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## Monitoring participatory approaches in Mediterranean waterfront developments (El Mina, Lebanon; Alexandria, Egypt; and Antalya, Turkey)

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Community participation, waterfront spaces, Mediterranean countries, participatory approach

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## Abstract

Public participation is an important tool for communities to influence development decisions for public spaces in general and waterfronts in particular. In coastal cities, waterfronts are an important touristic attraction and are affected by social and economic issues. Users' activities and responsiveness to waterfront projects are affected by the development types and methods. This study is part of ongoing research aiming to evaluate the participatory approach methods in the waterfronts of Mediterranean cities. It examines three coastal cities that have developed differently based on sustainable development studies. This study is a top−down approach that investigates the applied phases and methods of participation and evaluates these involvements after comparison with the preferred phases and methods. This paper uses qualitative and quantitative methods, which are based on analysis of social studies about participation priorities. It uses methods such as documentation, lengthy interviews and questionnaires with visitors. The outcome of this research proves the need for application of participatory approaches in Mediterranean cities.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Waterfronts are one of the main public spaces (such as squares, parks or plazas) in coastal cities. The redevelopment of these spaces has become an international phenomenon as a renewal or revitalization project, since they have an effect on the local economy of the country, as well as social lives and social interactions between people. A waterfront is the borderline between city and water. It is an urban edge that takes many forms, such as the vertical cliff edge, the beach form, the dockside quay, the open square and others. Its usage also depends on regulations, the cultural heritage of the city, the history of the space, the economic status of the country, the type of users and other factors. Behavioural outdoor activities are considered as those actions through which participants interact with the outdoor environment – physical or/and social, (Abou El-Ela et al., 2007). Waterfronts are open areas that accommodate all users, and such spaces improve human health and wellbeing. Different research has observed that people belong more to their city when they share open spaces together, so the interaction between public spaces and citizens should be strong, (Holland et al., 2007). Thus, the more people that participate in the development of public waterfronts, the more the interaction will be strong.

Public participation involves stakeholders from different fields in decision-making. It has been an important mechanism for local communities when shaping their public spaces. This community-driven development can bridge the gap between the decision-makers and the community, and can ensure people's participation, (Roushan, 2016). Kent (2018) highlighted that one of the main mistakes in waterfront development is that the process is driven by development and not community. Furthermore, it is considered one of the eight main waterfront development pitfalls. These are categorized as: poor design quality and lack of vision; being divorced from the local identity; being exclusivist; a lack of political and public support; single-use developments; project size not being compact; being auto-centric; and not taking environmental factors into consideration, (The Waterfront Lehigh Valley, 2016).

This paper highlights the problem of low levels of applied methods of the participatory approach on the development of waterfronts. As a result of the low participation, citizens considered changes to the waterfront as not being respectful of their public rights and social differences. This paper aims to monitor the application of the participatory approach in redeveloping waterfront projects in countries of the Mediterranean Sea, through studying three cities from the Middle East region. The outcome evaluates the need for the participatory approach in the three cities, along with people's responsiveness to the applied methods and their preferred methods.

The objectives of this paper are:
- To examine the attractiveness and safety of waterfronts after the application of development plans.
- To evaluate the acceptance of past waterfront developments to compare with the percentage that applied participatory techniques.
- To investigate people's acceptance of engagement in future waterfront developments and their preferred methods and stages of engagement.
- To compare the applied and preferred techniques of participation and evaluate the effectiveness of the applied participatory tools.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Over the past 40 years, a sophisticated repertoire of participation methods has been developed, (Hou and Rios, 2003). One of these is to follow several steps, from defining goals to choosing the level of participation, managing, creating and evaluating. These methods are supported by Meyer, who proposed a method for the participatory design of public open spaces, applicable at a range of scales, from neighbourhood pocket parks to urban river restoration.

In his study, seven clear steps for community engagement were established: define the goal, choose the level of participation, manage expectations, invite participation, train and orient participants, create the design, and evaluate and document results, (Meyer, 2011).

Aligned with the above methods, Furber proposed methods for community engagement, from the goal-defining stage to creating the design and the project implementation, but not all of these were successful. He used this method while the International Joint Commission was formulating a new water regulation plan for Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River in North America. However, their public outreach and participation efforts were not successful in reconciling the positions of all stakeholders. There was a distinct group of shoreline property owners in New York State who remained opposed to the plan because they perceived that they could only lose out from any regulation change, (Furber et al., 2016).

Another suggestion is to follow communication methods between designers and users, such as the one used by Murat Dede (2012). He concluded that it would be wrong to claim that there is only one accurate way to ensure public participation in planning or urban design, as there is no method or model of participation that is applicable in every locality or society. He presented a participation method for designers based on intense and candid communication between designers and users but, when applied, his method failed, because many social aspects were not considered and few participants agreed to continue in the later process.

The above approaches from the literature reveal the need for a new method of participatory approach. Thus, designing a participatory approach must be specific for each category or field, socially sustainable, specific for each stage of development and include all stakeholders. In the following sections, development stages of waterfronts are explained; steps and methods for community engagement are investigated within many fields of application, in order to record the most-used steps and methods.

## 2.1. Waterfront Development Stages

Agreeing with the waterfront development processes, the waterfront development stages goes in seven steps (Table 1) which are: Idea; analysis; concept and planning; design and engineering; permits and approvals; realization and operations; and evaluation. The first idea stage is the vision and chosen approach. It is the step where project requirements, objectives and targets are chosen. Also, land availability and acquisition, funding sources and budget should all be done in the very first stage. The second stage is the analysis part where SWOT analysis are made after investigating the existing situation, market analysis, trends, existing plans, regulations, examples and precedents. The third stage is the concept and planning step where concepts are done in order to produce options for development and test the development program. By the end of this stage, a concept plan must be developed after land use planning. Step four is the design and engineering step where the urban, architectural and landscaping designs are done along with marina, infrastructure, utilities, transportation and mobility planning. The fifth stage, permits and approvals, is about setting construction and specifications parameters, sustainability assessment, and environmental impact assessment for the project. The sixth stage, realization and operations, must begin from tender contracts, financing of development, overall supervision, infrastructure, materials and supplies to the construction and operations phase. The final step after construction is the evaluation where they consider the satisfaction of vision and objectives, budget evaluation, and further opportunities, (Waterfrontsnl.com, 2018).

