

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Virtual Identification, Public Engagement and 3D Cadastral Systems

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The research articles included in the third issue of volume four of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) cover three methodological issues in the field of Urban e-Planning: the virtual identification of dwelling characteristics in urban areas; public engagement through online and mobile crowdsourcing in emergency response; and the integration of legal aspects in 3D cadastral systems. In the first article, 'Virtual Identification of Dwelling Characteristics Online for Analysis of Urban Resource Consumption', Maryam Saydi and Ian Bishop introduce an original technique, still in a relatively early stage of development, to assess dwelling characteristics as predictors of residential energy and water demand. Although traditional data collection methods have been used in the past to collect data on the impact of dwelling structure on residential energy and water consumption, an increasingly important issue in recent decades, and expected to be even more important in the future due to the effects of climate change, virtual identification techniques may well replace or complement

traditional data collection methods, as data can be collected more easily, saving time and travel costs when compared to the traditional data collection methods. The authors are well aware of issues related to the validity of the data collected through VIDCO an issue discussed in the article.

The next article, written by Soon Ae Chun and five other colleagues, 'PEER: A Framework for Public Engagement in Emergency Response', explores and discusses the potential role of citizens in the case of large disasters. As the authors argue, if government agencies, NGOs, and commercial entities tend to act immediately in the case of large disasters, citizens on the contrary tend to be underutilized in these cases. This pattern of citizens disengagement can be changed in future events of this kind, since the rise of social media creates an opportunity for crowdsourcing in disaster response management, in other words creates prospects for collecting data provided by citizen volunteers, which is expected to produce more effective disaster responses. In the article the

authors present and discuss the prototype 'Public Engagement in Emergency Response' (PEER), which provides a comprehensive online and mobile crowdsourcing platform for situation reporting and resource volunteering.

The third article, by Mohamed Sobaih Ali El-Mekawy, Jesper M. Paasch, and Jenny Paulsson, entitled 'Integration of Legal Aspects in 3D Cadastral Systems', discusses the feasibility of building information modeling (BIM) for 3D cadastre in unified city models, an issue that is still largely under researched, which makes this article a groundbreaking contribution in this field. The authors describe problems and solutions concerning interaction between BIM and the registration and visualization of legal 3D property information, focusing on the possibilities and difficulties of addressing legal interests in land, using a Swedish case study.

This third issue of volume four includes a report on the conference 'Local Government and Urban Governance: Citizen Responsive Innovations in Europe and in Africa', organized by the International Geographical Union Commission on Geography of Governance and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, and held in Lisbon, on 9 and 10 April 2015, with the aim to explore recent developments in local government and

urban governance in Europe and in Africa, the challenges and opportunities confronting local government, and the recent reforms and institutional experiments on both continents. The conference was supported by the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' and a selection of papers is expected to be published in coming issues.

The development of new approaches in urban planning and in urban design has been addressed in numerous publications in the last decades. The book 'Emergent Urbanism', reviewed in this issue, is a recent addition to this important debate in the theory and practice of urban planning and urban design, namely in urban e-planning. As the book-review suggests, the book offers a broad, well-informed and critical overview of these new planning and urban design perspectives.

In sum, the new methodologies presented and discussed in these articles and the theoretical insights offered by the authors will certainly prove helpful for all those working in the field of urban e-planning.

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