Editorial Preface

Post-Pandemic Challenges for Urban e-Planning

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The International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) publishes, in 2022, for the first time, a single annual volume, a 'Continuous Volume', instead of the annual volume with quarterly issues that characterized the journal during the first 10 Volumes (2012 - 2021). This shift is associated with the conversion of the IJEPR to full Gold Open Access on January 1, 2021. This move to a new publication mode in 2021, from subscription-based to gold open access publication mode, with the introduction of an APC, a move fully implemented in 2022, raised new challenges to an already complex activity. This first year, as a full gold open access, allowed us to test new practices and to devise new procedures which we aim will be gradually consolidated in the coming years. These initial challenges associated with the move towards the gold open access publication mode seem to have been well addressed and the outcome is summarized in the following paragraphs.

The year that now ends saw also other good news. New members entered the Editorial Board thus reinforcing the team with new expertise and at the same time made the board more balanced by gender and region of the world, a pattern we intend to continue improving. The journal ranking in the 2021 SCOPUS CiteScore, published on 5 May 2022, moved from 2.4 in 2020 to 3.6 in 2021, a significant improvement that we are all proud to acknowledge here. The journal ranks, in 2021, # 48/241 in 'Urban Studies' (Percentile 80th) and ranks # 185/747 in 'Geography, Planning and Development' (Percentile 75th). It maintained in 2021 its position in the second best Quartile in both areas 'Urban Studies' and 'Geography, Planning and Development', which it already held in 2020 (both areas) and in 2019 (Urban Studies). On 5 November 2022, SCOPUS CiteScoreTracker 2022 indicates a score of 4.6, pointing for the continuation of this sustained growth trend of the IJEPR in the SCOPUS journal ranking. The International Journal of E-Planning Research has been rated as Scientific Journal - Class A, by ANVUR - the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes. After being rated in 2018 Class A for Area 08/C1 and 08/F1, it was rated in 2022 as Class A for Area 11-B1.

The 6th IJEPR Annual Conference on Urban e-Planning took place in virtual format on 7 - 12 April 2022, organized in collaboration with the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. It was 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 organization of the 7th International Conference on 'Urban e-Planning', on 27 - 29 March 2023.

This 11th volume comprises 12 research articles, a Conference Report and a book review, besides this introductory preface. The research articles explore different methodological issues, new tools, and innovative approaches in the field of Urban e-Planning. Several of these research articles deal

with innovative approaches and tools, some related to e-participation or user engagement in the design process, for instance, and others more on new mapping technologies. A second group of research articles examines and discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response by planning entities and planners, a problem the IJEPR addressed in a special issue published in volume 10 in 2021. This group of papers thus continues the efforts done in 2020-2021 which led to the publication of that special issue dedicated to the impact of the pandemic on planning practice and to the response of local governments and planning authorities to the pandemic.

Pilvi Nummi (Aalto University, Finland) and seven other co-authors, four from Tallinn University of Technology (Viktorija Prilenska; Kristi Grisakov; Henna Fabritius; and Laugren Ilves), and three from Aalto University (Petri Kangassalo; Aija Staffans and Xunran Tan) present in the article - "Narrowing the Implementation Gap: User-Centered Design of New e-Planning Tools" - the development of new digital tools to fit the needs that communicative urban and green area planning requires, taking into account various user groups, different contexts of use, planning tasks, and the communicative activities themselves. The article presents a user-centred design (UCD) approach that the authors applied in the development of new collaborative 3D tools for urban and green area planning in a multidisciplinary research team in the GreenTwins project, concluding that the methodology used was beneficial.

Zulfikar Dinar Putra, from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, examines in the following article "The Sentiments of Indonesian Urban Citizens Regarding the Lockdown-Like Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Path Towards an Urban E-Planning Process in a Pandemic Situation" the sentiments of Indonesian urban citizens with respect to the Covid-19 policy adopted in the country, arguing that Twitter-based sentiment analysis can be an alternative method for the Government to monitor and evaluate its policies, namely in a pandemic situation as that of the Covid-19.

In "Analysis of the Perception of Professionals in Municipalities of Dammam Metropolitan Area Towards Introducing E-Participation in Saudi Urban Planning" Adel Saleh Bouregh (Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Saudi Arabia) examines e-participation in urban planning in Saudi Arabia, namely the perception towards introducing e-participation by the technical staff in the municipalities of Dammam Metropolitan Area (DMA), a perception overall positive as the findings from the sample show, even considering the challenges of the recent Pandemic.

In the article "Personas, the Pandemic, and Inclusive, Synthetic, Smart City Planning", Sarah Farmer (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), John C. Bricout (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, USA), Paul M. A. Baker (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) and Jeremy Solomon (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) explore how in the era of COVID-19, planners, administrators and policy makers have learned to cope with very fast changes, increased uncertainty, and with the need for rapid decision-making strategies, and how at the same time they dealt with the need to hear the voices of citizens from marginalized and under-served populations, such as older adults and people with disabilities, arguing in favour of the use of 'personas' to actively engage those citizens.

