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MIGRATIONS – IMPACTS, LAW, AND SPATIAL PLANNING

Book of Abstracts

Edited by:

Prof. Dr. Dušan Nikolić

Jelena Cvejic Poznić

Dunja Malbaša

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INFLUENCE OF MIGRATIONS ON URBAN SPRAWL

Migrations are one of the factors that are contributing to urban sprawl in Europe. In search for better job opportunities people are moving from rural areas into cities within the same country, within the Europe, or immigrating from other parts of the world which has a result in increasing need for housing space. Wars and consequences of climate change are also contributing to migrations. According to the Eurostat, natural change in the EU population from 2016 to 2017 was neutral, but population growth was 1,5 million due to net migration. Most of migrants settle in bigger cities. Pursuant to UN World urbanisation prospects 73% of the European population lives in urban areas and by 2050 that number can reach 80% causing huge housing demand associated with various problems.

Serbia has faced the consequences of migrations from rural areas and also migrations due to wars in the nineties of the twentieth century. The number of refugees that moved mostly to northern and central part of Serbia during and after wars was almost one

million. Urban plans were not adjusted to sudden increase of the number of new constructions and procedure for obtaining building permit was considerably long. Most of immigrants settled around bigger cities building illegal houses usually on agricultural land. Growth of cities due to migrations within the country also contributed to increasing demand for housing space and increase of illegal constructions. Solution for legal and other problems was trying to be found in the process of legalisation in the following years (six acts on legalisation were enacted until today). Dealing with issue of illegal constructions is quite delicate. On one hand, it is necessary to make appropriate decisions preventing people from becoming homeless, as that illegal house is for most families the only dwelling that they have. On the other hand it is necessary to preserve agricultural land around the cities and to prevent investors from obtaining economic benefits by violating the law.

