



## 48TH ISOCARP CONGRESS PERM / RUSSIA 10-13 SEPTEMBER 2012 FAST FORWARD – PLANNING IN A (HYPER) DYNAMIC URBAN CONTEXT

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### SUMMARY REPORT . TRACK 3 INTERNATIONAL PLANNERS' FORUM – UNDERSTANDING & MANAGING URBAN DYNAMICS

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#### INTRODUCTION

The papers discussed in track 3 are relevant to the congress theme of “Fast Forward” and “Hyper-Dynamism” and to the planning profession at large. Generally however, the inputs area related to urban dynamics. They focus on transformation processes demonstrated through best practice cases, new planning issues, innovative participatory strategies, new instruments and theory. In the last two decades urbanisation all over the world has been speeding up, due to globalisation, change of political systems, economic and climate conditions and various other factors. This makes spatial planning even more complex and constitutes a challenge for planners as numerous studies have shown. Research and plans from a broad range of cities and regions worldwide illustrate what obstacles and opportunities urban planners are challenged with today. Flexible and adaptable approaches, involving different stakeholders and considering various concerns must be developed to manage urban dynamics. Many papers emphasize the growing need for public participation to engage stakeholders in a socially inclusive approach to planning.

Urban dynamics in spatial planning is critical and needs to be given high priority. The papers from about 20 different countries in this track consider this as a starting point for their reflections and case studies. In short, the main theme of all of the papers can be summarized as: How can planners contribute to allowing fast urbanisation to result in a sustainable and liveable world? The conclusions of the three sessions in track 3 are as follows:

#### SESSION 1: ENSURING QUALITY OF URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS: INNOVATIVE PARTICIPATION AND PLACE-MAKING

Terence Byrnes introduces in his theoretical paper generally into the topic asking the question, whether the creators of urban environment have adapted their actions well to the needs of the ones it has been created for. He concludes that more community involvement is important for the place-making of a liveable city; participation is urgently needed in urban transformations in order to adapt it well to the needs of the citizens and ensuring

local identity.

Another theoretical paper from Christian Walloth focuses on planning approaches in general. If planning should be effective, it must overcome the limitations of today's approaches within the metrics of fast (bottom up) and slow (top down) dynamics. In order to influence the fast changing urban systems towards an integrated urban governance perspective it is considered necessary to integrate citizen' actions into top down approaches.

The public underground space provides opportunities in dense urban areas; its transformation and possibilities are not yet explored sufficiently, considering a long term approach and resilience to natural disasters. This fact is shown in the paper of Antonia Cornaro and Han Admiraal. As cities are running out of surface space and more utilities and infrastructure are necessary, it demonstrates that public underground space, especially in combination with infrastructural development, offers new opportunities for functional enhancements.

Further conclusions in the discussions were: civic engagement is crucial for successful planning processes and ought to be integrated from the beginning. Urban public space has the potential to form the spatial backbone of social city life in the urban context; therefore more attention has to be paid for it.

## SESSION 2: STRATEGIES AND METHODS FOR MANAGING URBAN DYNAMICS

Like in Russia, the change of the political systems in some Eastern European countries has led to new planning systems, that are still being adapted today. The fast change of reality requires new strategies and solutions for implementation in spatial planning. The growing concentration of the population and its needs cause additional challenges. The environmental impact of urbanization makes developing strategies for sustainability indispensable. Different cases made clear that flexible and strategic planning instruments can be adopted fast. But, the more flexible plans are, the more strong educated planners are needed to defend public interests and spatial quality.

Global problems like climate change can lead to local solutions, this is presented in the case study of Milica Bajic-Brkovic. It presents how Serbia is dealing with the climate change challenges at the local level, by employing its rediscovered assets and opportunities, reshaping behaviour, and developing proactive strategies focused on actions.

Long term national plans have to consider short term perspectives like implementation programs and annual monitoring reports. This is the main topic of the case study about the spatial plans on a national level in Serbia from Trkulja Sinisa. The activities concerning implementation in Serbia are being undertaken in accordance with European and other international practices (e.g. ESPON program ).

The cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina were entering a new phase of urban development since 1995, influenced by multiple factors in the socio-economic sphere. The case study of Brankica Milojevic concludes that urban planning as a mechanism of synchronization of effects in space, plays an important role in urban transformation. It should allow flexibility for private investors, while providing public facilities.

The case study of Guy Vloebergh focuses on cross-border spatial planning between Belgium and the Netherlands and its opportunities of the cross border collaboration in order to strengthen identity. Fast forward planning needs working on three tracks simultaneously: to combine long term visions with short term solutions and to involve stakeholders.

Concerning managing urban dynamics the theoretical paper of Jeremy Dawkins concludes at last that, for a fair urban management, a property markets on a set of rules is needed supported by an independent planning system. It is an introduction to a generic model implementing a new urban land management system.

Further conclusions in the discussion were: design competitions are another form of managing urban transformation, provided that there is a good starting definition of the project. Low carbon issues are topics that have to be considered more in planning processes, which was demonstrated in more than one case study.

### SESSION 3: TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS – ORGANIZING AND VISUALIZING DATA

The case study of Manfred Schrenk et al. shows on the case of Oman the opportunities of an information system as a supportive planning tool, which provides spatial data as input for the planning process, in order to support decision making.

Daniele Vettorato and Vaccaro describe in their case study a most interesting method to estimate the solar power contribution to the resilience of a city to the peak oil. The method is based on GIS, remote sensing and spreadsheets. It demonstrates that data collecting is a key issue of environmental planning. New technologies ought to be supported in order to improve eco-efficiency.

Another issue, concerning information technologies, is shown in the case study of Yuri Torres and Lucia Costa on the portuary zone of Rio de Janeiro. The planning process is an example for e-participation in a digital space open for all citizens by web-based information.

In general, as it was largely discussed, collecting spatial data and monitoring urban changes is the starting point



of a holistic approach to planning inclusive of feedback cycles. Spatial data gives evidence to urban and environmental phenomena and supports understanding and managing urban dynamics. Collecting data and monitoring is especially a key issue in environmental planning.

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