

LISA 7: RAHVUSVAHELISE UURINGU „VALITSUSTASANDI ROLL RUUMILOOMES: TÖÖRIISTAD JA MÕJU RUUMIKULTUURI – RUUMIKVALITEEDI JA KOHALOOME – EDENDAMISES VIIIE EUROOPA RIIGI NÄITEL”

Spatial Design Leadership. The Role, Instruments and Impact of State Architect (or Similar) Teams in Fostering Spatial Quality And A Place-Making Culture Across Five European States

Lähteülesanne

We are moving forward with the work of the Spatial Design Expert Group operating by the Government Offices, and one of the needs that has come up is the necessity for a study / analysis of how the challenge to raise spatial awareness (to arrive at more informed political decisions) in different EU countries has been tackled through formation of state architect (or similar) teams, or through other means.

More precisely, we would like to have a comparative analysis of how certain goals have been achieved in arriving at informed (quality) decisions that concern the development of the built environment in Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Austria (Bundesland level) and Flanders in Belgium. In some of those countries, there is a state architect office in place, while in others the system operates in other ways and through other instruments.

The proposed study is expected to show the benefits and downfalls of the operational system in place in the above mentioned countries, to carry out certain tasks of the spatial development competence unit, or the spatial commissioner's office / the institution of the state architect, or any other form of an advisory expert group that provides the state with expertise on national spatial planning and architectural design of the living environment.

These tasks are:

1. (Proactively) offering spatial competence for the public sector, especially regarding government initiatives. Making proposals for conducting research, initiating and proposing vision competitions and public procurements of spatial planning, architecture, public space, infrastructure, public transport, etc.
2. Coordinating cross-sectoral cooperation to guarantee that the more generic aims of spatial development are considered and specialists with spatial competence are involved in the decision-making processes of government institutions, in the development of strategic documents and in the formation of (procurement) briefs.
3. Participating in creating spatial (architectural, landscape, land use, built heritage, housing, environmental, real estate, etc.) policies, strategies and legislation that steer the state's spatial development, as well as ensuring their continuity, up-to-dateness and innovation.
4. Advocating the generic goals of spatial development of the state through training (courses, seminars, guidelines, etc.), consulting and monitoring spatial projects' implementation (as a continuation of the legal monitoring activity). Advising the formation of new legislation in preparation, to monitor its consistency with the state's spatial development goals.
5. Taking the role of an arbiter (without an ultimate authority) who provides a third (balanced) opinion upon request in a conflict situation, for instance, between two (or more) government institutions or between a government institution and a local municipality.
6. Advising government institutions, local municipalities as well as the private sector on spatial

planning and architectural design upon request, through offering alternative spatial solutions to improve the outcome for the living environment. Only addressing projects with a significant spatial impact.

7. Advising management and exploitation the state's real estate.

8. Operating as an intermediary or a communicator of the state's spatial development decisions to the general public, interest groups etc.

9. Developing expertise on analysis of spatial data (map-based spatial data analysis and visualisation, working with open data, big data, etc.) to surface different spatial qualities of the built environment, to define values and potential of specific locations.

10. Advancing international cooperation for coherent and consistent spatial development of the built environment (operation at the EU level, cooperation with the Nordic countries, participation in VASAB, Urban Europe, etc).

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