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Real-Time Smarticipation

Transport and infrastructure projects are increasingly met with resistance, especially by civil society. For instance, the construction of new transport-related facilities and infrastructures often trigger protests and dissent from the population living close to the building projects. The decline in the quality of life, in connection with noise and air emissions and the destruction of the environment and natural landscapes are often mentioned reasons, in addition to citizens' lack trust in the administration and politics. One reason is the release and communication of information about planning projects in general. Information is often received too late, it is incomprehensible, and the entire planning process is usually non-transparent. This research investigates the problems in participation procedures, especially for large-scale transport projects, focusing on what role and which potentials online formats (mobile) have, especially the smartphone device. Therefore, this study aims at finding out what criteria these kind of devices must meet for an active citizen participation in planning processes. The basis for achieving the expected results are a sample survey and a participant observation, as well as the categorial comparison of planning and participation apps, such as targeted use of the smartphone and an app in the context of the design thinking method. Studies and research projects, as well as the results of a first survey have shown that mobile participation via smartphone and tablet are capable of enabling active citizen participation due to their user-friendliness and intuitive use.

