or the Biodiversity Act (Article 127(1))
2. Law on Statutory Acts: This law regulates the process of public consultation on draft regulations, which includes documents in the field of spatial planning. These institutions, processes and legislative frameworks ensure that citizen participation is an integral part of the spatial planning

process in Bulgaria, contributing to achieving more sustainable, balanced and community-acceptable spatial development.

3. Regional Development Act: stipulates that the strategic document for the development of the municipality is the Municipal Integrated Development Plan, which is developed in accordance with the European and national regional development policy for a period of 7 years. The principles of partnership, publicity and transparency at all levels in the elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Municipal Integrated Development Plan are defined as mandatory. Partners and stakeholders must be involved both in the process of initial development of the plan and during the public discussion and adoption of the integrated development plans.

4. Law on Direct Participation of Citizens in Public Government and Local Self-Government specifies the following form of citizen participation at the local level: Local Referendum- Held only on matters of local importance which are within the competence of the local government; Citizens' initiative - organised by a decision of an assembly of not less than 50 citizens with voting rights, with permanent or current address in the territory of the respective municipality, district, or settlement; General Assembly of the population - used to decide on local issues in municipalities, districts, settlements and neighbourhoods of settlements; Petition - Used by the citizens of a municipality, ward, township, locality, or borough to make motions to the City Council to address important issues of the municipality. In terms of planning, citizens' initiatives are more common for the smaller settlements, while petitions are more preferred in the larger towns and cities.

Some municipalities have adopted their own decrees on public consultations and on public consultations on spatial planning and territorial development on their territories.

Besides the general legislative provisions and in terms of the specific research interests, identified in DEMo4PPL project, the following specific public participation requirements need to be considered as to the survey respondents:

- Land use

As mentioned the Spatial Planning Act requires public hearings on draft general and detailed development plans and other planning documents. They take place before the documentation is submitted to the expert councils on spatial planning. For towns with a population of more than 30 000, an approval by the National Expert Council is required. After such discussions, the authorities must take into account the views expressed during public consultation and reflect them in the final documents, or justify why certain proposals cannot be accepted.

Likewise, the Environmental Protection Act obliges environmental authorities to organise public hearings on environmental impact assessments of projects that may have a significant impact on the environment. The results of these consultations are also published.

- Rural development

Rural development in Bulgaria is managed nationally through the Rural Development Programme that defines the priority approaches and actions to meet the needs of the specific geographical area it covers. Public participation about rural development is most expressed in the local action groups and the LEADER Approach, which refers to the establishment and management of local action groups, acquisition of skills and public participation in the respective rural area; development and implementation of local development strategies; Intra-territorial and transnational cooperation.

Otherwise, rural municipalities are required to adhere to legislative norms concerning civic participation in their regional and integrated development following the established regulations as previously specified.

- Tourism management

The Law on Tourism defines that each municipality that develops tourism as a sector needs to establish a consultative tourism council that is composed by equal numbers of municipal administrators and stakeholder organizations, including non-governmental organizations, tourism and business associations, etc., that function on the territory of the municipality. The consultative councils of tourism elaborate proposals to the municipal councils about priority construction and maintenance of the tourist infrastructure and preservation and maintenance of tourist attractions on the territory of the municipality, about improving the transport services, the protection, maintenance and development of green areas in the municipality related to tourism, and so on.

In addition, tourism and destination management have a stake in spatial planning in view of accessibility, caring capacity, sustaining resources, etc., and in terms of formulating policies, objectives and methods for the development of the tourism industry at local, regional and national levels. This includes sustainable development strategies that are in line with the economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions of a given territory.

The current legal framework provides for the participation of citizens through their associations or NGOs, but it is not binding.

As tourism resources are spread across sectors, sector-specific regulations also provide for civic participation if the case, for example:

- the Higher Water Advisory Council together includes representatives of ministries, BAS and the association of municipalities
- the Basin Councils of the Basin Directorates include representatives of the state administration, the territorial administration, water users and other legal entities, non-profit organisations within the scope of the basin, as well as representatives of scientific organisations relevant to water issues.
- the National Forest Council shall include representatives of the NGO sector
- Local action groups initiate and publicly discuss measures for studies and investments related to the maintenance, restoration and the cultural and natural heritage of the villages.

- Urban mobility

Urban mobility is part of the General Development Plans of the municipalities and for them the opinion of both expert councils and those received after public consultations are taken into account. Developing/updating master plans for traffic organisation - as a basis for improving the traffic regulation system depending on its intensity and character, in the specific features of the settlements' development - is included in the plans for the integrated development of the municipalities and is subject to public consultations.

In general, when public hearings are conducted and governed by legal regulations, the minutes of such hearings should be considered. Nevertheless, there are no definite assurances regarding the incorporation of particular proposals.

### **3.4. Non-institutional (informal) participation processes**

The experts who were consulted within DEMo4PPL project referred to a number of informal participation processes that are popular in Bulgaria while considering their specifics and efficiency in different cases.

Non-institutionalised or informal processes of citizen participation constitute an important component in the field of spatial planning. They complement formal participatory mechanisms and procedures by providing additional platforms and opportunities for community engagement and interaction between citizens and authorities. Informal processes are often characterised by greater flexibility, accessibility and creativity in participatory approaches.

#### *Civic Initiatives*

Civic initiatives are organised by citizens themselves or by civil society organisations and can include various forms of activism, such as collecting signatures in support of a cause, conducting information campaigns, organising protests or other peaceful events. These initiatives aim to draw the attention of the public and the authorities to specific community problems or needs.

#### *Participation through social media and online platforms*

Social media and various online platforms offer opportunities for broad citizen participation in the discussion of spatial planning issues. They allow citizens to share opinions, exchange information and organise around particular issues or initiatives.

#### *Working groups and brainstorming*

Working groups and brainstorming sessions are forms of informal participation that bring together citizens, experts, NGO representatives and other stakeholders in an informal setting to discuss and develop ideas and solutions to specific issues related to the development of space.

#### *Community projects*

Community (grassroots) projects involve the direct participation of citizens in the planning, development and implementation of projects to improve the local environment, such as the improvement of public spaces, the creation of community gardens or initiatives to improve the built environment. These projects help to strengthen community ties and increase civic engagement.

#### *Educational initiatives*

Educational initiatives aim to increase citizens' awareness and understanding of spatial planning, processes and the importance of citizen participation. They may include lectures, seminars, workshops and other forms of training organised by civil society organisations, educational institutions or other stakeholders.

Informal citizen participation processes contribute to the democratisation of the spatial planning process by allowing a wide range of citizens and stakeholders to actively participate in discussions and decision-making. They encourage innovation, creativity and collaboration, thus enriching formal procedures and contributing to the development of more sustainable and acceptable solutions for the community.

The experts provided some specific considerations about the non-institutionalised participatory forms about the DEMo4PPL research focuses:

- Land use

The non-institutional and informal processes of citizen participation can be very effective when well organised and mobilised. Still the issue can become highly political and quite often the civic participation is structured through non-governmental organisations that are pre-selected by the institutions when opening-up for consultations. This means that the processes are structured top-down and managed by the authorities. At the same time, those initiatives that enable mutual learning and professional discussion – such as the educational initiatives and working groups on concrete themes – are instrumental for building personal trust among the peer experts from the administration and civic organisations and may tacitly improve the planning processes.

- Rural development

The local action groups constitute community relevant projects and reply on the bottom-up approach in planning of the rural communities. Still it needs to be considered that civic activism in the rural areas is declining given the aging population and increasing emigration from the rural areas. Ad hoc initiatives increased during the pandemic when many high-skilled professionals re-settled in the villages and decided to re-organize their lives there, hence began to mobilize their new communities and press the local authorities to improve the infrastructure of their new locations.

- Tourism management

Community initiatives often emerge as post-problem reactions - particularly about the access to sensitive natural and heritage sites and their use for tourism purposes. Usually high-impact non-institutional participatory forms – civic initiatives – occur post-factum and when the government decisions about the exploitation of certain resources are announced as announced. Then civic movements can make the authorities reconsider their decisions under the pressure from the society.

