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Public Participation in Planning: Prescription to Practice

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In recent years the topic of public participation in planning has enjoyed increasing attention in the world, and to some extent also in Israel, recognizing the need for more significant resident participation in planning. There are various tools and methods for public participation in planning, but it is unclear how they serve existing needs and how they can be applied under Israel's statutory planning system. Public participation in Israel is widely criticized for its lack of real and broad resident participation in planning. This article will look at the gap between declared public participation processes and the actual ability to implement significant public participation in planning.

Our aim is to evaluate whether and how the espoused goals of public participation in planning are being realized in the framework of existing planning and institutional limitations, by comparative analysis of three test cases. This article has three main parts:

1. What is public participation in planning, what are its goals, and what is the context of its enactment in Israel.
2. How is public participation really implemented in Israel? This is answered in three comparative case studies.
3. What can be learned from these processes; whether and how they succeeded in fulfilling their purposes.

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