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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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At the same time providing sufficient green space to ensure liveable urban environments is being stressed. Combining both policy objectives: targeted urban densification while preserving green space, will be a spatial topic of increasing importance. In order to balance urban density and green space a good understanding of supply and demand for green space is needed and spatial instruments that support policy and interventions are required. In this article the practice of introducing standards to ensure green space provision is discussed. Drawing from a critical review of literature and practices, a reflection on the usability of green space standards is made. A tentative roadmap to establish context specific standards is laid out which can inspire to develop evidence informed green space policy goals, which can be translated into instruments.

ID: 135

General Paper

Illegal construction of buildings and legalization – the case of Serbia

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The Republic of Serbia is one of the European countries that is facing the problem of illegal construction of buildings. According to the data of the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, there are 2.05 million illegal constructions in the country. The illegal construction of buildings leads to multiplying problems. They are not built in accordance with urban plans, they cannot be legally connected to the electricity, gas, telecommunications network, heating network, water supply and sewerage (Law on Planning and Construction, Art. 160), they are sometimes built in a place where the basic infrastructure is missing, etc. Illegal construction causes various problems related to property rights, especially concerning real estate transactions. There have been different approaches in trying to find solutions for the problem of the growing number of illegal constructions in previous years in Serbia. Since 2003, illegal construction has been a criminal offense. Besides that, the possibility of legalization was considered as a potential solution to the problem. From 1997 until today, six laws have been passed that regulate the issue of the legalization of illegally constructed buildings. These regulations have enabled citizens to obtain the necessary permits in a simpler and cheaper way, which calls into question the principle of equality of citizens. The possibility of legalization also raises the question of the impact of such procedures on urban planning, as some buildings/houses that are in the process of legalization were not built in accordance with the urban plan. When considering delicate legalization issues, one should take into account the whole context of previous years during which illegal buildings were built, especially in social terms (in the period of migration caused by wars during the 1990s), as for some citizens an illegally built building/house is the only dwelling that they have.

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Special session 1: Struggle over rural space (Proposers: Peter Ho & Walter T. de Vries)

Implementing Disaster Resilience through Land Consolidation

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Disaster Resilience, as an important aspect of spatial planning, ensures disaster-prone areas are not used for or occupied by disaster sensitive activities or objects. When incorporating hazard information into the design of a new spatial plan, land use and even property rights will be effected. Often land is in the use and possession of specific persons, enterprises or groups, and the (new) societally desired activities or priorities add to the scarcity.

Despite the increasingly accurate information on the hazard and disaster risk including climate change, those with vested interests on effected land, are not easily persuaded to take adaption actions.

The property rights of people make the actual implementation of well-designed risk-informed plans difficult. Esp. land ownership is protected in international treaties and national constitutions; even though different levels of limitations are allowed in the public or general interest[1]. Next to expropriation as the most extreme version, reduction of allowed use is also possible, and when little use remains, can even be seen as de facto expropriation. Relocation, even under financial compensation, still affects historical, emotional and livelihood ties to the land, and might lead to people disapproving, resisting or even fighting the land use changes needed from hazard risk perspective.