Table 1: Project phases and stakeholders
Reference: The author after Waterfrontsnl.com, 2018

| Phase | | Plans | Stakeholders |
|---|---|---|---|
| Primary stages | Idea | Initial idea<br>Vision<br>Approach<br>Project requirements<br>Project objectives and targets<br>Land availability and acquisition | Government<br>Public<br>Private |
| | Analysis | Existing situation<br>Market analysis and trends<br>Existing plans and regulations<br>Context analysis<br>SWOT analysis<br>Examples and precedents<br>Overall sketch design<br>Economic feasibility | Government<br>Public<br>Private<br>Services and operations |
| | Concept and planning | Concept options for development<br>Testing of development program<br>Land use planning<br>Concept plan | Government<br>Services and operations |
| Design stages | Design and engineering | Urban design<br>Architecture<br>Landscape architecture<br>Marina design<br>Hydrological engineering<br>Infrastructure and utilities<br>Transportation and mobility | Public<br>Private<br>Services and operations |
| Construction stages | Permits and approval | Local, regional, national and international<br>Environmental impact assessment<br>Sustainability assessment<br>Construction, specification and parameters | Government<br>Services and operations |
| | Realization and operations | Tender contracts<br>Financing of development<br>Overall supervision<br>Infrastructure<br>Materials and supplies<br>Construction verification<br>Operations and maintenance | Services and operations |
| Evaluation stages | Evaluation | Satisfaction of vision and objectives<br>Budget evaluation<br>Short, medium or long term goals<br>Further opportunities | Public<br>Private<br>Services and operations |

According to the above model for waterfront development phases and the engaged stakeholders, local communities are involved in the following stages: primary stages, design stages and evaluation stages. These data illustrates a gap in public participation in construction stages of waterfront projects.

## 2.2. Theories of Community Participation
Since 1969, Arnstein published the ladder of citizen participation in the Journal of the American Planning Association, which is considered one of the classic and most influential participation theories. It contains three main elements: non-participation steps: manipulation and therapy, degrees of tokenism: informing, consultation and placation, degrees of citizen power: partnership, delegated power and citizen control.

At 1992, Roger Hart built on Sherry Arnstein's model to develop a ladder of children participation, which is often referred to as the ladder of youth participation.

It contains eight steps: manipulation; decoration; tokenism; assigned but informed; consulted and informed; adult initiated, shared decisions with child; child initiated and directed; child initiated, shared decisions with adults. Since then, participatory approaches has expanded, been developed and being used in all fields of studies and developments. Table 2, summarized four main theories of community participation of different authors and target groups, (Creative Commons, 2012).

Table 2: Theories of participation models, authors and steps
Reference: The author after Creative Commons, 2012

| Participation model | Author | Year of production | Steps | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ladder of citizen participation | Sherry Arnstein | 1969 | Manipulation | |
| | | | Therapy | |
| | | | Informing | |
| | | | Consultation | |
| | | | Placation | |
| | | | Partnership | |
| | | | Delegated power | |
| | | | Citizen control | |
| Ladder of children participation | Roger Hart | 1992 | Manipulation | |
| | | | Decoration | |
| | | | Tokenism | |
| | | | Assigned but informed | |
| | | | Consulted and informed | |
| | | | Adult initiated, shared decisions with child | |
| | | | Child initiated and directed | |
| | | | Child initiated, shared decisions with adults | |
| Degrees of participation | Phil Treseder | 1997 | Assigned but informed | |
| | | | Consulted and informed | |
| | | | Adult initiated, shared decision with children | |
| | | | Child initiated and directed | |
| | | | Child initiated, shared decisions with adults | |
| Wheel of participation | Scott Davidson | 1998 | Inform | Minimal communication |
| | | | | Limited information |
| | | | | High-Quality information |
| | | | Consult | Limited consultation |
| | | | | Customer care |
| | | | | Genuine consultation |
| | | | Participate | Effective advisory body |
| | | | | Partnership |
| | | | | Limited decentralized decision making |
| | | | Empower | Delegated control |
| | | | | Independent control |
| | | | | Entrusted control |

## 2.3. Steps for Community Engagement

The steps of community engagement differ from one development stage to another, and differ according to the field of study. The following table (Table 3) contains a group of examples from the fields of business, construction, child welfare (NGOs), and municipality projects. The steps and techniques of engagement are explained according to application order in each field.

Table 3: Examples of steps of public participation and its techniques in several fields
Reference: The author

