

The logo for ISOCARP 2015 is a blue square with a white circular emblem containing the letters 'I', 'A', 'U', 'I', 'G', 'S', 'R', 'P', 'P' around the perimeter. Below the emblem, the text 'ISOCARP 2015' is written in white.

ISOCARP
2015

CITIES SAVE THE WORLD. LET'S REINVENT PLANNING.
19/10/2015 – 23/10/2015 – GRONINGEN, ANTWERP, SCHIPHOL,
MAASTRICHT, DORTMUND, BRUSSELS, **ROTTERDAM**, DEVENTER,
DELFT/THE HAGUE, AMSTERDAM, WAGENINGEN, EINDHOVEN

51st ISOCARP Congress

Proceedings

Rotterdam, 19-23 October 2015

#ISOCARP2015



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*International Society of City and Regional Planners
Association Internationale des Urbanistes
Internationale Gesellschaft der Stadt- und Regionalplaner
Asociación Internacional de Urbanistas*

Proceedings of the 51st ISOCARP Congress
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 19-23 October 2015
Cities Save the World. Let's Reinvent Planning.

Editor: Judith Ryser

©ISOCARP 2015

Produced and published by ISOCARP

ISBN: 978-94-90354-43-5

Authors are listed in alphabetical order in each chapter.

Authors are responsible for the content of the short outlines and the full papers.

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ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

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Workshop 1 Amsterdam

How to build the city in a cooperative way?

Chinis, Ioannis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

An anarchist approach on urban planning: the case study of Thessaloniki

The aim of this thesis is an anarchist glance on urban planning. Practically it examines the possibility of city planning for a society in a state of anarchy, through relevant literature and practical experiment, realized through the process of an alternative workshop, taking place of an occupied social space.

Chopra, Divya, New Delhi, India

Collective imaginations for everyday realities: city building through 'creative' cooperation

This paper articulates the need for collective engagement and conversations as a significant aspect of the 'creative' and cooperative city building framework while investigating the role of public art and co-design as necessary ingredients that could contribute towards a re-defined and inclusive way of building our cities for the future.

Davidovich, Ronit, DMR Planning & Development, Tel Aviv, Israel

An integrated and empowering service model for children and youth at risk – as a base for cooperative and activist management

Development of an integrated and empowering service model for children and youth at risk and the range of services that they need as infrastructures aimed to integrate and even leverage the quality of the public space for the community as a whole.

Featherstone, Jeffrey; Temple University, Ambler, Pennsylvania, United States

Addressing flooding issues in an environmental justice community: a complicated and multi-layered case study

This paper addresses flooding issues in an Environmental Justice community near Philadelphia, USA.

Gential, Oscar, Urbaplan, Lausanne, Switzerland

Creative workshops

Urbanism is a creative practice. Through comparisons of realized experiences (led by the office Urbaplan in Switzerland) and references, we aim to theorize an approach praising uncertainty and process, revealing a critical issue in any collaborative and creative approach: how to bring out the ideas of a group?

Giupponi, Noemi, Glasgow, United Kingdom

The development of a conceptual and physical model of a spatial data infrastructure for inclusive planning using critical GIS: a case study in the Gorbals, Glasgow

The design and implementation of planning support systems are key to the enhancement of learning in spatial decision making. By developing a socially inclusive conceptual model of space, a spatial data infrastructure including geographic information of people's life spaces is presented using critical GIS techniques for a neighbourhood in Glasgow.

Hanzl, Malgorzata, Lodz University of Technology, Lodz, Poland

Ksiezy Mlyn in Lodz, Poland - an example of a successful rehabilitation thanks to social engagement

The rehabilitation project of the 19th century industrial estate of Ksiezy Mlyn, Lodz Poland was carried out successfully thanks to the initial public acceptance generated by the impact of the social rehabilitation project. The strategy of the regeneration of the estate was created in collaboration with local citizens and NGOs.

Huguenin, João Paulo, Federal University of Goiás; Ghilardi, Flávio Henrique, Institute of Research and Urban and Regional Planning, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Housing cooperative movement as an alternative way of thinking, planning and designing residential neighborhoods

Analysing the genealogy of the cooperative housing production in Latin America and Brazil and accompanying a pilot experience – in which families make decisions collectively – we tried to show that solidarity and participation on management of the city are the way to the construction of fairer and democratic cities.

Kabali, Hema Priya, IDE Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Shared Amsterdam - affordable housing through cooperative urbanism

Affordable housing is fundamental to urban well-being and social sustainability. This paper analyses participatory planning and affordable housing practices across European housing sector drawing focus on Amsterdam and proposes strategic recommendations emphasized on public-private partnerships and mixed urban communities for greater social cohesion, inclusiveness and better quality urban environment.

Marozas, Martynas, MMAP, Vilnius, Lithuania; Jonauskis, Tadas; Muliulyte, Justina, Pupa - Strategine Urbanistika, Vilnius, Lithuania

New public participation practices for revitalizing Klaipeda's Old Market neighborhood

Public participation vacuum in Lithuanian planning system called for a new participatory planning standard in Klaipeda's Old Market development vision and plan. Public involvement and long hours of mediation resulted in a creation of the first "informal" planning document appreciated by local community and formally approved by the city council.

Monardo, Bruno, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Cooperation and mediation. The flexible geometry of public participation. Comparing US and France evolutionary approach.

The paper is focused on comparing the innovation of participation models in US and France through the concept of 'flexible geometry'. Reflexions and remarks consider the hybridization of original cultures into a cooperative approach to local redevelopment, based on the emerging styles and roles of community managers and facilitation professionals.

Mwang'a, Keziah Mwelu, Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'aquila, Italy

Building equitable cities through inclusive practices: case studies from the US partnership for sustainable communities initiative (SCI)

Changing city dynamics such as stagnant economic growth and the increased presence of diverse groups require that cities seek ways of fostering collaboration in the planning process. This paper demonstrates several practices that cities can adopt to bolster cooperation between communities, civil society and business towards equitable growth.

Okitasari, Mahesti, United Nations University IAS/Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

Governing the urban infrastructure in Indonesian cities: the role of institutional structure and policy instruments in collaborative policymaking and resource exchange

This paper discusses the governing of urban infrastructure through collaborative policymaking and resource exchange based on Indonesian experiences. It explores and compares cases of intergovernmental and cross-sectoral collaboration at the local level through analysis on the institutional architecture and policy instruments.

Pancewicz, Lukasz, Municipal Planning Office of Lodz, Gdansk, Poland

Sharing planning power as a way out of planning legitimacy crisis - why it matters for the CEE countries

Paper reviews the potential opportunities to reinvent planning system, brought about by devolution of planning via increased collaboration and participation in the context of Central European countries. First experiences in collective, participatory planning processes are reviewed as well as their political and societal context.

Zagow, Maged, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, United States of America

Enhancing urban socio-economic needs, activities, and facilities, looking beyond conventional mixed-use development model

This study investigates how planners can implement successful mixed-use development, given Social justice as fundamentally approach, in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society, using multi-level data from location point to county level representing Chicago Metropolitan area with contrasting implementation methods of mixed-use development.

Workshop 1 Antwerp

How to rework the productive city?

Ahmadipour, Zahra, Tehran, Iran

Investigating the effects of industrial cluster development policy on the performance of urban and regional old industries (case study: leather products cluster)

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the effects of policies based on development of industrial clusters. The paper analyses and compares cases of conditions of small and medium manufacturers of leather that are located in Tehran before and after implementation of this policy.

Choo, Li Jie, JTC Corporation, Singapore, Singapore

Creating future-ready industrial estates: case studies from Singapore

This paper seeks to argue that industrial estates of the future should be planned as workplaces with strong connections to the rest of the city, rather than merely places for machinery; industrial estates should be guided by key principles of city-planning: 1) Compactness, 2) Mixed-uses, 3) Connectivity, 4) Managing Proximity.

Custers, Lieve; Dooghe, David, Buro Boris, Antwerp, Belgium

Urban circular economy

In the research project 'urban circular economy' will explore three models: business almost as usual, sustainability as pocket money and sustainability as life style. This exploration will give insight in the potential and positive or negative effects of an urban circular economy on the city and the future urban development.

Ferm, Jessica; Jones, Edward, University College London, London, United Kingdom

Reworking the productive city? Challenges of implementation

This paper provides a reality check to some of the optimistic, aspirational dialogues around the question of re-integrating production to support liveable and vibrant cities of the 21st century. Using London as an example of a successful, growing post-industrial city, it identifies concrete challenges, which need to be overcome.

Gheysen, Maarten Leiedal, Kortrijk, Belgium

Economic freckles in urban tissue, the case of South-West Flanders.

In a territory where available space is limited, it is crucial to evaluate and reuse as much as possible. Zoning for industry is no longer tenable. In order to evaluate and reuse, a shift in attitude, thinking and instruments is needed. Knowledge by design is a major input for this.

Neumayer, Vincent, TINA Vienna Urban Technologies & Strategies, Vienna, Austria

City logistics Vienna – transport challenges in urban areas within a disordered institutional framework

Production moved out of cities and goods distribution takes place on nearby green-fields. This paper examines in the context of the City of Vienna ways of both, bringing production and (green) logistics operations back into the city and defining opportunities for urban brownfields with regard to urban cargo distribution centres.

Pajevic, Filipa; Shearmur, Richard G., McGill University, Montréal, Canada

Intra-urban labour mobility: new perspectives for the use of big data in urban analysis

Labour mobility is linked in complex ways to ICT: it is both enabled by these new technologies and tracked by them. Labour mobility is a good example of a lens that, if looked through using big data, could produce a more informative portrait of the city and its daytime geography.

Prochnow, Simone, Uniritter Laureate International Universities, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Heterochrony in architecture

This study rethinks architectural project as an important tool for heritage preservation. Analysing cases done in some parts of the world, along with projects in the city of Porto Alegre, South Brazil, that now faces the question of the reuse of important old industrial areas as real state production sites.

Qiao, Jing; Geng, Hong, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China

The plight of the 'Chinese-style peasant economy' in the transformation of the urban industry

Although, 'Chinese-style peasant economy' structure has the features of informal economy, it has made great contribution to the transformation of the urban industry in China. We explore how we can protect it to guarantee the farmer's interests in the development of rural industry which is the significant branch of service industry.

Quintana Malubay, Haydee Jacklyn, University Of The Philippines, Manila, Philippines

Reinventing a Philippine city through Vision 2020 plan

The planning story of reinventing Candelaria's desiccated coconut industry via Vision 2020, the five-year comprehensive land use planning process, mandated by Philippine law, sheds light on the many lessons planners can learn in upholding values towards sustainability for this and the coming generations.

