The three authors of the papers are related to the research group Spatial Capacity Building at the Faculty of Arts and Architecture of the Hasselt University (BE). The Spatial Capacity Building research group critically debates and researches the public and political character of everyday spatial infrastructures. In order to research these questions we advance, explore and experiment with the concept, process and methods of participatory design and participatory planning. We use and develop different approaches to understand, connect, reflect and act on these questions. In these processes we pay great attention to people’s collective capabilities to engage in these – often complex - discussions and processes. Our research processes have long-term aims and involve long-term engagements in the daily context of communities. However, they are driven by short term projects with clear design outcomes to allow diverse groups to relate to processes in tangible, understandable ways.

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