At the same many experts from the academia, business and non-governmental sector are engaged in the development of the strategies for tourism development at the national and central level. As in all fields, co-working and sharing of ideas in training formats adds value to the planning processes, however the potential of this participatory format has not been fully utilized.

- Urban mobility

Civic knowledge can be an important asset in the planning process, yet the public authorities are not confident in mobilizing it. The on-line discussions about the transport plans of the municipalities are the most hectic ones – quite many of them occur directly in the social media groups and pages of the municipal councils and at the attention of the transport commissions.

The responding experts agree that non-institutional and informal processes of civic participation are possible if there is a sufficiently high level of civic engagement, i.e. the presence of individual concerned citizens, groups of citizens or civic organisations to participate in these processes.

Here as in the case of tourism, public participation also takes the most vivid form of protest against the decisions of the local authorities and central authorities and most often about sensitive environmental issues – for example the protest against opening the promenade of the Varna Sea Garden for automobiles or the protests for changing the trace of Struma Highway away from the Kresna Gorge.



In all cases, the lack of enough publicity and citizens' involvement in the early stages of the planning processes may result in the expansion of civic disapproval of some decisions of the responsible authorities and the resort to protest-form activities.

### **3.5. Integration of outcomes in the planning product**

The general attitude of the experts is that integrating the results of citizen consultations into the final output of the spatial planning process, such as spatial plans, development strategies and other planning documents, is a key element in ensuring the effectiveness and acceptability of plans. This process requires careful and systematic processing of the collected information, as well as transparency and accountability in decision-making. The process of integration of the results of civic participation in planning occurs through the following steps irrespective of the participation form:

#### *Step 1: Collecting feedback*

This step involves organising and conducting the consultation with citizens and stakeholders. This can be done through various methods such as public hearings, surveys, workshops, online forums, etc. It is important to ensure that the consultation process is accessible, inclusive and representative of different groups in society.

#### *Step 2: Analysis of the gathered information*

Once collected, the information must be carefully analysed and synthesized. The aim is to identify common themes, suggestions, issues and recommendations that have been expressed by the respondents. In this process, it is important to pay attention to the diversity of opinions and seek balanced solutions.

#### *Step 3: Integration into planning documents*

The information and ideas received during the consultation are used to revise and, if necessary, adjust the preliminary versions of the planning documents. This may include amending certain aspects of the plan, adding new elements or rejecting proposals that are not acceptable or not feasible. It is important in this process to document the reasons why certain decisions were made and how feedback was integrated into the plan.

#### *Step 4: Feedback to the public*

Once the results of the consultation have been integrated into the planning documents, it is important to provide feedback to the citizens and stakeholders involved in the process. This includes information on how their suggestions and opinions have been reflected in the final documents and an explanation of the decisions taken. This stage is important to maintain community trust and commitment to the planning process.

#### *Step 5: Monitoring and evaluation*

After the adoption of the planning documents, a period of monitoring and evaluation of their implementation follows. This involves tracking whether and how decisions made on the basis of citizen consultations are being implemented in practice and what their impact on the community

and the environment is. This process may also include follow-up consultations to assess the results and adjust plans as necessary.

Integrating the results of citizen consultations into the spatial planning process is a multi-step process that requires commitment, accountability and continuous communication between all stakeholders. Still the process is not always straight-forward and the following concerns were expressed about DEMo4PPL research focuses:

- Land use

The mandatory requirements about involving citizens in the planning processes are circumventable in practice. In the realm of strategic planning and public space design, citizen involvement often arises when civil society organizations advocate for it with local authorities. Yet, the extent of this collaboration depends on the authorities' inclination to support it. There is a widespread belief that the government has the authority to plan autonomously, without obligatory citizen consultation.

- Rural development

As rural municipalities are smaller by definition, the power distance between the authorities and citizens is shorter as well and the communication with the decision-makers can be personal and informal. The local activity groups are also non-governmental organizations but their work is standardized by specifically adopted rules and they cannot be independent from the local authorities.

- Tourism management

The consultative councils on tourism in the municipalities that develop tourism as a sectorial priority can only make proposals to the municipal councils about planning and there is no legal obligation that the proposals should be accepted – though many of them are in practice as they are elaborated in partnership with the municipal administration. However, the consultative councils on tourism do not meet that often and discuss a wide range of issues that emerge as urgent for the respective municipality, in which they operate.

- Urban mobility

The consultative councils on tourism can also propose modifications of the transport schemes during the high tourist season and consult on the traffic organization at tourism destination sites. Still, their proposals are not mandatory for the local authorities.

Authorities do not always consider civic expertise in the issue sufficient to deliver workable solutions, which might be wrong as there are many examples of grass-roots initiatives that offer workable solutions and manage to convince the authorities to use them through persistency. People know what environment they would need and their opinion may bring forward valuable aspect in the planning process. However, people tend to be inactive until they realize if/how a planning decision affects their lives in practical terms, which might happen quite late in the planning process.

### **3.6. Success factors and impediments**

Generally, the success factors and barriers to citizen participation in the planning processes are many and varied – as described by the survey respondents. They are determined by a wide range of social, economic, political and cultural factors, as well as site-specific conditions and

characteristics. Considering these factors is important for identifying the most effective approaches to engaging the public and overcoming possible obstacles.

*Benefits:*

1. Clear goals and expectations: successful citizen participation requires predefined goals and expectations about the role and impact of citizen participation in the planning process.
2. Accessibility and inclusiveness: Ensuring that the participatory process is accessible to all segments of society, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, is critical to its success.
3. Appropriate participatory mechanisms: Developing and implementing diverse and flexible participatory mechanisms that respond to the different needs and preferences of citizens helps to increase engagement and effective participation.
4. Transparency and accountability: Ensuring transparency of processes and decisions, and accountability of authorities to citizens, is fundamental to building trust and support for the planning process.
5. Effective communication and feedback: Developing effective communication strategies to ensure a two-way flow of information and feedback between citizens and planners is key to the success of citizen participation.

*Challenges:*

1. Lack of sufficient information and understanding about spatial planning processes among citizens can reduce their motivation and ability to participate effectively.
2. Limited resources: Lack of time, financial and human resources on the part of both citizens and the organisations responsible for the planning process can limit opportunities for participation.
3. Scepticism and mistrust: Scepticism and mistrust of planning bodies and decision-making processes can discourage citizens from participating.
4. Institutional and administrative barriers: Complicated and bureaucratic procedures, lack of clear mechanisms for participation and insufficient coordination between different institutions can pose serious obstacles.
5. Conflicts of interest and political influences: Conflicts of interest and external political influences can undermine the process of citizen participation by interfering with objective and balanced decision-making.

Spatial policy in practice in Bulgaria is implemented at local level through the integrated territorial development plans that are elaborated and implemented in the current programming period of the EU Cohesion Policy. They reflect the local implications of the spatial policy. Their integration with municipal development plans and local sectoral strategies and programmes is essential for the future impact of the results of thereof. Many of the interviewed experts consider that spatial and regional planning processes at the local level are divergent in terms of both timing and reckoning. This creates difficulties in the elaboration of regional combined concepts for integrated territorial investments that within the Integrated Territorial Approach to be implemented through the Integrated Territorial Investments instrument on the basis of Integrated Territorial Development Strategies for NUTS2 planning regions.

The survey performed by DEMoPPL project reconfirmed some observations that are already shared by other relevant research on similar topics and the responding experts shared similar concerns irrespective of their identified area of professional expertise and interest.