| | Field | Place | Year of Act adoption | Steps of public participation | Techniques |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Business field: Back to Basics: How to Make Stakeholder Engagement Meaningful for Your Company (Morris and Baddache, 2012) | Europe | January 2012 | Identifying stakeholders | Community |
| | | | | Analyzing stakeholders | Perspective and relevance (low to high ) |
| | | | | Mapping stakeholders | Visual exercise and analysis tool according to: expertise/ willingness/value |
| | | | | Prioritizing stakeholders | According to relevance |
| B. | Construction field: Increasing level of public impact (IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum, 2004) | Australia | 2004 | Inform | • Facts sheets<br>• Websites<br>• Open houses |
| | | | | Consult | • Public comment<br>• Focus groups<br>• Surveys<br>• Public meetings |
| | | | | Involve | • Workshops<br>• Deliberate polling |
| | | | | Collaborate | • Citizen advisory<br>• Committees<br>• Consensus-building<br>• Participatory decision-making |
| | | | | Empower | • Citizen juries<br>• Ballots<br>• Delegated decisions |
| C. | Child welfare field: Stakeholder engagement: Tools for action (Western Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center, 2013) | Los Angeles | 2013 | Plan and design | Align your purpose and process |
| | | | | Internal engagement and capacity-building | Develop an effective guiding body |
| | | | | Listen and engage | Encourage open exchange and mutual learning |
| | | | | Synthesize and strategize | Analyze input and create strategies |
| | | | | Reflect and affirm | Communicate and review proposed strategies |
| | | | | Finalize strategy | Formalize strategy and plan of action |
| | | | | Adapt and launch | Implement and document strategy |
| | | | | Evaluate and improve | Review lessons learned and refine strategy |
| D. | Municipalities projects: Sustainable community planning (Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, 2007) | Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa | 2007 | Dissemination | Announcements in newspapers and on radio, TV and posters can be used |
| | | | | Consultation | Formal plan exhibitions presenting plans, sketches, proposals and reports |
| | | | | Participation | Model, illustrative plan, maps, photos, drawings, information brochures, exhibitions and surveys |
| | | | | Mobilization | Brochures, posters, illustrated questionnaires and booklets |

As shown in Table 3, in the construction and health fields the method of the public participation spectrum was used, focusing on stakeholders directly through five main steps: informing, consulting, involving, collaborating and empowering. The child welfare field used by NGOs focuses on strategies more than real participation, which is not useful for engagement methods. In the business field, the focus is on analysing and prioritizing stakeholders more than engaging them in the process.

### 2.4. Methods of Community Engagement

Many methods of community engagement exist in the fields of construction, conservation, business, health science, urban planning and others areas. The following Table 4 highlights the commonly used methods of community engagement which differ according to the stage of involvement.

Table 4: Examples of methods of public participation and its techniques in several fields
Reference: The author

| | Field | Place | Year of Act adoption | Methods of public participation | Techniques |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Industrial facilities:<br><br>Newcastle Gas Storage Facility community engagement plan (AGL Energy, 2013) | Newcastle, Australia | 2013 | Provision of electronic information | • The status of the project<br>• A copy of this approval and any future modification to this approval<br>• A copy of each relevant environmental approval, licence or permit required<br>• A copy of each plan, report or monitoring programme<br>• Details of the outcomes of compliance reviews and audits |
| | | | | Community information plan | • Planned investigations<br>• Construction activities<br>• Construction of traffic routes<br>• The specified construction hours<br>• Affected landowners to rehabilitate impacted land |
| | | | | Complaints procedures | • A 24-hour telephone number<br>• A postal address<br>• An email address |
| 2 | Urban planning:<br><br>Community engagement in urban planning and development (Savic, 2015) | Cuba, Australia and New Zealand | 2015 | The 'World Café' and 'Share and Idea' | Large-scale ideas-gathering processes |
| | | | | Outdoor events – picnics, BBQs, festivals | Used method of engaging communities |
| | | | | Conducting engagement at or close to the development site | Relates people to the proposals directly |
| | | | | Using the cultural and social values and protocols | Engages different sections of the community by keeping their cultural and social values |
| | | | | Using digital revolution | Uses internet and digital tools in urban planning and development |
| | | | | Random selection | Picks a sample of the population and obtains an |

Continue Table 4

| | | | | | approximation of attitudes amongst the whole community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Tactical urbanism | Engaging communities and reinvigorating places |
| | | | | Develop design solutions | Testing ideas on the ground |
| | | | | Physical models | Exploring urban development options in viable schemes |
| | | | | The enquiry-by-design workshop | Collaborative design workshop model |
| 3 | Commercial projects: Krumovgrad Gold Project: Stakeholder engagement plan (Dundee Precious Metals, 2014) | Bulgaria | 2014 | Information centre and information boards | Information boards |
| | | | | Correspondence by phone/email/text/instant messaging | Distribute project information /invite to meetings |
| | | | | Print media and radio announcements | Disseminate project information /inform about consultation meetings |
| | | | | One-on-one interviews | Solicit views and opinions /recording of interviews |
| | | | | Formal meetings | Present project information (PowerPoint presentations, technical documents, document discussions) |
| | | | | Public meetings | Present project information to neighbouring communities |
| | | | | Workshops | Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyse information and develop recommendations and strategies |
| | | | | Focus group meetings | Eight/15-people groups will provide their views and opinions of targeted baseline information |
| | | | | Surveys | Gather opinions and views /develop a baseline database for monitoring impacts |

In the above Table 4, many methods of community participation exist, such as electronic methods, direct communication or interviews, meetings, workshops, surveys and other methods.

## 2.5. Concluded Stages, Steps and Methods

All the above methods are incorporated into the following four steps of involvement in Table 5: Informing, consultation, participation and Evaluation. Informing is a stage to inform about the project by a one-way communication method using newspapers, radio, TV, boards and posters. Consultation is a two-way communication between groups of stakeholders using maps and reports to discuss proposals. Participation is an involvement stage by workshops using plans, maps, photos, drawings, brochures; by conducting engagement at site; and other techniques. Evaluation step aims to a final project assessment by questionnaires and complaints procedures. These four steps and underlying methods must be applied in each stage of waterfront development to ensure real participation of public communities.

