

Editorial Preface

Digital Strategies, Good e-Government, and Smart City

Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

The last issue of volume five of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) explores three fundamental topics in the current debates on the use of information and communication technologies in the field of urban planning: Digital strategies, good e-Government, and Smart City. In the first article, “Vancouver’s Digital Strategy: Disruption, New Direction, or Business as Usual?”, Tooran Alizadeh, from Griffith University and Neil Sipe, from the University of Queensland examine and discuss the adoption of a digital strategy by the city of Vancouver, with the aim to accelerate the rate of change and to move planning to an integrated and strategic approach instead of the usual ad-hoc approach. The authors highlight the disruption provoked by the digital strategy, in particular the interference it had in multiple aspects relevant for urban planners and question whether or not it should be part of a broader urban and regional planning strategy.

In the following article, “What Lessons Can We Learn for “Good E-Government” from a User-Centred Evaluation of the Websites of European Capitals?”, written by Margit Christa Scholl, from the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, Germany, the author explores and discusses what users feel about the quality of the websites of modern public administrations in seventeen European capitals, namely if the services provided by these websites are intelligible, transparent, efficient and functional. Lukasz Damurski, from the Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland, discusses in “Smart city, integrated planning and multilevel governance. A conceptual framework for e-planning in Europe” key notions in the current discussions on planning theory and practice in Europe, namely what the author considers to be the overlapping concepts of smart city, integrated planning and multilevel governance. As Lukasz Damurski argues, each of these concepts presents new challenges for e-planning, a discussion that will certainly be of interest for the IJEPR readers.

This last issue includes also a conference report and a book review. The report addresses the first Conference on ‘Urban e-Planning’ organized by the International Journal of E-Planning Research and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, within the framework of the ‘Urban E-Planning Research Network’ (UEP-NET), which was held in Lisbon, on 31 March and 1 April 2016, with the aim to explore and discuss recent developments, emerging issues and future challenges in the field of urban e-planning. The book reviewed in this issue, ‘*Governing Urban Sustainability. Comparing Cities in the USA and Germany*’ authored by Lisa Pettibone, provides an empirically informed analysis and comparison of how cities in the USA and in Germany govern urban sustainability, an issue particularly relevant for all those working in the field of urban e-planning.

With this issue, volume five of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) is complete. I would like to express my gratitude to all colleagues engaged in the process of making the journal: the authors of the articles published during 2016, members of the editorial board and the external ad-hoc reviewers. This vital contribution of reviewers and members of the editorial board is acknowledged in the list of IJEPR reviewers for 2016 included in this preface. I also wish to express once again my esteem to the IGI editorial staff for their collaboration in the publication process.

Carlos Nunes Silva
Editor-in-Chief
IJEPR

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