*Specific success factors about land use, rural development, tourism management and urban mobility*

- Civic participation is established in the Regional Development Act, the Spatial Planning Act and the National Spatial Development Concept irrespective of planning field
- The main governance levels where citizens' participation takes place are the central and local, the regional planning fails in the domain of the central governmental authorities
- Many laws have clauses that oblige the authorities – at local and national levels – to involve citizens in the planning processes in different formats – hearings, consultations, consultative councils and there are informal participatory practices as well
- The public authorities adhere to their obligations to organise participatory procedures in general
- There are many civic grassroots initiatives that contribute valuably to planning - – particularly in the cities - and their experience needs to be valorised and capitalized
- There are digital participatory methods about planning – such as the on-line portal for public consultations, the on-line portal for access to public information, social media channels, e-mail communication – however their functionalities presuppose a more passive exchange of opinions and do not stimulate the interaction between the citizens and authorities.

*Specific impediments about land use, rural development, tourism management and urban mobility*

- It is often believed that the government carries the bulk of responsibilities, while the role of citizens is primarily viewed as offering criticism. This perception stems from the observation that the government sometimes overlooks seeking the opinions and active involvement of its citizens
- There are legal ways to avoid the integration of the results from the participatory processes in the planning results as well as a temptation on behalf of the authorities to select the non-governmental organisations who participate in the consultative processes which puts the impartiality at risk
- Civic participation in spatial planning themes is insufficient not only due to inactivity but also due to lack of understanding on the issues that are raised for discussion as some of them require specific knowledge
- The complicated and technocratic language in which the measures are presented tends to deter general public and only stakeholder professionals with specific interest on the issue attend the public hearings. “Arguably, the level of citizen involvement in mobility planning is even lower than the overall level of public/civil participation evaluated by “Balkan Assist”, the Bulgarian Centre for Non-profit Law and OSI in the period 2005-2016” (Kovachev, Slaev, Nozharova, Nikolov, & Petrov, 2018)
- Public participation is neglected at the initial stages of planning. Simultaneously, the institutions refer to public participation much later than the initial stages of planning (Madzhirski & Dimitrova, 2019) when the introduction of changes is both difficult and expensive and accordingly the administration become much more reluctant to integrate civic proposal unless put to severe pressure.

Overcoming the obstacles and maximising the success factors requires a holistic and committed approach that includes efforts by authorities and planning bodies as well as civil society and stakeholders about awareness-raising and capacity-building. This necessitates continuous work to improve the conditions for participation, develop appropriate tools and methodologies to involve citizens and foster a culture of dialogue and cooperation in spatial planning processes.

## **4. Participatory processes in practice**

The particular interest in the practice of participatory processes of the Varna University of Management as a higher-education institution offering tertiary vocational education in hospitality and tourism refer to the management of tourism destinations and in view of sustainable development, experiential tourism, site accessibility, integrated territorial investments and smart specialization at local and regional level. However, the experts who were interviewed though the question in Section B of the interview protocol focused on general issues valid across sectors. The summary of their considerations is presented further.

### **4.1. Participation objectives**

The objectives of citizen participation in planning processes cover a number of key aspects aimed at improving the quality and acceptability of planned decisions. One of the main objectives is to ensure that the voice of the community is heard and taken into account. This is to increase legitimacy and public support for planned projects and strategies. Another important objective is to encourage active citizen participation in the democratic process by increasing their awareness and understanding of spatial planning processes. This helps to build more responsible and engaged communities that are willing and able to participate in public life.

The objectives of citizen participation also include identifying and resolving potential conflicts and controversies through dialogue and collaboration, as well as stimulating innovative ideas and solutions that come directly from the community.

The interviewed experts confirm that the authorities initiate participation process to complete their legal obligations and are reluctant to go beyond unless pressed by the social protests (as already mentioned in the report). In the case of tourism and destination management, the sustainable use and preservation of resources is most often the realm where citizens approach the authorities on their own initiative.

### **4.2. Resources**

Funding for citizen participation in planning processes is a critical component that determines the scope and effectiveness of participation. Resources come from a variety of sources, including public budgets from local, regional or national authorities, which often allocate funds for public

consultations, deliberations and other forms of citizen engagement. Many initiatives occur through volunteering and personal-cause-based mobilisation.

In addition, external funding from the European Union, international organisations, foundations and NGOs also plays an important role in supporting civic participation, especially for projects that promote innovation and participation of marginalised groups.

Private donations and partnerships with the business sector also contribute to the resources needed for effective civic participation. It is important to note that adequate funding must be coupled with transparent and accountable management of funds to ensure that resources are used effectively and in the best interest of society.

Some municipalities have funds for promotion of civic initiatives and/or the improvement of the urban environment be used for different themes, also associated with the planning and management of destinations – such as the “Civic Organisations” Funds of the Dobrich Municipality, „Local Initiative Fund” in Targovishte Municipality, the “Culture” Fund of the Varna Municipality that have been used for generating ideas for rehabilitation and greening of urban spaces.

### **4.3. Theme(s)**

The most common topics at national level that involve citizen participation in planning processes are usually related to the development and implementation of major strategic and policy initiatives. Spatial planning issues are central but they are also intertwined with other themes in which citizens have interest in on a given territory. These include:

- Infrastructure projects: Major transport infrastructure, energy systems and urban development projects where public opinion and interests are key.
- Cultural and historical heritage, including regeneration of neglected urban spaces: Protection and preservation of cultural and historical heritage and development of cultural initiatives at national level.
- Environmental and sustainable development: Includes action planning for environmental protection, sustainable use of resources and adaptation to climate change.
- Social and educational initiatives: The development of policies and programmes in the fields of social protection, health and education that have a direct impact on the quality of life of citizens.
- Economic development and employment: Planning strategies to stimulate economic growth, investment and job creation, including support for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Citizen participation in these topics at national level is essential to ensure broad public support, to take into account the diverse interests and needs of society and to achieve balanced and sustainable solutions.

In Bulgaria environmental and heritage issues are very popular for grass-roots initiatives and for organising civic movements aimed at redirecting public authorities’ decisions and actions. Volunteers are actively engaged in the trail-tracking and signification in the national natural parks, in developing cycling routes, in advocating for more cycle-friendly traffic organisation in the big cities and so on. They are able to organise viral campaigns and exercise severe pressure on the authorities

of their causes. A vivid example along this line is the “Save Sofia” movement that started in 2015 as an unorganised movement for pressing the Sofia Municipality to reconsider traffic organisation in some sensitive sites and grew to a political party with elected members in the Sofia Municipal Council. Cultural agents propose equally interesting ideas for urban regeneration and development project such as the cultural spaces catalogue elaborated by Varna Spaces, creation of new or renovated cultural spaces like ReBonkers in Varna, EuroSpaces in Rousse, and many others. Civic organizations monitor the activities of the Bulgarian institutions about the observance and implementation of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and submit independent reports thereabout.

#### **4.4. Coordinator(s)**

In Bulgaria, the public administrations are expected to have specialised units or coordinating bodies within that are explicitly tasked with organising public consultations and promoting citizen participation in planning processes. These bodies aim to ensure that the voice of citizens is heard and reflected in the decision-making process. They organise meetings, forums, public hearings and other forms of participation, and provide information and resources to support citizen participation.

In fact, the interviewed experts confirmed that they are not aware of the particular units and/or individuals in the municipalities they work with that are dealing explicitly with civic participation and the task is integrated inter alia in the responsibilities of the municipal council administration or the municipal secretaries (administration managers). This leads to the fact that citizens may not avail of one-stop office where to address their stakes.

Where consultative councils on tourism exist, they are chaired by the mayors (as to the Law on Tourism), hence the mayors are to channel civic stakeholder participation on tourism-related issues.

In the concepts about integrated territorial investments, the public hearings are organised by the district information offices of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public works.

#### **4.5. Participants**

The profiles of the citizens who decide to participate in planning processes varies widely and include individuals and groups with different interests and perspectives. They typically include local residents, representatives of community and non-governmental organizations, urban planning and planning experts and professionals, business representatives, academics and researchers, as well as local and national government officials and policy makers. However, usually these are people with professional expertise and interest in the planning issues. When it refers to territorial planning, these are most often architects, urbanists, constructions engineers and technicians, artists and sculptures. In the large cities, many small-scale groups develop ideas and take the initiative on reviving neighbourhood spaces. The business branch and sectoral organisations are more active on commenting on the policy and strategic documents.