Sergi, Giovanni; Rosasco, Paolo, Genoa University, Genoa, Italy

A feasibility study for a technological park undertaken in 2011 by the municipality of Falconara Marittima, province of Ancona-Italy.

The Municipality of Falconara Marittima decided in 2011 to undertake a feasibility study for a new Technological Park to promote the rehabilitation of a wide and complex brown area. This proposal puts together a project for new productive areas with new investments in the cultural sector and tourism.

Dhote, Meenakshi; Lata, Kusum; Singh, Gargi, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi; India

Rejuvenation of the Productive Area in the City: E4 Subzone of Delhi

The paper elucidates the inherent problems of unplanned and unregulated industrial development and its social and environmental implications on the quality of life of a city in developing countries.

Sliwa, Marcin, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway; Wiig, Henrik, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Oslo, Norway

Should I stay or should I go: The role of Colombian free urban housing projects in IDP return to the countryside

New apartments and houses given by the Colombian government for free to the displaced households 'cement' their choice to stay in urban areas. At the same time, they potentially contribute to the lack of success of the Land Restitution program, which fosters return of the victim population to the countryside.

Zaman, Jan, Brussels, Belgium

Industrious Flanders and Brussels – the northern area case

Two regional governments are taking the first steps in territorial cooperation through research and design proposals.

Workshop 3 BRUSSELS

How to match local expectations with strong international challenges?

Daneshmandian, Mahsa Chizfahm; Fattahi, Kaveh, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran

Shiraz small residential gardens

Shiraz is a city in Iran, famous for its Persian Gardens. We believe Shiraz as a city could save its region by renovate not in public Gardens/Parks but with its small Gardens within all residential houses. We propose evolving the old method of courtyards can regenerate the Shiraz city.

Ede, Precious; Owei, Opuenebo, Institute of Geosciences and Space Technology, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Are cities in Nigeria keeping up with challenges for global competition?

Nigerian cities have been growing very rapidly resulting in a gradual decline in the quality of life. This study relies on published information on cities in Nigeria. The top ten cities where it is most conducive to do business were enumerated and the major factors militating competitiveness also highlighted.

Geambazu, Serin, University of Architecture and Urban Planning 'Ion Mincu', Bucharest, Romania

Dimensions of urban waterfront regeneration: Case study of Halic / The Golden Horn - an assessment of obstacles and opportunities for inclusiveness

The study reveals the dimensions of an urban waterfront regeneration project in which the rights of the future users of the space are lost behind a fight between the government and strong opposition parties gaining ground of governance landscape, motivated by their stake in the development.

Jin, Xin; Wang, Jianguo, Southeast University, Ministry of Education, Nanjing, China

Research on Landscape Promotion Strategy of the Grand Canal (Hangzhou Section) based on Landscape Visual Evaluation

This paper, using visualization as an operation method, constructed the dynamic tour system for the Grand Canal (Hangzhou section) based on the diversity of visual perception among different motion states and the concept of sustainable development.

Oikonomopoulou, Eirini, Lund, Sweden

New Mahalle – an urban green, inclusive neighbourhood

Strategies are presented to upgrade a poor-quality historic neighbourhood towards a qualitative, green, inclusive public life in a historic central district.

Papamichail, Theodora, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

The test planning process and the case of Patras

In last decades the urban redevelopment of cities requires top-down policies complemented with bottom-up approach. A new informal procedure, called Test Planning, provides a collaboration basis among numerous stakeholders. It is examined in the complex task of railway redevelopment in Greece, specifically in the case of Patras.

Pisman, Ann, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium

A place based spatial policy in the multi-actor arena in Flanders

A place based environmental policy was already introduced in Flanders in the Flemish Mina-2 plan 1997-2001 and is more recently developed within the context of spatial planning. Different actors are experimenting with area development in Flanders. In this article two cases in Flanders are described and results are presented.

Rijpma, Jelle, Jelle Rijpma Advies, Heeze, Netherlands

Smart managing the city

Looking for new forms of cooperation within cities, in a continuous project called 'Open City'. Through pilot projects and practical examples, a conceptual framework for the Open City is developed. This framework reflects the changes and dynamics of the society. The conceptual framework consists of three leading cornerstones.

Shih, Wanyu, Ming-Chuan University, Taipei, Taiwan

Optimising green infrastructure to cool built environments: a case study of the Taipei basin

This research found that increasing greenspace size and vegetation density (trees) in a more compact and simple shape; and enhancing tree proportion on the adjacent areas of greenspaces will contribute better cooling effect of greenspaces to surrounding built environments.

Souza Cruz, Andrea, Unisuam, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Case study to urban regeneration on sustainable basis: Bonsucesso - Rio de Janeiro

The city of Rio de Janeiro - Brazil is the city with the largest population living in substandard clusters in the country, about 22% of the city population lives in slums. This research presents some recommendations to obtain socio economic growth on sustainable basis in this region.

Stupar, Aleksandra; Grujić, Aleksandar; Grujić, Biljana, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Toward the urban transition of Kragujevac: a new life of old urban generators

The focus of this paper is the city of Kragujevac (Serbia), which is facing numerous problems and challenges related to the shift of production and development priorities, changing urban identity, the recent production of urban space and a questionable or delayed reactivation of abandoned urban sites and ex-industrial facilities.

Taheri Moosavi, Somayeh, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

A systematic approach to regenerate neighbourhoods with an activity-based approach

We should shift our focus from people-based and area-based regeneration to activity-based regeneration which encompasses the complex interaction between people and places. An activity-based approach shows how existing urban policies, service programmes and regeneration proposals work, and envisions what their future effects will be with considerably high level of certainty.

Tasyara, Fisqa, Directorate General of Spatial Planning and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ecosystem service-based green space allocation planning: a new way to construct urban spaces

Green spaces are often developed based on land availability and without taking notice how the benefit can be delivered to the human population. Ecosystem service-based green space allocation planning answers this need to ensure that the location of an ecosystem service provider is most effective to provide the needed benefit.

Tillner, Silja, Architects Tillner & Willinger, Vienna, Austria

A new planning culture - cooperative planning processes; case studies in Vienna

Cooperative planning workshops have replaced planning studies and masterplans in Vienna, which has experienced a transformation of its planning culture from a closed to an open process. These recent changes in planning have had a positive impact on the public debate, yet the results vary and are some-times controversial.

Van Herck, Tine, PTArchitecten BVBA, Brussel, Belgium

Working within the human context

We are developing a method for a human based design process. This means a design method that enables to improve the social relevance of projects. It can be applied to projects of different scale : from interior architecture to landscape strategies. The research uses projects of our office PTArchitecten.

Vickery Hill, Adrian, BUUR, St Gilles, Belgium; Kaethler, Michael, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; Kampelmann, Stephan, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium

Creative stakeholder engagement: the curatorial model

Planning and planners are increasingly accepting complexity as a fundamental challenge to bottom-up planning processes but struggle to identify tools and approaches accommodating it. Adopting the notion of the curatorial from art and design, we are exploring a new approach that celebrates complexity as intrinsic to its form of function.

Wang, Xi; Han, Feng, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Historic urban landscape research of the canal heritage city Yangzhou

In 2014, Grand Canal (China) included on the World Cultural Heritage List. As the canal's cradle city, Yangzhou is now facing the challenge of conserve heritage value in rapid urbanization context. The research uses the approach of UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation (2011) to interpret debates and propose solutions.

Yang, Jianqiang, Southeast University, Nanjing, China

Centre redevelopment of productive city based on system coupling and function optimization

City centre redevelopment is one of the important subjects at a time of global urbanization. This paper analyses the situation of China's city centre redevelopment and gives suggestions on how to improve it in the aspects of basic theories, technology and methods.

Yinan, Dong, Southeast University, Nanjing, China

An exploration of architectural inheritance and innovation methods in urban fringe belt based on typo-morphological research-- a case of expansion project of the second middle school in Xuancheng, China

Like Brussels, Xuancheng, a small historic city in South-East China has to combine the expectations of maintaining its traditional urban form and the necessity to develop its international dimension. We are lucky to get a chance to expand an old middle school in the urban fringe belt in Xuancheng.

Yuen, Belinda, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore, Singapore

To be inclusive is to be age-ready: perspective from Singapore

This paper dives deep into the Asian city of Singapore to illustrate key examples of reinventing ageing-ready neighbourhoods in practice.

Workshop 4 Delft/The Hague

How to create a sustainable knowledge region?

Brouwer, Jan, ABF Cultuur, Delft, Netherlands

A new approach in planning of European cities

European cities are entering a new phase. In the past there was continuous growth. Planning was the management of growth. In the future there will be more emphasis on transformation and redevelopment. Every city has built up values. Steering based on these values is important to achieve the right choices.

Gong, Bin; Zhuang, Jie, Guangdong Urban & Rural Planning and Design Institute, Guangzhou, China

Landscape design promotes sustainable development of cities - case of 'Sino-Singapore Guangzhou knowledge city' urban design

Based on the research findings of 'Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City', this paper introduces the practice of urban design which applies with the theory of Landscape Urbanism. This paper is focused on how to promote sustainable development of the city by shaping landscape.

Hulshof, Ineke, Hulshof Architects, Delft, Netherlands

DelftEDesign - bottom up approach towards a sustainable existing housing stock

DelftEDesign, is a cooperative of ten firms specialized in sustainable techniques, architecture and consultancy. DED is supported by Delft Technical University, Woonbron and the City of Delft. DED aims to realize a bottom-up up movement to achieve large scale user powered energy saving and production in the existing housing stock.

Ma, Chao; Yun, YingXia, Tianjin University China, Tianjin, China

Research on the strategies of cultural heritage in villages and towns characterised by aboriginal participation

Two new methods (aboriginal participation and aboriginal autonomy) used to seek for the strategies of cultural heritage with planning formulation mode are proposed in this paper.

Reiss-Schmidt, Stephan, City of Munich, München, Germany

City planning between decline and emergence

After 50 years of CARP, it is time to reflect on the continuing decline of our profession. Nowadays, with globalization and digitalization, planning seems to become a “dying craft”. A cooperative transformation of the city gives the opportunity for a renaissance of planning.

