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**The ELC's requirements for public participation in landscape policies at local level: Does it make a difference with regard to legitimacy and awareness raising/ landscape consciousness?
Case of UNESCO heritage cities.**

SUMMARY

The European Landscape Convention is a document promoting improvement of landscape awareness and stressing that active citizens' involvement in favour of landscape protection and its sustainable development may significantly contribute to life quality improvement. Since the process of citizens' involvement is more likely to bring intangible results, awareness raising would be one of the most important outcomes. Therefore, public participation may here be meant to be both – method and aim. Authors decided to focus on practical management and sociological methods implemented in planning rather than discussing the reasons for ratification or non-ratification of the ELC. The article focuses, therefore, on the opportunities of Polish legal framework partly adjusted to the requirements of the Convention and some methods aimed at improvement of public participation well-exercised in Germany as part of often informal and yet effective procedures – those cover also the cases of e-participation methods.

The article deals with the issue of improving opportunities for public participation in planning concerning landscape in Poland, taking a closer look at the procedures for public participation and awareness-raising, which already are in force. A thorough description and translation of several paragraphs from legal acts explaining the location of landscape aspect in planning system as a whole is provided. What modifications would be necessary to fully comply with the ELC's requirements? For public participation is included in the legal regulations on planning, it is worth examining how particular legal framework (concerning local level) can affect: opportunities for public participation, choice of methods for public participation and their expected outcomes.

And that is why a description of types of plans and planning instruments appears together with important definitions from the field. It is followed by analyse of decision-making process, with the special attention paid to authorities in charge and the role of the voivode within the set time-frame. Next, criteria for evaluation or selection of methods for communication planning are identified and listed with the special reference to the issue of public debate.

Furthermore, a review of possible ways of conducting a public debate is described with the reference to causal relations and possible constraints in application. This part is based on the non-participatory observation and literature study. Detailed discussion of methods suitable for public consultation is carried out with the reference to state of art and recognised types of collaborative planning. Another issue is an overview and a critical commentary of public participation cases concerning landscape issues from selected UNESCO heritage cities such as Kraków, Warsaw and Dresden.

To summarise, conclusions are drawn and recommendations for Polish situation as well as requests for further research are made.