The research articles included in the fourth issue of volume 1 of the International Journal of E-Planning Research cover a selection of important themes in the field of urban and regional e-Planning: the planning of new energy landscapes, immersive visualization of virtual 3D city models, 3D city cadastre, socio technical systems, and digital urbanism, highlighting the challenges confronting e-Planning in the production, management and communication of complex urban information. The first article, “Understanding New Landscapes: Support for Renewable Energy Planning,” by Ian D. Bishop and Sophie Atkinson, explores and discusses the impact of new energy landscapes, in particular the need to evaluate, to communicate and to manage the visual impact of these new renewable energy infrastructures. The article uses the case of the state of Victoria in southern Australia to explore the landscape change due to a move to renewable energy sources, and the key variables and tools for analysis and communication of the consequences of such changes. A scenario for a future level of wind power generation in the state of Victoria is proposed, potential sites identified and their visual impact analyzed. The findings support the need to incorporate the assessment of the visual impact of these new renewable energy landscapes in urban and regional e-planning.

The second article, written by Juri Engel and Jürgen Döllner, “Immersive Visualization of Virtual 3D City Models and its Applications in E-Planning,” discusses immersive visualization of virtual 3D city models as a tool that offers an intuitive access to and an effective way of realizing, exploring, and analyzing virtual 3D city models. This is followed by the article titled “Feasibility of Building Information Models for 3D Cadastre in Unified City Models,” in which Mohamed El-Mekawy and Anders Östman examine the development of new forms of land registry, the 3D cadastre based on 3D geometries, a basic and fundamental piece of information for urban e-planning.

The next article, by Sylvie Occelli, titled “Socio Technical Systems and Policy Activity: Some Evidence from the Piedmont Region,” discusses the emergence of socio-technical systems as a consequence of the spreading of Web 2.0 Internet based services and mobile computing, responsible for the creation of information-rich environments where these new forms of information management and communication have been established. Findings of this research suggest that socio-technical systems and the resulting knowledge flows yielded from it are an important medium for structuring, in a participatory way, more resilient organizations. The fifth and last research article, titled...
“Digital Urbanism in Southern Italy,” is written by Arturo Di Bella and examines the use of the Web to create new opportunities for extending the public sphere, for the communication of complex urban information and for learning new modes of participatory local action in the urban context. The outcome of this research indicates that ICT can facilitate the redistribution of local social powers, the process of social interaction, exchange of knowledge and the development of practices able to influence the urban policy process.

With this fourth issue, the first volume of the International Journal of E-Planning Research is complete. I take this opportunity to express my recognition for all those that contributed for the journal: authors; members of the editorial board; and the external reviewers invited to participate in the double-blind peer-review, when it was found appropriate to supplement the editorial board, considering expertise in the subject and experience with the methodology employed. This important contribution is acknowledged at the end of this Preface (“IJEPR Reviewers for 2012”). I also wish to express my recognition to the IGI-Global editorial staff for their excellent editorial work in every stage of the editorial process and for the flow of communication that always ensured that details were timely addressed. And as we move now towards the second year of the International Journal of E-Planning Research, we reiterate the principles of our editorial policy.

Carlos Nunes Silva
Editor-in-Chief
IJEPR

IJEPR Reviewers for 2012

Aija Staffans, Department of Real Estate, Planning and Geo-informatics, School of Engineering, Aalto University, Finland
Alessandro Aurigi, School of Architecture, Design and Environment, Plymouth University, UK
Alexandre Repetti, Cooperation & Development Center, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
Andreas Hoepfner, Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation IFF, Germany
Andrew Lovett, School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, UK
Antonio Caperna, TIPUS Lab - Department of Urban Study, Faculty of Architecture, Università Roma Tre, Italy
Ariadne Vromen, Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney, Australia
Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko, School of Management, University of Tampere, Finland
Barney Warf, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, USA
Beniamino Murgante, Laboratory of Urban and Territorial Systems, University of Basilicata, Italy
Bridgette Wessels, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, UK
Darren Reed, Department of Sociology, University of York, UK
Helen Couclelis, Department of Geography, University of California - Santa Barbara, USA
James Stewart, Institute for Study of Science, Technology and Innovation, University of Edinburgh, UK & Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Joint Research Centre, European Commission.
Jens Klessmann, Fraunhofer-Institute for Open Communication Systems FOKUS, Germany
Joachim Benner, Institute for Applied Computer Science (IAI), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany
Joan Greenbaum, Graduate Center, City University of New York, USA
Johan van Braak, Department of Educational Studies, Ghent University, Belgium
John Bricout, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington, USA
Jon Corbett, Community, Culture and Global Studies, the IK Barber School of Arts
and Sciences, The University of British Columbia, Canada

Kerstin Nordin, Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Lawrence Harvey, SIAL Sound Studios, School of Architecture and Design, RMIT University, Australia

Malcolm McCullough, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, USA

Martijn Meijers, OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment, Department of GIS-Technology, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Michael McCall, Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), University of Twente, The Netherlands & CIGA, UNAM - National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

Mikael Granberg, Karlstad University, Sweden

Morten Falch, Center for Communication, Media and Information Technologies, Aalborg University, Denmark

Naicong Li, The Redlands Institute, University of Redlands, USA

Paul M. A. Baker, Center for 21st Century Universities, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Peter Newman, Department of Planning and Transport, University of Westminster, UK

Ron van Lammeren, Laboratory of Geo-Information Science and Remote Sensing, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Ruth Falconer, SIMBIOS Centre, University of Abertay Dundee, UK

Scott McQuire, School of Culture and Communication, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne, Australia

Stephen K. Atkins, Department of Government and International Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Florida, USA

Stephen M. Ervin, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, USA

Sudeshna Chatterjee, Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Ansal University, India

Teal Triggs, School of Communication, Royal College of Art, UK

Usha S. Harris, Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, Macquarie University, Australia

Vincent O’Brien, Faculty of Health and Well Being, University of Cumbria, UK

Carlos Nunes Silva is Professor Auxiliar at Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. His research interests are mainly focused on local government policies, history and theory of urban planning, urban and metropolitan governance, urban planning ethics, urban planning in Africa, research methods, e-government and e-planning. Among his recent publications are the Handbook of Research on E-Planning: ICT for Urban Development and Monitoring (2010) and Online Research Methods in Urban and Planning Studies: Design and Outcomes (2012). He is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR).