

SUGAR

Newsletter



Sustainable Urban Governance through Augmented Reality
(SUGAR)

August 2020

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
SUGAR AR Application Implementation Workshop	3
Briefing Paper is Out	4
Published Work	5
A message from the coordinator, Prof. Panayiotis Zaphiris	6

SUGAR AR Application Implementation Workshop

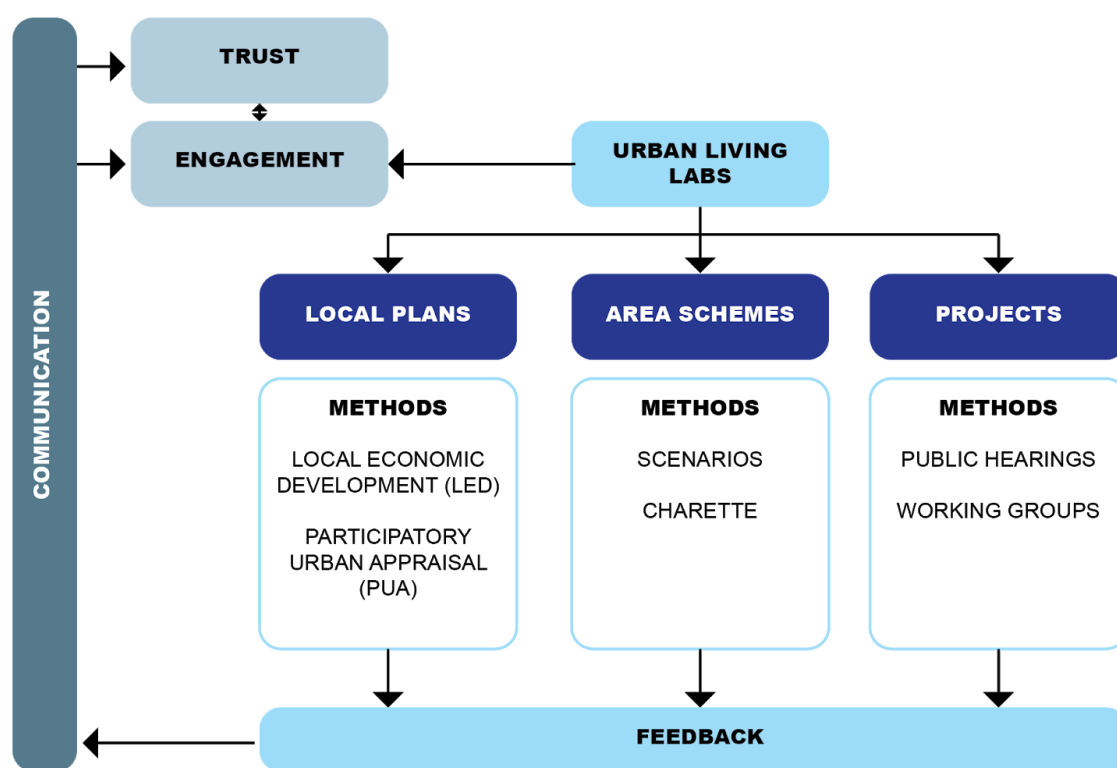
Due to CoVid-19 related restrictions, the implementation workshop has been conducted in two parts. Part 1 took place on the 7th of July 2020 at the Cyprus University of Technology and Part 2 took place on the 14th of July 2020 at the University of Cyprus.

In addition, we have allowed the public to access download instructions for the app and install it in their own devices. In total 20 participants have engaged with the application and more have downloaded in their own devices and sent us screenshots of their creations. All these are available in the SUGAR facebook page.



Briefing Paper is Out

The consortium has developed a briefing paper to summarise the key issues relating to participatory planning in Cyprus and provide guidelines for authorities to improve participatory practices. The briefing is based on a review of the current state-of-the-art on participatory planning and design, a systematic review of case studies, a critical assessment of provisions for public consultations in Cyprus, and two dialogues held with professionals and users. The key factors identified as contributing to successful participatory planning are creation, process and community. A full framework was developed as part of the project aiming at supporting improved urban governance and participation in planning by proposing a strategy for engagement through trust building, a systematic approach to public participation and specific methods for participatory activities. Here is a schematic of the SUGAR framework:



The full briefing paper is available in the SUGAR website (sugar.cyprusinteractionlab.com)



Published Work

During the project implementation we have managed to publish 3 papers while 2 working papers are still under review in key international peer-reviewed journals.

Papallas A., Zaphiris P., (2019) “Designing a framework for public participation and sustainable urban governance through user-centred design methods”, 26-31 July 2019, 21st International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, Orlando, Florida, US

Charalambous N., Papallas, A., (2019) “The role of Participatory Planning methods in the development of cities: A systematic literature review on Sustainable Urban Governance”, 2-6 July 2019, ISUF 2019 XXVI International Seminar on Urban Form: Cities as Assemblages, Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Geddes, I., Charalambous, N. & Papallas, A. (2019) “Participatory methods in the development of public space: case studies review”, Planning for Transition. Proceedings of the AESOP Annual Congress.

A message from the coordinator, Prof. Panayiotis Zaphiris



Planning worldwide have long been criticised for their lack of meaningful public consultation and participation in the process of the making of our cities. Through our Sustainable Urban Governance through Augmented Reality project, we have found that in Cyprus especially, the public participation process in the domain of urban planning has been confined in strict presentation formats limiting the scope of co-creation and meaningful understanding of user needs. In addition, we have documented shortcomings related to understanding proposals and spatial intentions as well as pain points related to transparency, building trust and engagement.

The work that has been done in the short period of time the project has taken place has indeed shown promising results in how interactive visualisations can facilitate a more inclusive decision-making process.

The SUGAR project has successfully completed its milestones as set out from the project's initiation. We have completed an extensive desk research which analysed materials and approaches, reports and statistics, best-practice case studies as well as instructional practices, focusing on activities and methods for involving the public in the decision making process through Augmented Reality. Through an effective collaborative process with our partners from the University of Cyprus and Harvard University, as well as the inclusion of major stakeholders in Cyprus such as representatives from the National Technical Chamber (ETEK), the Cyprus Architects Association, the Planning Department and Aglantzia Municipality, we have managed to create and pilot an innovative application and complete framework of sustainable urban governance. Our proposed framework is available as a briefing document in the project's website and we invite any interested stakeholders to use it as a guide to enhance their participation processes.

Throughout the project we have received an overwhelming amount of support, particularly from citizens that seek to participate in public consultations but wish to do so using more engaging methods of participation. This project has been a wonderful collaboration opening new avenues of research for all members of the consortium.

Prof. Panayiotis Zaphiris

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