The primary aim of the *International Journal of E-Planning Research* (IJEPR) is to publish scholarly research articles on the subject of Urban and Regional e-Planning, broadly defined to include a variety of disciplines and perspectives, and to report developments and best practices of e-Planning worldwide. The journal comes out at a time of complex social and economic challenges, emphasized by increasingly sophisticated innovations in the field of information and communication technologies, that go beyond the use of computers and the Internet, and its publication is recognition of the developments that took place in urban and regional planning, associated with the use of information and communication technologies, over the last two decades. These changes stimulated convergences in the social sciences and between these and information sciences, centered in the social, economic and political impacts of information and communication technologies, and on the impacts these technologies have on human settlements. In practice this represents a shift that defies traditional methodological approaches, raises new research issues, and refocuses old ones under new perspectives, which together seem to require new approaches to urban and regional public policies.

As an interdisciplinary journal, placed in the intersection between planning related disciplines and the social sciences, and between these and information sciences, with e-Planning as its focus, IJEPR will assist the diffusion of research outcomes from different disciplines and professional practices. It will support discussion among epistemological perspectives, will not discriminate theoretical or methodological approaches, and will explore the links between research analysis and public policy making. IJEPR will publish research focused on ecological and environmental issues as well as articles centered on socio-economic or on social and political issues within urban and regional e-Planning. The journal will not single out countries, according to level of development, and will do justice to research on e-Planning in developing and in transition countries. Particular emphasis will be given to research at the urban and regional levels, although research on national, transnational and trans-border spatial planning will also be considered, since these are increasingly critical layers for regional and local government spatial policy.

IJEPR will include mainly refereed research articles. Nonetheless, it will also include
scholarly review essays on key themes and issues, progress reports, commentaries, which we hope will be informative and challenging, as well as notes on events, on policy changes, and on new pedagogical or research tools. These reports, commentaries and notes will chart developments in the literature on e-Planning and in related scientific disciplines. Reviews of single books, or review essays of group of books, pertaining to the journal’s theme, and reviews of major works that framed e-Planning in the past will also be included on a regular basis. IJEPR is published in English, but we will make every effort to report and debate research done in all regions of the world regardless of the original language in which it has been written. Its international character will be emphasized by these reviews, reports, commentaries and notes, which will chart progress in developed, developing and transition countries, as well as by the review of books published in other languages.

We aim to establish IJEPR as a reference in the field of Urban and Regional e-Planning Studies and to include it in the most relevant science citation indexes as to obtain better recognition and diffusion for its articles. In order to achieve this, IJEPR has a highly qualified International Advisory Board and Editorial Review Board, whose members come from different academic backgrounds and from different countries around the world. The Editorial Board (Editor-in-Chief; International Advisory Board; Editorial Review Board) will make every effort to maintain high standards of academic freedom and will respect difference in theoretical perspectives and in methodological approaches. Manuscripts will be forward to the Editorial Review Board and for external reviewers, considering expertise in the subject and experience with the methodology employed, for double-blind peer-review, and editorial decisions will consider, among other criterion, the relevance of the manuscript submitted for the advancement of this interdisciplinary scientific field.

The inaugural issue of the International Journal of E-Planning Research has eight papers and is focused in four areas of interest for IJEPR readership: history of e-Planning, research ethics in e-Planning, citizen e-participation, and e-Planning tools (e.g., 3D plans, visualization techniques, online data gathering, and knowledge portals for e-Planning). The articles selected illustrate the multidisciplinary nature of research in this field and the variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. The first article “E-Planning: Retrospect and Prospect”, by Richard E. Klosterman, provides a succinct overview of the history of e-Planning, which is now entering its third generation of scholarship and professional practice, and explores current and future developments in the e-Planning field associated with the use of advanced information and communication technologies in Planning. The second article introduces the ethical dimension of e-Planning research. Elizabeth A. Buchanan in “E-Research Ethics and E-Planning: Emerging Considerations for Transformative Research” examines, from a framework of research ethics 2.0, the issues of boundaries in e-research, in general and in e-Planning disciplines, and interrogates models of research ethics in these new research environments.

