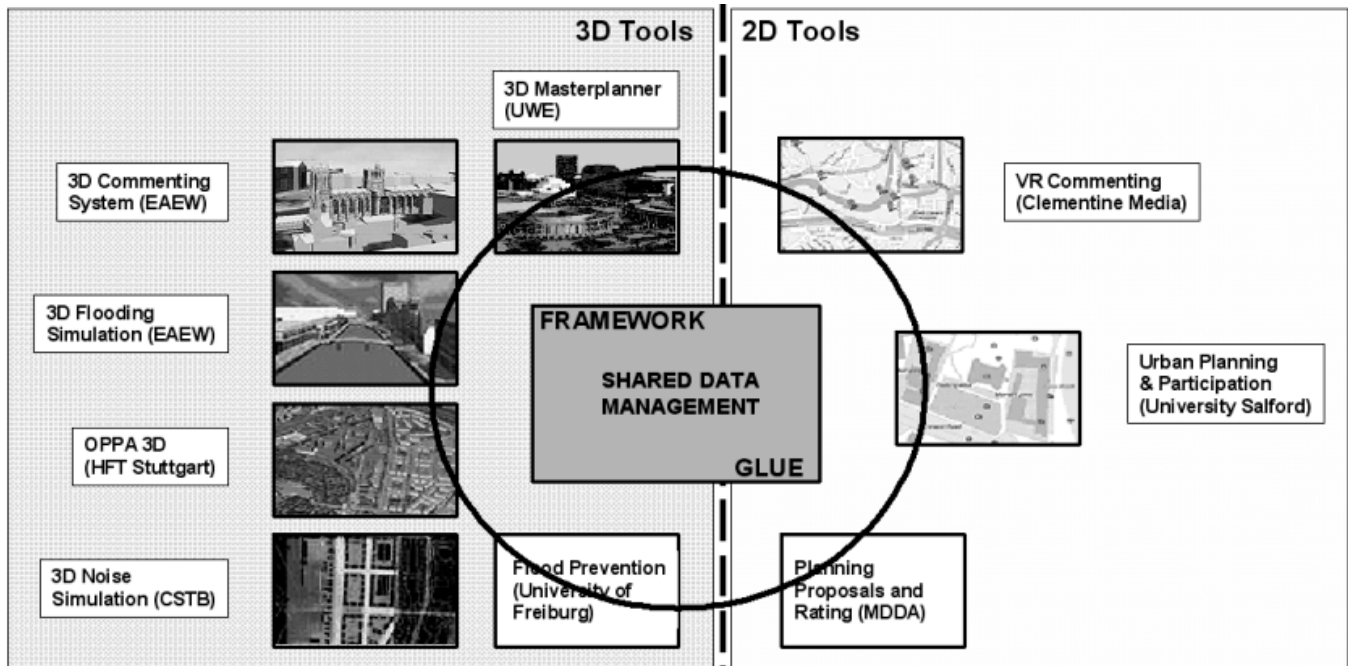


Local Planning Support Systems

Conclusions and Recommendations



Building on the VEPs experience, VEPs partners looked at the feasibility of developing a support system for local planning systems. The focal point for the research team was urban development at the neighbourhood and retail park scale.

The report found that Germany, the UK and France have very different planning systems, with the UK having no formal planning instruments at the local level. There was also shown to be a different level of implementation of software technologies to support local planning practices in the three countries: whilst the cities in Germany were shown to have quite a high level of implementation of software technologies, in contrast, the cities in the UK were found to have a fairly low uptake of ICT tools. This may, in part, be due to the fact that most city authorities in the UK tend to contract

out urban design and public consultation to external consultancies. Related to this is the requirements of the cities, where there was found to be a greater need for ICT tools in city authorities in the UK, compared to that in Germany; particularly software tools to facilitate community consultation and 3D tools to better visualise development proposals. Knowledge and experiences achieved from this research is valuable and can be shared with future projects within the INTERREG IVB Programme, especially for Priorities regarding sustainable management of our environment as well as strong and prosperous communities, such as Priorities 2 & 4 in INTERREG IVB North West Europe (NWE) Programme (i.e. 'Sustainable management of natural resources and of natural and technological risks' and 'Promoting strong and prosperous communities at transnational level').

Recommendations

- More experimental assessment or case studies, essential for analysing the potential benefits of using such tools in real world situations (rather than being research based)
- Closer cooperation between research institutions, who are involved in developing ePlanning tools, and local authorities, who actually use such tools as part of their local planning processes (research projects such as LUDA (FP5), IntelCities (FP6) and VEPs go partway to achieving this goal), as encouraged in INTERREG IVB Programme
- Better promotion of ICT tools to planners and other professionals involved in local planning and regeneration
- More research into finding and implementing ICT tools that can be used at key decision points in the local planning and urban regeneration process, with respect to sustainable development issues emphasised in INTERREG IVB Programme.

Further information

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