Editorial Preface

Co-Creation With Digital Technologies in Spatial Planning

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The third issue of the 2020 volume of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) explores issues related to citizen engagement in urban e-planning, in the first two articles, and put forward a discussion on concepts and principles in the other two articles. Half century after the publication of Sherry R. Arnstein landmark text 'A Ladder of Citizen Participation', in 1969, the discussion on the role citizens can play in public policy processes continues and new experiments are put in place continuously with the aim to empower citizens, allowing them to move upward in the ladder of participation. At the same time, the relationship between citizens and the tools available for citizen participation in each epoch continues to be questioned, now mainly around digital technologies, in the past focused on physical and paper based modes of citizen engagement. This issue of the IJEPR addresses these two key debates in the field of urban e-planning with two articles focused on each of these two themes.

In the first of the two articles on citizen engagement in urban planning - *'Pasikola: A Co-Creation Process in Urban Transportation Innovation of Makassar City, Indonesia'* **-**, Zulfikar Dinar Wahidayat Putra, from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, and Wim G. M. van der Knaap, from Wageningen University, The Netherlands, explore and discuss a process of co-creation implemented in order to solve problems, through innovative solutions, of urban transportation in Makassar city in Indonesia. The study offers ample evidence of the outcome of this process and points for the advantages of a combination of top-down approaches and co-creation supported by digital tools. This is followed in the second article on citizen engagement in urban e-planning - *'Digital Participatory Platforms for urban regeneration: a survey of Italian case studies'* - written by Francesca De Filippi, Cristina Coscia, and Grazia Giulia Cocina, all from Politecnico di Torino, Italy. In the article the authors present and discuss the results of a survey of the Italian Digital Participatory Platforms which have been implemented as part of a European Union strategy to develop digital tools such as these platforms to facilitate the connections between citizens and public administration. The evidence seem to suggest that these digital platforms improved digital literacy, transparency of data, citizen participation, and social inclusion, among other aspects.

The second group of articles have a different focus, being concerned with concepts and principles associated with the use of digital technologies in urban e-planning. In the first of these two articles - *'Conceptualising the use of digital technologies in spatial planning: a progress report on innovation in Britain'* - Barry Goodchild, from the Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, discusses the best way to frame the use of digital technology in spatial planning and how best to frame the evaluation of its impact. The second of these two articles is a viewpoint article. The International Journal of E-Planning Research intends to publish occasionally articles which express an author's

particular viewpoint on a topic or theoretical issue. These 'Viewpoint' articles are also double-blind peer reviewed. This is the case of the last article included in this third issue of volume 9. In *'How to Humanize Technology in Smart Cities?'*, Zvi Weinstein, from the Israel Smart Cities Institute, Israel, expresses his personal viewpoint on the relationship between technology innovations in smart cities and how they are used for the benefits of the local citizens. Among other issues, the author seeks to answer in this article the following questions: Are the benefits of the technology innovations characterized technologically or humanly? Are we able to humanize technology for the need of the citizens? In what direction/s is technology pushing the interfaces with city residents? In sum, from the point of view of the author, a citizen-centred humanized approach to smart cities is needed, in order to shift from a technology-centred to an approach of smart cities that take into consideration human and social dimensions.

This third issue of volume 9 includes a review of the book 'Space and Planning in Secondary Cities. Reflections from South Africa', edited by Lochner Marais and Verna Nel, a book that illustrates well the need of other changes in the spatial planning system, beyond the digitalization of the planning process, in that particular geographical context - South Africa secondary cities -, but certainly also a perspective and policy approach relevant in other contexts.

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