

# **INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE FOR STRATEGIC UGI PLANNING: THE ROLE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' NETWORKS ANALYSIS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Green infrastructure at a urban scale (UGI) is recognised for it's capacity to handle climate related threats<sup>[1]</sup>, including support for biodiversity, improving human well-being, and it's potential to be more cost efficient than alternative adaptation approaches.

UGI and its mainstreaming into municipal planning is receiving increasing interest from academic and governmental bodies, but the strategies for it's systematic implementation and management in dynamic urban systems stand unclear<sup>[2]</sup>.

The diversity of stakeholders and their different needs and perceptions about UGI complicate implementation processes, often resulting in conflicts about the objectives and spatial arrangement of UGI. Mapping and involving diverse stakeholders and creating the networks that outgrow formal organisational borders and hierarchies could strengthen collaboration and upgrade the governance to achieve desired goals.

## **RESEARCH SUMMARY**

This research is investigating collaborative and multi-level governance settings which are designed based on the relevant stakeholder network analysis (SNA). SNA is considered a tool for predicting conflicts between the stakeholders and to set up most effective policies for UGI implementation<sup>[3]</sup>.

Three case studies with existing SNA are chosen to examine that assumption, and their network structure is analysed through various actors' influence on the system, their position in the network and connections with the other actors. That analysis is further connected to the specific challenges that had occurred in UGI implementation, new policies brought to solve them and their outcomes.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Results demonstrate that SNA is useful for creating effective policies for UGI implementation because it gives an insight into the structure of the interactions between the actors, into the ways in which this structure affects the performance of the system and how it can be improved.

## **CONCLUSION**

A network perspective could provide a valuable information to determine effective governance arrangements because it gives an insight into interactions types between the different actors and the ways in which ways existing structure can be influenced to increase the system performance. Another advantage of a network perspective is it's uniform language for describing complex systems in terms of nodes and links, which can have a wide application for helping creating a innovative governance arrangements for efficient UGI implementation.

## REFERENCES

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