The interviewed experts confirmed that in order to mobilise quality civic participation, the authorities need to explain and present the plans in an easy-to-understand form so that people could become confident to express their stand – which does not really happen in practice and the entails reluctance towards participation.

The representativeness of the participants is a key factor for the effectiveness of citizen participation. Ideally, all affected parties and interests should be included in the process to ensure that the diversity of views and needs is reflected in the final decisions. The challenge is to ensure the involvement of a wide range of actors, especially marginalised and under-represented groups in society who are often at risk of being neglected. Effective engagement strategies, accessible platforms for participation, and active efforts to include diverse voices are essential to improving representation and achieving more equitable and inclusive outcomes from planning processes.

#### **4.6. Level of engagement**

Levels of citizen involvement in planning processes can vary depending on the stage of planning and the objectives of participation. In the initial planning stage, participation focuses on identifying community needs and priorities, allowing for broad discussion of visions and ideas. This is a key point for gathering initial input and opinions to form the basis of planning documents.

As plans are developed, participation is increased through involvement in detailed planning and suggestions for specific measures and projects. At this stage, citizens and stakeholders can provide specific suggestions and feedback on projects, which contributes to their detail and improvement.

At the approval stage, citizen participation focuses on presenting the developed plans for public consultation and gathering final opinions before their adoption. This stage allows for final adjustments and changes to the plans in response to feedback received, ensuring that the final documents reflect broad community agreement and support.

As mentioned and as emphasized by the interviewed experts, the citizens' opinion is sought at later planning stages. The initial planning stages are usually open only to experts and in most cases those experts are pre-selected by the authorities, which actually leaves the general civic knowledge poorly used. The public hearings are also not well-promoted and citizens are invited at the last possible moment, particularly when there are sensitive issues at stake.

#### **4.7. Methods and tools**

Both face-to-face and remote forms of citizen participation in planning processes occur in Bulgaria.

Face-to-face forms are more popular and include public meetings, discussions, workshops and seminars where participants can interact directly, exchange ideas and present their views. Community groups prefer non-standard event forms – such as happenings, exhibitions, concerts – are becoming very popular as forms that make civic disagreement with public policy vivid and generate viral support for causes. Examples include the Rock-Concert and Street-art Happening in Sofia to protect Karadere natural seaside area, after the government approved as a priority investment project the construction of a holiday village on Karadere in 2014; “Save Pirin” Concerts and cycle marches in all big Bulgarian cities to protest against the construction permits for ski-lanes in the Pirin National Park and against the decrease of areas of some natural protected areas along the seaside in 2018; July Morning Concert to protect Koral beach in 2018 and many, many others.

Remote forms of participation have gained attention with the development of technology and the internet, but still considered as somehow supplementary tools. These include online polls, webinars, virtual public debates and e-participation platforms where citizens can express their



views, participate in discussions and submit proposals without the need for physical presence. These methods allow a wider range of people to participate in planning processes, including those who for various reasons cannot attend local events – such as the opinion polls about the integrated territorial investment concepts. The more interactive and innovative forms are preferred when the participation initiative comes from the citizens and their grassroots initiatives. The authorities prefer more static and traditional participatory forms.

Using a combination of in-person and remote forms of participation can maximize the scope and effectiveness of citizen participation by ensuring that diverse perspectives are included and providing greater flexibility for participation. This is the strategy used by the civic grassroots initiatives to present and defend their causes – they cover their physical initiatives with detailed on-line awareness raising and promotion and manage to generate quality and informed participation in their event as the audience is preliminary educated about the issues of discussion. The initiative “Where Ohrid meets Burov” for street rehabilitation, implemented by the Varna Spaces Association exemplifies this approach.

## 5. Good practices

### 5.1. GlobalDobrich

**Location:** Dobrich, Bulgaria

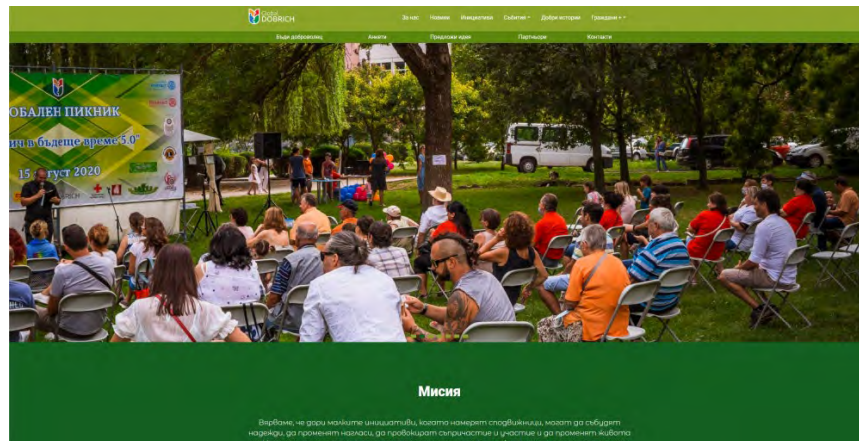
**Responsible Authority:** GlobalDobrich Association

**Link:** <https://globaldobrich.org>

**Keywords:**

Dobrich, Dobrudzha, Global Dobrich, spiritual countrymen, ideas, revival, economic and cultural center, urban environment, citizen participation, supporter.

**Image:**



**Type:** a grassroots civic initiative of people originating from the town of Dobrich and Dobrudzha region, living in Bulgaria and around the world, for the development of Dobrich and Dobrudzha

**Policy field:** urban planning and environment, rural planning, tourism, economy, education, digital business development and civic participation

**Spatial level:** local

**Stakeholders involved:** citizens, municipality, public institutions, private sector, civil society organizations, educational institutions

**Timeline:** created in 2017, ongoing

#### **Purpose and context**

Gathering like-minded people from around the world, creating an environment for active civic participation for the development of Dobrich and the region, realizing a series of small initiatives to mobilise stakeholders, to awaken hopes, change attitudes, provoke empathy and participation for change in life.

Dobrich is the centre of the main agricultural and grain-producing area in northern Bulgaria, however it suffers from the second fastest depopulation rate in the country with a lot of young people leaving the town and a deteriorating town landscape.

GlobalDobrich was initiated by a group of architects with the idea to counter the negative demographic and economic trends. Now the initiative is part of the life of the local community in Dobrich and organizes real and virtual meetings and discussions related to the revival of Dobrich as an economic and cultural centre of Dobrudzha region.

In 2017, two “Dobrich in Future Time” open-air fora were organized - with inspiring presentations, lively discussions and many ideas for the development of Dobrich, raised by the citizens. The main topics of the forums were economy, education, digital business, urban environment and civic participation. As a result, several local initiatives were proposed to the municipal and regional administrations. The organisation of the for a continues on annual basis.

### **Problems and challenges**

The main challenges refer to the passiveness and slow response on behalf of the institutions that can should take the decisions and support the implementation of the ideas developed by GlobalDobrich.

### **Organizing, supporting and funding entities**

Formal partners were attracted upon the registration of the initiative as an NGO. These include the Alliance for Regional and Civic Initiatives, Dobrich Municipality, Dobrozhanci Eco Village, Leonardo da Vinci School, Dobrich Farmers’ Market, BlueLink - Network for Civic Action, however many business entities, education organizations and CSO participate in GlobalDobrich events.

### **Process and interaction/participation**

GlobalDobrich originates from the local community and has been driven by individuals who strive to improve the living environment in their town and region. The initiatives emerged organically, without significant involvement or direction from larger organizations or authorities. It is characterized by bottom-up approach, open volunteer participation and consensus-based decision-making.

The participation process occurs via planning of annual initiatives and events, involvement of local champions – established speakers and presenters who are professionals with innovative thinking and active civic position, representatives of the local government, Dobrich citizens and friends of Dobrich, creation of thematic groups, discussing the possibility of joining efforts to implement specific ideas, proposing the developed ideas to the municipality and regional administration, fund-raising for the implementation of some of the ideas.

