BETTER Life

BETTER Life Summer School

Ana Sopina, PhD, 10/09/2024

PROJECTS WITH SOCIALLY ENGAGED RESEARCH SMART-U-GREEN

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SMART-U-GREEN

Governing conflicting perspectives on transformations in the urban rural continuum

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Internet: **https://www.smartugreen.eu/project/**
Contact: Matthijs Hisschemoller, PhD, DRIFT
Project partners: DRIFT, **Erasmus University Rotterdam**, SAAD, **University of Camerino**, **Université de Reims**
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Governing conflicting perspectives on transformations in the urban rural continuum

Urban landscapes witness **major transformations** that **affect landscape quality and quality of life**. Urban landscape transformations come with **conflicts involving many actors, interests**, and rapidly changing advocacy.

Smart-U-Green investigates **new urban planning regimes** that confront hierarchical urban planning with bottom-up initiatives to **adopt more organic, collaborative, and transformative forms of governance**. Together with local governments, local businesses, citizen initiatives, and NGOs the project **explores new forms of governance**.

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LANDSCAPE CONFLICTS

_analyse **stakeholder perspectives** to understand their arguments in policy controversies

_the **Repertory Grid technique** in combination with statistical analysis to **identify the range of perspectives** in all cases

POLICY CONTROVERSIES

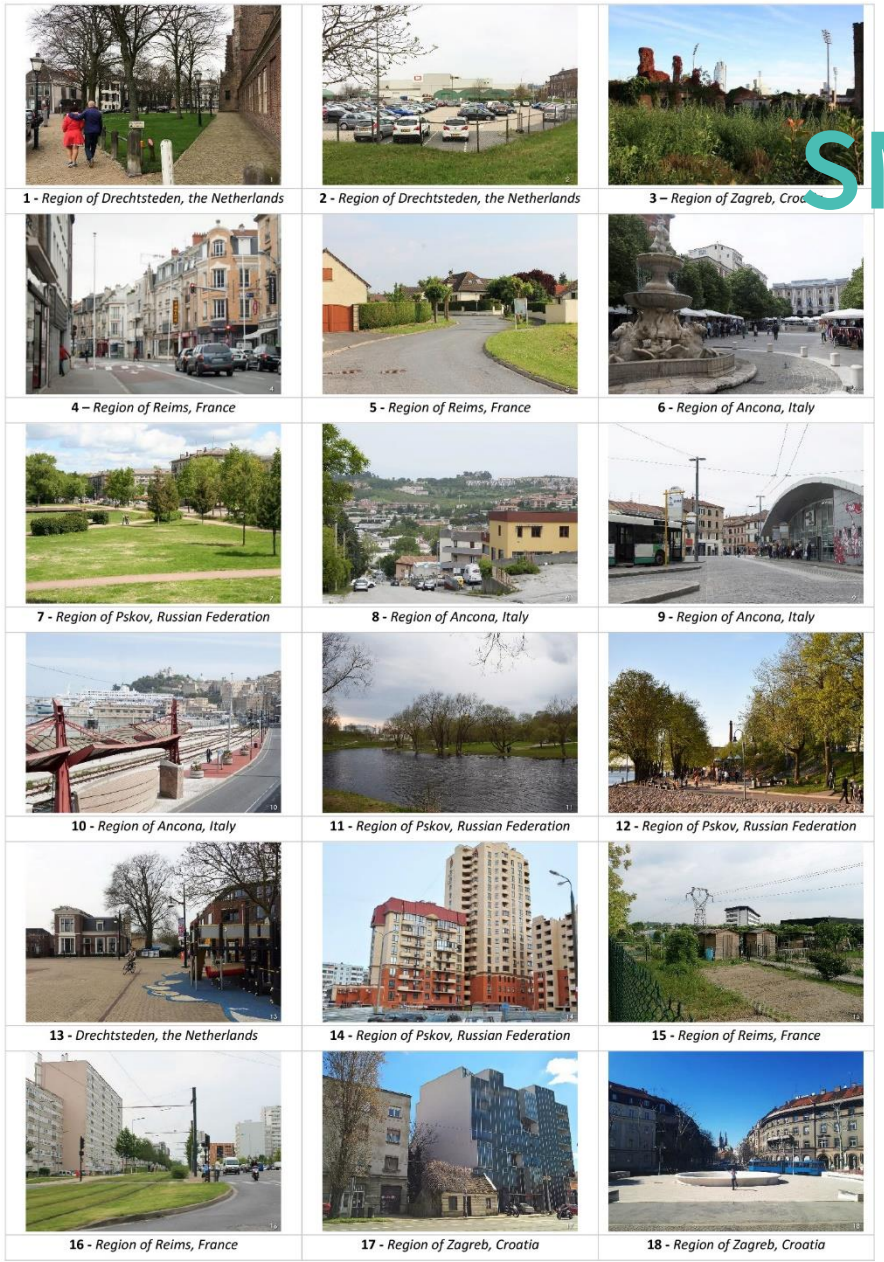
_analyse **policy controversies** to understand how **power relations** inhibit or enable the **utilization of knowledge**

