DeltaM - a Decision Support System for the Public Participation in Decision Making in Spatial Planning

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In the highly urbanized and densely populated western part of the Netherlands the space is scarce and therefore under the constant pressure of multiple claims. Changes in the use of space are often the result of interaction between designers and decision-makers. Currently used procedures in plan evaluation and approval in The Netherlands do not properly support this interaction. The process of a plan development and approval is long lasting and inefficient, based on the old-fashioned unicentric model of decision-making. The changes in modern society reflect in growing need for other models than those of hierarchical type. The aim of this research is to develop a tool, a Decision Support System (DSS) for the competent citizen in the pluricentric society. The system named DeltaM is meant to help individual users to choose appropriate plan among many and to estimate the consequences of the choices before they take part in collective negotiations with other decision-makers.