

PREFACE

Man, Building and Urban Planning

The conference Man, Building and Urban Planning (hereinafter CSUP) has been held by the Department of Urbanism and Urban Planning since 2006. This event is open especially for scientific researchers, undergraduates of doctoral study programs, public administration officers, and professional practitioners. Traditionally, also company representatives and representatives of civil society have been invited to discuss the conference papers.

The urban issue is broad and a variety of disciplines and professions have been engaged in it. This results in both discipline segmentation of researches and discussions on this topic and different terminology, methods of research together with various discipline and professional practices. The objective of the CSUP conference is to provide space for sharing the knowledge, perspectives and experience as well as the space for critical assessment of their significance and professional quality. Therefore, all conference papers were initially approved by the editorial board based on their annotations and after the conference all the texts were assessed by two reviewers in the framework of the so-called *double blind review*.

The outcome of this conference is this collection, which contains only the articles that meet the Scopus database criteria for *the conference proceedings*.

Focus of the Conference

As it is indicated in the title, the conference includes three main topics which are as follows:

URBAN PLANNING

urbanism, urban planning, public space, urban-planning legislation, landscape, land use, wider context of transport and technical infrastructure, urban theory, land-information systems

MAN

the relation between man and city respectively society and urban area, spatial articulation of social processes, social geography, participation of the public in planning process, the role of institutions and organizations in the process of planning and building

BUILDING

city-forming architecture, conservation, industrial heritage, experience of building and planning practices, design of public spaces

Conference Genesis

Originally (in 2006) there was a colloquium focused on mutual interaction of the components man - building - public space, following the colloquium Man, Buildings and Their Interaction (2005). Among the authors there were the workers and postgraduate students of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Department of Social Sciences both at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Technical University in Prague and the staff of the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University in Brno.

The circle of authors has been gradually extended by the researchers of the Faculty of Architecture at STU in Bratislava, Faculty of Economics and Administration at University of Pardubice, Faculty of Civil Engineering at Technical University of Ostrava, and representatives of other departments at these universities (architecture, urban planning,

structural engineering, landscaping etc.). Also other individual employees of public administration and local government (at the municipal or regional level), and several representatives of the civil sector joined this group of experts. As a result of the reorganization of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, one annual conference could not be held, so the CSUP 3 was not held until 2009.

The event gradually exceeded the level of discussions within a few departments, as well as the presentation of results within the research project Sustainable Building and began to attract a much wider range of researchers. At the same time the conference publication began to be published in a book form which required the formation of the editorial board (since CSUP 4), consisting of the staff of the Department of Urbanism and Urban Planning at Technical University and furthermore, external reviews of the whole publication (since CSUP 5).

In the following years the conference joined both the workers of other departments (landscaping, road construction, geodesy, hydromelioration, geotechnical engineering, conservation, physics, economics and management etc.) and representatives of the Faculty of Natural Science, Faculty of Environment and faculties of traffic from other Czech and Slovak universities which considerably extended the scope of the conference. The organizational team changed and organization of the conference was gradually separated of the from editing of the proceedings. This culminated this year, when the proceedings were issued the first time after the conference.

The intention to incorporate the proceedings into the Scopus database led to a number of procedural and organizational changes. The most visible is probably a separate conference website csup.uzemi.eu (translated into English) and a sophisticated content management system. Nevertheless, the change that most contributed to the quality of published articles was the setting of the editorial board attended by the representatives of universities and disciplines that are engaged in the urban areas and related issues as their object of study (see imprint), and especially the introduction of the review process in accordance with international standards. Double blind review means the assessment of each article at least by two reviewers. The reviewers do not know the authors and the authors do not know the reviewers. Meeting the requirements and recommendations of the reviewers, as well as all the formalities are guaranteed by the editor for whom the editorial board determines the boundaries and the organization team helps with practical implementation. Although this procedure is a bit time consuming and not all papers are eventually published, the process itself is transparent and ensures professional quality of published articles.

I sincerely hope that these changes will be appreciated not only by the authors of articles who now receive very important feedback, but especially by the readers who will be able to better direct their attention at surprisingly diverse subjects and researches connected with the concept *urban area*.

Pavel Holubec, editor