


Editorial Preface

Advances in Urban e-Planning

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The International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) publishes, for the second time, a continuous annual volume, instead of a volume with quarterly issues that characterized the journal during the first ten Volumes (2012 - 2021). New members entered the Editorial Board at the end of 2023, reinforcing the team (now 65 members) with new expertise, and at the same time made the board more balanced, by gender (now 58,5% male and 41,5% female) and region of the world (29 countries in all continents), while few other members left the board at their request due to retirement. The journal ranking in the SCOPUS CiteScore continued to go up, moving from 2.4 in 2020 to 3.6 in 2021, and to 5.4 in 2022, a considerable improvement that we proudly acknowledge here. The journal ranked, in 2021, # 48/241 (Percentile 80th) in 'Urban Studies' and in 2022 #33/261 (Percentile 87th). A similar improvement also in 'Geography, Planning and Development' in which the IJEPR was ranked in 2021 #185/747 (Percentile 75th), and in 2022 #114/779 (Percentile 85th). The IJEPR maintained its position in the second best Quartile in both areas 'Urban Studies' and 'Geography, Planning and Development', which it already held since 2020 on both scientific areas. In 2022, the IJEPR got for the first time the Web of Science Impact Factor (2.0) in the Journal Citation Reports. On 8 November 2023, SCOPUS CiteScore Tracker indicates a score of 6.3 for IJEPR in 2023, suggesting the continuation of the sustained growth trend revealed by the IJEPR in the SCOPUS journal ranking. The 7th IJEPR Annual Conference on Urban e-Planning took place in virtual format on 27 - 29 March 2023, organized in collaboration with the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. It was once again an opportunity, as the previous editions, for researchers and students working in the broad field of urban e-planning to present and discuss their research outcomes. This will continue next year with the 8th International Conference on 'Urban e-Planning', to be held online, on 25 - 26 March 2024. During 2023 the 'Urban e-Planning Research Network' (UEPNET), the group of researchers closely associated with the IJEPR Annual Conferences and with the journal itself, continue to expand its membership and it is expected it will keep on so in 2024.

This 12th volume comprises research articles and a Conference Report, besides this introductory preface. The research articles explore a significant variety of planning issues, innovative approaches, methodologies, and planning tools in the field of Urban e-Planning.

Some of these research articles deal with citizen e-participation and with new mapping technologies, as is case of Marta Ducci and co-authors in "Mapping Local Perceptions for the Planning of Cultural Landscapes", in which the authors show how a PPGIS application allowed to bring in local heritage perceptions to the centre of the planning process making these perceptions a relevant source for the definition of future spatial planning strategies. Osten Mah and Franziska Sielker in the article "Heritage Websites as a Useful Addition to the Planning Toolkit in Singapore" explore and discuss, based on a survey of public servants, how far heritage websites serve as an additional

and useful tool for the heritage planning toolkit in Singapore and how the content of these websites addresses planning needs.

Visualization tools, in particular those used for citizen participation, is another topic addressed in this volume. Thibaud Chassin, Jens Ingensand, and Florent Joerin in “Media Coverage of 3D Visual Tools Used in Urban Participatory Planning” explore the issue of digitally-generated visual tools in participatory planning and show how convincing are the opportunities these tools offer to the planning process.

Maria Moleiro, Arjama Mukherjee, and Joerg Rainer Noennig in “The TOSCA Case: How Open-Source Spatial and Digital Decision Support Tools Help Urban Agglomerations to Leapfrog Towards Smart Sustainable Cities” address governance approaches for the sustainable development of cities, which seek to become smart cities, through radical innovations such as open source digital tools used as accelerators for this transition.

Nikolaos Lempesis in “Automatic Mapping of Physical Urban Problems Using Remotely Sensed Imagery” presents and discusses a project that developed a proof-of-concept workflow for the automatic monitoring of physical urban problems, by combining remote sensing for detection and cartography for visualization, thus addressing the needs of those cities constrained by limited resources that limit their capacity to exercise cost-effective and evidence based planning.

In the article “Understanding Urban Planning Outcomes in the UK: Practitioner Perspectives in Outcome Assessment”, Suvodeep Mazumdar, Jie Qi, Dhavalkumar Thakker and Barry Goodchild explore and discuss the desire to move from an outputs-based assessment to an outcomes-based assessment process, seen as one of the key challenges confronting the transition of the UK planning system into digital planning.

Another key planning issue addressed in this volume is the promotion of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Trinidad Fernandez and Stella Schroeder in “GIS for Sustainable Urban Transformation in Countries With Emerging Economies: The Case of Piura in Peru” explore the use of digital planning tools to prioritize through spatial analysis small illegal dumpsites for recovery and conversion into a public space.

Michael Ziehl, Rico Herzog, Till Degkwitz, Martin Heinrich Niggemann, Gesa Ziemer, and Rosa Thoneick in “Transformative Research in Digital Twins for Integrated Urban Development: Two Real-World Experiments on Unpaid Care Workers Mobility” deal also with the idea of transforming urban systems towards sustainability and resilience. The article shows how the authors conduct real-world experiments based on prototyping and testing digital tools.

In the article “The Impact of Digital Media on Urban Discourse: The Journalists’ Perspective”, written by Lukasz Damurski, Virginia Arena, Yannick Drijfhout, Carlos Mendez, Paweł Pach, and Kasia Piskorek, the authors explore and discuss the media perspectives on the quality of urban discourse, drawing on interviews with journalists in several countries, concluding that there is a great potential for local journalism to shape interactions between local government and citizens.

The volume comprises also the report on the 7th Annual Conference of the IJEPR, which was held online on 27-29 April 2023.

To conclude, I’d like to express my gratitude to all colleagues that made possible volume 12 of the IJEPR: the authors, members of the editorial board, ad-hoc reviewers, and colleagues at the IGI Global headquarters. The contribution of the reviewers is acknowledged in the list of reviewers for volume 12 referred below in this preface.

IJEPR REVIEWERS FOR VOLUME 12 - 2023

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Carlos Nunes Silva, Geographer, PhD, Professor Auxiliar at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, holds a degree in Geography (University of Coimbra), a post-graduation in European Studies (University of Coimbra - Faculty of Law), a Master degree in Human Geography: Regional and Local Planning (University of Lisbon), and a PhD in Geography: Regional and Local Planning (University of Lisbon). His research interests focus mainly on urban and metropolitan governance, the history and theory of urban planning, urban planning in Africa, urban e-planning, urban planning ethics, local government policies, local e-government, and research methods. He is the Chair of the International Geographical Union Commission on 'Geography of Governance', and the founding editor-in-chief of the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' (IJEPR).