

Editorial Preface

Online Data Portals, Sustainable Redevelopment and Crowdsourcing and Living Labs for Smart Cities

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The articles published in the second issue of the 2017 volume of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) explore three relevant themes in the field of urban e-planning: the analysis of online data portal for spatial liveability planning, crowdsourcing and living labs for the development of smart and sustainable cities, and the site redevelopment planning support approach.

In the first article - ‘Using an online data portal and prototype analysis tools in an investigation of spatial liveability planning’ - Ian D Bishop, from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and nine other co-authors, examine and discuss an online spatial data portal, the Australian Urban Infrastructure Network (AURIN) portal, a portal with advanced data access, analytical and visualisation capabilities, which can be used for evidenced based city planning and supporting data driven research. Based on the case of the city of Melbourne, the authors show how the AURIN portal can be used to investigate a variety of spatial dimensions of urban liveability (e.g., employment, housing, health service and walkability), and how its outputs can be used in other tools showing in this way the benefits of integrated systems.

In the following article, ‘Sustainable Industrial Site Redevelopment Planning Support - a Case-based Reasoning Approach’, Tong Wang, Qi Han, and Bauke de Vries, from the Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands, explore how abandoned industrial sites could be redeveloped in a sustainable way with the help of previous experience. The authors present a case-based reasoning approach to support sustainable industrial site redevelopment, applied to the North Brabant region in the Netherlands, an approach that uses both qualitative and quantitative characteristics considered by the authors to be important for urban sustainability, taken from zoning documents and from spatial data sets.

In the third research article included in this second issue of volume 6, ‘Crowdsourcing and Living Labs in Support of Smart Cities Development’, written by Chrysaida-Aliki Papadopoulou and Maria Giaoutzi, from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece, the authors explore how the concept of smart city can be used as an alternative approach to urban sustainability. And they do this by examining how crowdsourcing and living labs can contribute to the establishment of cooperative schemes for prototypical ideas generation and innovation production, and through that to the development of smart and sustainable cities.

This second issue of volume six includes a book review on the timely issue of environmental politics and governance in the Anthropocene, a discussion in which those working in the broad field of urban and regional planning have a direct interest and to which urban e-planning must contribute with its specific insights on the current and future urban governance challenges.

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