Santamaria, Mar; Martinez-Diez, 300.000 Km/s, Barcelona, Spain

How urban fabric fosters knowledge transfer and innovation: the example of Barcelona

The innovation ecosystem of Barcelona, based on a diverse and compact urban fabric that enables positive transference of innovation and knowledge to different parts of the city, could become a reference for Delft which is actually transforming its university campus for a better integration between innovation tissue and the city.

Thadani, Dhiru, Thadani Architects + Urbanists, Washington DC, United States

Rediscovering the college town

Nothing matches the energy and pulse of a college town. These places continue to attract a diverse socio-economic population. The research documents 40 college towns in North America and identifies common spatial characteristics, land-uses proportions, and sustainable development opportunities.

Vaillant, Philippe, University of Lorraine, Charleville-Mézières, France

Let's reinvent convivial regions: in Bill Twittchet's memory

The world is limited. Our cities grow. In contrast nature is destroyed. Now we are faced with a balancing act between nature and city. A new organic approach to planning is developed on Bill Twittchet's notion of convivial regions. This approach shows how to create a sustainable knowledge region.

Zhu, Hua, Urban Planning Design and Research Institute of Southeast University, Nanjing, China

Opening and closure – two methods of how the college help to create a knowledge city

The paper illustrates the possibility and necessary of reinforcing the connection between college and city by a series of history traces and case studies. Following the typological research and deconstruction of modern colleges, a new conceptual urban design strategy (opening and closure) will be presented.

Workshop 5 Deventer

How to implement a (national) legal framework through local integrated planning?

Ayrancı Onay, Irem, London, United Kingdom; Gülersoy, Zeren, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

Reinventing the planning process: monitoring and evaluation Istanbul case study

This paper will become a guide for cities that experience similar problems centred on the integration of different plans and coordination of different planning institutions; for creating an easier, better and faster decision making structure by using the provided Monitoring and Evaluation model in reinventing the planning process.

Beriatos, Elias, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece

Interaction between national planning and local spatial plans in Greece

The paper tries to examine the interaction between local and national planning in order to make the appropriate suggestions for improving the efficiency of planning policy. Furthermore, there is an approach of the recent reform at local level in an attempt to measure compatibility between administrative and spatial structures.

Du, Shu; Zhou, Ruoqi, China Centre for Urban Development, Beijing, China

Pattern of multiple plans integration — study of Shunde planning system construction

This paper is an introduction to a study regarding how to solve planning excess and conflict by creating a coordinated planning system for the Shunde local government in China.

Goldie, Stephen, Abu Dhabi Department of Municipal Affairs, Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates

The impending revolution in urban planning practice: intelligent and automated, but will it be garbage in, garbage out?

New technologies promise plans for new cities in months and planning permits in an instant revolutionising the relationship between the national or provincial legal framework and more local integrated planning. Combined, they will create a revolution in urban planning, but at the cost of many existing safeguards.

Heyer, Antje, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

Discussing collaborative planning in Cape Town - a case study on in-situ informal settlement upgrading and the role of planners and the local government in bottom-up projects

My Master Thesis on Collaborative Planning presents the strengths and challenges of in-situ informal settlement upgrading in Cape Town. It discusses the project management of the bottom-up process and the role the municipality, informal dwellers and NGO based urban planners take, as well as their learning outcomes.

Owei, Opuenebo Binya; Ede, Precious, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Re-inventing urban planning in Nigeria: the case of the land use policy of the new Port Harcourt city

The case study focuses on the land use policy prepared by a group of indigenous development professionals for the Greater Port Harcourt City Development Authority in 2013. The essence of the land use policy is to provide a framework that defines the key measures required to address land use planning.

Tang, Lei, Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design, Nanjing, China

People's livelihood-oriented multi-level cooperation: the urban renewal experience in Zhangjiagang, China

Zhangjiagang won 2014 Jiangsu Province Planning Award in China. Its people's livelihood-oriented multi-level cooperation included (1) Multi-sectoral Cooperation of Land Management, (2) Multidisciplinary Collaboration of Planning, (3) Multi-group Cooperation of Construction, (4) Multi-platform cooperation of Urban Management, (5) Multi-genre Cooperation of Urban Cultures, and (6) Multi-Capital Cooperation of City Operations.

Toto, Rudina; Shutina, Dritan, Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, Tirana, Albania

Planning as the technology of politics – to be used or misused; the case of Albania

Albanian spatial planning has dynamically evolved in the last 20 years, continuously conflicting with governance decentralization, development interests, territorial resources and political setting. Occurring in local social-economic contexts and confronted with EU knowledge, Albanian planning experience provides a unique example of key recommendations and avoidable mistakes for other reforming systems.

Visigah, Paul Nekabari, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom; Kakulu, Iyenemi Ibimina, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Integrated sustainable waste management - a tool for stimulating the waste economy in Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Delivering sustainable livelihoods via the waste economy is an inevitable route as African cities strive to manage the challenges of rising poverty and dwindling economies. This discourse evaluates the need to diversify the urban income base through ISWM Policy initiatives, and the potentials this holds for Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Workshop 6 Dortmund

How to leverage economic growth from spatial projects?

Al Ani, Mohammed, Al Nahrain University- Collage of Engineering, Baghdad, Iraq; Alwehab, Abdelwehab, Baghdad University, Baghdad, Iraq

Urban optimization of transit – oriented development in Baghdad City

TOD is an urban planning tool to redevelop specific area in a city in order to transform it into a more liveable and resilient urban space. In light of TOD benefits and principles, a multi parameter evaluation of “Baghdad Comprehensive City Development Plan 2030” is undertaken, where shortcomings are outlined.

Baltrusaitis, Donatas, BUUR, Brussels, Belgium

Running up circular economy

On the relationship of resource cycles and how a shift in the treatment of these resources can have a positive business spin.

Bannaga, Sharaf Eldin Ibrahim, Bannaga Consult, Khartoum, Sudan

Understanding cities’ dynamics and the need for recurrent urban structure adjustment

Cities growing with conflicting forces of interests and landuses undergo urban transformation, and the larger the city or the urban entity the more complicated are these interests and their conflicts. Disparities exaggerate until the time comes when conflicts can only be resolved by urban interventions.

Camprubi, Alejandro, Pubang Design Institute, Guangzhou, China; Landeros, I.D., UNAM, Beijing, China

Engineering the public realm for thriving sustainable communities

The successful public realm has a positive impact on a multi-layer phenomenon that takes place in its surroundings. This paper explores place-making and creative communities to engineer the characteristics of physical surroundings and the correlation on the composition of the different elements that define a thriving sustainable urban community.

Huang, Wei, Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design, Nanjing, China

Exploration on transforming “new development area planning” to “built-up area planning” of the development zone in the new normal —with planning practice of national development zones in Suzhou as a case study

China is now undergoing an in-depth reform; its urban planning is transforming “new development area planning” to “built-in area planning”. Adopting the planning practice of national development zones in Suzhou as the research object, this paper explores the ideas, methods and implementation approaches of “built-up area planning”.

Jimoh, Usman Umar; Falola Olusegun Joseph, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

‘Reinvigorating the Nigerian industrial sector’

Industrial development has been a major catalyst in the employment of people in Nigerian labour market. Due to Poor regional development plan, the industrial sector have been neglected for the oil sector resulting into the relocation of industries, thereby creating unemployment and regional imbalance. This paper examines the possibilities of ‘reinvigorating the Nigerian industrial sector’.

Mohlmann, Joost, UN-Habitat, Kigali, Rwanda; Gibert, Montserrat, UN-Habitat, Barcelona, Spain

Leveraging economic growth through rapid urbanisation in Rwanda

Rwanda, the densest country on the African mainland, is promoting urbanisation to leverage economic growth. UN-Habitat supports the Rwandan government by developing local, regional and national spatial development strategies.

Niu, Yuan Sha, Nanjing, China

Region integration research based on the industrialization of cultural resources—taking Huai-salt industrial district in China as example

Huai-salt industrial district is the greatest salt production areas in China. Cities in it are confronted with the cultural, economic, ecological problems caused by the industry recession. Concerning this, Culture-Network Theory about the Huai-salt space characteristics – an innovative regional integration method based on the cultural resources industrialization is proposed.

Ogawa, Hiroki, Wakayama University, Wakayama, Japan

Problems of outer mega region in the mature period - case studies of Tokyo and Osaka region, Japan

This study clarified the problem of the difference in the inner and outer mega region in the mature period. Population decrease and the reduction of areas with increasing and decreasing populations do not happen equally throughout the whole region.

Skodra, Julita, IMIBE, Essen, Germany

Urban transformation of deprived neighbourhoods in metropolitan regions: the cases of greater Manchester and the Ruhr Metropolitan Region

Urban transformation is a complex process influenced by different challenges specifically in metropolitan regions facing structural change. Regeneration efforts, highly dependent on financial means, in the wake of economic slowdown present another challenging issue. This comparative study aims at exploring the mechanism that enabled successful urban transformation of deprived neighbourhoods.

Wang, Yi; Geng, Hong, Huazhong University of Science & Technology, Wuhan; Ouyang, Guohui, Changsha University of Science & Technology, Changsha, China

“Imbalance” of regional industrial spatial development of small towns in the context of urban-rural integration--a study based on the case of Anshun City, Guizhou province, China

The author studies the strategies concerning and the layout of “imbalanced” regional industrial space in the urban-rural integration of China’s small towns

Workshop 7 Eindhoven

How to react when traditional industries move away?

Ahmad, Amira, Izhevsk State University, Izhevsk, Russian Federation

The history and rebirth of an industrial city: the case of Izhevsk, Russia

Studying Izhevsk as post-industrial city led to identifying a set of tools, which can contribute to reinventing other post-industrial cities. This model proves that industrial cities, which were developed and controlled by traditional centralized policies can be reinvented by the efforts and ideas of their active societies.

Grover, Paul, Arup, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Liverpool: a journey from a giant of world trade into a city where giants now walk the streets

The city of Liverpool has successfully managed to reinvent itself from a city that was once in decline resulting from shifts in World trade, into a World class Waterfront City that is now at the forefront of delivering culture and the arts to its citizens

Guo, Xiaodi, Nanjing, China

The exploration of industrial transformation in Chinese new economic normality—case of Yangcheng Lake Area planning in Suzhou

This paper chooses Yangcheng Lake Area located in the northeast of Suzhou for example to direct the industrial transformation. This includes the way of choosing economic category which suits for the environmental resources and economic conditions here, and the suitable path of industrial transformation.

