Master Thesis – Virtual collaborative planning: Methods, approaches and tools for creative stakeholder involvement in the digital space

Within the research project “PHUSICOS”, the Chair for Strategic Landscape Planning and Management is currently offering a topic to be elaborated as master’s thesis on the elaboration of a tool box for collaborative planning approaches. Under the impression of covid-19 outbreak and resulting restrictions such as social distancing, collaborative planning and stakeholder involvement needs to find new innovative approaches and digital means to ensure actors can continue working together.

**Background information on the project:** PHUSICOS, meaning 'According to nature' in Greek, demonstrates how nature-based solutions (NBSs) can provide robust, sustainable and cost-effective measures for reducing the risk of extreme weather events in rural mountain landscapes. PHUSICOS’s underlying premise is that nature itself is a source of ideas and solutions for mitigating the risk posed by climate change. The main focus of the TUM contribution to Phusicos consists in service innovation activities, fostering stakeholder participation by Living Labs at the project’s case study sites. Project partners at the case study sites are accompanied in their living labs activities by a guiding framework, and also supported with suitable tools of living lab management and stakeholder involvement.

**Situation:** Collaborative planning historically depends on direct in-person activities and interactions such as various workshop formats, activities, meetings or site visits/excursions. Because of the covid-19 outbreak, collaborative planning have to find new innovative methods, approaches and tools to be developed to transfer exchange, work, planning and co-design into the digital (virtual) space. The conversion of the working techniques, and tool boxes using virtual means and possibilities is challenging for planners, facilitators and manager of such processes. In the proposed thesis, the candidate will investigate already existing digital tools, can make suggestions of converting existing collaborative planning tool boxes for the use in the digital space and evaluate them for practicability in real life settings and contexts of the PHUSICOS case sites.

**Tasks:** Review; Interviews; Method design; Didactic

**Requirements:** English, have experienced virtual meetings

**Processing Time:** Starting as soon as possible

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