### **Outcomes, effects and lessons learned**

GlobalDobrich is a voluntary initiative through with substantial civic knowledge was pooled together. However, in order for the devised initiatives to be implemented, the grassroots project had to be formalized (which in end entailed the withdrawal of some voluntary participants). Still, for many of the small-scale projects the initiative has to raise funds independently, for the large scale projects – the formal adoption of the ideas by the municipal council have been in process.

## **Bibliography**

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Facebook Profile - <https://www.facebook.com/globaldobrich/>

Media Publications:

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## 5.2. Public Discussion of the Combined Investment Concept "Economy and Mobility in the Interest of the People" in the Town of Dobrich

**Location:** Dobrich, Bulgaria

**Responsible Authority:** Dobrich Municipality

**Link:** <https://www.dobrich.bg/bg/novini/publicjno-obsazhdane-na-kombinirana-kontseptsiya-ikonomika-i-mobilnost-v-interes-na-horata-v-grad-dobrich-1/>

**Keywords:**

Public debate, economy and mobility in the interest of the people, municipalities, integrated territorial investments, improving conditions, security and increasing investment attractiveness of business zones, sustainable urban mobility, improving the performance and energy of buildings, school transport, energy efficiency, redevelopment, rehabilitation

**Image:**



**Type:** Combined concept for integrated territorial investment

**Policy field:** urban planning, economic, education and transport measures, land-use planning

**Spatial level:** local

**Stakeholders involved:** Municipality of Dobrich, municipal companies, private companies, citizens and their organizations

**Timeline:** from March 2024 on-wards

**Purpose and context**

The initiative aims at the familiarization of the general public, the private sector and citizens with the envisaged activities under the concept BG16FFPR003-2.001-0126 "Economy and mobility in the interest of the people" for integrated development of the town of Dobrich.

The combined concept for integrated territorial investments was developed as a partnership among the municipalities of Dobrich, Dobrich Rural and Targovishte in Bulgaria's Northeast Planning Region

and unties areas that are rural and dominated by agriculture and food-processing as the main economic sectors. It plans for targeted improvement measures and investments in the local economies, education and transport – particularly about the public infrastructure that is shared among the municipalities. The implementation of the concept is funded by the EU Cohesion Fund and is budgeted at 117.8 million BGN/60.25 million EUR.

### **Problems and challenges**

On the territory of the municipality of Dobrich the activities aim at improving the conditions, security and increasing the investment attractiveness of the business zones as well as measures for sustainable urban mobility in the town and its peripheral areas. The PGTOLP and PGAS include measures to improve the operational and energy performance of buildings, purchase of school buses/electric buses and inauguration of dual vocational training in schools.

The issues, included, in the combined concept for territorial investment are multi-disciplinary and complex. Explaining them in detail to common citizens without relevant professional education is a challenge for the administration.

### **Organizing, supporting and funding entities**

Partners for the development and implementation of the combined concept are the Municipality of Dobrich, Dobrich Rural Municipality, Targovishte Municipality, School of Transport, Service and Light Industry - Dobrich (SGTOLP), School of Agrarian Economy - Dobrich (SGAS) and "Urban Transport" Ltd. in Dobrich.

### **Process and interaction/participation**

Dobrich Regional Information Centre with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria was involved as a co-organizer in the preparation of the public discussion. A presentation of the Combined Concept has been prepared and announced through various information channels. An announcement about the forthcoming discussion has been uploaded on the website of the Dobrich Municipality. An online questionnaire for gathering comments on-lien has been developed and published. The presentation of the Combined Concept to the citizens was made jointly by the Municipality of Dobrich and the District Information Centre in the Dobrich City Hall.

### **Outcomes, effects and lessons learned**

Citizens' comments have been received and are being processed. Attendance at the public hearings is not high, leading to the conclusion that more effective methods of engaging the public in such public hearings need to be found.

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Information about the public consultation on the website of Dobrich Municipality - <https://www.dobrich.bg/bg/novini/publicjno-obsazhdane-na-kombinirana-kontseptsiya-ikonomika-i-mobilnost-v-interes-na-horata-v-grad-dobrich-1/>

Presentation of the Concept BG16FFPR003-2.001-0126 "Economy and mobility in the interest of people" - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HXZV\\_ahIM8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HXZV_ahIM8)

Enquiry about the Combined Concept for Integrated Territorial Development "Economy and Mobility in the Interest of People" -



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<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoO9D69SfU23trpUDUBapNoBqns9ol3x5xPC65pttiS9SEZQ/viewform>

Dobrich Regional Information Centre - <https://www.facebook.com/oic.dobrch/>

### 5.3. Varna Spaces

**Location:** Varna, Bulgaria

**Responsible Authority:** Varna Spaces Association

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/VarnaSpaces/org>

**Keywords:**

Varna, civic participation, urban planning, urban environment

**Image:**



**VarnaSpaces /**  
**Пространствата на Варна**

5.9K likes · 7.3K followers



👍 Liked

💬 Message

🔍 Search

**Type:** a grassroots civic initiative of a team of young architects on opening-up on opening up urban planning to citizens' ideas and opinions. As an initiator and mediator, the association has sparked discussions, presented proposals for changes in the urban environment, helped to find common ground between citizens, experts, institutions, administration and business.

**Policy field:** urban planning, lining spaces, civic participation

**Spatial level:** local

**Stakeholders involved:** freelance experts

**Timeline:** started in 2020, registered as an NGO in 2022, ongoing

#### **Purpose and context**

Varna Spaces was launched with the idea to include civil society in urban planning. The first initiative of the group was to create a catalogue with cultural spaces in Varna based on the concept of revitalization of these spaces and it was supported by the “Culture” Fund of Varna Municipality. This project inspired the team to start working on the general idea of improved the public spaces in Varna.

Other interesting initiatives followed suit such as turning the promenade along Varna’s Sea Garden into a walking area, including mobilizing large-scale civic support and demonstrations in this



regards; “Activate Space” – were young people suggested their ideas on the redesigning neglected public spaces in Varna; “Where Ohrid meets Burov” – aimed at the rehabilitation and turning a 200-meter stretch of a street into Varna’s historical centre into a pedestrian area with the support of many volunteers, citizens, local businesses, and the Varna District Administration; “Reconnect the City” - a competition for a conceptual design, work plan and implementation of a drawing on asphalt in connection with the implementation of an international project implemented simultaneously in 19 European cities and supported by the Asphalt Art Initiative of Bloomberg Philanthropies. The competition was aimed at artists with experience in "street art" and is carried out in two stages - conceptual concept and working plan, followed by the execution of the drawing on asphalt. The laureates were selected by a jury including renowned architects, painters, road engineers, Varna's Chief Architect and Deputy Mayor. The best ideas were painted at the Sevastopol Square in the centre of Varna; A series of open civic discussion fora entitled “Varna Urban Planning, “Varna Coast” and “Varna’s Cultural Heritage” to generate ideas how Varna can become a more beautiful and convenient city for everyone.

### **Problems and challenges**

The links between the urban spaces sometimes refer to links between the public institutions that manage them. Often people on decision-making positions cannot find common ground and that is why it is important to improve the inter-institutional and interpersonal dialogue.

Organizing, supporting and funding entities

Varna Spaces is a grassroots initiative that relies on volunteering engagement and project-based funding, if the case.

### **Process and interaction/participation**

Varna Spaces originates from the local community and has been driven by individuals who strive to improve the living environment in their town and region. The initiatives emerged organically, without significant involvement or direction from larger organizations or authorities. It is characterized by bottom-up approach, open volunteer participation and consensus-based decision-making.

The participation process occurs via campaign and even launch, as well as through active communication with the local and regional administrations in Varna. The team submits open letters to the institutions, elaborates and disseminate on-line videos to mobilize public support, organizes thematic happenings and public feasts, appear in media interviews and publish expert articles, etc.