Kelly Panchyshyn and Jon Corbett, both from the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Canada, revisit the three foundational principles of Participatory Mapping practice identified in good practices in participatory mapping, and analyze the relevance of these principles under the spectre of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The article "Pandemic Participation: Revisiting Three Central Tenets of Good Practices in Participatory Mapping in Times of COVID-19" presents the results of the study focused on the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and based on the mapping of Indigenous and non-Indigenous plant harvest foodways, concluding that the 'Three T's' remain essential for conducting meaningful participatory mapping, although taking on new dimensions within contexts of isolation and social distancing, particularly for Northern and Indigenous communities.

In the article "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Citizen Travel Rules Related to Intelligent Mobility Use in Algeria: The Influence of Personal Factors and Health Restrictions", Yasmine Keltoum Mekhtoub and Tahar Baouni, both from the Ecole Polytechnique d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme, Algeria, focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ICT-related travel policy, based on a

statistical analysis of the uptake and use of smart mobility services by the Algerian population before and during the crisis, concluding that the diffusion of COVID-19 influenced Algerian citizens' mobility, in different ways according to gender, age group, location, and status. The study also shows that some modes of transport adapted to the new conditions while others did not.

In "A New Era for Urban Actors" - Ozge Celik Yilmaz and Ozhan Ertekin (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey) explore and discuss the new forms and tools for citizen e-participation, namely the Urban Living Lab, a form of experimental urban governance, which as the authors argue can offer creative solutions for the problems that cities face today.

In the article - "Participation in Software Development: Experiences and Lessons From the Hin & Weg Project"- Francis Harvey (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany & University of Warsaw, Poland) and six co-authors from the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (Aura Moldovan; Eric Losang; Tim Leibert; Maria Turchenko; Nicola Simon; and Rowenia Bender) explore the relevance of participatory planning for IT development, specifically in the development of analytical visualisations to support local government, a process full of challenges due to the complexity and uncertainty about long-term benefits.

In the following article, "Inclusiveness and Participation in the Design of Public Spaces: Her City and the Challenge of the Post-Pandemic Scenario", Vasiliki Geropanta (Technical University of Crete, Greece), and Elia Margarita Cornelio-Marí (Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco, Mexico), deal with a critical issue in any planning process. In fact, participation of diverse communities in the planning of cities is usually characterized by different forms of exclusions, based on gender, migratory status, and class. The article shows how the COVID-19 pandemic made visible the need for greater participation of diverse communities in the planning of cities, applying new technologies, digital platforms, and data-based intelligence to bring alternative solutions. The authors do this through an analysis of Her City, a joint initiative of UN-Habitat and Global Utmaning, with the aim to guide urban actors to implement projects through an open and digitally accessible platform that involves girls and young women in urban planning and design, in a case study in Chania, Greece. The authors conclude that Her City is one of these new, radical and forward-thinking technologies in urban planning that can address large-scale challenges or opportunities in the design of public spaces.

Marian Gogola, Eva Malichová, and Martin Hudák, all from the University of Zilina, Slovakia, explore in "Engaging Users for Participating in a European Data Collection Campaign With Smartphones" the challenges of collecting data, especially concerning people's behaviour, and provides evidence on users' engagement during the European data collection campaign. The authors suggest that using the mobile application to collect data does not automatically attract and engage citizens, arguing that electronic media are not always the most effective channel to attract users to research.

In the article "The Feasibility of Integrating Wearable Cameras and Health Trackers for Measuring Personal Exposure to Urban Features: A Pilot Study in Roskilde, Denmark"-, Zhaoxi Zhang, Prince Michael Amegbor, and Clive Eric Sabel, from Aarhus University, Denmark, explore in a pilot study the opportunity offered by new wearable sensors to objectively monitor human exposure to street-level urban features, and to measure the association between the built environment, human emotions, and health, concluding that the approach is feasible and that it is worth to use integrated, multi-sourced data in the study of urban health.

Fabio Naselli (Epoka University, Albania), Cinzia Barbara Bellone (Guglielmo Marconi University, Italy), Mirjana Pali (Tirana Municipality, Albania) and Fabio Andreassi (Guglielmo Marconi University, Italy) in the article titled "Tirana as an Open Lab: A Pilot for an Integrated Research Tourism Vision Pre-/Post-Pandemic" explore another feature of the multiple types of impacts of the COVID-19, this time on tourism, seen here through the case of Tirana, capital of Albania, which the authors use as an experimental open lab, exploring the possibility of an alternative tourism offer that might take advantage of the urban and cultural features of Tirana, by positioning it as a safe tourism place in the post-pandemic.

This volume comprises the report on the last two annual conferences of the IJEPR, which were held during the pandemic, in 2021 and 2022, for the first time online, thus completing the series of reports on the conferences associated with the journal. The volume includes also the book review of a study on the future of digital government, published biennially by the United Nations since 2001, which to some extent serves as a frame for the discussions on the future of Urban e-Planning, a study that will certainly be useful for all those working in the broad field of Urban e-Planning.

To conclude, I'd like to express my gratitude to all colleagues that made possible volume 11 of the journal: the 42 authors from 17 countries, members of the editorial board, ad-hoc reviewers, and colleagues engaged in the management of the journal, at the IGI Global headquarters. The contribution of the 37 reviewers from 19 countries in all continents is acknowledged in the list of IJEPR reviewers engaged in the peer-review process for volume 11 referred below in this preface.

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