The two following articles explore the broad issue of citizen e-participation in urban and regional planning, a topic IJEPR will address in its multifaceted aspects. Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko in his article “Urban Planning 2.0” examines the shift in the current urban planning paradigm, associated with the use of digital technologies. These changes, portrayed in the concept of Urban Planning 2.0, are explained and illustrated with examples of how Web 2.0 tools can be used in urban planning, especially to foster citizen engagement in urban policy formation and decision-making. Within the same line of research, focused on the exploration of citizen-oriented practices of Planning, Soon Ae Chun and Francisco Artigas, in the article “Sensor and Crowdsourcing for Environmental Awareness and Emergency Planning”, propose a participatory open environmental planning framework to shift environmental planning away from the government-centric planning to a citizen-centric framework in which envi-
Environmental monitoring and response planning combine high-tech sensors with citizens serving as sensors.

Visualization techniques and its uses in collaborative virtual environments and cooperative decision-making or in plan making are addressed in the next two articles. Ian Bishop, in “On-Line Approaches to Data Delivery and Visualisation in Landscape Planning and Management”, examines the potential of online data and visualization techniques for cooperative decision-making and explores a scenario for application in a situation of emergency management. Bauke de Vries, Joop van den Tillaart, Kymo Slager, Rona Vreenegoor, Joran Jessurun in the article “Creating 3D Models From Sketch Plans for Spatial Landscape Evaluation” explore the construction of 3D physical models from a 2D sketch plan and how these 3D plans can then be visualized and evaluated, discussing the applicability and limitations of this approach.

Rina Ghose and Patrice Day in “E-Planning through the Wisconsin Land Information Program: The Contexts of Power, Politics and Scale” examine, through the lenses of Critical GIS and political economy, the history of the Wisconsin Land Information Program, one of the earliest US examples of the adoption of GIS. The article focuses on the cooperation and conflicts among various actors and networks, during times of abundant resources and times of state budget deficits, which ended finally in conflicts and power struggles, as economics became a key factor in the decision-making process, an example that can be replicated in other contexts at a time of global financial uncertainty.

Finally, Naicong Li in “Accessing Knowledge, Information and Resources for Planning and Spatial Decision Support: Introducing the Spatial Decision Support Knowledge Portal” presents a new Portal, developed by the SDS Consortium, whose main objective is to synthesize and systematically organize the knowledge, information and resources for planning and spatial decision support.

The articles included in this inaugural issue focus some of the issues IJEPR is interested to address. The history of e-Planning and the e-Planning Ethics are two areas the journal is especially interested to explore. The other is citizen participation in planning, which has been a central issue in planning theory debates in recent decades and is a key feature in the Collaborative Planning paradigm and in the New Urbanism. IJEPR will give particular attention to research on e-participation methods, tools and outcomes in all sub-fields of urban and regional e-Planning. On-line data collection and delivery, visualization techniques and 3D models, addressed in this inaugural issue, and a myriad of other new online methods and digital tools applied in e-Planning, will certainly represent another important component of this journal.

The (new) digital divides identified in relation to geography, social class, education, gender, age, ability, race, or relative to any other social or cultural identity characteristic, is another group of e-Planning issues IJEPR will focus.

In sum, we trust the International Journal of E-Planning Research will enhance the diffusion of e-Planning research, will encourage debate among researchers and practitioners working in this field, and will inform policy making. Nonetheless, we are well aware that IJEPR, as a start-up journal, faces a difficult program ahead. In order to implement it, we invite all those interested in Urban and Regional e-Planning to contribute an article to the International Journal of E-Planning Research and we welcome suggestions on contents and approaches.

Carlos Nunes Silva
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IJEPR