In 2024 Varna Spaces initiated the establishment of a Consultative Council for Urban Development and Planning/Urban Planning and Urban Environment at the Municipality of Varna.

### **Outcomes, effects and lessons learned**

Varna Spaces is a voluntary initiative through with substantial civic knowledge was pooled together. Its experience indicates that the citizens of Varna crave events that are dedicated to the improvement of the urban environment. The participants in the open civic discussion fora were very interested in what the experts had to say, and the questions they asked were very adequate. The meetings passed in a very friendly and calm tone, with understanding of the problems and willingness to solve them.

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Media Publications:

[https://bnr.bg/varna/post/101962724/savetat-kam-kmeta-ot-eksperti-shte-tarsi-reshenia-za-razvitie-na-gradskata-sreda?fbclid=IwAR2l63HJ9VvFiSq0Tiq5uggbRs8EQ8ScfjP3zqE0qhuzmPEYODYqvfZEMI\\_aem\\_AR5x5XpC\\_wxvIGwiRXPV6VlcaYughA1GcPx4oklbVEdi5K3gMcn2ZKfaQIM-hanYgQWXqRGYqkwrDsNncHJm-6dq](https://bnr.bg/varna/post/101962724/savetat-kam-kmeta-ot-eksperti-shte-tarsi-reshenia-za-razvitie-na-gradskata-sreda?fbclid=IwAR2l63HJ9VvFiSq0Tiq5uggbRs8EQ8ScfjP3zqE0qhuzmPEYODYqvfZEMI_aem_AR5x5XpC_wxvIGwiRXPV6VlcaYughA1GcPx4oklbVEdi5K3gMcn2ZKfaQIM-hanYgQWXqRGYqkwrDsNncHJm-6dq)

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<https://bnr.bg/varna/post/101934353/sdrujenie-varnaspaces-na-dve-godini>

#### 5.4. Mayor's Advisory Council on Urban Development and Public Works

**Location:** Varna, Bulgaria

**Responsible Authority:** Varna Municipality

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=425832856475670&set=a.194435449615413>

**Keywords:**

Integrated territorial planning, civic participation in urban planning, efficiency, redevelopment, rehabilitation

**Image:**



**Type:** a newly created administrative structure

**Policy field:** urban planning, transport planning, mobilization of civic expertise

**Spatial level:** local

**Stakeholders involved:** Municipality of Varna, Mayor of Varna, Union of the Architects in Bulgaria, the Chamber of Architects, the Chamber of Builders, the Chamber of Engineers in Investment Design, business branch organizations, architects and engineers.

**Timeline:** from March 2024, on-wards

#### **Purpose and context**

The Mayor's Council will seek quality proposals and long-lasting and sustainable solutions for the development of the city. Engineers, architects, specialists, experts in relevant fields of urban development, representatives from academia, NGOs, artists, people from the creative industries with proven experience and contribution to the improvement of the urban environment in Varna will be invited for membership.

The presence of specialists from outside the structure of the administration will help to prepare comprehensive expertise, select quality ideas, create visions and share best practices in activities

related to infrastructure development and urban renewal of the city. The Council will also be relied upon in the preparation of comprehensive visions and strategies for the urban environment, with a focus on publicity of the decisions taken.

### **Problems and challenges**

The Council is in the process of institutionalization and its mode of work has not been established yet.

### **Organizing, supporting and funding entities**

The Council is created as an ad hoc structure with the Varna Municipality. The rules of operation are in the process of development.

### **Process and interaction/participation**

The Mayor of Varna declares intentions for long-term partnership and professional interaction on urban design and planning, but also on architectural, regulatory, aesthetic solutions. The composition, frequency of meetings and rules of work of the body are being considered and the experts in the Council will be put to debate and specific cases on which the opinions in society are not unanimous and are of great public interest.

A coordinator on behalf of the municipality was appointed to prepare the first meeting of the Advisory Council and to announce the topics to be discussed. The meetings are to be open to all interested stakeholders and the media.

### **Outcomes, effects and lessons learned**

Citizens and media favour the participatory approach in urban planning. Many activists submit signals against unfair construction practices, damage of public heritage sites, pollution, lack of access, and so on, in the city and demand action on behalf of the municipality. However, they also suggest solutions. The mobilization of civic expertise within the Council is a novel approach with high promises.

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## 5.5. Civic Participation Forum

**Location:** Sofia, Bulgaria

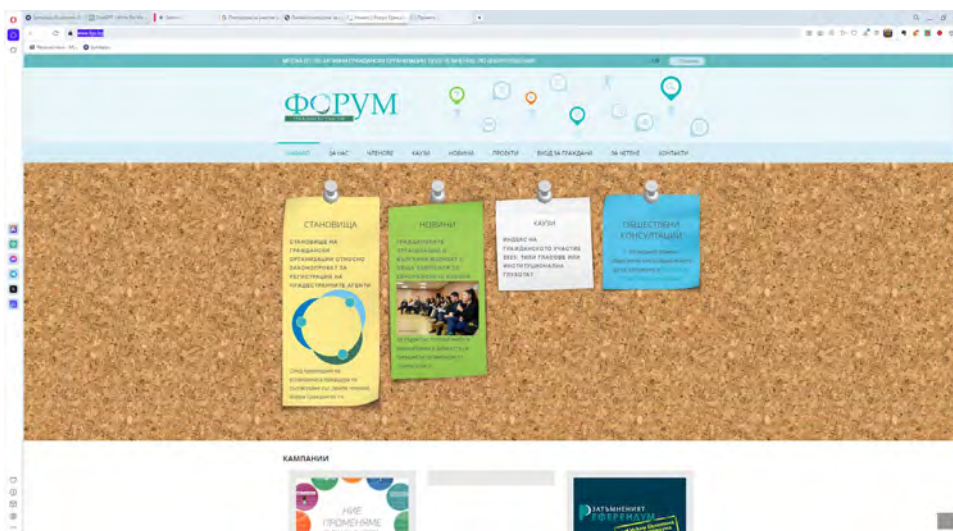
**Responsible Authority:** Civic Participation Forum Association

**Link:** <https://www.fgu.bg>

**Keywords:**

Civic participation, active organisations, diversity of opinion, achieving better solutions. Influencing policies, citizen engagement, public and media relations, European level activity. Improving the legislative and financial sustainability of NGOs in Bulgaria, increasing public understanding and institutional support for the civil society sector.

**Image:**



**Type:** a network and on-line platform

**Policy field:** all policy fields

CPF puts in place workable mechanisms for citizen participation so that sound proposals from citizens and civil society organizations influence policies at local and national level. They facilitate the presentation of citizen proposals about the improvement of the spaces and areas in different settlements to the municipal councils all over the country. Therefore, it indirectly refers to the issue of participatory planning.

**Spatial level:** national, regional, local

**Stakeholders involved:** Civic and/or non-profit organizations that share the mission and goals of the Civic Participation Forum and contribute to their achievement. Informal associations of citizens and networks of organizations that carry out activities close to the mission and objectives of the CPF and are not registered as legal entities.

**Timeline:** created in 2014, ongoing

**Purpose and context**

The Civic Participation Forum aims to improve the interaction between citizens and NGOs with state institutions. The focus is on strengthening civil society by promoting active participation and influence on policies at all levels. The main aspects of the activities include promoting dialogue, sustainable development of NGOs and improving public understanding of the role of CSOs.

### **Problems and challenges**

The Civic Participation Forum confronts the problems of insufficient citizen engagement and the limitations of the interaction between NGOs and institutions. Overcoming barriers to effective civic participation and fostering broader dialogue and collaboration is a major challenge. The Civic Participation Forum focused on addressing several key issues: the low level of civic engagement, limited communication and cooperation between NGOs and government bodies, and the lack of understanding and support for the importance of civic initiatives. The Platform seeks to create a sustainable environment that encourages active citizen participation in public life and facilitates interaction between different stakeholders. This includes overcoming barriers to effective dialogue, promoting transparency and accountability, and developing policies that support civil society.

