SUMMARY REPORT: TRACK 3 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
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The track on "Community and Stakeholder Engagement" was animated with passionate delivery of papers and good audience interaction by the many delegates attending the sessions. Different perspectives on community development were put forward: from theoretical viewpoints based on case study critical analyses through to description of successful planning practices. The track identified the broadness of the central theme showcasing many aspects, frequently even contradictory, characterizing the planning processes based on dialogue with stakeholders. One relevant benefit was the possibility of comparing the results, the open questions, the practices on a platform constituted by experiences coming from different parts of the world: diverse approaches, standpoints and contexts. The track included four main topics:

1. *Creative Participatory Planning Process as Drivers of Sustainable and Resilient Development*
This session presented papers focusing on interactions among citizens, stakeholders, local authorities in participatory planning processes. Challenges faced by town planners and other experts to team up with urban actors in complex negotiations promoting local development.
2. *Community Development Planning: Stakeholders Collaboration and Civic Engagement Vital Forces for Innovation in Practices*
The session offered papers that put some interesting questions on efficiency and effectiveness of participatory forms of decision.
3. *Politics and Policies Generated by Community Planning Experiences: A Set of Relevant Case Studies*
The session presented several practices based on participatory planning approach. The practices comparison considered examples from China, India and Tanzania.
4. *Community Design Tools for Urban Development and Requalification: A set of Relevant Case Studies*
The session focused on community design tools. Presented results were based on case studies (Brazil, South Africa, and U.S.A) and research papers. Case studies examined the methods of community and stakeholder engagement and identified the explicit challenges that they constituted in response to current urban development and regeneration challenges.

The basic questions leading this track on "Community and Stakeholder Engagement" where:
- What have we learned about community engagement? Are there new techniques, including digital ones, and strategies that allow us to better engage our stakeholders? Do these techniques and strategies differ by scale, culture, and regions?
- Is there ever enough community engagement? When do we know whether our strategies have taken hold? How do we measure success or failure?
- Are "delegated power" and "citizen control" viable or reasonable objectives for making plans for complex, fast-changing mega cities and regions?

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- Are new or re-shaped models of planning practice required for community engagement?

Reasoning around these questions - and trying to provide answers or simply pathways for responding to them – led us to identify a number of open challenges that sometimes clear up the way to solution, but sometimes define even new "interrogatives":

- Defining new governance (both vertical and horizontal) relations, especially in countries (e.g. China, EU post-communist, India, Nigeria) where the existing structure of the decision making process is not based on a multi-layer framework.
- Getting engagement right –
  - Are we just hearing the loudest?
  - Who should be engaged, at what scale, on what terms and for what purpose?
  - Is the community capable of meaningful participation or is it education that is needed?
  - Using engagement to help decision making (for good) not to justify the decision (for bad).
- To use participatory planning processes as a way to enlarge the "box of tools" available for managing urban renewal and development issues: going beyond normative tools.
- To design (local) development plan that are local rooted and keep into account the stakes/interests of more parties, which means to achieve sustainable and shared results on the ground.
- The need to refocus and update the processes ingrained by time and legislation.
- How do we know participation is making our planning better – is participation replacing technical and monitoring data-based planning?
- Costs of engagement and finding new sources of financing equitable consultation processes.

On the other hand, we were able to learn some lessons both from theory and practice, among them it is worth to underline:

- Geoblogs as a new tool to use at different scales of action and urban/rural/rurban contexts.
- Use of social media as catalyser tools for community development.
- Worthwhile, engagement should occur at the forefront of plan making not after the plan.
- Care and attention is need to deal with political and other manipulation of consultation processes.
- Planners must be skilled in accepting and dealing with conflict – which is part of normal living.
- Better engagement leads to better planning and comes from stakeholders owning the plan.
- Use any/all the many tools to get good engagement.

Finally, some needs arisen in management of participatory planning processes:

- Better structuration (in the governance frame) of set of tools facilitating the management of community engagement processes.
- Planners to take the lead in facilitating consultation and engagement.
- People must be empowered to participate not just become players/pawns in the planning process.
- New ways of making consultation meaningful, but easy.
- Institutional acknowledgment of informal planning practices should be pursued.
- More resources (policy/money) to invest in grassroots promoted local development plans/proposals.
- Embracing the future not the past.
- Focus on the real and not the ideal.