Kamrowska-Zaluska, Dorota, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdansk, Poland

Social change from the solidarity to urban movements - design thinking approach in co-producing city of Gdansk

The paper presents bottom-up project of revitalization of interior urban quarter's in Gdansk using Design Thinking approach as a users' needs oriented method for co-producing of space. This pilot project could be a canvas to elaborate the model of intervention for other spaces in need of similar intervention.

Kelly, Erin, Detroit Future City, Detroit, United States

A little about lots: implementing land revitalization in Detroit

This case study will provide a measured description of Detroit's present inventory of vacant land and share the process behind developing a collaborative tool for parcel (or lot-level) interventions from A Field Guide to Working With Lots, the first community based, web-design tool for transforming vacant land in Detroit.

Lin, Yan; Wang, Jian-guo, Southeast University, Nanjing, China

Research on revival mode of China's traditional settlements based on "bottom-up" urban design method

The "bottom-up" urban design method can be supplement and improvement to the current general "top-down" method. Taking Cangshu, Mudu, Suzhou as an example, the article demonstrates and summarizes the "bottom-up" urban design method by operating the urban and architectural designing process on the ancient town.

Liu, Jie; Geng, Hong; Lu, Ningxing, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China

Generation mechanism research on landscape of traditional settlement based on folk ritual

The paper integrates knowledge about architecture, folklore, sociology, history, geography and other related subjects, adopts basic methods of environmental aesthetics and settlement geography, and studies the correlation between Chinese folk custom ceremony and the generation mechanism of traditional settlement public environmental landscape.

Martinez-Diez, Pablo; Santamaria-Varas, Mar, 300.000 Km/s, Barcelona, Spain

AtNight project, designing the nocturnal landscape collectively

By means of "AtNight" project, we have explored the possibilities offered by digital technologies to propose new collaborative and efficient design scenarios. Given a model of nocturnal urban planning based on top-down management, we propose a new approach based on the perception of citizens.

Priyomarsono, Naniek Widayati, Tarumanagara University, Jakarta, Indonesia

Revitalization of batik business at the time of post-declaration of Laweyan's Batik Village Surakarta, Central-Java Indonesia

Laweyan is a pouch-formed settlement region of Pajang kingdom, having been developing since the sixteenth century. Laweyan holds typical societal characteristics namely societal groups of batik entrepreneurs. In the 1970s batik business started to decrease and even was assumed near-dead. The paper explores business revitalization as one way of prevention.

Van Strien, Anne; Boot, Isis, Eindhoven, Netherlands

Eindhoven in transition - reinventing the city from within

Eindhoven is a city in transition. Through a transition fieldwork study, collecting and connecting transition stories from a broad range of city makers. Our aim is to gain understanding and create new meaning of the city from within while reinventing our role as urban planning professionals.

Xu, Wei; Li, Juan; Chen, Chao; Su, Liangtao, Southeast University, Nanjing, China

Research and study on the town-rural planner system under the background of South-Jiangsu transformation in China

This research is based on several comparatively high industrialized countries in the south of Jiangsu Province and it looks into the "bottom-up" community planner system. By combining the "top-down" and the "bottom-up" mode, we believe that marketization helps to make up for the shortages of traditional South Jiangsu mode.

Workshop 8 Groningen

How to sustain energy resources?

Demerutis, Juan, University of Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico

Planning for sustainable water and energy: a perspective from housing and urban development policy making in Mexican cities

The focus of the study is on housing through community building, under the premise of looking for compact, denser cities. A proposed planning tool comes in the form of a local government initiative to certify "Green Development" as a response to large water and energy consuming developments.

Momm-Schult, Sandra; Empinotti, Vanessa; Travassos; Luciana, UFABC, Sao Paulo, Brazil

The relation between the water resources management and territorial planning in São Paulo macro metropolis (Brazil)

How to ensure water access and supply to a 30 million people macro metropolis such as São Paulo? This article aims at the identification and analysis of the institutional arrangements and legal frameworks already in place and how capable they are in providing water security in the macro metropolis territory.

Mukoya, Kent Alwaka; Mwaura, Mbutu, Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company, Nairobi, Kenya

Corporate social responsibility as a trajectory to actualization of corporate governance strategy - case study of Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company

Responsible business practices can in many ways contribute to sustainable development.

Nabielek, Pia, TU Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Wind power deployment in urbanised regions: towards a comprehensive approach for renewable energy and spatial planning.

This research examines the implementation of onshore wind power by 'wind power-zoning plans' in European urbanised regions. It questions, whether these plans are comprehensive, that is if they promote both national wind power growth and regional-specific interests.

Papa, Enrica; Boelens, Luuk, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Spatial, mobility and energy planning: a cross-sectorial and actor-relational approach

Energy's decarbonisation and a move towards a sustainable energy system is a massive challenge that can only be achieved by combining spatial, mobility and energy policies. Planning should address the integration with a collaborative and actor-relational approach.

Van Noordt, Anneloes, Spatial Development Department Flanders, Brussels, Belgium

Analysis of the impact of positive and negative criteria on the siting of wind turbines in Flanders

If Flanders wants to reach its target of 10,5% renewable energy by 2020 it has to step up the realisation of the siting of wind turbines. Based on a GIS analysis the impact of positive and negative criteria on siting of both current and future wind turbines will be performed.

Wang, Qianna, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China; M'ikiugu; Kinoshita, Isami, Chiba University, Matsudo City, Japan

Municipal renewable energy planning in support of post-earthquake revitalization: an application in a Japanese municipality

A GIS-based approach for municipal renewable energy planning and its experimental application in a Japanese municipality to support post-earthquake revitalization.

Yuan, Wen, Urban Planning and Design Institute of Nanjing University, Beijing, China

Planning in regional cooperative way to develop cities in ecological protection area: take Tongyu, China as an example

Cities in ecological area have long been confused both in green protection and local development, and planning in such area has long been difficult. In master plan of Tongyu, China, we are trying to deal with the circulation problem in a regional cooperative way.

Zhai, Baoxin; Zhu, Wei, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

Optimum population capacity forecast based on ecological footprint analysis: A case study of Xi'an

For the purposes of ecological balance and sustainable urban development, this paper used the Ecological Footprint Model to calculate the Optimum Population Capacity of Xi'an.

Workshop 9 Maastricht

How to overcome national borders?

Bacharyar, Abdul wasse, DeCoBa, La Wantzenau, France

The convivial regions in the world

Convivial regions or friendly areas consist in the union volunteer from several countries in the world based on historical, geographical, and socio-cultural approaches.

Boeger, Louise; Andrade, Hana, Universidade de Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil

Brazil's federal district economic development integrated region (ride/df) and the regional mobility management

The paper presents the capital of Brazil and its Economic Development Integrated Region (RIDE), which comprehends twenty-two cities from two different states. We are going to understand the challenges involving public transportation in a metropolitan region by making an analysis of public policies implemented in the RIDE since 1998.

Caner, Gizem, Lodon, United Kingdom

From a barrier to a bridge: Nicosia and its national borders

Nicosia, the divided capital of divided Cyprus, offers unparalleled perspectives on the issue of transboundary cooperation and movement. This paper provides inputs on how a barrier can be transformed into a bridge, even when such a transformation is perceived as unthinkable.

Chen, Haining; Wang, Jianguo, Southeast University, Nanjing, China

Trans-boundary urban development cooperation as the new global growth engine: the research on mechanism of Sino-Singapore cooperative city building practices

The paper mainly elaborates the research on mechanism of Sino-Singapore cooperative city building practices through the discussion on trans-boundary urban development cooperation as the new global growth engine, with analysis models built from four Sino-Singapore cooperative cases.

Li, Lei, Beijing, China

Build a trans-boundary urban system from the top design to bottom practice

Urban design has changed with the development of science, technology and other factors. We need to break-through and build a trans-boundary urban system in a broad sense, beyond the achievement of all related, integrate and optimize them with adaptable methodology and systems from the top design to bottom practice.

Liu, Lixun, University College London, London, United Kingdom

The impact of rail transit systems on urban regeneration areas in a Chinese large city

The research topic is the impact of rail transit systems on urban regeneration areas, in aiming to understand how the impact on development and regeneration differs by locations and population groups. It also explores what associated policies and planning interventions should be introduced to achieve greater outputs.

[Peer Reviewed]

Ludlow, David, UWE, Bristol, United Kingdom

URBIS decision support for integrated urban governance

This paper presents findings from the EU funded URBIS project (ICT PSP 2014–17) development of assessment methodologies and tools to provide accurate up-to-date intelligence on urban vacant land opportunities, comparable across 700 urban atlas European cities, supporting the definition and implementation of sustainable governance strategies in city-regions throughout Europe.

Wang, Zhenyu, Jiangsu Institute of Urban Planning and Design, Nanjing, China

New development path for new city construction: an case study on Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city in China

This paper analyses the development of Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city in China, and put forward several suggestions. The paper tries to seek for new development path for new city construction.

Xu, Jiabo; Wang, Xingping, Southeast University, Nanjing, China

Effects of spatial pattern of province on the distribution of regional infrastructures

How to maximize the efficiency of regional infrastructures by choosing an appropriate site and encouraging cross-border sharing?

Workshop 10 Rotterdam

How to develop unprecedented port-city synergy?

Abdel Galil, Rania, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Alexandria, Egypt
Moving beyond the physical, the competitive capacity of Port Said City and port

The city of Port Said is witnessing unprecedented attention due to the government plans for port extension and Suez Canal expansion. The interface between the city and port is marked by conflict and competition only to be resolved by a holistic approach considering services, human resources and knowledge management strategies

Goethals, Sebastien, Citilinks, Chengdu, China

The port sharing project in Rotterdam: exploring the potential of the sharing economy in the context of a port-city interface regeneration.

The "Port Sharing" project in Rotterdam aims to combine Sharing Economy principles with incremental community development, by proposing a network of "community sharing ports" in the port-city interface of Rotterdam, defined as social and economic clusters oriented to collaborative economy, knowledge and education sharing, shared mobility and resilient waterfront planning.

Guschl, Larissa, We Love The City, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Working waterfront Newtown creek

The case study in Brooklyn, NYC, explores the possibilities how to re-activate the urban working waterfront and simultaneously create an adaptive and resilient city-port area which is securing more public access to the water edge.

Liu, Chengcheng, Tianjin, China

Development strategic choice on constructing international harbour urban, Tianjin

In order to become an international harbour city, Tianjin has made three-level measures from the international economic cooperation to the regional radiation, and then to its own harbour-city synergy. They are planning Tianjin Free Trade Area, the inland anhydrous ports network, the twin strategy and dual harbours strategy.