Table 5: The used development phases, steps and methods of community engagement
Reference: The author

| Participation in development phases | Steps of engagement | Methods of engagement | Main method title |
|---|---|---|---|
| Primary stages | **Informing** | Information centre and information boards | Media |
| | | Correspondence by phone/email/text/instant messaging | |
| | | Print media and radio announcements | |
| Design stages | **Consultation** | One-on-one interviews | Meetings |
| | | Formal meetings | |
| | | Public meetings | |
| | | Share ideas events | |
| | | Focus group meetings | |
| Construction stages | **Participation** | Workshops | Workshops |
| | | Conducting engagement at or close to the development site | |
| | | Using digital revolution | |
| | | Tactical urbanism | |
| | | Develop design solutions | |
| | | Physical models | |
| | | The enquiry-by-design workshop | |
| Evaluation stages | **Evaluation** | Surveys | Questionnaire |
| | | Complaints procedures | Objection |

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology as shown in Figure 1, depends on two main sections related with data collection and method of analysis through extensive survey, direct observation and questionnaires:

A. Literature review which includes steps and methods of community participation.

B. Questionnaires were completed in the three case studies (El Mina: 170 participants; Alexandria: 65 participants; Antalya: 55 participants) according to populations and users on waterfronts and focused on:

- Attractiveness and safety, to record the community's point of view regarding their waterfronts.
- Past development acceptance, to evaluate the past developments on the three waterfronts:

  El Mina: Removing the kiosks from the cornice and making a village of restaurants for rent on the other side of the road.

  Alexandria: Adding cafeterias and parking on the seaside after enlarging the highway.

  Antalya: Adding "Beach Park" on the waterfront, containing playgrounds, cafeterias and other new functions, with a well-studied landscape.

- New development acceptance, to record whether people would prefer to have new functions on their waterfronts and whether they need any new developments.
- Acceptance of engagement, to measure the willingness of the community to be engaged in new waterfront developments in future urban planning.
- Preferred methods of engagement, to record the preferred methods for being engaged in waterfront developments from the community perspective, choosing between media, objections, meetings, workshops and questionnaires.
- Preferred stages of engagement, to record the most preferred stage for participation, choosing between the primary, design, construction and evaluation stages.

C. Measure the applied steps and methods of community participation in each of the three case studies and compare it with the preferred steps and methods.
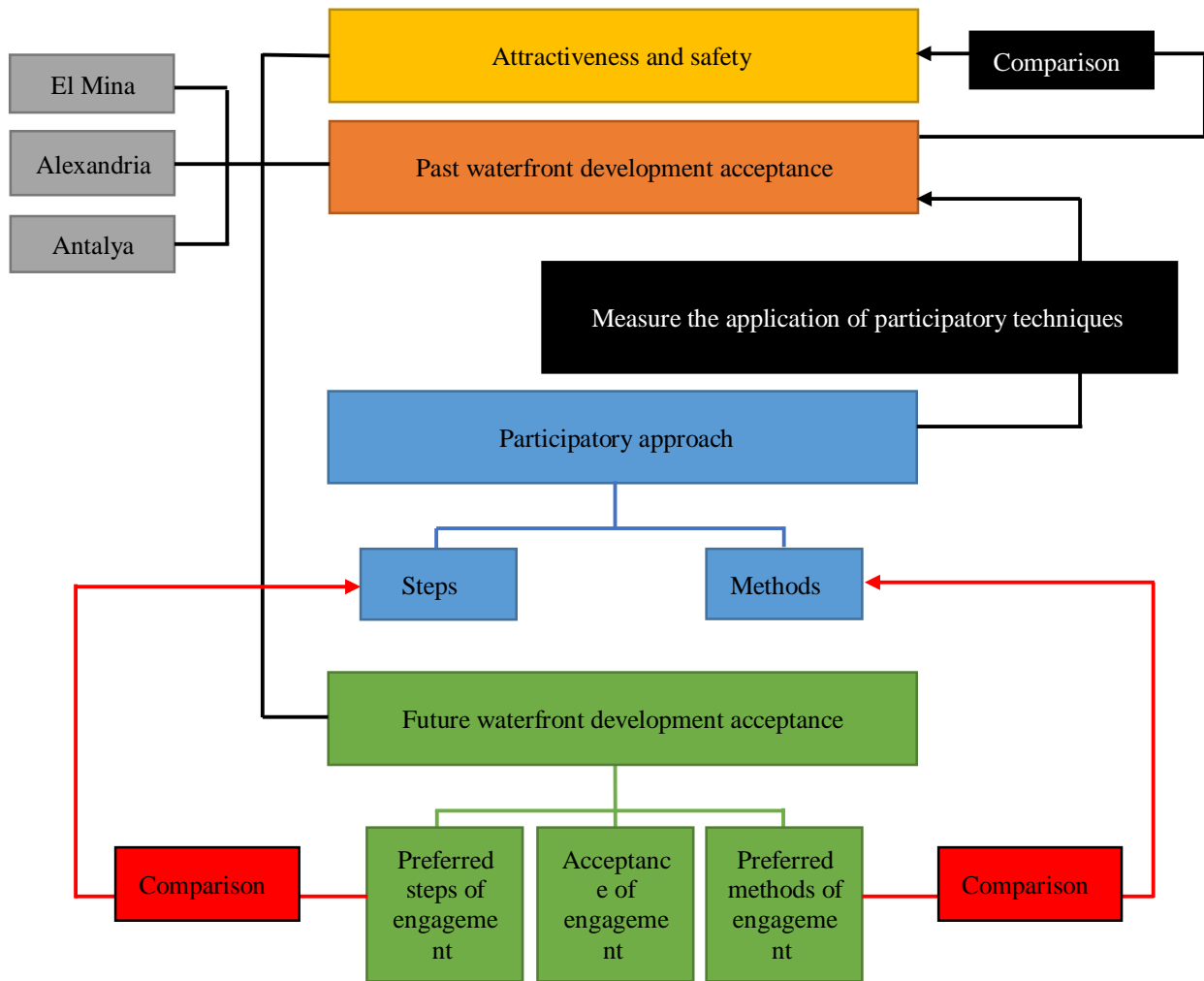
Fig.1: The study idea in a diagram
Reference: The author

## 4. CASE STUDIES

The selection of case studies was based on the Plan Bleu (2016), UNEP (2016) and Blue Frontiers (2018) studies and recommendations. Preference went to cities with more available data, similar cultures and different economic situations. Three cities fulfil these criteria (Figure 2): El Mina-Tripoli (Lebanon), Alexandria (Egypt) and Antalya (Turkey). Furthermore, these case studies are taken from three different economic and touristic levels – low condition, medium condition and good condition, respectively – which will be discussed sequentially in the following sub-sections.



