

Main outcome (final summary) of 3-year post-doctoral fundamental research project «A values-led planning approach for sustainable land use and development» (No. 1.1.1.2/VIAA/1/16/161)

Project was elaborated at the Institute of Civil Engineering and Real Estate Economics, Riga Technical University in co-operation with international researchers and representatives of spatial development planning in Latvia. **Project explored** the theoretical and practical aspects of values-led planning approach (hereafter a VLP-approach) to be introduced into land management practice by capitalising on: (1) comparative analysis of dynamic spatial planning systems; and (2) development of techniques and tools for an assessment of territorial impact and evaluation of land use effects. It was proposed to develop the methodological solutions for better and more efficient land use, improved collaboration between urban and rural municipalities, and increased cross-sectoral cooperation that would enable sustainable development and promote employment. It is targeted that the VLP-approach, mainly by determining values and identifying stakeholders' preferences, will support any of smart specialisations according to its relative importance and development strategies. **Research activities (WP) included:** analytical research (WP1); consolidated evidence gathering (WP2); methodology development (WP3); the implementation of VLP-approach (WP4). **Main deliverables are:** 2 analytical overviews; 6 applications for European research projects (COST action CA17125 is accepted and currently is being implemented) and 1 for National Research Program; 4 activities' summaries, including schedules for further work; 12 scientific international publications, i.e. 6 in 3 monographs, 1 in indexed (Scopus) Q2 journal, 2 in indexed (WoS) conference proceedings, and 3 others; and methodological guidelines on VLP-approach. More information available at ResearchGate. During the course of research, the reports and presentations at international scientific conferences and workshops were provided. **All planned activities (WP1-WP4) and deliverables (D1.1-D4.4(M4))** have been rearranged due to postponed time schedule (half a year), finally adjusted at mid-term evaluation and completed before final report. **Networking and mobility visits** on research results, key issues and empirical research (WP2) due to comparative case studies were realised mainly under EALD – European Academy of Land Use and Development framework. Implementing activities for WP1-WP4, the presentations and discussions with 8 national stakeholders were arranged, i.e. authorities, which are responsible mainly for institutional environment and monitoring of spatial planning at all governmental levels (national, regional and local) and professional spatial planners, as well as with 10 international academic and research units according to the Project plan. Implementing activities for WP2, the empirical research by making case studies at 7 selected and differently experienced countries was arranged according to the Project plan. The research results have been presented in 10 **international scientific conferences**, i.e. in 5 symposia under EALD framework, one of which organised in Riga by Institute. Planned workshop on "Challenges and opportunities to introduce VLP-approach in spatial planning practice in Latvia" with participation mainly of Latvian stakeholders was organised by the Institute in Riga (28/02/2020). Special final session on "VLP-approach a gate towards improved local governance" with participation of involved and invited partners and stakeholders was organised online (Zoom) in the frame of 61st international scientific conference of RTU by the Institute in Riga (02/10/2020.). However, the participation in planned 10th EALD symposia in Vienna was cancelled due to Covid-19. General **public engaged** when regularly informed about scientific activities and key results of the Project by publishing in beneficiary RTU and Institute's websites, providing key information in social network as well as by providing articles in professional land surveyors', land-use and urban planners' journals and portals, as well as in academic journals of RTU. An interview has been given for central Latvian newspaper about international scientific networking and research activities for facing specific issues in relation to and positive synergy of the Project outcome. The key outcome of VLP-approach was presented in international scientific conferences. **The target group**, which has been defined in the Project

and is influenced through the research activities is concerned mainly with professional land-use planners, representatives and advisors of both central and local governmental authorities, regional planners, partners at spatial planners' association (NGO), developers of large commercial centres as recognised end-users of the Project outcome, as well as with academic and research personnel of international scope, which is interested in the research topic and results as recognised intermediate-users. The target group was involved and informed mainly through presentations and publications of the results of the Project. For instance, every agenda of scientific mobility networking included: a report on topical research outcome, a structured information about the Project objectives, activities and key interim outcome, and discussions on changes in spatial development planning, e.g. expertise, stakeholders' participation and tools. Moreover, every case study was concerned with structured face-to-face interview, identification of sample cases and discussion with competent expert in spatial planning/land use management. The target group provided significant feedback for necessary methodological development and introduction of demanded VPL-approach into land management practice, which were ensured through activities of WP3 and WP4 of the Project. At least 2 high-quality publications (in Land Use Policy, Elsevier journal and in Land, MDPI journal) will be published about the outcome of the Project together with other international colleagues. At least 2 high-quality publications (through the networking of COST action CA17125 in Land Use Policy, Elsevier journal and in the book of COST Association) will also be published together with other colleagues from the network of "Public Value Capture of Increasing Property Values". After finalising of the Project, the methodological guidelines will be implemented, thus supporting the practice in spatial planning and decision-making for better and more efficient use of land-related resources. This above mentioned reflects the **sustainability** of the achieved results. **The amendments into Project plan** have been proposed considering shifted for half a year the Project approval as well as necessary activities and deliverables of the Project to accomplish the research objectives and to avoid the implementation risks.

More specific information about the Project and its implementation is available from the reports of the implementer, **senior researcher Armands Auziņš**, and from Institute's website, including the provided information, i.e. 22 deliverables, based on which it is possible to identify and assess the scientific quality of the completed research, the socio-economic impact of the achieved results and the implementation quality and progress of the Project.