Lorens, Piotr, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdansk, Poland

Reinventing the harbour metropolis – case of the "Tri-City" region in Poland

The paper deals with the phenomenon of the Tri-City (Poland) 'harbour metropolis' - meaning the conglomerate of city and port structures - and its complicated way towards reinventing its role in a globalizing world.

Matika, Christina, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

Revitalizing Dunkerque; an effective environmental project

Dunkerque constitutes an important French city – port, which had dealt with two difficult issues; environmental degradation and lack of connection between the city and the port. The industrial zone played a major role in the redevelopment of the economic network, as new potentialities raised after the regulatory framework.

Meijer, Michaël, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht, Netherlands

Organic area redevelopment @ m4h Rotterdam

Context description of Merwe-Vierhavens, Rotterdam explaining the organic area redevelopment strategy of the City Ports organisation and giving an overview of the plan site and involved actors. Main drivers are to reconnect the harbour with the city, stimulate the clean and creative making industry and introduce housing after 2025.

Ni, Mindong; Zhang, Nenggong, Ningbo Urban Planning and Design Institute, Ningbo, China

Ningbo master plan: a world connected metropolitan achieving port-city symbiosis

In 2015, the China's State Council approved the new "Master Plan of Ningbo" once again stressed the city's function as: the important port city in the southeast coast of China. For the objective of enhancing the international port, the new master plan proposed.

Niemann, Beate, University Wismar, Wismar, Germany

Sustainable urban waterfront development in port-cities

What specific content included such strategies to develop the port and the city in sustainable strategies? To gain answers, global case studies and reference projects will be analysed and critically scrutinized. Of crucial importance is the derivation of recommendations for the future development of the port-city with international charisma.

Nyamai, Dorcas; Wall, Ronald, Institute of Housing and Urban Development, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Wealth and the City: The competitiveness of port cities and non-port cities

Shipping companies now have the power to choose where to locate no matter the magnitude of investment by ports; making ports just a part of the value chain system. Strategies are needed for ports cities to remain competitive in the face of globalisation and export-oriented market strategies.

Pagés Sánchez, José Manuel, Hafencity University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Port-city relation: integration - conflict - coexistence - analysis of good practices

The port-city relation has evolved from integration, to conflict and then to a current state of coexistence. What are the main reasons for this change? What strategies are being used? What outcome are they getting? Most importantly, is this the right path?

Tsatsou, Alexandra, Institute for Housing & Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Port cities in action for resilience

Port and city are developing into entirely separate entities, spatially and functionally. Building resilience through port-city collaboration on climate change response is a mandatory condition for reducing risk and establishing ground for economic growth. Collaboration on climate actions can be the backbone of port-city cooperation on economic level.

Van Den Berghe, Karel; Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

The Economic Port City Interface of Ghent, Belgium

Based on research of the port city of Ghent, this paper explores the different interfaces of the port city. Using different actor-relational techniques, it shows how the different interfaces are diverse and dynamic. This way, this paper contributes to the recent post-structuralist attempts in the port city research field.

Velnidis, Anastasia; Goethals, Sebastien, Citilinks, Chengdu, China

Perspectives and challenges of port-city interfaces in Chinese coastal cities with the lessons of European old ports regeneration: the case of Qingdao.

In 2015, eight of ten largest seaports are located in China, mostly in coastal port-cities. Recently, European largest ports such as Rotterdam have built innovative approaches of port-city synergies. In its development context, the port area of Qingdao faces similar opportunities and challenges of integrated coastal management and post-industrial rehabilitation.

Workshop 11 Schiphol-Amsterdam

How to connect in a globalized world?

Brunner, Ueli, IFOMAT, Erlenbach, Switzerland

Arrival of driverless vehicles – impact on land and city planning and the future needs for transportation infrastructure

Driverless-vehicle technology will have a profound effect on mobility and transport. It is time for Planners to think about the impact this may have on our lives and the built habitat.

Ledwon, Slawomir, Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning, Doha, Qatar

City redevelopment around the new Hamad International Airport (DOH), Doha, Qatar

The article describes the planned development around the new Hamad International Airport (DOH) in Doha, Qatar. It opened in the new location in 2014. Currently there are many projects planned, including development of vast land of Qatar Cultural and Sports Hub, new connections, including metro, and redevelopment of adjacent land.

Mchunu, Koyi, University of KwaZulu Natal; Letebele, Emmanuel, eThekweni Municipality; Ralfe, Kate, Tongaat Hullet Developments, Durban, South Africa

Intergovernmental cooperation between spheres of government - The case of Dube Trade Port Development

The paper briefly outlines the nature of the Dube Trade Port development, a greenfield airport precinct located in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The development is placed within a global, national, and regional context. The challenges of planning for an aerotropolis in a developing world context will be discussed in greater detail, with a view to informing interventions that will contribute to the easing of the tensions that will potentially delay the implementation of the Aerotropolis Master Plan.

Ordonez, Juan Felipe, Sedatu, México.

Troubleshooting in the New International Airport in Mexico City

The objective of this paper is to establish the problems and opportunities that both the new airport and the actual airport of Mexico City represent.

Stangel, Michal, Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland

Place-making and airport-related urban development

Is an 'Airport City' to a city like a 'shopping gallery' to an art gallery, or a 'business park' to a park? Or can airport-proximate areas become high quality urban places; new kind of sustainable districts in a polycentric metropolis? The issue will be discussed based on current European projects.

Thierstein, Alain; Conventz, Sven, Munich University of Technology, Munich, Germany

Hub Airports, the knowledge economy and how close is close? Recent findings and some observations

Workshop 12 Wageningen

How to feed the world's metropolises?

Allaert, Kato, Borsbeek, Belgium

Closing the loop: how food localisation contributes to the sustainability of settlements

The 'closing the loop' research project examines the effects of food localisation on settlements in the urban-rural region around Antwerp, Belgium and contributes to the discourse around sustainable food systems with a toolkit of design principles with straightforward methods for implementing sustainable local food systems.

Liu, Jinhua, Southeast University, Nan Jing, China

Exploration on the integration of urban and productive rural hinterland—based on the oriental farming culture

The paper summarizes the model of urban-rural linkages in Taihu Lake Basin of China in the ancient times. One targeted framework is proposed connecting urban and rural hinterland based on the oriental farming culture and it has been applied in Suzhou Taihu New City.

Luo, Yanyun; Wang, Qianna, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China; Liu, Wanyi, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, United States

Post-earthquake rural ecological agricultural tourism planning and revitalization in Mianzhu City, Sichuan, China

The study presents two cases of Mianzhu City, Sichuan, where infrastructures and traditional industry were greatly damaged in the earthquake. One is an ecological agricultural tourist resort in Jiulong town: another is an overall tourism planning of Mianzhu city based on the kiwifruit production. The planning strategies and approaches to lead the village transit from previous industrial (cement, coal mine mining and brewing industry) pattern to a new sustainable pattern have been analysed.

Mirsafa, Masoumeh, Milan, Italy

Building new concepts on old traditions: rainwater harvesting as a tool towards sustainability of water resources

The paper argues how an integrated ecological approach in designing public open spaces can address water-related issues such as water scarcity, flooding and pollution, and therefore to contribute to the sustainability of water resources.

Olufemi, Olusola, Self Employed, Oakville, Canada; Labeodan, Olusakin, Leadway Pensure, Lagos, Nigeria

Family farms, local economy and food security: case of Romsy Ranch, Ibadan, Nigeria

Family farms are contributors to food security and drivers of the local food economy. Romsy Ranch contributes to the local food security and economy by sustainably creating direct access to fresh farm produce, adopting innovative approaches with a food value chain based on local food production, from farm to fork.

Roggema, Rob, Cittaideale, Wageningen; Spangenberg, Jeffrey, Spang31, Netherlands

Towards new urban networks for linking the urban food production-preparation-consumption chain

How the connection of the production of food, preparation in the public realm and consumption in neighbourhoods meet the needs for current society and shapes the public space.

Spoelman, Janneska, Buro Ja, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Nefs, Merten, Independent Association Deltametropolis, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Towards a sustainable food network for the Rotterdam - The Hague metropolitan region (MRDH) in 2030

New trends and techniques to produce food will have produced a major change in our food network by 2030. This research visualizes the network of the Dutch MRDH region by mapping current food hubs. Can we inspire the MRDH to set an agenda for a regional food policy?

Varella, Thais, GeoAmbiente Geologia e Engenharia Ambiental, Curitiba, Brazil

Strategy as a tool for replanning cities

The goal is to present a strategy to replan the cities for the future, through the strategy of local contextualization, SWOT analysis, population needs, scenario development and feasibility testing. It will be presented a case study applied on a disabled industry in the city Den Bosch, the Netherlands.



ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

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How to build the city in a cooperative way?



Planning as the Technology of Politics – To be used or misused The case of Albania

Rudina Toto and Dritan Shutina, Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development, Albania

1. Albania and the demise of Communism: effects on the territory

Albania as a meta-geographical concept triggers a very complex thinking that flutters from its locational geography, history, memories and culture's [trans]formation, to the dynamic phenomena, behaviors and processes that were and are being "cooked" there. Albania, as a concept, is implicit also in the urban realm.

In the last 25 years planners are striving to understand the origins and patterns of space and land use transformations, including people's reasons for building spontaneously, and inconsiderately towards natural resources, while often breaking the law. But, could it be that in this spontaneous turmoil of territorial transformations, usually induced by people and typically labeled as negative, there is also something positive, that institutions and planners can use as a local ingredient for guiding sustainable development?

As a whole, this spontaneity, yet so different from the ruling Cartesian order of the western world as well as from the spiritual "order" of the eastern cultures has become a unique food for thought for designers (architects and planners). The latter are striving to read and understand the phenomenon, and learn about this manipulative environment, full of experiences that are still undisclosed from a scientific and social point of view.

Having been subjected to a dictatorship, Albanian cities and people have been oppressed. This has shut opportunities for the know-how and has *imprisoned* the spirit of creativity in [city][space]making. Nevertheless, the regime could not lead to the destruction of the need, sensation, emotions and energy and that is why when oppression *had vanished*, the feeling of freedom was so glorious that people had to make use of it. Thus, collective oppression led to collective folly and now we need collective intelligence and creativity to make livable cities and space.

The effects of the demise of communism on the territory and the urban fabric have been enormous. One of the very first reforms undertaken by the government was that of land privatization, which resulted in the fragmentation of land into around 2 000 000 properties¹. This fragmentation was, among others, very negative to the agricultural productivity – currently the average size of the agricultural farm is 2 ha, which is very low for the efficiency of the sector².