Fig.2: Case studies in the Mediterranean
Reference: The author based on Google Maps

- **El Mina/Tripoli in Lebanon (Figure 3):**

Located within Tripoli city in the north of Lebanon, El Mina occupies the location of the old Phoenician city of Tripoli and known as the jewel of the east.

It is a coastal city located in the continent of Asia on the Mediterranean. It spreads on an area of 3.8 km2 and contains a population of 18,869. It contains industrial and commercial areas, built up area, informal area, unused land and a harbour, (UN-Habitat Lebanon, 2016). Urban development reached the coastal edges of El Mina city which changed from a natural shape to a planned form with main two-way road all along the coast with a port which keeps extending through years since 1954 until now 2019 by backfilling the sea. High pollution from sewage and dumps threatens the quality of water, marine life and the health of citizens. Recent developments focused on removing informal kiosks from the corniche zone and move it to a rent village system in the buildings zone; along with re-furnishing the corniche with new pavements, handrails, benches, bins and flower boxes. These developments where made without considering people opinions and needs and the used community engagement where only through informing using boards and media.



Fig.3: El Mina case study in Lebanon
Reference: The author based on Google Maps

- **Alexandria in Egypt (Figure 4):**

Alexandria is the second biggest city in Egypt, located in the continent of Africa and known as the pearl of the Mediterranean. It was built in 331 BC, by Alexander the Great, and it is named after him. Its population is 5.2 million at 2017 and it spreads on an area of 2.818 km2, (Sharaf El Din & Ragheb, 2017). The waterfront of Alexandria is known by its historical buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries in the building zone. A main two way-street separates the buildings from the corniche which is composed mainly from parking zones, cafeterias, bus stations, tunnels and private beaches. The changes and developments on Alexandria waterfront as enlarging the roads, prevent visual accessibility to the sea view by concrete blocks and cafeterias, were not based on community involvement in decision making. As in El Mina city, community engagement was made through informing at early stages by media and boards.



Fig.4 Alexandria case study in Egypt
Reference: The author based on Google Maps

- **Antalya in Turkey (Figure 5):**

Antalya is a popular Turkish touristic city and considered as the fifth most important city in the country. It is located in the continent of Asia and known as heaven on earth. It was one of the oldest settlements of Anatolia. The total population in Antalya is 1.2 million (Antalya, Turkey Population 1950-2019, 2019) at 2019 and it spreads on an area of 1,417 km². The study is made on parts of Konyalti and Muratpasa zones. The recent changes on the waterfront respected the natural issues by preserving the forest, sea and marine life. The beach park added additional restaurants, pathways, playgrounds, sports facilities, parking zones, street furniture and separated roads from the sea by parks. As the above cities, main community engagement tools focused on informing at early stages of the design.



Fig.5 Antalya case study in Turkey
Reference: The author based on Google Maps

## 4.1. Attractiveness and Safety of Waterfronts

As shown in Graph 1 and 2, in El Mina, the community considered the waterfront to be an attractive one, as it is still natural and without man-made developments. Further, they considered the waterfront to be safe only in the daylight. In the case of Alexandria, the community had changed their perception of the waterfront after the recent changes which blocked the sea view by concrete blocks and cafeterias, considering it to be unattractive and unsafe. Contradictory to the first two case studies, Antalya waterfront was still considered attractive and safe from the community perspective after the changes and addition of the Beach Park which added entertainment facilities on the corniche zone.
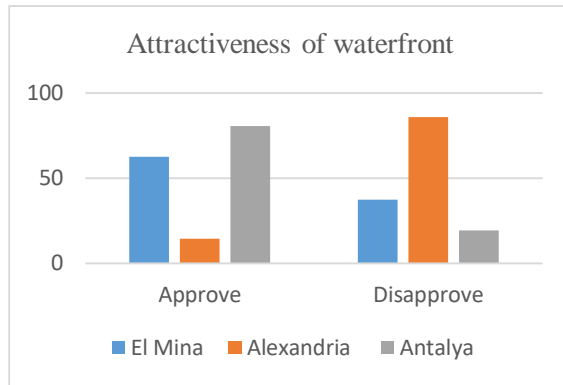
Graph 1: Attractiveness of waterfronts
Reference: The author
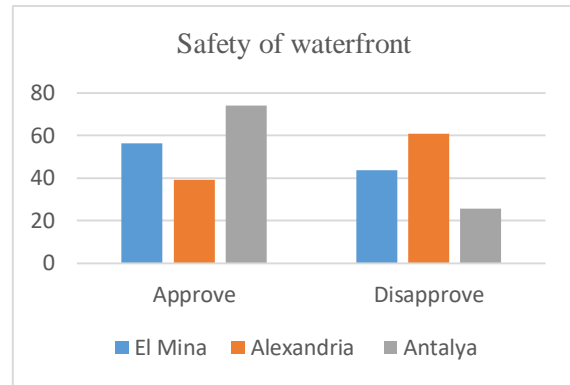


