Editorial Preface

Francesco Rotondo, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy

Andrea Vesco, LINKS Foundation, Turin, Italy

Nicola Martinelli, Polytechnic University of Bari, Bari, Italy

The Smart City model is likely to be misled if linked exclusively to technological innovation. In fact, one of the main outputs of the smart city research community is to broaden its horizons in the broader idea of Urban Intelligence. The fields of application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to cities are many, from mapping, to online representation, to sensing and modelling of future scenarios. IJUPSC is meant to promote the discussion on the role of new ICTs in urban planning and sustainable development for the benefits of cities and citizens.

To achieve this key objective, it is not so important to deepening the technological evolution as a growth of technical skills, but as a tool to promote the sustainable development of cities and territories, trying to understand (*i*) the degree of innovation they are able to bring to the discipline of urban planning and (*ii*) how technologies can increase knowledge and improve the processes of governance and transformation of territories to make people live better in urban spaces. IJUPSC fosters the dissemination of experiences that help the readers to deepen the ways in which cities can become more sensitive to the needs of citizens and territorial contexts. The focus remains on territories, cities and citizens in the relationship with new technologies to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals outlined by the United Nations.

In accordance to this editorial choice, IJUPSC proposes not only tools for Smart Cities, but also methods and criteria for building a dialogue between citizens and smart technologies that (*i*) evolve the shared knowledge at the basis of urban planning and (*ii*) increase the level of sustainability through the improvement of the quality of digital services that cities are able to offer.

This issue continues to explore relevant Smart City experiences, pointing to diverse approaches adopted in an international perspective to understand actual technology-and-participation relations and tensions that emerge between people and technology in urban contexts.

Across the selected articles, the reader will be inspired while reading about the interactions between city and agriculture; looking at best practices and the benefits when intelligent methods are adopted to take into consideration also agriculture issues in urban planning. Then, the issue proposes two articles addressing the challenges of the developing world to implement the Smart City model; the authors discuss the concept of sharing cities and the benefits of city branding and forward planning. The involvement of citizens in city planning processes can provides a boost to sustainable development; therefore, this issue proceeds with an article highlighting the role of participatory design to actively engage citizens and stakeholders in the definition of public services augmented by disruptive technologies. Moreover, it is clear today that planning technologies provide relevant contributions in several disciplines; the final article of this issue presents an application of an advanced optimization technique to increase the quality of service of urban transport systems while reducing the overall costs.

Francesco Rotondo
Associate Editor
Andrea Vesco
Nicola Martinelli
Editors-in-Chief
IJUPSC