Editorial Preface

Policy Games, Smart Cities, Participatory e-Planning, and Civic Crowdfunding

Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

This issue of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) addresses four main themes, all of them important in the field of Urban e-Planning: policy games applied to energy transition processes, smart communities, participatory planning and the practice of civic crowdfunding applied to e-planning processes.

In the first of these articles – '*Mapping Game Mechanics for Learning in a Serious Game for the Energy Transitio*' - Cristina Ampatzidou and Katharina Gugerell, both from the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, show how civic engagement in spatial planning is increasingly addressed as a collective learning process, with Serious Games being one of the mediums used to support these processes. In general, the use of Serious Games, in the context of participatory urban planning, is expected to produce various learning outcomes, including skill development, as well as cognitive and affective learning. This article presents the findings of a research study that tested a Serious Game, called Energy Safari, applied for the energy transition in the Province of Groningen, in the Netherlands, confirming some of the expected outcomes but raising also some questions about the frequently high expectations about the use of Serious Games in contexts such as this.

In the following article - '*From Smart–Cities to Smart-Communities: How can we evaluate the impacts of innovation and inclusive processes in urban context?*', Francesca De Filippi and Cristina Coscia, both from the Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino, Italy, and Roberta Guido, from the Department of Architecture, Design and Urban Planning, Università degli studi di Sassari, Italy, explore the move from the concept of Smart Cities to that of Smart Communities, associated with the transformation of urban places in living labs and in agents of innovation. For that, the authors developed a specific methodology and a set of evaluation criteria and applied it to measure the level of smartness in a recent experiment carried out in Turin, Italy.

Edyta Bąkowska-Waldmann and Tomasz Kaczmarek, both from the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland, in the next article - '*The Use of Geo-questionnaire in Spatial Planning – Experience from Poland*' examine new methods for participatory planning, based on an extensive use of information and communication technologies, namely Internet tools based on GIS, employed to support the engagement of citizens in the planning process. The article presents and discusses the results of one of these tools, the geo-questionnaire developed within the project GEOPLAN (Geoportal Supporting Public Participation in Spatial Planning), applied in ten pilot studies performed in the Poznań and Łódź agglomerations in Poland.

The fourth article '*Participatory e-Planning with Civic Crowdfunding: Donor Background, Involvement, and Social Capital Outcomes*' by Robert Goodspeed, from the University of Michigan, USA, explores the concept of crowdfunding, an increasingly popular method for participatory

e-Planning at the neighbourhood level, focusing in particular in the result of a survey of the donors in several crowdfunding projects.

This second issue of volume 8 includes also a review of the book *'Insurgencies and Revolutions. Reflections on John Friedmann's Contributions to Planning Theory',* centred in the life and work of one of the most prominent planning thinkers in the last decades - John Friedmann -, whose contributions for planning theory are mandatory reading for all those working in the field of Urban e-Planning.

Carlos Nunes Silva
Editor-in-Chief
IJEPR

Carlos Nunes Silva, PhD, Professor Auxiliar at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. 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' (2016-2020), and the founding editor-in-chief of the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' (IJEPR).