The problems refer to participatory planning only in particular stemming from the general issue about civic participation in decision-making processes.

### **Organizing, supporting and funding entities**

The Civic Participation Forum is a network of 120 Bulgarian civil society organizations united by the idea to activate civic participation in policy formulation and in the decision-making at different governmental levels.

The founding members of the Civic Participation Forum include active civil society organizations dedicated to change and improvement of society. These organizations gather information, organize events, conduct training and engage in public consultations.

The supporting structures include institutions, foundations and other organizations that support the activities of the Civic Participation Forum. They can provide financial assistance, expert support, training and other resources.

Funders are the organizations or programs that provide financial resources for the implementation of projects and initiatives related to civic participation. This can include national and international donors, European funds as well as other sources. The forum relies on membership fees and project-based funding

### **Process and interaction/participation**

Civic Participation Forum is a network of Bulgarian civil society organizations. It works in different spheres of public life, actively recruits participants and uses methods and tools for civic participation.

The participatory processes are organized via:

- Recruitment: The Forum actively seeks and attracts citizens who are willing to engage in public discussions and processes. This is done through information campaigns, events, social media, the Forum's web-site and other channels.

- Participant selection: The Forum selects participants who represent different societal groups, interests and opinions. This includes citizens, activists, experts, business representatives and others.
- Methods and tools for citizen participation:
  - o Public consultations: The Forum organizes public consultations where citizens can express their views and suggestions on specific issues.
  - o Round tables and discussions: The Forum brings together participants to discuss topical issues and problems.
  - o Polls and surveys: Used to collect data and opinions from citizens.
  - o Partnerships with institutions and bodies: The Forum engages in dialogue with government institutions, local authorities and others together with citizens.

### **Outcomes, effects and lessons learned**

The Civic Participation Forum (CPF) has sustained an online platform created in 2014 to promote active citizen participation in public life and the efficiency of this platform has been very high as it is promoted and sustained by all network members.

As a result, the Forum has:

- reached over 100,000 people through its publications, events and trainings.
- generated over 10 000 comments and suggestions on important public issues.
- supported the implementation of over 50 civic initiatives.

Result implications:

- A more active civil society: the CSF has contributed to strengthening civic activism in Bulgaria.
- More transparent and accountable governance: the CSF has contributed to increasing the transparency and accountability of public institutions.
- Stronger civil-state partnership: the CSF has contributed to building a stronger partnership between citizens and state institutions.

Lessons learned:

- Citizens are willing to actively engage in public life if given the opportunity.
- It is important to use digital tools to stimulate citizen participation.
- Citizen participation is a key factor for the democratic development of society.
- The CSF is an example of a successful platform for civic participation. It has proven that it is possible to stimulate active citizen participation in public life by using digital tools.

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## 6. Conclusions

The planning processes in Bulgaria prioritise territorial cohesion through balanced socio-economic development and improving environmental quality. It is based on a holistic models referring to poly-centric development, active territorial policy at the local level, cooperation with the local business, cooperation between the institutions and civic participation. The National Spatial Development Concept regulates spatial planning processes on a national scale, outlines the vision for the future development of the national without imposing norms and regulations (unlike spatial plans), but coordinates and guides on the conflict-free conduct of functions, rational use of resources and good arrangement of national space.

All institutions at national, regional and local level have adopted civic participation regulations and practices. On the national level, the public consultations are performed in different forms as well as on-line through the portals for public consultations and access to public information. The central government institutions manage public participation as to their statutory and self-implied documentary obligations.

At the local level, the municipal councils and administrations councils allow for citizens-driven public involvement in the planning processes as to their statutory obligations., In addition, some municipalities adopt their own decrees on public participation and on participation in the spatial planning the territorial development processes. In addition, many municipalities have begun to allocate funds civic initiatives and rehabilitation of urban spaces. The forms of participation in the spatial planning processes are diverse but most often refer to in-person stakeholder-gathering events – in traditional and non-traditional formats. Digital participation tools are still few and used as supplementary channels.

As local self-government is closer to the citizens, this is the level where civic engagement is most visible and entailing concrete results in the short term. Many civic initiatives are targeting the problem of over-construction associated with the expansion of the construction sector in the last decade - particularly regarding natural heritage and biodiversity preservation in the mountain areas and along the seaside where mass tourism is concentrated. Accordingly, civic activism on issues related to environment, heritage protection and sustainable development is high though the effect of the citizen-driven initiatives is not always successful – either because the relevant administrative procedures are not followed, because the involvement happens at the stage when modifications are too difficult and expensive to occur or because of political involvement. Experts recognise that public authorities do not tend to allow for more civic participation in planning than stipulated in legislation unless put to pressure by civic campaigns and protests against their decisions. Thus, the authorities fail to mobilise civic knowledge and the expertise from the many grassroots initiatives aimed at improving the urban landscapes that exist in many Bulgarian cities and towns.

The timing of civic intervention in the decision-making about general development (spatial) plans of that have a time-scope of 25 years and integrated development plans that have a scope of 7 years is vital for achieving impact and efficiency of participation.

In order to improve the efficiency of public participation processes it is necessary that both institutions and citizens build their knowledge about planning and participation as well as about mutual pooling and valorisation of their expertise. Better awareness on the importance of openness of the public administration and pro-active citizen behaviour need to be built.

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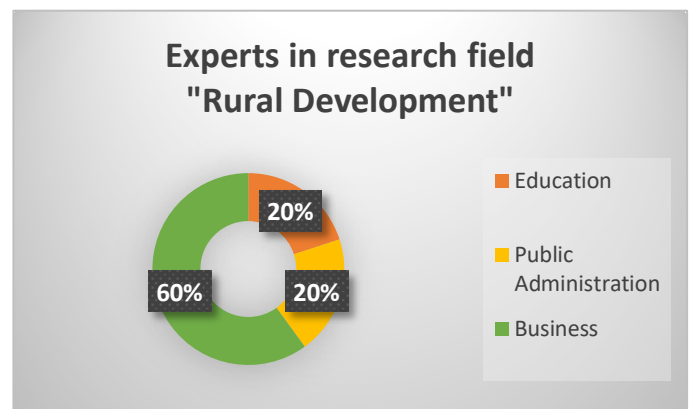
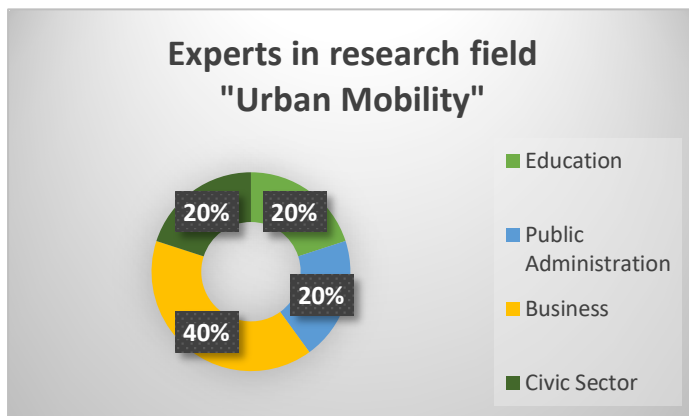
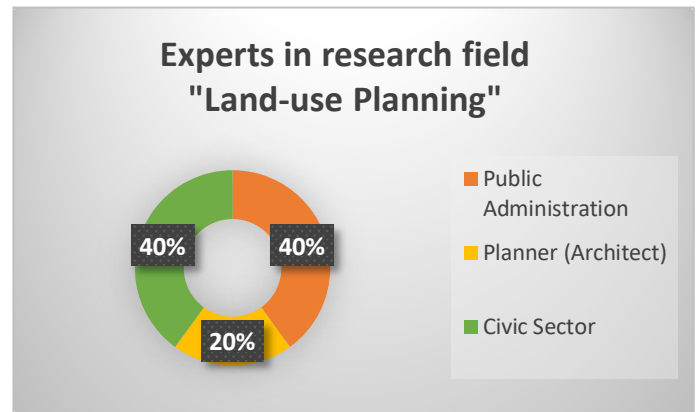
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## 8. Annexes

