

Editorial Preface

Citizens as Sensors in Smart Cities and in Smart Urban Planning

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With this issue, the *International Journal of E-Planning Research* (IJEPR) concludes one more volume, in a year marked by important advances in the emerging field of urban e-planning and by sustained progress in the consolidation of the IJEPR as a reference for the publication of research outcomes in this field. After being included in 2017 and 2018 in two highly prestigious journal index - SCOPUS and Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), the International Journal of E-Planning Research is now, in total, integrated in 17 index, namely in the Ei Compendex and in IET-Inspecc, two of the broadest and most complete scientific and technical databases. The journal was also included in the list of scientific journals adopted by ANVUR - The Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes - for 2018-2020, a rating of scientific journals carried out by ANVUR for the purpose of calculating the indicators used for the National Scientific Habilitation and for the purpose of accreditation of PhD programmes. In this context an application has also been made recently for the classification of the IJEPR as 'Class A journal' which will put it, if successful, on the top list of scientific journals in that country. The IJEPR continues to follow the information, debates and reflections received from the Committee on Publication Ethics. Also worth noting is the recent decision by IGI Global, the publisher of the International Journal of E-Planning Research, to select the IJEPR as one of IGI Global's Core Journal Titles. Through this selection, IGI Global have noted that the journal contains impactful and highly-cited content making it a top publication from IGI Global full collection of 185+ scholarly journals.

This final issue of 2019 comprises four research articles that address the following themes: Citizen as sensors and the integration of urban sensing in urban planning; Small and Medium-Sized Smart Cities; and E-Governance in the Housing Sector.

Andrew Mondschein, Zihao Zhang, and Mona El Khafif, from the University of Virginia, USA, in "Community-Centered Urban Sensing: Smart Engaged Planning and Design in a Dysfunctional Urban Context", examine the integration of urban sensing into engaged planning, exploring whether enhanced urban data improve citizen participation in planning and design, rather than obstruct it, even in those cases in which current urban planning and design practices are dysfunctional. Based on these findings the authors argue that the smart city paradigm must also include modes and methods that work even when the local urban system is dysfunctional.

In the next article, "Conceptualizing Small and Medium-Sized Smart Cities in the Mediterranean Region: An Ontological Approach", Maria Panagiotopoulou, Margarita Kokla, and Anastasia Stratigea, from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece, offer important new insights on the need

to review the concept and ontology of smart city, in order to encompass the conditions of particular spatial contexts, as is the case of Mediterranean small and medium-sized cities.

In “Citizen as Sensors’ Commitment in Urban Public Action: Case Study on Urban Air Pollution”, Gwendoline l’Her, Myriam Servières, and Daniel Siret, from the UMR Ambiances Architectures Urbanités, School of Architecture of Nantes and the École Centrale Nantes, France, examine how a group of urban public actors re-uses methods and technology from citizen sciences to raise the urban air quality issue in the public debate, and discuss the impact of the hybridisation between citizen science and urban public action on participants’ commitment.

Ouahiba Belhocine, Kahina Amal Djiar, and Meriem Lagati, from the Ecole Polytechnique d’Architecture et d’Urbanisme (EPAU), Algiers, Algeria, in the following article - “Performance Evaluation of the National Housing File (FNL) for the Development of E-Governance in the Housing Sector in Algeria” - assess the strengths and weaknesses of the National Housing File, which has been conceived as a decision support tool to housing supply. In the article the authors examine the process through which data is gathered and how the evaluation of potential beneficiaries is made. They identify the conditions that affect the right functioning of the National Housing File and how they affect negatively the development of e-governance in Algeria.

This fourth issue of volume 8 includes also a report on the 4th International Conference on ‘Urban e-Planning’, organized in association with the International Journal of e-Planning Research, in the University of Lisbon, Portugal, on 23-24 April 2019.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to all colleagues engaged in the publication of volume 8 of the *International Journal of E-Planning Research*: the authors of the articles submitted for publication in the IJEPR, members of the editorial board and the external ad-hoc reviewers. The contribution of 58 reviewers, ad-hoc reviewers and members of the editorial board, from 20 countries, in all continents (Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Oceania), is acknowledged in the list of IJEPR reviewers engaged in the review process for volume 8 referred below in this preface. I also wish to express my esteem to the IGI Global editorial staff for their support in all stages of the editorial process, from initial submission of manuscripts up to the publication and dissemination of the journal.

Carlos Nunes Silva
Editor-in-Chief
IJEPR

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