This reform, together with the "freedom of movement" from the more remote settlements' locations to central ones, as well as the lack of institutional readiness to manage it, gave rise to fast urbanization and growth of cities, surrounded by informal land development. Internal migration and urbanization patterns were of a cascade effect: people from secondary centers moved towards Tirana and fewer cities in the coast, and rural residents had a choice to reallocate either in Tirana's suburbs or in the secondary cities. As a result, the urban area of the main cities grew by 30-300%, and in few cases, entirely new settlements were established on agricultural land. The latter is the case of Kamza, with 22 km² urbanized in only 15 years³. According to ALUIZNI⁴, a total of 270,000 informal residential buildings was self-declared by the "owners" during the period between 2005-2013, but the figure is higher, when we include the informal construction of 2014-2015. While people of the informal areas were investing all their fortune on housing, no government investments on public infrastructures were made for at least the first 10 years after 1990.

These urban growth phenomenon (densification and expansion) shifted the population balance from rural to urban. According to the 2011 census data, the urban population of

Albania represents 58.2% of the total and matches the prediction of the United Nations Report (2010) for an urban/rural balance of 5:4. The same report predicts that this balance will change further towards 7:2 in 2050⁵. This implies a further challenge on territorial development for Albania in the future.

Apart from informal developments in the cities peripheries, formal housing development has intensively taken place in the urban cores as well. However, investment on public infrastructure has been modest despite the need and private housing investment. For instance, the latter, during 2000-2008 represents 83% of the total investment, while infrastructures stand only for 17%. There are several reasons for this, including the lack of knowledge and human capacities. However, a key factor is the lack of a property tax for urban land, while the tax on buildings was/is so extremely low that its value does not even provide an incentive for local governments to collect it. The following table summarizes the fiscal indicators (generated at local level for Albania) for the period of 2008 to 2011.

Revenues and Expenditures in Euro⁶/capita	2008	2009	2010	2011
REVENUES				
Total revenues/capita	53,53	78,05	75,34	67,89
Current revenues ⁷ /capita	17,44	19,09	18,16	17,87
Own revenues ⁸ /capita	39,95	43,11	43,87	39,04
Small business tax/capita	4,34	4,30	4,12	4,37
Immovable Property tax⁹/capita	3,11	2,85	3,10	3,24
Cleaning tariff/capita	1,66	2,47	2,13	2,09
Unconditional grant/capita	18,82	19,54	32,30	29,68
EXPENDITURES				
Total expenditures/capita	42,79	52,10	49,54	42,17
Capital expenditures/capita	15,36	22,55	18,28	14,32

Table 1: Local governments' fiscal indicators¹⁰

As shown on table 1, the revenues generated through the immovable property tax, could cover only 13%-23% of the capital expenditures per capita, at the local level. If Albania were to apply a value-based property tax (on buildings and land, for instance 0.5% of the land market value), then the major municipalities would be able to collect a revenue of at least 5 times higher than the current value.

The lack of a property tax (on urban land and value based) has had a negative impact on the total amount of the local revenues, and has also contributed to shaping a land development mentality. Landowners believe that they own the development rights and no government can take, or condition those rights through taxation. Having said so, they have no opportunity costs to face and thus are not inclined to provide their land for area-based development in cooperation with other landowners. In fact, land development has been plot-based for the last 20 years in Albania, showing for no individual social responsibility on the property. This phenomenon, together with the lack of public policies for land development and housing and poor investments in public infrastructures/services (as compared to the need) have created incredibly high environmental, social and economic costs in the cities and the territories, which next generations will have to face.

However, next to these social-economic and territorial transformations there have also been political, institutional and administrative ones, all of which are embedded into a societal Albanian model. The latter remains to be explained from an anthropological perspective, but this is not the purpose of this paper. What this paper intends to explore though, is the planning policy (institutional and instrumental) model adopted by Albanians in this quarter of a century to guide or follow the territorial developments. It will do so, by looking at the evolutionary steps undertaken in spatial planning in Albania, and at the ability and

opportunity of local governments and other stakeholders to implement national planning laws and regulations.

2. An evolving [Albanian] legal and institutional framework for territory planning and development

2.1 An odyssey of territorial planning in Albania

Spatial or territorial planning may not be considered as of “ancient” foundations in Albania. Practically, it only dates back to the late 1950s, but a real planning discourse, which is also embedded in legal and institutional frameworks starts only after 1990s. These dates are linked strongly to the state formation and political history of Albania. Prior to Second World War, anything similar to urban planning as a discipline did not even exist, while after the 1950s, the communist dictatorship imposed a mechanism of central economic planning (every 5 years), which resulted (among others) into several territorial transformations, mainly of urban and industrial nature. For this historical period, one should differentiate between the economic planning and *urbanism*. Both were heavily centralized, but the second was merely an effect of the latter. Thus, the government, based on its economic development priorities, was taking decisions on the whereabouts of the allocation, or reallocation of artificial land uses (*i.e.* cities, villages, industrial areas, etc.).

Following the government’s decision, architects and engineers made use of the urbanism regulations for designating the positioning of the (centrally predefined) buildings and infrastructures on the territory. The experts’ educational backgrounds and school of thinking were imported largely from the Soviet Union (due to historical and political links between the governments), all resulting into either standardized eastern/soviet style of architecture and urban design, or extremely economic solutions of (concrete) prefabricated residential blocks.

From the 1950s to 1990, Albanian territory planning was happening (*de facto*), but it was never recognized as such. Nor was it undertaken intentionally, because of the heavy centralization of the economy by the state, which also owned all of the land and other immovable properties.

In these socio-political circumstances, the property and market conflicts between the government and the society were nonexistent and therefore there was no need for any [comprehensive] planning approach to address them. Instead, urban plans (instruments) for cities and villages were of a physical nature, “extremely rigid... with the intention to define the government’s distribution of power over territory, in support to the centralized sectorial policies” (PLGP 2012).

But, planning systems are inherently linked to political, administrative, institutional and legal frameworks. As a result, as soon as the latter were radically changed in Albania in the early 1990s, a reconceptualization of the territory planning emerged. The very first law on urban planning (no. 7693) was passed by the Parliament in 1993, following the privatization reform of land and residential units. Then a revised law entered into force in 1998, remaining in force for 10 years and subject to annual revision trying to adapt to the contextual changes, mainly to the quickly spreading land development informality.

Both laws considered planning as “a set of rules for location of buildings on land”, thus inheriting the principles of urbanism regulations of the communist regime. This fact is crucial to understanding why neither law succeeded to provide a legal and institutional basis for guiding territorial resources’ use and land development, while in force. Thus, either law 1) did not recognize, neither addressed the core role of private property in spatial planning; 2) or consider that the law-breaking spontaneity of individuals for satisfying housing needs in cities suburbs had already become a reality. Overall, a “land development behavior” was carved, where 1) land owners (in absence also of land taxation and other regulatory, or taking instruments) were soliciting 30-50% of the development profit; 2) and the informal construction process shifted from merely a necessity to a persisting mentality. From an urban

fabric perspective, as already described in chapter 1, land development was dispersed and plot-based, resulting into either an expansion of construction on agriculture land, or dense residential construction in the urban cores and lack of related public infrastructures.

These urban planning laws also defined similar institutional frameworks and instruments, as both were based on the governance decentralization reform initiated in 1992. The latter was mainly political and partially administrative till 2000, when a new law on local government functioning and organization was approved (to include functional and fiscal decentralization). Local governments were responsible on delivering building permits, based either on urban regulatory plans (masterplans), or partial (area) plans. Both planning instruments were subject to approval by the National Territory Adjustment Committee. This shows for a rather centralized or at least shared nature of urban planning as a governance function. Content-wise, the plans did lack the strategic thinking (and component), in addition were of a regulatory or design nature and did not even bear a resemblance to structural or development plans, due to the lack of infrastructures and capital investment programming. In this respect, these plans were merely poor blueprints, good enough for complying with legal requirements, but lacking any guidance to spatial and urban development.

In 2007-2009, the Government embarked on a critical process of reforming the planning system in Albania. It remains questionable whether the government's initiative was aimed at a full-fledged reform, or simply at a profound revision of the planning law as an electoral promise and because international donors supported it. The government worked on participatory policy analysis and proposals and then proceeded with the law. The principles of the law were set so as to give raise to a new planning approach in Albania, which 1) would attack all negative phenomena portrayed in urban developments so far, 2) would reposition planning and the respective legislation from a follower to a leader of the development, 3) introduce the sustainability and comprehensiveness notions in spatial planning; 4) and define pathways for converging with EU spatial planning practices and principles (set as of 1999, through the ESPD¹¹ and latter on in the EU Territorial Agenda).

The law, drafted with foreign technical assistance, failed to gain acceptance by developers, community, landowners, politics and public servants. It was mainly so, because it introduced a rather "revolutionary approach to development and its control", which once again found institutions (public and private) unprepared to swallow it, let alone digest it. The creativity ingredients tossed in the law, allowing for strategic territorial planning, PPP¹² opportunities and for incorporation of financial instruments in land development, including also the obligation for area based development, escalated the skepticism and a rejection mood of both developers and local planning officials. Most interestingly, an enormous internal conflict upsurged gradually among the national and local institutional actors belonging to the same political force. The latter, backed also by different groups of businesses, were the key ones to push for legal changes from 2009 to 2013. Thus, the law and its regulations were regularly contested and modified severely till 2013, with very little implementation to test their quality and contextual significance. They were abolished after parliamentary elections (2013).

The Government approved a new territorial planning (107/2014) and development law in July 2014. Initially it intended to do minor corrections to the law no. 10119, but then the open process geared towards sizeable changes, more in form than substance. Subsequently, the government drafted bylaws, making them shorter and simpler to understand and implement, but delayed their approval with 10-12 months. Though never officially stated, the reason for the delay was political and related to the local elections that took place during this transitory period. These local elections were certainly exceptional as during 2014-2015 Albania initiated a territorial (consolidation) and administrative reform, with new (larger) municipalities being constituted right after elections.

In fact, since 2013 the overall institutional approach versus territorial planning has been and is moving through restless transformation paths, with no visible trajectories and expected end results from the public at large. The respective actions are either ad hoc (responding to

emergency situations), or impacted by narrow interests of “invisible” political and business stakeholders. In either case, one could notice the government’s overarching objective of undertaking isolated but catalytic and “echo-like” urban development actions, prior to more strategic and comprehensive thinking and planning. This is a political and rational choice that allows for quick results within the mandate, though it does not pave any way for a visionary chain of sustainable transformation projects.