### 8.1. Profile of the Interviewed Experts



## 8.2. General Interview Questionnaire – Part A



Електронни образователни модули за гражданско участие в процесите на пространствено планиране (DEMo4PPL)

### Въпросник за оценка на практиката за гражданско участие в процесите на пространствено планиране в България

#### **Уважаеми респонденти,**

Попълването на въпросник ще послужи на международен екип от изследователи от Висше училище по мениджмънт (ВУМ) за оценка на

- практиката на въвличане на гражданите в процесите на пространствено планиране в България
- въвличането на гражданите в процесите на
  - o планиране на земеползването
  - o планиране развитието на селските райони
  - o планиране на градската мобилност
- идентифициране на успешни инициативи, при които гражданите са взели активно участие в процесите на пространствено планиране на местно, регионално или национално ниво

След проучването ще бъдат публикувани само обобщени данни от всички попълнени въпросници. Предоставената от Вас информация няма да бъде обществено достъпна и ще бъде споделена само с контролори и одитори, назначени от Националната агенция "Еразъм+" в Република Гърция, чрез която се финансира изследването, в случай, че бъде изрично изискана по надлежния ред.

ВУМ се ангажира да гарантира сигурността и защитата на личната информация, която обработва, и да осигури съвместим и последователен подход към защитата на данните. Ако имате въпроси, свързани с нашата политика за защита на личните данни, моля, свържете се с нашето длъжностно лице по защита на данните или подайте искане за достъп до информация.

**Вашите безпристрастни отговори за много ценни за проучването!**



Съфинансиран от програма „Еразъм+“ на Европейския съюз

Подкрепата на Европейската комисия за издаването на тази публикация не представлява одобрение на съдържанието, което отразява единствено възгледите на авторите, и Комисията не носи отговорност за използването на съдържанието се в нея информация. Номер на проекта: 2023-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000164728.

**Моля, отбележете своята област на компетентност и интереси**

- Планиране на земеползването
- Развитие на селските райони и планиране
- Градска мобилност

**Области на планиране и гражданско участие**

1. Колко важна е Вашата област на експертиза и интереси по отношение на пространственото планиране?
2. На какво ниво се случва пространственото планиране във Вашата област на експертиза (национално, регионално или местно)?
3. Съществува ли нормативно правило задължение за задължително участие и консултации с гражданите по отношение на процесите на планиране?
4. Освен възможните нормативни разпоредби за задължително участие и процеси на консултации с гражданите, съществуват ли някакви неинституционални/неформални процеси на гражданско участие?
5. Съществуват ли механизми, които да гарантират включването на резултатите от консултациите с гражданите в крайните резултати от процеса на планиране?
6. Кои са основните фактори за успех и пречки по отношение на процесите на гражданското участие в процесите на планиране в България?
7. Моля, посочете до три (3) добри практики за гражданско участие в процесите на пространствено планиране, които са Ви известни, като попълните следната таблица.

Наименование на инициативата	Място	Отговорна институция	Методи/средства за гражданско участие (особено дигитални, ако има такива)	Уеб-линк (ако има такъв)

Име, професия/позиция:

Е-мейл:



Съфинансиран от програма „Еразъм+“ на Европейския съюз

Подкрепата на Европейската комисия за издаването на тази публикация не представлява одобрение на съдържанието, което отразява единствено възгледите на авторите, и Комисията не носи отговорност за използването на съдържащата се в нея информация. Номер на проекта: 2023-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000164728.

### 8.3. In-depth Interview Questionnaire – Part A and B



*Електронни образователни модули за гражданско участие в процесите на пространствено планиране (DEMo4PPL)*

#### **Въпросник за оценка на практиката за гражданско участие в процесите на пространствено планиране в България**

##### **Уважаеми респонденти,**

Попълването на въпросник ще послужи на международен екип от изследователи от Висше училище по мениджмънт (ВУМ) за оценка на

- практиката на въвличане на гражданите в процесите на пространствено планиране в България
- въвличането на гражданите в процесите на
  - o планиране на туризма и туристическите дестинации
- идентифициране на успешни инициативи, при които гражданите са взели активно участие в процесите на пространствено планиране на местно, регионално или национално ниво

След проучването ще бъдат публикувани само обобщени данни от всички попълнени въпросници. Предоставената от Вас информация няма да бъде обществено достъпна и ще бъде споделена само с контролори и одитори, назначени от Националната агенция "Еразъм+" в Република Гърция, чрез която се финансира изследването, в случай, че бъде изрично изискана по надлежния ред.

ВУМ се ангажира да гарантира сигурността и защитата на личната информация, която обработва, и да осигури съвместим и последователен подход към защитата на данните. Ако имате въпроси, свързани с нашата политика за защита на личните данни, моля, свържете се с нашето длъжностно лице по защита на данните или подайте искане за достъп до информация.

**Вашите безпристрастни отговори за много ценни за проучването!**



Съфинансиран от програма „Еразъм+“ на Европейския съюз

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## А. Области на планиране и гражданско участие

1. Колко важно е планирането на туризма (туристическите дестинации) по отношение на пространственото планиране?
2. На какво ниво се случва пространственото планиране във Вашата област на експертиза (национално, регионално или местно)?
3. Съществува ли нормативно правило задължение за задължително участие и консултации с гражданите по отношение на процесите на планиране?
4. Освен възможните нормативни разпоредби за задължително участие и процеси на консултации с гражданите, съществуват ли някакви ненституционални/неформални процеси на гражданско участие?
5. Съществуват ли механизми, които да гарантират включването на резултатите от консултациите с гражданите в крайните резултати от процеса на планиране?
6. Кои са основните фактори за успех и пречки по отношение на процесите на гражданското участие в процесите на планиране в България?
7. Моля, посочете до три (3) добри практики за гражданско участие в процесите на пространствено планиране, които са Ви известни, като попълните следната таблица.

Наименование на инициативата	Място	Отговорна институция	Методи/средства за гражданско участие (особено дигитални, ако има такива)	Уеб-линк (ако има такъв)





## **Б. Планиране с гражданско участие на практика**

1. Какви са целите на гражданското участие по отношение на стремежа/мотивацията (напр. демократизиране, консултиране) и целевия резултат (напр. опазване на разнообразието, постигане на консенсус)?
2. Какви и колко ресурси (напр. финансови, оборудване, персонал) ресурси са отделени за осъществяване на процесите на участие (в случай че са налични съответните данни)? Тези ресурси отделни ли са или допълнителни към ресурсите, отделени за реализиране на процеса на планиране?
3. Кой е етапът/етапите от процеса на планиране, на който/които е предвидено гражданско участие (напр. дефиниране на проблема и целта, анализ на настоящата ситуация и нейната динамика, разработване/оценка/избор на сценарии/решения, формулиране на политическа рамка/мерки)?
4. Кой е профилът (напр. заинтересовани страни, експерти, лица, вземащи решения) и юрисдикцията на лицата, които координират процесите на гражданско участие?
5. Какъв е профилът (напр. общественост, заинтересовани страни, експерти, лица, вземащи решения) и нивото на участниците (напр. национално, регионално, местно)?
6. Какво е нивото на ангажираност на участниците (напр. манипулация, решаване на проблеми, информиране, консултация, поставяне, партньорство, делегирана власт, граждански контрол)? Какво е въздействието на гражданското участие по отношение на вземането на решения?
7. Кои са конкретните (задължителни/незадължителни) методи за участие (напр. фокус-групи, работни срещи), техники (напр. мозъчна атака, краудсорсинг, мисловни карти) и средства за информация/комуникация (напр. информационни листове, дървовидни диаграми, географски информационни системи), използвани в присъствени (лице в лице), он-лайн или хибридни процеси на участие?

Име, професия/позиция:

Е-мейл:



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