



COST Action no. TU1305

WG3 Meeting

29-30.03.16

Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Haifa, Israel

Minutes

Prepared by Dalit Shach-Pinsly

List of participants

Prof. Pnina Plaut, (IL) Dr. Dalit Shach-Pinsly (IL) Ms. Smadar Amir, Technion (IL) Prof. Lidia Zakowska (PO) Dr Stefano Pensa (IT) Dr Maria de Mar Alonso (ES) Arch. Yuval Rubinstein (IL) Arch. Sabri Khoury (IL)	Participating through Skype Prof. Isabelle Thomas (BE) Dr Jasna Stefanovska (MK) Mr Emmanouil Chaniotakis (EL)
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29th March

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Prof. Plaut welcomed all participants.
- Personal introductions.

2. Introduction: presenting the comparative study and questionnaire

- Prof. Plaut presented the WG3 meeting agenda: preparing the urban questions for the questionnaire and the comparative study among EU countries.

3. Short Presentations:

- **Urban aspects in current research (outcomes from Liege meeting).** Prof. Plaut presented a short summary of the participants' presentations in the Liege meeting (took place on April 2015) focusing on the main results of urban analysis methods in the context of social networks and travel behavior. Main themes:
 - What types of analyses are performed?
 - What is an “urban model” and what kind of methods are used?
 - What kind of data is used?
 - What is the scale of urban analysis?
 - What is the meaning of “social network” within urban realities?
- Prof. Plaut presented the questionnaire developed by three COST 1305 partners: Prof João de Abreu e Silva, Prof Juan de Oña and Dr. Slaven Gasparovic in their STSM research, for obtaining scientific knowledge about the impact of ICT on social activities and travel behavior. This questionnaire was discussed in WG1 meeting last month and will be distributed among university students of several European countries.
- Dr. Maria de Mar Alonso presented the Urban Tourism related questionnaire she developed together with Professor Claudia Ribeiro de Almeida for her STSM research. A pilot will be implemented next week among 100 participants.

4. Discussion - The aim of the questionnaire, considerations and Issues in collecting urban data for the comparative study

(In the morning discussion Jasna Stefanovska and Manos Chaniotakis participated through skype. Isabelle Thomas joined us through skype for the afternoon discussion)

For developing a comparative study among EU countries relating to urban analysis methods and tools an additional questionnaire is needed to be developed. The discussion began with the purpose of developing questions for the urban questionnaire:

Issues raised:

- There is a need to expand the scale of the research and include the city details and look at localities.
- The search for the added layer, depending on how the social infrastructure is defined.
- Create connections between the city urban infrastructure and the city events.
- Density of the street network – There are two levels of analysis
 - 1) Individual level- mobility of the person: can be transformed to a number of people, where they live, how they navigate in urban areas.
Mobility + the social network: social media can give us an idea of the social network.
 - 2) Level of the city- spatial urban analysis – via open street maps
- Develop a discussion on: Social Networks or Social Media?
- General target- design questions that lead to a model

Design questions – of why & what -

Question no. 19 from the ICT questionnaire of WG1 can be adjusted:

- What type of activities do you use social media?
- When do you use social media?
- Why do you use social media?
- Frequency of the use of social media? – (not sure whether to ask)
- What are the motivations of the use of social media?
- Why do you post on social media?
- What questions you ask when you are in open public areas?
- Are there differences between questions for social media when you are inside (a building) vs outside (open public space)?

Questions need to be asked about: the user, Twitter, mobility, mobility connections.

- Social networks OR social media?
- Who are the target groups?
- Where do they live?
- Where do they work/study?
- Ask if people use social media during a trip/ride

- What are the categories that inform you? Pictures; GPS maps; observe a view; perspective; movement; observe the virtual; someone following you; virtual reality.
- What people are searching within social media
- What will be the effect of this?
- What are the challenges to solve (related to mobility)?
- What type of data is needed?
- How we experience the city through our social networks?
- How we read the city through our social networks?
- What is the best way to point location?

Optional research questions (for questionnaire)

- 1) How we use social networks understand the city?
- 2) How we understand the city through our social networks?
- 3) What kind of urban information do we get through our social networks?
- 4) How does the urban form influence the existence and characteristics of social networks? (How does the urban form interact with the characteristics of SN ?)
- 5) How do social networks contribute to the changes in urban activities (not the built environment but the way it is used)?

Define three main methodologies:

- Two layers of evaluation: first, on-line questionnaire – develop the “why” and “what” questions.
- Second layer of evaluation: spatial urban analysis using analysis methods such as space syntax, viewshade etc; MIT-UNA urban network analysis; ITMAPS; this will be performed over OpenStreetMap – preparing a visual tool for understanding the city.
- Twitter: 1) Twitter sample analysis (research) – develop social media diary based on twitter. Asking people to use their tweets every hour for two weeks by tweeting several words describing situation/events/feeling ect.;
- 2) Spatial analysis of random tweets. Need to check the amount of data to analyze – big data. Semantic check – VOGI. Understand which parts of the city

are active in a given time of the day. This will be followed by a questionnaire for understanding the behavior.

For the comparative study - issues to be decided on:

- The objective is the person
- Major questions:
 - How you define social networks
 - How you map social networks.
- See if the old social networks are still working?
- What kind of networks exist – real and virtual
- Contacts those are real.
- Contacts those are virtual.
- The role of social networks
- Who are the focus groups? Students? All people? Does it matter?
- How much do you pay for your cellphone? Does it matter ?
- Very clear and limited questions.
- How we understand the city from social networks?

30th March

Visit to the **Visualization Lab** in the Faculty of Architecture and Town planning.

- Demonstration of the possibilities to visualize the space and analyze it from the point of view of the user. The visualization can be made in different scales, a building and a neighborhood or a city.

Additional questions and themes:

- Need to think about the selection of the sites.
- The use of social media for interacting.
- Social media – we can collect information without asking.
- How we use the information from social networks to understand the urban environment?
- Collect information from census.
- We can develop information.
- What kind of urban information we can collect?

- Search for missing information
- Create guidelines for needed data to create some policies for collecting data.

How to proceed?

- Small groups will design the preliminary questions.
- Manos will go over the literature.
- All group members will focus on “what” and “why” questions.
- Target- optional questions prepared by participants for discussion in Bucharest meeting

End of WG3 meeting.