



COUNTRY	Poland
CASE STUDY CODE	Poland_Good Practice_O.09_2
MAIN INFORMATION	
Title	Development of human resources to conduct public consultations on spatial planning in municipalities
Location	Selected communes in Poland
Responsible Authority	NGOs, Municipal Offices
Link	https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/nabory/219-usprawnienie-procesow-inwestycyjno-budowlanych-i-planowania-przestrzennego-8/#Finanse
Keywords	public consultations, spatial planning, NGOs, Poland

IDENTIFICATION

Type	Case (plan, program, project etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders involved	Public institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Method / Tool	<input type="checkbox"/>		Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>		Civil society organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Legal framework	<input type="checkbox"/>		Knowledge institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		Public or grassroots movements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy field	Urban planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timeline	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizens
	Mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>		Start date	<input type="checkbox"/> 2018
	Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>		End date	<input type="checkbox"/> 2021
	Rural areas and planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		On going	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spatial level	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited Repeated overtime	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	





CONTENT AND RESULTS

Purpose and context

The purpose of the project is to enhance social participation in activities conducted by municipalities in the field of spatial planning. Municipalities, as participants in the project, receive grants to conduct additional social consultations during the creation of planning documents. Throughout the consultation process, municipal offices receive support from EU, based on the opinion of specialists in urban planning and social participation.

The project involves municipalities that aim to develop the competencies of their employees in the field of social participation. A prerequisite for joining the project is the initiation of planning document development, before specific solutions are developed. The project leader (NGOs) prepares a consultation plan by selecting appropriate techniques and tools, including GIS. Throughout the project, officials acquire knowledge on how to involve residents in the work of the project.

Problems and challenges

Lack of human resources: staffing problems, excess duties and inappropriate substantive knowledge are a challenge for offices when selecting employees responsible for the public consultation process.

Limited participation: the participation of residents in the proposed forms of participation was insufficient, which resulting from the lack of interest of residents in local issues or an ineffective information campaign.

Selection of methods and tools: each municipality has different local conditions. Before starting the project procedure, it is difficult to verify all possible problematic issues. Approaching the selection of tools is challenging.

Lack of interest in the research area: the selection of the area for which the draft development plan was prepared did not cause any spatial conflicts, and therefore, the selected tools could not be fully used.

Impact: verification of the implementation of participatory tools after the project is completed is a challenge.

Organizing, Supporting and Funding Entities

The project is organised by NGOs with the involvement of specialists in spatial planning. This initiative is implemented by various organisations in different municipalities. The funds allocated for this project come from the EU budget as part of the operational project 'Knowledge Education Development'.

The operation programme Knowledge Education Development for the implementation of the European Social Fund in Poland aims to contribute to addressing key challenges which Poland faces in the fields of, among others, social inclusion, education, and public administration.

The funds are distributed among NGOs in competitions. Organisations must have the experience specified in the competition regulations. In the years 2018-2020, 30 million PLN was allocated for this project. The average cost of one such task for 20 communes is approximately 2 million PLN.





Process (including participant recruitment & selection) and Interaction/Participation (including methods/tools) used

Municipalities interested in participating in the project declared their readiness during the recruitment process. Criteria were taken into account that allowed for the selection of projects with diversified spatial issues and thus the possibility of using various methods and techniques of social participation.

After selecting the communes, each commune received an individual consultation plan prepared by the partners who implemented the project. In this plan, the participation process was divided into four parts:

1. Pre-consultations consisting of presenting the local community with the research area and the purpose of participation,
2. Directional consultations involving the development of preliminary conclusions and recommendations before starting design work,
3. Working consultations involving the creation of a joint project based on variant concepts after incorporating recommendations from directional consultations,
4. Integrating consultations in which the level of consideration of the recommendations submitted during the consultations was verified.

The selection of tools and methods was designated to reach aimed the largest group of interested stakeholders. Contact with stakeholders was through online and face-to-face meetings. During the consultation process, numerous meetings and interviews with residents, focus groups, research walks, and focus groups were conducted. In addition, digital systems were utilised: GIS, 3D visualisations, and online portal for collecting submissions.

Outcomes, Effects and Lessons Learned

Trained officials – employees will acquire knowledge on the use of tools and techniques of social participation and conflict resolution.

Higher quality of public consultations – example of public consultations using social participation methods and tools improves the effectiveness of work on the project and shows how to apply them in other planning procedures.

Civic education – participation in the public consultations process is associated with information and educational activities that increase residents' competences in the field of spatial planning and their influence on the decision-making process.

Canon of Good Practices – an additional application goal is to prepare a canon of good practices in conducting public consultations in spatial planning.

Bibliography

1. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country/programmes/2014-2020/pl/2014pl05m9op001_en

