

Interview guideline for WP1

Smart U Green is a research project that investigates the transformation of the urban landscape in different regions of Europe, and the potential conflicts that might arise due to these changes. For example, some changes are desirable, such as greener areas in the urban landscape. Other changes are inevitable, such as the change in consumer behavior which affects down-town shopping areas. These urban developments affect several stakeholders who might have different interests, and consequently changing the urban landscape might result in conflicts. We are also particularly interested in the decision-making process of the landscape planning in your region/Country, and which stakeholders that are involved in this process.

1) Introduction.

- A. What is your professional involvement with respect to the quality of urban landscape?
- B. Do you consider yourself as a generalist or a specialist?

2) This question is about recent issues and developments in the governance of urban landscape quality.

- A. What are the compelling issues in your country or region related to preserving and improving urban landscape quality?
- B. How are the issues addressed? What are recent regulatory and policy developments?
- C. What are the main underlying ideas (paradigms) in the governance of urban landscape quality?

3) This is a question about decision-making procedure.

- A. Who is involved in the governance of urban landscape quality?
- B. Are non-governmental actors involved, formally or informally? If so, how does the process of selection look like?

4) This question is about stakeholder and citizen participation.

- A. Is there participation by local actors and citizens in the governance of the urban landscape quality? To what extent are (bottom-up) initiatives, by citizens or local entrepreneurs, encouraged?
- B. In your opinion, is local knowledge seriously considered in the decision-making processes?
- C. In your opinion, what is the value of citizen participation and bottom-up initiatives for the governance of urban landscape quality? (value can also be negative!)

5) This question is about the European Landscape Convention (ELC). This is an international treaty issued by the European Union which aims at the protection, the management and the planning of both urban and rural landscapes. It also encourages cooperation between member nations, as well as between stakeholders on local levels, on landscape issues. We are interested whether the ELC has been considered in your region.

- A. Are you aware of the ELC? If not, continue with Q6.
- B. How are you involved in the ELC?
- B. What actions were taken for its implementation, and who (which stakeholders) were involved?
- D. The ELC stresses the need for an integrated approach. What factors (cultural, social, historical) are taken into account?
- E. Art. 5 ELC states that each party is free to identify their own landscape. How is this done?

6) This is about where we can find more information.

- A. What articles / documents would you recommend for us to study in order to further answer our questions?
- B. Who are relevant persons for us to talk to? Please give two names of people with contrasting and innovative views.

7) Would you like to be involved in the Smart-U-Green project, especially where we will discuss governance options for the greening of urban landscapes? (refer to upcoming website and dialogue sessions).