

Press Release 500 characters

REAL CORP 2019: “Is this the Real World? Perfect Smart Cities vs. Real Emotional Cities”

24th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development and Information Society
GeoMultimedia 2019

About 180 expert lectures, presentations, round table discussions, workshops and small exhibitions will be offered on three conference days, composed by a traditional extensive social programme.

2-4 April 2019

KIT – Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

More information available on www.corp.at

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Cities have been created by mankind for thousands of years now, as places for people to live and where they can best develop their talents and activities in work-sharing societies. Although there is still a huge demand for physical structures, lately lots of the discussion on the future of cities has been focusing on bringing digital technologies into cities. The term “Smart Cities” has been excessively used and bears the hope and promise that cities will become more efficient but also more livable.“ REAL CORP 2019 wants to explore the relations and differences between standardisation through technical innovation on the one hand and the quest for uniqueness and peculiarity on the other hand. These aspects will be discussed:

- REAL CORP 2019 special challenge: Real Smart Cities – Squaring the Circle? Enormous savings, huge profits, happy people – sustainable, resilient, for all
- Changes in the physical structure of cities due to digitisation
- Real World Territories vs. Info Spaces
- Tradition vs. Branding: Keeping and creating the identity, the spirit, the emotions of cities and places. Is “branding” the tool for new places to create identity or for existing places to “upgrade”?
- Real Smart Cities – High Tech and High Quality of Life: best practises and concepts for the future
- Things hardly mentioned in “Smart Cities propaganda” - the “other side of the city” (informal settlements; refugees camps; brownfields; traditional industrial areas, slaughterhouses, ...; huge logistic and retail zones; waste (water) treatment; cemeteries; “no-go areas”; urban heat islands ...)
- How do we decode the context of a city and can we measure or describe people’s perceptions?
- Feel-Good Places – how to create, how to maintain? (urban design; mix of uses; existence or absence of strict regulations; sounds vs. noise; managing urban microclimate; memories, historical remains; nature in the city, art,;performances; ...)
- City OF things or city FOR people?
- Real Estate Development and Urban Planning: competitors or partners?
- Role of Urban Planning and Urban Planners in shaping the City of the Future (advisors, masterplanners, moderators/mediators, designers, integrators, ...; cultural differences in urban planning and the use of technology)
- Digitisation trends in urban planning: Tools, data sources, data access, mindset
- What about the countryside? (“Smart Country”; Digitisation in the context of „rethinking the concept of villages“ and its potential benefits; ...)

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Cities do not just consist of bricks, mortar, steel, glass and – recently – ICT. A city has an identity, a “spirit”, it is emotional, and this is often something very important for a city and its places and districts, and of course for its citizens. Cities are “home”, there can be feel-good places as well as areas rather to avoid, depending on many factors: common and individual ones. What makes the “spirit of a city” or a place?

Whereas renderings in the Smart City context all too often show almost perfect cities, real cities have their shiny places, but most probably also their “dark sides”. What is the situation and the future of “THE REAL WORLD”? What is the relation between longing for “Perfect Smart Cities” and “Real Emotional Cities”? Will cities and neighbourhoods be “standardized” and more look and feel like each other or will they keep their identities? Will this be just decided in market values?

Can urban planning support keeping and creating places, spaces and cities – “Real Emotional Cities”? What are the tools for the 21st century city? Of course we must not forget that sustainability and resilience stay primary goals for urban development.

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