The government has taken over the responsibility of “implanting” the quick-result interventions on the territory, regardless of the administrative jurisdictions, while placing (temporarily) limits to local governments in executing their territory planning and development function. There have been at least two moratoriums on this regard. The first one was aiming at protecting historical and natural sites. The second expanded to include all planning processes and residential buildings, allowing local governments to submit construction permits for a limited list of constructions, under the condition that central government would first check for the legal compliance of the requests. The second moratorium coincided with the delay of the bylaws and with the pre-electoral period. In this way, the central government disallowed the local ones to: 1) draft plans as their territories would increase significantly after local elections, due to the territorial reform; 2) run satisfying interests they had committed to since the last elections but not achieved; 3) and use the construction permits as a tool for increasing number of voters.

This approach of the central Government reflects a centralization-strengthening tendency for territorial planning. The latter has never been fully decentralized, but it looks like currently more local power is shifting up to the central level. It is grounded on the concern that if a massive construction permitting took place (especially in suburban/rural municipalities) prior to local elections, then all current national planning efforts (defined also in the law) and the expected performance of the new local government after the reform would be negatively effected.

As it stands, since 6 years ago, institutionally speaking, territory planning remains in a stand-by position, with national government using the revised legal framework to achieve its own objectives. The lack of legislation stability and the moratoriums have slowed down tremendously the land development processes. This has a positive and a negative outcome: it was already necessary to calm down the frenzy of formal and informal construction; but this modus operandi established pipeline opportunities to the national government alone and to those having stronger links with politics.

2.2 Hitting the road towards a planning discourse

Countries with a developed urban/spatial institutional planning history have also developed planning discourses founded by a multitude of stakeholders, which, as Fürst defines, with “the values, attitudes, mindsets and routines shared by them” (Fürst, 2009) give rise to planning cultures and outcomes. The planning discourse of Albania is young, immature and controversial, stimulated by different schools of thinking and a variety of utility enhancing and business interests. In the beginning of the 1990s, when informal developments bounced all over agricultural and pristine natural land, the architects and *urbanists* (the experts involved in urbanism at the time) were either unable to recognize the phenomenon, or so frightened by the unknown that would rather refuse to deal with it. However, there were also groups of young and energetic professionals, who had the opportunity to access western education and, benefiting from international aid for Albania, engaged in community participatory planning and neighborhood upgrading projects. They were aiming at tackling the quick and wide spreading dispersed informal development trend, while also working with the residents towards their integration in the existing urban society.

These professional groups represented two conflicting schools of thought, the previous being more rigid, concerned with basic regulations and to a lower degree also with some urban

design aspects; and the latter being more dynamic, concerned with livability and city making, considering the complete array of the related social-economic and environmental issues. Currently, impacted also by EU metanarratives such as ESDP and the EU Territorial Agenda (Reimer et al. 2014), the professional planning discourse is induced to include concepts as “territorial cohesion, environmental protection, accessibility, polycentricity” (Dühr et al., 2007), comprehensive planning, etc. accepting the multi-dimensional nature of planning. However, this is still in an incubation stage and often contrasted by small-scale urban design interventions. The latter are considered (mainly by the architects) as key catalytic projects, good enough to boost sustainable and quality urban developments. Though very effective at short-term, this approach lacks an overarching vision which is essential for the disturbed territorial development context of Albania.

The government on the other hand, in the early 1990s remained unresponsive towards the (informal) developments not simply due to the lack of knowledge. Allowing people to find individual solutions to housing was relieving for the government and would contribute to the increase of the aggregate economic values and utility of the society (Toto, 2014 and Kareiva et al. 2011).

Initially, the government did not understand the power of planning, neither its technique, to achieve the purpose for increased aggregate utility. Latter (after 2000s), it realized that a “plan – no plan” situation would create the necessary haziness for certain groups to benefit more than others.

The law of the 2009 was very ambitious in purpose and instruments, but not contextualized enough as to gain broad acceptance. The initial legislative effort was not set on the ambition to initiate a full-fledged reform, but it resulted into one. Fearful of the impact, the government itself (consciously or not) contributed to the failure of the law. In 2014, the new government placed territorial development very high in the political agenda, but its approach (legal and instrumental) was composed of fragmented interventions, rather than designed as a long-term visionary program. It also reopened the debate on the [re]centralization-decentralization balance for territorial planning and is yet keeping on hold the power (horizontal and vertical) distribution among planning authorities.

The society took advantage of the professional incompatibility and the government’s *laissez faire* approach, to develop its own individual utility enhancing solutions for investing in housing and real estate, showing for “a particular willingness to accept market economy and rather neoliberal tendencies” (Reimer et al. 2014) in land development. The developers’ society was strengthened gradually, starting with small housing investments and moving towards diversified portfolios, to include economic facilities and infrastructures’ projects. In lack of appropriate land development regulations, most of it was plot based – regarded as more efficient and competitive process-wise for developers, due to avoided negotiation costs.

The landowners, on the other hand, were benefiting tremendously because in the absence of opportunity costs (no regulations imposing area based development and urban land taxation), they were advantageous in negotiation power, setting thus the market land price and defining their share of the development (usually 30-50% of the development value). Public at large had mixed benefits and reactions. All those buying houses were in a detrimental position, having to pay high housing prices to internalize the benefit-loss game between developers and landowners. Most people, became frustrated by city densification, lack of public infrastructure and services and the “ghettoization” of the suburbs by informal developments. Other groups squeezed opportunities from this chaotic urban environment for their entrepreneurial businesses, such as engagement with tourism services in the coast, speculation with land prices in the city edges, etc.

Overall, there are two features of the newly born land development industry and planning discourse in Albania: 1) the institutional and legal framework efforts have never thrived so far to guide the development. On the contrary, their tendency for continuous readjustment based on social-economic and territorial outcomes of land development remains strong and reveals

the “follower” feature of the planning institutions; 2) the territorial development context is composed of many skew paths that make it very difficult to draw an approach – one would mainly speak of dominant behaviors, where the most peculiar one is that of the individual “organic” decision-making and development, irrespective of the institutional and legal framework.

3. The response of local governments – from the blueprint towards the integrated approach

The law (no. 8652/2000) on local government organization and functioning, defined urban planning as an own local government function, within limits set by the urban planning legislation. This prerogative implied that urban planning could in fact be also shared between local and national government. As a matter of fact, all planning regulations since 1993 have been set nationally, and municipalities were obliged to draft urban plans in line with these regulations. The national government had the final responsibility for approving the plans. As analyzed earlier, till 2009, all plans were of a regulatory nature, designed only for the urban area, and with no guidelines on the agriculture and natural land. The sectorial legislation was dealing with the latter. Because the planning legislation allowed local governments to submit building permits also based only on partial/detailed area planning, they often did not have an incentive to draft *masterplans* (for all of their urban territory). By rule, almost all local governments had an urban plan (*masterplan*) in power till 2009, but for most of them (including Tirana) the plan was more than 20 or 30 years old.

The law no. 10119/2009 defined a new rule: local governments could submit building permits only based on a general territorial plan (for their entire administrative territory, including agriculture and natural land). There are two novelties in this statement: 1) plans are not to cover only urban areas any longer, but the entire local government territory, and as such should also be comprehensive in nature, and cut across sectors and territory. The territorial plan for one municipality should embrace: strategic territorial vision and objectives, [infra]structure and land use proposals, zoning and land development regulations, and also capital investment programming and strategic environmental assessment. This also provided opportunities for local governments to embrace the “making room paradigm” (Angel *et al.* 2011) as opposed to the rigid urban area limit/line defined by the previous legislation. 2) a (general) territorial plan is mandatory for submitting building permits, which provides an incentive and an obligation for local governments to draw territorial plans. As a result, 30 municipalities (out of 373 local governments) had their general territorial plans approved by the beginning of 2014. Afterwards the government introduced the planning moratorium and no more municipalities engaged in territorial planning.

However, the local elections of June 2015 are over and new (and larger) municipalities are constituted. 373 local governments are now reduced into 61, and in some cases the previous territory constitutes only 4% of the new administrative territory of a municipality. By law (107/2014) they all should have general territorial plans in place, to be able to submit building permits. Drafting a territorial plan that is comprehensive as described above, in the context of the Albanian municipalities – poor to moderate human and financial capacities; new, bigger and more complex territories; no consolidated if not existing at all GIS territorial databases; – is a challenging effort. As such, it requires at least 1.5-2 years of time, assuming that significant portions of the work will be outsourced to professional planning studios. In the meantime, the central government would also like to bring the moratoriums to an end, so as to provide space for land development to take place. This is an economic necessity as well as a political promise.

It is clear that there exists a time mismatch between the process of drafting comprehensive territorial plans and the submission of building permits – with the latter starting as of the first 2-3 months after the local elections. This is not by mistake; it is just an institutional and legal reflection of the urban development patterns in Albania. Thus, on the one side there is a

planning legislation, which sets rules and obligations to steer towards sustainable spatial planning and development (with a clear hierarchy of instruments, a comprehensive approach, strategic visions and concrete actions, power division between authorities), and on the other there is an immediate need for (economic and land) development that cannot wait for all of the legal steps to be accomplished. The government and all other stakeholders find themselves continuously in a matrix of conflicting emergent and/or not strategically important priorities, and are constantly looking for innovative solutions, to address this equation while also complying with the legal requirements.

Recently, a decision was made for local governments to carry out their planning function through both, a fast track and another more strategic and long-term one. The fast track, based on conditional and transitory bylaws, would allow local governments to move forward with building permits in the absence of a complete territorial plan, but based on the territorial strategy (the first component of the plan). In the strategic track, local officials would keep working with finalizing all legally required steps and components of the territory plan. Parallel to both tracks, local planners can engage in identifying and designing/implementing creative projects that not only tackle key territorial problems, but are also of a long-term benefit and have a replication value.

