



DESCRIPTION APANGO PROJECT BACKGROUND RESEARCH

APaNGO partners have committed to a joint programme of background research and analysis of ***existing systems, techniques and infrastructure¹ for community involvement in planning*** in each nation of North West Europe.

For each nation the report will cover the following sections:

A. OUTLINE OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM – SETTING THE PLANNING CONTEXT

Objective: a general overview of the planning system in your country.

A description of national, regional and local level plans (including the functions of each) noting particularly the opportunities that exist for community involvement in their development and/or adoption and any specific law, policy or guidance that provides for community involvement in spatial or environmental planning. You may find it helpful to cover the key:

- Planning laws/legislation
- Policy or Guidance
- Different agencies/bodies (governments and non-governmental bodies) that have a role in the planning system
- And other information that you find relevant to describe the planning system in your country.

¹ Systems – legal planning system; Techniques – usually these are owned by someone or an organisation and often protected by copyright. Examples are ‘planning-for-real’, action planning, and Enquiry by Design; and Infrastructure – infrastructure (i.e. non physical) of organisations and services available to those communities / individuals who want to participate in planning (e.g. planning aid organisations and other public/voluntary services in UK, BRAL in Brussels etc.).

B. THE INFRASTRUCTURE² THAT EXISTS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Objective: A description of the main non governmental community involvement organisations and services in the nation concerned.

Covering:

- The main non governmental organisations that offer help with community involvement in planning
- Other agencies or bodies supported by local, regional or central Government specifically tasked with supporting community involvement in spatial or environmental planning
- Particularly those bodies operating across a national or regional level capable of offering local communities help to participate in major regional plans and or significant scale physical development/regeneration projects.

C. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TECHNIQUES/TOOLS

Objective: an overview of techniques/tools that can be used to involve communities in the planning process.

- Techniques/tools predominantly used in the nation concerned, which facilitate community involvement - they make the involvement happen (e.g. simulation and workshops. More examples can be found at: <http://www.communityplanning.net/methods/methods.htm>)
- Research of the advantages or disadvantages of the main techniques, highlighting good practice that might be used in other European countries (this is an important output for the APANGO project), at a regional level.
The APaNGO project mainly focuses on regional/spatial planning. Therefore an overview of main techniques used to involve community groups in planning at a regional level (or the equivalent for the relevant country) is requested. I am aware that these might very well be the same as techniques used at a local level.

² See note 1.