

## **Participation of stakeholders in open architectural and urban planning competitions: procedure model and application in Croatian context**

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The participation of society in public spaces issues, though advocated for decades, experiences an increase in recent years. Citizen participation in Croatian spatial planning appears to be mostly declarative and formally takes place in the final stages of planning. On the contrary, the full benefits of integrative planning would be if participation of all sectors (civil, academic, economy and management structures) is continuous, especially important in the initial planning phase - forming the basic intentions.

The selection of the best spatial solution by architectural and urban planning competitions has a long and fruitful tradition in European societies. It represents a good yet hermetic method in searching for the most appropriate, most innovative and overall best solution whose authors remain anonymous till the very end of the selection. The question is how to combine these two widely accepted and proven approaches into one procedure to acquire the best creative solution and raise awareness and involvement of the community? The article will present recent case studies of participation in open competitions, including Croatian ones. Through their comparative analysis, highlighting benefits and challenges, the combined procedure will be proposed as well as recommendations for its application in Croatian and similar contexts.

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