

## Editorial Preface

# Citizen Engagement in Urban e-Planning and Sustainable Development

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The second issue of the 2020 volume of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) explores different issues and challenges related to citizen engagement in urban e-planning, comprising four research articles based on case studies in Europe /Finland and Italy, Asia/Singapore, Oceania/New Zealand, and a note on a Conference in Africa/Cape Verde, with which the journal is associated, highlighting the truly global reach of the IJEPR, making it a global reference for the publication of research outcomes in the emerging field of urban e-Planning.

In the first article - “Towards Communication-Oriented and Process-Sensitive Planning Support” - Aija Staffans, Maarit Kahila-Tani, Stan Geertman, Pihla Sillanpää, and Liisa Horelli deal with citizen participation in urban planning, discussing possible ways to improve it, taking into account the different communicative needs present in processes that aim to engage broad publics or in small collaborative groups. Based on two case studies, the article then offers a revised model for a process-sensitive planning support system, arguing that more two-way collaboration is needed for the design of living environments.

Rita Dionisio, Mirjam Schindler, and Simon Kingham examine in the third research article included in this issue, “Tools for Sustainable Change: How can Spatial Decision-Support Tools support transformative Urban Regeneration?” the ability of spatial decision-support tools to transform urban regeneration processes through collaborative planning between local authorities and local communities. The aim of this study, based on two case-studies related to the implementation of two spatial decision-support tools in New Zealand, was to analyse the influence of local specificities for the development and adoption of tools for decision-making and community engagement. Based on these findings the authors provide recommendations for future development and implementation of spatial decision-support tools, in order to reinforce collaborative planning within urban regeneration processes.

The following article, “Can we enable digital transition in healthcare delivery? Insights from a survey of Telemedicine Services in the Piedmont region,” co-authored by Sylvie Occelli and Bibiana Scelfo, examines the challenges associated with the implementation of digital health transition based on a case study in Italy, arguing that the handling of the complexity of e-health projects requires a collaborative environment for exchanging health knowledge.

The last research article included in this issue, “Engaging the Crowd Lessons for Outreach and Tool Design from a Creative Online Participatory Study,” Johannes Mueller, Shiho Asada and Ludovica Tomarchio explore the challenges confronting e-participatory projects in urban planning based on a case study in Singapore. The article offers general guidelines for conducting citizen engagement studies and for designing participatory design tool interfaces for non-expert users. Among other

conclusions, this study shows that the information presented to the non-expert user must be concise, and the user interface must be adapted to the user's habits.

This second issue of volume nine comprises a report on the International Conference "Local and Urban Governance. Trends, Challenges and Innovations in a Globalizing World," organized by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance in collaboration with the University of Cape Verde, and the review of a book on participatory design theory, a book that will certainly be useful for all those interested and/or engaged in fostering citizen participation processes in urban e-planning.

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