Graph 2: Safety of waterfronts
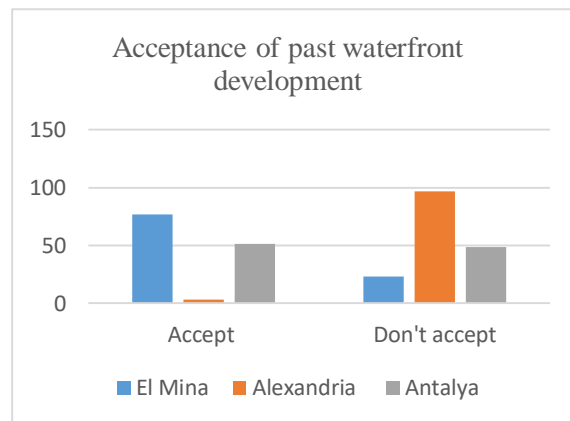Reference: The author

## 4.2. Acceptance of Past Development on Waterfronts

In El Mina, the statistics in Graph 3 show that 77% of participants agreed with the changes on the waterfront when removing the informal kiosks from the corniche. The majority of this percentage concentrated on the enhanced view and aesthetics of the waterfront after the removal of the informal kiosks. Further, they agreed that this movement was a good decision for urban development and zone organization.

People who didn't agree thought that the waterfront had become abandoned and that there was a possibility of better solutions, with a smaller effect on people who had lost their jobs and others who could not afford the high prices in the new kiosks village. This percentage considered that the actions had ignored the community and their poor economic level.



Graph 3: Acceptance of past waterfront development
Reference: The author

The data collected in Alexandria, as shown in Graph 3, indicates that 96.9% of participants claimed that they don't agree with the recent changes on Alexandria's waterfront after adding concrete blocks and cafeterias on the seaside. This survey data shows that the majority concentrated on the natural elements and the blockage of the sea view. Others complained about legal and urban issues regarding the development targets. Some considered that the new developments resulted in the privatization of a public space that should be for the common people, rather than special zones for high social classes.

The recent changes and development on Antalya waterfront occurred after adding the Beach Park, which contains many cafeterias, playgrounds and activities on the waterfront. The gathered data, illustrated in Graph 3, shows that people didn't have similar opinions; 48.4% of participants didn't agree and 51.6% agreed. The reasons behind those refusing the changes were mostly to do with high prices and social differences, in addition to changing the environmental status of the area. On the other hand, others agreed with the development because it enhances the economy and brings tourists to the city.

## 4.3. Acceptance of New Development of Waterfronts

In El Mina, the study indicates that 85.9% of participants accept new developments on the waterfront, as shown in Graph 4. The reasons behind agreeing on new waterfront developments include the need for touristic and social attractions; and the need for evolution in urban public spaces as building new hotels, sports facilities areas, seating areas and lighting issues. Economic development was also a significant demand for people, as waterfronts could boost the economy of the country. The reasons why some people didn't approve on new developments on El Mina waterfront included their insistence that the waterfront must stay public for the regular citizens and the poor community, whom cannot afford high prices.
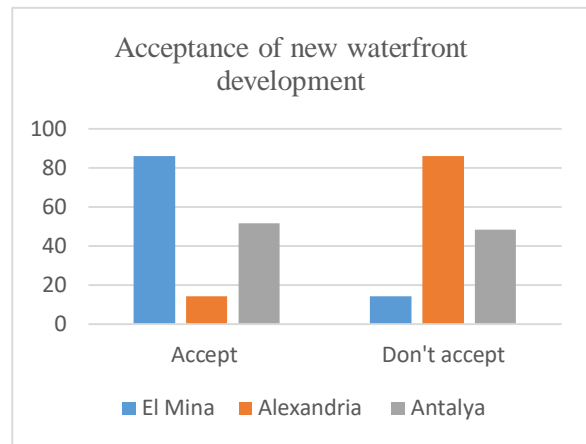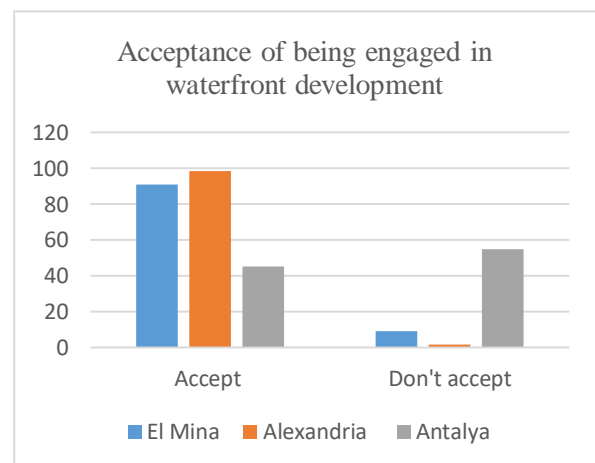
Graph 4: Acceptance of new waterfront development
Reference: The author

Graph 4 shows that in Alexandria, 85.9% of participants didn't agree with new developments on Alexandria waterfront. Most people wanted the area to be natural and claimed that the sea view was the most important issue. They didn't agree with developing the area to be for special social levels, without considering the rights of the poor. They stated that a natural public space should remain as it is, without pollution or privatization. The aesthetics of the space are the beauty of nature and the sea view. Some claimed that a development plan should only be made after analysing the real needs and working with the appropriate techniques.

The statistics in Antalya, as shown in Graph 4, indicate that 51.6% accepted new developments to be implemented because they wanted more aesthetic solutions for the same repeated restaurants, a reduction of vehicles and pollution in the site, enhanced water sports facilities and the addition of more shading systems, greenery and parking. The other half, 48.4 %, didn't accept any changes being carried out in the future because there is no need for more activities and they preferred to preserve the rest of the natural space.

## 4.4. Acceptance of Community Engagement in Waterfront Development Plans

As shown in Graph 5, in El Mina, 91% of participants approved the idea of giving their opinions and being engaged with development decisions on the waterfront. The reasons for approving on the engagement include their focus on the importance of community opinions for democratic solutions in their own city and waterfront. Moreover, they agreed that participating in decision-making in their own city development is a human right, which increases the sense of belonging and gives a variety of opinions from different sectors in the city. The other part didn't agree with participating in the development of El Mina waterfront, believing that priority must be given to experts because of the ineffectiveness of the locals and the subjectivity of opinions.

