

Editorial Preface

Urban e-Planning in Theory and Practice - Urban Land, Culture, and Environmental Management

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The first issue of the 2018 volume of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) explores different facets of the practice of urban e-planning. In the first article - “A Concept ‘Vandalised’: Seeing and doing e-planning in practice”, Amin Kamete, from the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom examines and discusses the concept of -planning, a discussion around the existence of contestation and uncertainty over the notion of e-planning, something that in the opinion of the author should be evident. For Amin Kamete, and contrary to the often-prevailing technological determinism perspective, the appropriation of technology is socially shaped, arguing that the conflict and disagreements around the concept of e-planning in the case he studied in Zimbabwe is due to the fact that it is an empty signifier, a perspective we hope will open a new line of debate around the notion of e-planning in the International Journal of E-Planning Research.

In the following article, “Cultural event management and urban e-planning through bottom-up user participation”, Angelo Corallo, Anna Trono, Laura Fortunato, Francesco Pettinato, and Laura Schina, from the University of Salento, Italy, explore an innovative approach developed with the aim of exploring the ways in which people can play an active role in cultural event management and urban planning through the use of information and communication technologies. The authors present the results of the empirical study carried out during the cultural event ‘La Notte della Taranta’, in the Puglia region, Italy, in which the crowd created added-value information via comments posted on social media.

Michele Campagna, Elisabetta Anna Di Cesare, Andrea Matta, and Matteo Serra, from the University of Cagliari, Italy, examine in the third research article included in this issue, “Bridging the gap between Strategic Environmental Assessment and Planning: a Geodesign perspective”, the way planning is affected by new regulations aiming at environmental protection and risk reduction. In doing this the authors propose to use the Geodesign approach as well as an Integrated Planning Support System in order to address some of the major issues confronting planning, illustrating the argument with a case-study in Sardinia, Italy.

The last research article included in this issue, “Designing an Information Infrastructure for Policy Integration of Spatial Planning and Flood Risk Management”, co-authored by Jing Ran and Zorica Nedovic-Budic, from the Cardiff University, United Kingdom, University College Dublin, Ireland, and University of Illinois at Chicago, USA examines the integration of spatial planning and flood risk management as an approach to mitigate flooding. The authors argue that the lack of integration currently seen in this field could be mitigate through a better access to geographic information and

geographic technologies by individual policy makers, rather than the ownership of such resources by one organisation. In order to test this approach, the authors designed and present in the article a Spatially Integrated Policy Infrastructure (SIPI) which shares not only geographic information but also models and analytical tools.

This first issue of volume seven includes a review of a book on planning theory, a book that will certainly be useful for all those interested to get a deeper insight into the theory of planning.

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