

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Complex Urban Information in E-Planning

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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
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