Graph 5: Acceptance of being engaged in waterfront development
Reference: The author

In Alexandria, Graph 5 illustrates that 98.4% of participants agreed being engaged in the development of their waterfront because they are the main users and it is their public right to participate. Further, participation may help in responding to public needs, functionally, aesthetically and psychologically. Others recommended being involved since they are experts in the field of urban planning, engineering or research. Some wanted to be part of the development since the main influence of these developments would be reflected on them directly as the main users.

In Antalya, 45.2% of the participating citizens agreed with being engaged in future developments because they wanted to consider new functions according to their preferences. Further, they wanted to consider climate change, coastal cleaning, more water sports, more aesthetic solutions, points of attraction and scientific solutions (Graph 5).

### 4.5. Preferred Methods of Engagement in Waterfront Development

The most preferred methods of being engaged in waterfront development in El Mina were, sequentially, by media (66%), by meetings (47.3%), by questionnaire (36.3%) and by workshops (32%). In Alexandria, the most preferred methods of being engaged in the development of the waterfront were, sequentially, by media (60.9%), by workshops (50%), by meetings (48.4%) and by questionnaire (47%). In the case of Antalya, citizens preferred the questionnaire method (64.5%) above all other methods of participation in the development of their waterfront (Graph 6).
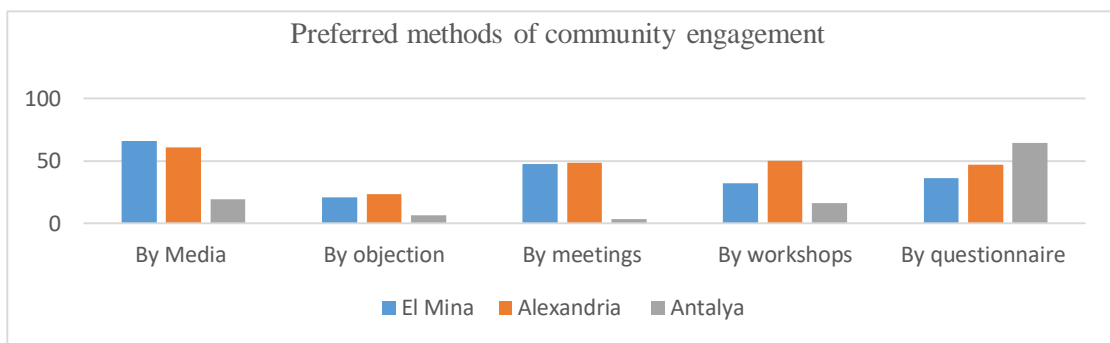


Graph 6: Preferred methods of engagement in waterfront development
Reference: The author

### 4.6. Preferred Stages of Engagement in Waterfront Development

In the three case studies, the community chose the primary stage as the most preferred stage for participating in decision-making in the development of their waterfronts, because this stage involves the options that they would like to choose before any implementation of plans on
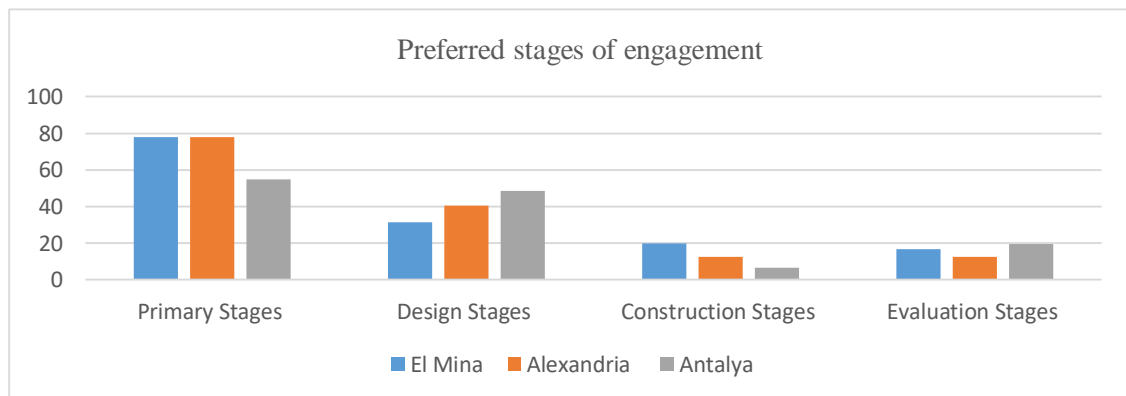


Graph 7: Preferred stages of engagement in waterfront development
Reference: The author

the ground. The second most preferred stage was the design stage, where they can participate in giving their opinions on the design or evaluate the final decisions (Graph 7).

## 5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CASE STUDIES

A preliminary classification and analysis in Table 6 is carried out to highlight the preferred steps of participation and methods of engagement, and compare them with the existing steps and methods during the recent developments in each case study. In El Mina, the value of the preferred stages is 7√, but the value of the available stages is 1√. The same values are found in both Antalya and Alexandria, indicating that only informing methods had occurred in the urban planning of the three waterfronts as community involvement in primary stages. When classifying the methods of engagement in each case study, the results show that in El Mina and Alexandria, the preferred methods had a value of 11√ and the available methods had a value of 2√ (informing using media), which indicates a significant gap between the available and the preferred methods. A difference in Antalya is clear, where the preferred methods had a value of 7√, and the available methods has 2√ value by informing using media. The most preferred methods of involvement in Antalya is the questionnaire for evaluation of each development step; while in El Mina and Alexandria, the most preferred method is informing by media.