_**political agenda-building approach** to identify policy controversies in the case regions and evaluate these with **QLand/Qlife indicators**

GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

_identify and explore **innovative governance options** for greening urban landscapes

_**stakeholder workshops for joint fact-finding and decision support** in the primary case study areas



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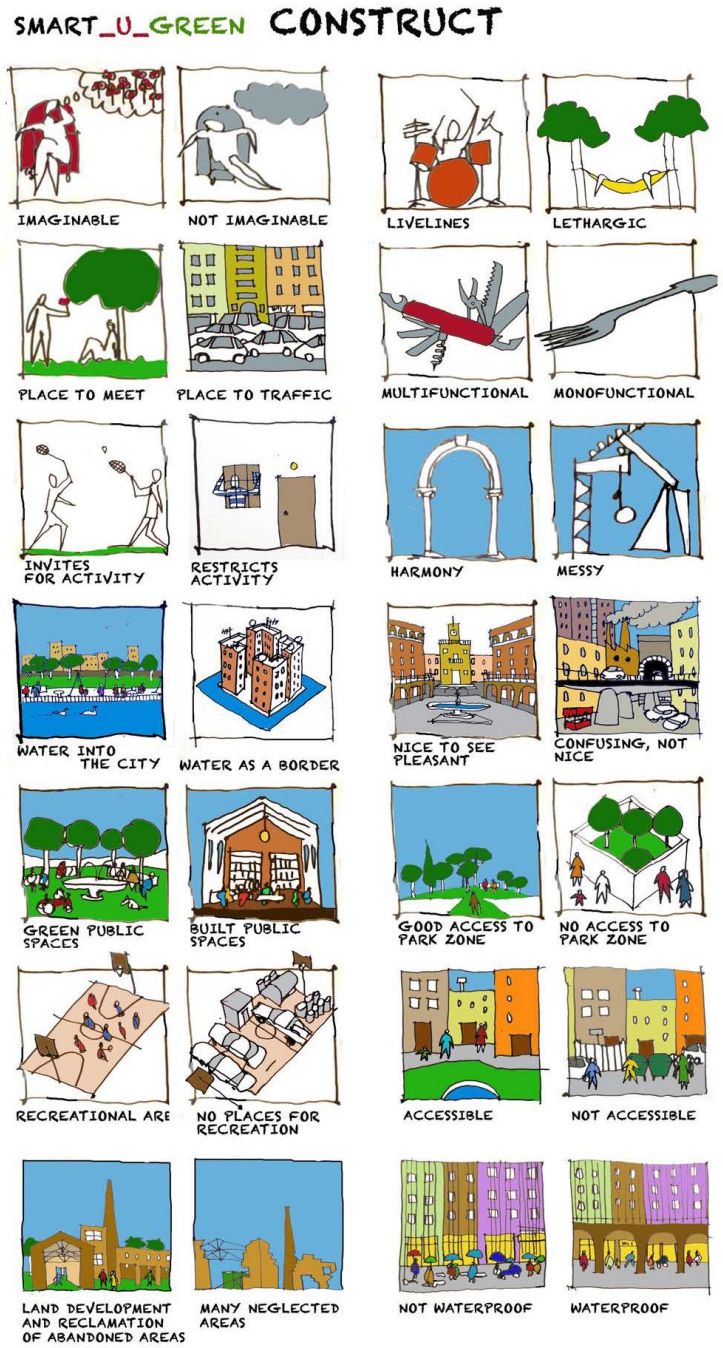
LANDSCAPE CONFLICTS

Using the **Repertory Grid technique** to identify:

- underlying **dimensions (constructs) through which stakeholders evaluate** their immediate environment
- different **perspectives that can be articulated on transformations** in the urban-rural continuum

What can be learned from **comparing the regional perspectives**?

Conflicting perspectives on urban landscape quality in six urban regions in Europe and their implications for urban transitions



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POLICY CONTROVERSIES

Using the **political agenda-building approach** and **QLand/Qlife indicators** to identify:

- framework of **sustainability indicators** that articulate close relationships **between ecological, social, economic, and aesthetic issues** connected to related fields of expertise
- principles of **urban systems operating** and **mechanisms** that must be addressed in order to accelerate a transition to urban sustainability

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GOUVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Using the **joint-fact finding approach** to:

- emphasize the **out-of-the-box thinking among dialogue participants**
- avoid collateral conflicts by **sound decisions** that require **shared data and inclusive procedures** to begin with.

Each workshop **encourages all participants** to **determine their agenda** and **present their own visions and ideas** towards sustainability transitions in the urban-rural continuum.

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LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SMART-U-GREEN PROJECT

- **identification of key stakeholders** through interviews, document analysis, and inputs from various researchers
- **visual materials, contrasting arguments, and clear questions** aid non-specialised stakeholders to **express and share their knowledge and perspective**
- shared and overlapped **visions and ideas of all stakeholders** enrich and **raise the quality of the result**

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