Urban Regeneration Mix OUTPUT

CHECK-LIST OF SPECYfIC STANDARDS & ABILITIES CONCERNING GENERL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT REGENERATION

WEAVING A COLLABORATIVE CITY

Conducting the revitalisation process requires the involvement of many units, planning as much as possible the course of actions and predicting their effects. For the process of introducing changes in a given area to be successful, the city should be guided by specific standards developed in the country, examples taken from other cities and principles defined by law. The following is a summary of the conclusions of the discussions between the twin cities, which are the result of joint work, the combination of different points of view and good advice related to revitalisation and other activities requiring major changes in the urban environment.

1. Local authorities awareness of a problem

The first step is to diagnose the problem, in which area it occurs, who it covers, what it concerns. This may be helped by analyses and research conducted both in official structures and in external entities, e.g. universities, non-governmental organisations. It is necessary to analyse the problem in detail, determine its cause and scope. When a city is aware of the need for change, it is aware of the problem and opens the way to action. This awareness should also be reflected in the presence of appropriate provisions in strategic documents determining the directions of the city's development. Provisions in documents important for the city give a chance to involve as many individuals as possible in the office, which translates into collective awareness of the existence of the problem and the willingness to solve it.

2. Listening to citizens - bottom up approach (idea from the people)

The first symptom of the problem is often the dissatisfaction of the inhabitants themselves, declaring their insufficient quality of life should be an alarm signal for the city. Above all, however, the city should accept listening to its citizens and taking their opinions into account as a standard. It should be stressed that there is a significant difference between hearing the voice of the local community and listening, understanding and accepting (drawing) conclusions. Participatory methods used to establish contact with citizens should therefore be flexible enough to allow not only for comments but also for active involvement of citizens in the planned activities. The resident must become an equal partner in the activities carried out in the city.

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3. Legal framework

The implementation of a complex process of change in an area depends on the possibilities and legal framework created by the state or city. The definition of legal principles primarily enables the city to take action, and then directs the individual steps. In the case of revitalisation, many countries have a legal framework for action. The law also allows to define a specific entity or entity with specific tools and competences, which should implement the assumed plans.

4. Identify the right person (decisive and to serve us as mediator/coordinator) in a project

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An important aspect is to choose the right person/team/branch whose task will be to implement the project. Identification of the entity that will have an impact on other units, will be well embedded in the structure of the office, will be close to the decision-makers and will have the appropriate decision-making power is crucial. Choosing the right person to carry out the project is important for its effects, broad soft competences, substantive knowledge and a look at the action plan as a network of interconnected elements will facilitate the achievement of objectives.
Coordination of the whole project, continuous control over the direction of activities must be stable and strong. The team or person responsible for the implementation of the activities should be aware of the need for networking, searching for allies, creating relationships conducive to change in many fields.

5. Cross-department communication

An important element is cooperation and inter-departmental communication. Most offices are managed vertically, so that departments, whose activities are adjacent or even complementary but are in another division, often do not have contact with each other. The creation of a network of contacts, information channels that ensure horizontal cooperation is essential for the comprehensive implementation of the activities.

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6. Local community's consent for internation (to make a change). Need that leads for motivation for change

Social consent for change is an essential element. All large-scale actions carried out without the support of the inhabitants may be rejected by the community as actions that do not meet its needs. Awakening in the community the willingness to introduce changes should be a priority for the city also due to the perception of public opinion and may facilitate the implementation of measures through cooperation with entrepreneurs, organisations, inhabitants and other supporters of changes. In order to create an atmosphere of motivation to act, the city should diagnose the need (on the basis of problems presented by the community) of the inhabitants and encourage them to introduce changes in order to reduce it. Such needs can be both small from a city perspective, investments such as a playground or the transformation of a common space, providing security or greater social changes. Regardless of the nature of the problem, the city should reflect the needs of the community and strive to solve it together with its inhabitants

7. When/How do you know that the change proposed is aceepted?

The city should define and determine a list of indicators, which will be subject to continuous analysis and will give information about the effects of the activities. The subject of monitoring the implemented change is a very broad issue. In the discussion between the partners it was said above all that the effect indicators should be individually adjusted to the needs and capabilities of the city, the circumstances of the conducted process. There is no single closed list of indicators, they should be individually matched to the project. It is difficult to define social change and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants. One of the conclusions from the discussion is that the change has been introduced and can be described and defined by the city when it's noticed by the locals themselves.

8. Open communication

Both during the preparation of the process and the activities themselves, the project leader has to communicate openly with the inhabitants. Informing them the start of activities, plans, work stoppages or termination of work is a sign that the resident is treated as a partner. Avoiding contact in case of failure or delays destroys the relationship between the resident and the city. Open communication is also the right form, i.e. using modern

technologies, using direct contact and the simplest methods, and at the same time adapting the form of communication to the recipients.

9. Social impact

The most important effect of the introduced change is the social impact exerted by the actions on the community. All investments, renovations and other changes must be reflected in the social tissue. "Social impact" is a direct proof that change is real and sustainable. All activities carried out within the framework of a given project should oscillate around this impact.