However, while legally and institutionally there are great efforts being made to come up with innovative and well-contextualized instruments, the stakeholders' reaction is not always positive:

- The experience of designing city development strategies dates to the early 1990s in Albania, but local and national government regard this as a crucial necessity only now, after 20 years.
- It is already since 2009 that comprehensive territory planning is dominating the legal and institutional debates, but developers, municipalities and line Ministries show significant resistance to using it in concrete terms. There are very few local cases of successful accomplishment of the comprehensive instrument and experience needs yet to be built. Because of certain skepticism towards it, the time that it requires to be achieved, and the lack of knowledge, some groups of architects and government officials tend to promote and go back to the partial area plans and urban design projects.
- The comprehensive planning approach requires that bottom-up processes go hand in hand with the citizen participation enabled by local governments. For both types of citizen engagement in planning processes, there are already experiences and best practices in Albania. However, such processes have often been induced and supported by local organizations and international aid, and have yet to make significant way to becoming a genuine phenomenon, leading to fully transparent planning exercises.
- The municipalities have increased in size and complexity of territory types. This makes comprehensive planning a must, but at the same time more difficult to implement it. As a result, while local governments accept the comprehensive approach in principle, they also show some rejection behavior towards it. Often municipalities have a pragmatic preference to engage gradually into sectorial plans, rather than get involved into one comprehensive, both strategic and project-oriented process, though they are aware the previous approach will not solve their territorial problems.
- Finally, the planning legislation is not well linked to sectorial legislation (some further effort is needed in this regard). As a result, even in the best case, where municipalities would fully embrace the comprehensive approach, there would still be need to solve legal bottlenecks and institutional overlaps between municipalities and ministries.

4. Planning as the technology of politics – bridging dilemmas towards innovative solutions

The societal understanding about planning remains in constant evolution and so far has not managed to break the cliché that “planning is too technical for the public at large to understand it and influence it for real”. Nevertheless, spatial/urban planning is in continuous reinvention of itself, aiming at adapting to societal transformations. This constitutes both, a threat and an opportunity in planning actions and narratives. The threat stands in the fact that as long as people and professionals will not grasp the real nature of planning, they will continue to misuse it, and this will not result in the desired outcome of planning – livable city making, sustainable and resilient territories. It is also an opportunity because waving between professions and scientific opinions, trying to comprehend all dimensions of planning, allows for the way towards innovation. The latter is exceptionally needed in societies where the relationship between people and space is distressed.

Different authors and studies have described the weak aspects of planning, such as time consuming, probability theory in uncertain contexts, very expensive, rigidity, risk for misuse on behalf of narrow interests, risk of becoming an isolated exercise that increases even more the gap between planners and other stakeholders (UN ECE, 2008), etc. These limitations, or disadvantages remain valid and planners struggle to either mitigate, or remove them completely. Nevertheless, looking at the variety of experiences in managing and planning territories, one can understand that the limitations of planning (as it is currently conceived) are there to stay; instead we should think of how to reinvent planning and bring about a fundamental change of the *rules of the game*. Realizing that planning and its instruments are inherently linked to politics would be crucial in a reinvention attempt. This has two implications: 1) the reinvention is not a one-day or one-person creation/deed, but a process, whose success depends on human critical mass and advanced societal knowledge; 2) prior to jumping to the technicalities of the planning instruments, we should elaborate and agree upon the philosophical axis behind the planning purpose and the related instrument/s. Again at this point, it is important to boost the (educated) human critical mass that shares the philosophical thinking, values and principles, thus giving a real meaning to the “stakeholders’ participation” notion and yielding easier, democratic and uncontested decision-making.

Breaking circles to nourish more planning innovation, could require addressing the following:

1) Accept the time consuming nature of planning, as well as its costs, but turn these aspects into background dimensions. Thus, stakeholders should not necessarily wait for planning exercises and instruments to be finalized, prior to taking decisions and implementing them. Planning, as a process is a continuum maintained and energized by stakeholders, and feeds their decisions on space transformation and resources use, at any given time. Costs on the other hand, should not be related to plans preparation alone, but to the whole process of thinking, participation, decision-making and implementation. This is important in efficiency terms, as it helps to economize wisely whenever possible, and also makes sure that planning exercises do not become an aim per se, but are transitory mediums to realization of needs.

2) Make planning penetrate through the thinking of the society, throughout all its layers, while maintaining the scientific dimension and comprehensiveness of its actions. This again implies that more and better knowledge and education is needed for the society;

3) Preserve resources and territories for both sustainability and resilience, by making less use of the rigid regulations and employ more rational societal behavior. Ethically, this requires a social jump, so as to match the individual rationality with the common or societal one;

4) Turn people into real actors in planning. When people vote, they often do not think that political territorial planning stands behind electoral promises. When invited to processes for

drafting planning instruments (defined by law), they either find it too technical, or are convinced that their opinions would not be considered – so why bother?

These issues constitute conditionality for a new planning paradigm. Some lessons learned from the Albania's case could contribute to this paradigm:

- **Make planning be flexible for real:** Planning should be more about continuous (scientific) territorial evidence analysis and scenario building (ESPON, 2014) and less about “set in stone” proposals. Albania is moving away from the latter, but professionals and governments have a hard time engaging in related scientific work, due to lack of funds, knowledge, and also understanding of its value. Planning should be more about strategic programs and quick actions/projects based on strategic thinking, rather than endless structures’ plans that lose relevance while being designed as the context has changed. This provides a possibility for stakeholders to readapt quickly to the context, have the opportunity to modify projects, or the sequence of priorities, and reduce the gap between the extremely technical exercise and the need for urgent results;
- **Tail off regulations:** In different societies (with diverse evolutionary stages of planning), this statement is based on different reasoning. In the case of Albania, regulations are in fact needed, as there is much territorial chaos to deal with. The question is where to draw the line. Experience shows that in case of extreme chaos, moving towards the other extreme, that of imposing strict regulations does not help, on the contrary it creates adverse effects. This is so because of the peoples’ politics and requires a change in style, thus **move beyond regulations and towards livability standards**. Standards end up with rules to be implemented by stakeholders, but these would be **context and place and case based**, aiming at achieving the standard and not being set in law as an aim per se. Standards, by nature, even if sectorial, bear comprehensive results (a sector should not harm another) and also allow for quick actions to take place, thus implementing the plans. This would not be considered deregulation, but contextualization of rules and ethics of space/territory **based on values, rather than technicalities**, and designed case by case. The values need to be well set though, next to livability standards.
- **Make participation a natural routine:** This might even require a change in terminology, because participation is often misused and mistaken for an invitation. Planners, designers and architects promote (at least theoretically) “working with the people”, “involving the user”, “inclusive planning and design”, etc. This facilitates the understanding of the complexity of the entirety and steers harmony in city-making. It leads to the notion that community is a peer and not a beneficiary of the planning work and process. Practically speaking, this requires continuous involvement, both bottom-up and top-down, even when this “sounds” not so efficient and useful and people are skeptical (as it is in Albania). It has to happen so that people get educated on this “working together proactively”, instead of assigning themselves the role of the passive recipient of the “so technical planning instruments”.
- **Accept that planning is a technology of politics:** Politics is made by people for people and it implies stirring, harmonizing, and clashing interests in a multilayers environment, over resources and property in all of its philosophical significance. Accepting planning as the technology of politics, it entails mainstreaming territorial accountability in territorial multilayers governance; educating and engaging politicians in territorial development discourses; and involving communities in planning discourse and dialogues. If planning remains considered only as too technical and scientific, people will keep placing it at the “geeks’ corner”, with no proper attention on its unique power to increase welfare and cities livability. If otherwise, then there is a chance that the politics of planning is transformed to reduce the gap between the power balance and the desired outcome of planning.
- **Break hierarchies, but strengthen links in a unique net:** Albania has an interesting experience in developing planning hierarchies legally and then diverging in

implementation. This is because stakeholders accept theoretically the hierarchy of legal and planning instruments, but different government levels have different incentives or obligations in drafting their instruments. Local governments need plans as a basis to deliver building permits, while national governments need plans for strategic orientation of their capital investment. As a result, with information on territory really scarce, and high planning costs, municipalities run to identify opportunities for carrying out their planning instruments, while national government remains more selective towards other priorities. This is an example, of a theoretically good, but practically dysfunctional planning hierarchy system. On the other hand, it also shows that it is possible to break hierarchies and still keep the network of the instruments (at different levels) strong and healthy. The key ingredient for this is continuous coordination. Thus, rather than build a rigid hierarchy system of planning instruments, it is advisable to design a multilayers network of instruments, which functions based on a coordination and communication protocol. Shifting from levels into layers of governance, helps further in this direction.

- **Boost dialogue and cooperation:** Finally, dialogue and cooperation are the only way to solve overlaps and conflicts in a planning process, especially where the latter is a shared government's function. However, this requires for developed and knowledgeable societies, with converging philosophies and values, in a context of preserved cultural diversity. This implies that planning innovations will surge within developed societal and social models and *vice versa* will impact their creation.

According to Socrates, people are social and thus political beings ("animals") that do function in community, with a set of ethical rules (Alexander and Peñalver, 2012) that nowadays has critically expanded to include all space and territory. This is in fact **one** complex net, and dealing with or within it, requires new mentalities, greater knowledge, higher mental development and intelligence, creativity and stronger senses of community. All these are needed in a world where so far, individualistic personalities and materialistic needs tend to have stronger impacts than community personalities and spiritual needs. The latter does not deny the former, and *vice-versa*, but balance between them is missing and needed. **Planning is all about this.**

Planners, social scientists, designers, economists, and so on, are increasingly trying to shift their thinking into **integrative and comprehensive approaches of high context suitability**, rather than focusing exclusively on one of the reactive, proactive, rational, participatory, incremental, (Randolph, 2004) etc. planning approaches. In a sense, efforts are put to envisage the symbiosis that already exists between the city, people and nature, but that it is so fragile and in risk of disruption, or elusion, or fading. All in all, we are in constant search for the [bio][antro]pocentric values balance (Kareiva *et al.* 2011).

Endnotes

¹ These data are published in the journals of the early `1990s and calculated based on the legal provisions for land privatization.

² INSTAT (Institute of Statistics) 2014 and Ministry of Agriculture.

³ These data were produced by Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development, through making use of ESRI imagery and orthophotos of 1990/1, 1999/2000/2001, 2005/2007, 2014.

⁴ Agency for Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of Informal Settlements, www.aluizni.gov.al.

⁵ According United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010)

⁶ Exchange rate: 1 Euro = 140 Lekë

⁷ Local taxes and tariffs

⁸ Current revenues and the unconditional grant

⁹ This is composed of: tax on property transfer + tax on impact on infrastructure + buildings tax + tax on agricultural land. Land and buildings taxes are area based.

¹⁰ Own calculations based on the Ministry of Finance data

¹¹ European Spatial Development Perspective

¹² Public Private Partnerships

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- Law no. 8652, date 31/7/2000, "On the organization and functioning of local governments", as amended.
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- Law no. 107/2014, date 31/07/2014, "On territory planning and development", as amended.



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