

REPORT FOR TAKING OVER ELEMENTS OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE COMPETITION BRIEF FROM THE PUBLIC DEBATES

Between July 17 and August 7, 2024, took place the public consultation process regarding the design competition "Urban regeneration of the central area - Mircea cel Batran Square, Unirii str. and Trei Fantani area, Tulcea".

Thus, the following communications were carried out between the organizers of the competition (the Romanian Order of Architects), the Contracting Authority (TULCEA City Hall) and the directly interested actors (locals, visitors, professionals, local and employer associations, ethnic minorities, etc.).

- **locals and visitors** could express their preferences by answering questionnaires published online and accessible without additional barriers; a number of 970 valid responses were thus obtained (886 from locals and 84 from visitors), a summary of these responses is attached to this documentation.
- **local administration representatives** were consulted through a public debate that took place in the Tulcea County Council hall, on 25.07.2024, at 10:00 a.m.; the synthetic report of this debate, as well as the answers obtained, are attached to this documentation.
- **local architects** were consulted through a public debate that took place at the Dobrogea OAR headquarters, Tulcea branch, on 25.07.2024, at 1:00 p.m.; the synthetic report of this debate, as well as the answers obtained, are attached to this documentation.
- **representatives of property** associations, NGOs, and ethnic minorities were consulted through a public debate that took place in the Tulcea County Council hall, on 26.07.2024, at 10:00 a.m.; the synthetic report of this debate, as well as the answers obtained, are attached to this documentation.
- **representatives of economic agents** were consulted through a public debate that took place in the Tulcea County Council hall, on 26.07.2024, at 12:00; the synthetic report of this debate, as well as the answers obtained, are attached to this documentation.

All these were recorded in Minutes no. 01, 02, 03, 04 from 28.07.2024.

After analyzing the opinions and observations raised by the public (citizens and visitors), professionals or associations during the debate, the competition team considered it appropriate to include the following elements in the *Competition brief*:

- The aspects indicated in relation to the need to address the historical component in the regeneration program by reintegrating the built heritage elements into the urban structure of the contemporary city, point 8 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 01/25.07.2024 were mentioned in the Competition Brief, at points 3.1 *General planning principles*, 3.2 *Recommended directions of intervention* and 3.5 *Identity requirements*.

- The aspects indicated in relation to the need to strengthen the pedestrian links in the city center both with the Ivan Patzaikin embankment and with the historical neighborhoods in the vicinity, point 5 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 01/25.07.2024, were mentioned in the competition brief, at points *3.1 General planning principles* and *3.2 Recommended directions of intervention*.
- Also, the problem of the absence of a network of green spaces and urban forest that can contribute to reducing the greenhouse effect in the city in the summer and to the absorption of meteoric waters was pointed out in point 7 of the Minutes of Public Debate No. 01/25.07.2024 and were mentioned in the competition brief, at points *3.1 General planning principles*, *3.2 Recommended directions of intervention* and *3.6 Landscaping requirements*.
- The issue of floods and the specific issues related to the capture of water through the newly created sewage system, point 8 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 01/25.07.2024 and point 5 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 02/25.07.2024 were mentioned in the competition brief, at point *3.1 General planning principles*.
- The transformation of public spaces into fairs and flea markets, a practice increasingly present in Romania in recent years, and the need for a regulation for the operation of central public spaces, point 4 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 02/25/07/2024. This requirement has been integrated into the competition brief, at points *3.3 Specific Requirements* and *3.4 Functional Requirements*.
- It was discussed and agreed the need to represent the Tulcea multiculturalism in the public space by carrying out interventions dedicated to ethnic groups, point 3 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 03/26.07.2024 *were mentioned in the competition brief, at points 3.2 Recommended directions of intervention, 3.3 Specific requirements* and at point *3.5 Identity requirements*.
- The vital issue related to the long-term management of public spaces and especially the management of waste and green spaces was discussed, point 4 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 04/26.07.2024, were mentioned in the competition brief, at point *3.1 General planning principles*.
- It was recommended that the winning design be economically sustainable and financially adapted to the local budget, point 6 of the Minutes of the Public Debate No. 04/26.07.2024, were mentioned in the competition brief, at point *3.1 General principles of planning*.
- So as results from the questionnaires addressed to the population, the most desired elements are: increasing the areas with green and shaded spaces, promenade areas, strengthening the pedestrian links with the Danube embankment and the neighborhoods in the vicinity, the restoration and enhancement of Tulcean heritage and local identity, these were integrated into the competition brief, at points *3.1 General planning principles, 3.2 Recommended directions for intervention, 3.3 Specific requirements* and in point *3.5 Identity requirements*.
- Another requirement resulting from the questionnaires addressed to the population, and which appeared in all public consultations, is the increase in the visibility and attractiveness of

the central area of the city of Tulcea for both locals and visitors, this requirement was integrated into the competition brief, at points 3.3 *Specific requirements* and at point 3.5 *Identity requirements*.

The rest of the preferences and opinions expressed by citizens by filling in the questionnaires were left for direct consultation of the participants, without forcing a their systematization, which could be biased.

Professional advisor

Architect Istudor Sorin-Nicolae

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