

Editorial Preface

Citizen e-Participation, Community Engagement, and Online Decision Support to Enhance Resilience of Urban Projects

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This issue of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) deals with citizen e-participation and community engagement, one of the key research themes in the field of urban e-planning, and addresses also one of its emerging issues - the resilience of existing and future urban development projects.

In the first article - ‘Citizen e-Participation in Urban Planning: Achievements and future challenges in a Mediterranean City’ - Teresa Graziano, from the University of Sassari, Italy, explores how recent smart technologies have helped citizens’ movements and informal groups to take a more active part in the planning process and in the governance of cities by offering new possibilities of communication, that will allow them to reach a wider audience, mobilise new activists and negotiate with local institutional stakeholders. As a result of this, new strategies and practices of participation emerged in the planning field and in the governance of cities. The article offers evidence of these changes based on the analysis of a selected number of case studies in the city of Catania, Italy.

Joel Fredericks and Martin Tomitsch, from the University of Sydney, Australia, and Laura Stewart, from Aurecon Australia, explore in the following article, Design Patterns for Integrating Digitally Augmented Pop-ups with Community Engagement, the opportunities of translating traditional community engagement techniques into digitally augmented pop-up interventions, allowing a more inclusive kind of community engagement in the planning field, namely around issues within the built environment.

In the third research article included in this third issue of volume 6, Operationalising Resilience within Planning Practice - Towards an Online Decision Support Model, Aoife Doyle, from the Dublin Institute of Technology / Future Analytics Consulting, in Ireland, and 7 other co-authors, from Ireland and the United Kingdom, present and discuss the development of e-tools and processes that will give planners capabilities to assess and enhance the resilience of existing and future urban development, based on two EU funded research projects, and examines some of the key practical challenges in this respect.

This issue includes also two book reviews, both on publications in the field of comparative planning studies. One reviews a book on planning systems and planning cultures in Europe (‘Planning Cultures and Histories’) and the second reviews the book ‘International Manual of Planning Practice’, which is the most updated comparative study of planning systems and practices covering all regions of the world.

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