VGI as a Starting Point to a Landscape Architecture Competition

– a case study from the City of Vantaa in Finland

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Riverside development in Vantaa

The City of Vantaa
✓ Finnish Capital Region
✓ the fourth most populated city in Finland (216 000)
✓ 2 VGI online questionnaires in July 2015 and January 2016 with www.eharava.fi

Project Objective:
Facelift and improve living environment in the populous riverside Tikkurila
-> improve public participation by collecting background data with VGI using online surveys and traditional methods.
-> landscape architecture contest
Results from the first enquiry

Heatmat - Places to develop

- The lot of the dismantled villa Ävik
- Dam
- Silk factory
- Lawn and tables for hanging out
- A meadow and a thicket
- Parking lot of the Science Centre Heureka
Second enquiry

Landscape architecture competition in Tikkurila, Vantaa

1 Introduction
2 Background Information
3 Alternative #1
4 Alternative #2
5 Alternative #3
6 Alternative #4
7 Alternative #5

7/7 Alternative #5 “Oasis”

Comment on the alternative #5

Select the comment type below by clicking the tag and mark your comment on the map.

The sub-questionnaire provides you with an opportunity to explain your comment further.

The Maplayers function in the upper right-hand corner enables you to view the base map and aerial photography.

Praise
Complaint
Comment
Results from the second enquiry

Contest entry: Oasis

- Lifting the bridge? It costs a lot of money - is it really worth it?
- As natural river and rapids here as possible!
- Unused land here - a place for a cafe maybe?
- Good route planning!
- Lifting the bridge is a good ideal Connections to the city center will be better.
- I prefer bulrush here.
Participation methods: online vs. other

![Bar chart showing participants by method in two phases](chart.png)
Challenges of VGI and online methods

- **Quantity**
  - Do I have enough feedback?  
    - Did I market well?  
  - Do I have too much feedback?  
    - Can I process all of the feedback on time?

- **Quality**
  - Do I have a representative sample of the population?  
    - Are all the socioeconomic groups represented?  
  - Is the feedback relevant to the subject at hand?  
    - Was the presentation and enquiry clear and understandable?
Solutions used to tackle the challenges

▪ Have a good marketing plan for the project.
▪ Design your enquiry carefully: less is more!
▪ Use a mix of methods: online and traditional.
▪ Make answering possible where the people are.
▪ Have help available for answering to who need it.
▪ Be open and publish the results of the feedback.
▪ Collect more feedback based on the results.
VGI in developing nations?

- **Some uses**
  - Map and identify uncontrolled growth and temporary/unofficial dwelling
  - Empower and activate citizens and businesses in local planning
  - Observation of species, mapping of historical buildings and valuable sceneries
  - Collect feedback & information on transportation planning, unsafe routes/places

- **Challenges**
  - High costs
  - Lack of IT infrastructure and GIS experts
  - Local cultural issues, gender equality, political atmosphere

- **Solutions**
  - Open source software development
  - No-cost geographical data sources (eg. OpenStreetMap etc.)
  - Easy-to-use tools & methods do not require professional GIS training
  - Offline VGI tools and VGI tools with offline capability
  - Bringing Internet to all (Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg etc.)