Table 6: Participation in development phases and methods of engagement between available and preferred methods in El Mina, Alexandria and Antalya

Reference: The author

| | | | El Mina | | Alexandria | | Antalya | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Preferred | Available | Preferred | Available | Preferred | Available |
| Participation in development phases | **Primary stages** | | √√√ | √ | √√√ | √ | √√√ | √ |
| | **Design stages** | | √√ | X | √√ | X | √√ | X |
| | **Construction stages** | | √ | X | √ | X | √ | X |
| | **Evaluation stages** | | √ | X | √ | X | √ | X |
| | **Total** | | **7√** | **1√** | **7√** | **1√** | **7√** | **1√** |
| Methods of engagement | **Informing** | Media | √√√ | √√ | √√√ | √√ | √ | √√ |
| | **Consultation** | Meetings | √√ | X | √√ | X | √ | X |
| | **Participation** | Workshops | √√ | X | √√ | X | √ | X |
| | **Evaluation** | Questionnaires | √√ | X | √√ | X | √√√ | X |
| | | Objection | √√ | X | √√ | X | √ | X |
| | **Total** | | **11√** | **2√** | **11√** | **2√** | **7√** | **2√** |

| √ | Weak value (0-20%) | √√ | Moderate value (21-60%) | √√√ | Strong value (61-100%) | x | Not available |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

In the second stage of analysis (Table 7), the values for the available and preferred participation stages and methods in waterfront projects are compared with its attractiveness and safety along with community acceptance of recent developments and the need for new changes to measure the success of previous waterfront projects. Also, the approval of being involved in waterfront related projects is recommended to evaluate the need of communities in the three cities to be engaged in further developments.

Table 7: Comparative analysis between El Mina, Alexandria and Antalya
Reference: The author

|  | El Mina | Alexandria | Antalya |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acceptance of attractiveness of waterfront | Yes (62.5%) (Non-developed) | Yes (14.4%) (Developed with no respect for nature) | Yes (80.6%) (Developed with respect for nature) |
| Acceptance of safety of waterfront | Yes (56.3%) | Yes (39.1%) | Yes (74.2%) |
| Acceptance of recent developments | Yes (77%) (Removing of kiosks and infringements on the waterfront) | Yes (3.1 %) (Adding cafeterias on the waterfront) | Yes (51.6%) (Implementing the Beach Park plan) |
| Acceptance of new developments | Yes (85.9%) | Yes (14.1%) | Yes (51.6%) |
| Acceptance of being engaged in development of waterfronts | Yes (91 %) | Yes (98.4 %) | Yes (45.2%) |
| Value of available participation stages and methods in the waterfront developments | 3√ | 3√ | 3√ |
| Value of necessary participation stages and methods in the waterfront developments | 18√ | 18√ | 14√ |

Based on Tables 6 and 7, the following points are concluded:

• In El Mina, despite the participation stages and methods in previous developments on the waterfront being very low, participants generally agreed that their waterfront is attractive after the removal of informal kiosks and returning the waterfront to how it was without any intervention. However, they felt that they needed new developments, which they preferred to be engaged in as an effective part of the decision-making process.

• In Alexandria, the participation stages and methods in previous developments on the waterfront were also very low. However, the community hasn't accepted the recent changes, perceiving the waterfront as being unattractive and generally not safe after the addition of cafeterias and enlarging the highway, and also considering that it had lost the natural aesthetics of the original Alexandria waterfront. Further, they didn't approve of any new development that would result in privatization and they preferred the natural sea view. In case of any new projects on Alexandria waterfront, citizens recommend participation in development stages in order to choose the required elements and plans.

• In the case of Antalya, the participation stages and methods in previous developments on the waterfront were minor, as with El Mina and Alexandria. But the preferred stages and methods were minor which indicates participant's satisfaction with their current situation since the users consider the waterfront attractive and safe. Half of participants accepted the recent changes on the waterfront and recommended new developments. Further, they accepted the idea of being engaged in waterfront development. This data indicates that Antalya's development satisfied a special zone of community and considered many factors of acceptance for waterfront development while planning and designing the implemented project.

## 6. CONCLUSION

After analysing the commonly used methods of community participation in several fields and monitoring the application of participatory methods and stages on waterfront developments in the three case studies, the findings in each case study can be summarized as follows:

In El Mina waterfront, the acceptance of engagement in recent and new developments is high, which indicates that the natural form of the waterfront is highly recommended along with new developments under certain circumstances which spots the light on the need of considering community's opinions while changing and planning their public spaces.

In Alexandria's waterfront, the very low value for available participation methods influenced the waterfront development to be refused by the community, leading to perceiving their waterfront as unsafe and unattractive. The acceptance of new development is low, as is the density of users on the waterfront. The previous unsuccessful development influenced the high percentage of willingness to be engaged in new waterfront projects and the high value of the needed participation methods. In Antalya, the data indicates that the development of Antalya's waterfront has been successful since it has considered the key social factors for sustainable development without community engagement techniques. This resulted in identifying the waterfront as being very attractive and safe, with users gathering in high densities on the waterfront and enjoying many public activities. Their positive perceptions of the waterfront resulted in the necessary participation value being lower than in the other two case studies.

The above three case studies of Mediterranean countries prove that waterfront projects success depends on people opinions and perceptions of the space as attractive or not. The need for further developments indicates the gap between planner's decision and citizen's priorities. Thus, citizens recommend their participation and involvement techniques in all project phases in order to get their needs in public zones. Which means that acceptance of waterfront developments by the community, as well as their attractiveness and safety, depend on the levels of community participation and engagement methods in their development. Further, as in the Antalya case, the more the development considers social values and citizens' preferences, the more the waterfront will become successful. Through further research, this study will be continued by analysing waterfront activities and social values in order to formulate a participatory model relating to the waterfronts of developing countries of the Mediterranean and dedicated to decision-makers.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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