Editorial Preface

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The Second Issue of the First Volume of the *International Journal of Urban Planning and Smart Cities* (IJUPSC) confirms its objective of gathering international reflections on recent innovations in the context of smart cities in a process of innovation of urban and territorial planning paradigms. It comes out during an international crisis of such magnitude that, on the one hand, it makes instant evaluation of the current phenomena complex, and on the other hand it challenges the interventions by public policy experts.

"Nothing will be the same as before" is the phrase that echoes in these weeks in every corner of the world under the impact of the global pandemic of COVID 19; a "Black Swan", using the metaphor of Massim Nicholas Taleb (2010) in his prophetic book, which better than others symbolizes the unpredictability of this virus and the speed of its contagion that can also bring great international powers in crisis. Soon, qualitative and quantitative analyses will circulate at the international level, (in Italy are announced by Asvis 2020) that will show how much this new social and economic crisis will negatively impact on many of the 17 SDGs of the Global Agenda 2030, starting from those of socio-economic nature.

Never as before, the only common solution for all the countries to come out of this crisis is to use the "sustainability" as the basis for a real paradigm shift of the development to restart and redesign the policies for the future of our cities and territories.

Therefore, our cities and human settlements should aim to be increasingly safe, healthy, resilient and sustainable systems. The Second Issue of IJUPSC explores, by adopting an international perspective, these topics in technical, reflexive and proactive terms, by highlighting how urban planning and innovative management are needed to make the world's urban spaces more inclusive and competitive.

In this regard, some contributions of this Issue focus on a new program for Smart Cities that can look with renewed attention to smart communities that allow a new alliance between technology innovation and social justice. The surveys and reports on poverty and social inequality have shown a progressive increase in impoverishment and social inequality, not only in terms of income but also in terms of consumption and access to basic services and goods. This Issue reveals a widespread need to relocate the disciplinary debate in a "self-reflective" key and a reversal of the point of view: the urban social sustainability observed from the growing polarisation of urban communities. Some authors deal with the need having "data accessible to all" as the main issue of the future urban agendas, others deal with the mobility as "space capital" (Pucci 2019), referring to the positions of John Urry (2000) and Vincent Kauffmann (2002) for the launch of a debate on mobility as the main organizer of contemporary society, capable of building a *Mobility Justice*.

Also looking at informal settlements and favelas, the articles recall the need for new public policies to implement possible trajectories of development and innovation of sustainable urban agendas in a trans-scalar perspective, from housing (quality of living) to the city (urban well-being). Urban well-being is based on a "safe and healthy city" able to activate waste and scrap recycling policies with

new life cycles for *Drosscapes* (Berger 2007) and on a review of public spaces for a new daily urban welfare focused on body care and sports practice. The accessibility and walkability become strategies for the liveability of the city and the wellness of its citizens.

Accordingly, the cities are complex systems (Batty 2007), open and dynamic, which are self-organizing as real complex organisms (Barros&Sobreira, 2002), as widely addressed in the selected articles. They evolve in time and space following trajectories that cannot always be planned and managed by linear methods (Portugali 2011) and are composed of physical and social places, material and immaterial infrastructures, environmental and anthropic systems, and the human component. Cities are the places where phenomena explode and whence it is necessary to start again to undertake innovative and sustainable policies by adopting different disciplines. Therefore, it is necessary to rethink the current planning tools and policies by adopting systemic approaches and the lens of complexity (Comunian 2011) to act on the main streams of the anthropic, functional and physical (Fistola & La Rocca 2013) city subsystems in an integrated way. Some examples are the unstoppable growth of urbanization in most of the developing countries and at the same time the demands for sustainability, the growing difficulties to give concrete answers to social (Ritchie & Roser 2019) and housing (Mulroy & Ewalt 1996) needs.

Across the selected articles, different declinations of a "smart city" are cited; all of them contribute to the idea of a city we have to aspire (e.g. digital cities, sensible cities, creative cities, learning cities, fab cities, inclusive cities, etc.). The use of technologies is a recurring theme in almost all the articles, that makes spaces hybrid and cannot disregard the key social component. The concept of Hybrid Urban Space emerges and it is identified as the presence of social and physical, digital and human, but also of different disciplines that interact to respond resiliently to the events. The circular economy applied to the management of periurban compromised territories is another challenge of urban planning.

The topics addressed in the articles of the Issue are various, but all recognize that the urban areas are generally facing complex social problems and the transversal challenges of the Urban Agenda 2030 with an integrated approach. They offer a differentiated range of considerations, allowing lectors to investigate some themes and to open others, reflecting carefully on the challenges of smart urban planning even more required by the historical period we are living.

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