

**4th CONFERENCE ON
URBAN PLANNING
AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

June 15th 2023

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**→ Conclusions and
recommendations**



The **4th Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development** was held in Sarajevo on June 15th 2023. The Conference gathered experts, scientific workers, international lecturers from the wider region and Europe, and government officials, with the goal of analyzing the experiences thus far and future challenges in integrated development of cities. It was an opportunity to establish a strong forum for a versatile and interactive development cycle, which will facilitate faster implementation of European policies for urban planning and regional development.

22 papers that had been selected were presented, prepared by 47 authors and coauthors from Croatia, Switzerland, Montenegro, Serbia, Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The following thematic units were discussed at the Conference:

- **Integrated approach to sustainable urban development**
- **Climate change and sustainable planning of cities**
- **Spreading of cities and land use control**
- **Sustainable urban mobility**
- **Sustainable urban-rural links**
- **Green cities**
- **New technologies and planning**
- **Curricula based on green building and energy efficiency**
- **Internal transformation of cities**



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→ CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1

It is known that cities – that is, urban areas – are a key element of regional development. The goal is to improve the competitiveness of cities, ensure their streamlined development, and create a polycentric urban system, as well as strengthen the urban-rural links. In order to have successful development planning for cities and their surroundings, it is necessary to develop a more comprehensive approach that, along with the local level, considers the needs at the level of a functional region as well.

2

It is necessary to affirm cooperation between cities and the functional areas gravitating towards them, stressing the importance of a partnership-based approach, integrated development, and urban agglomeration management.

3

What needs to be established at the agglomeration level are management bodies that coordinate and guide the development of an entire area. These bodies need to take care of the needs of urban agglomeration as a single area of function, as well as of the desire to develop the administrative units that are an integral part of it.

4

There is a need to align and harmonize the newly established legal system of development planning with the existing and already established system of spatial and urban planning in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5

It is necessary to promote a strategic approach to sustainable urban development, as well as to conduct surveys and make decisions based on relevant data. Also necessary is to include the communities and encourage cooperation of interested parties in this process, as well as to analyze the opportunities for funding of projects. This can be achieved by prioritizing communication, education, raising awareness, and application of a sustainable approach in the planning process.

6

By improving the networks of public transportation, cycling lanes, and pedestrian infrastructure, cities can increase air quality and reduce greenhouse emissions, cut traffic congestion, noise pollution and the cost of living as well. By improving public transportation, residents of cities also gain better access to employment and education opportunities, the level of their social inclusion also being raised.

- 7** | It is important to encourage compact development and traffic solutions as part of the sustainable urban development strategy. Compact development is the practice of creating compact, interconnected, and walkable neighborhoods, providing easy access to goods, services, and contents, where encouraged at the same time is a lifestyle that depends less on automobiles.
- 8** | Citizens and all interested parties must be placed at the center of planning – so that we ultimately get a city for the people, not for cars. It is also important to ensure that the concept of space sustainability and mobility is widely accepted among all interested parties.
- 9** | It is necessary to build new city areas and streets, as well as to redesign the existing ones in order to contribute to increased security and safety for pedestrians, public transport users, and cyclists.
- 10** | Also needed is to strengthen the mechanisms of land use control, which are key instruments for the implementation of spatial planning, primarily urban planning and regulation plans, in order to prevent the so-called “construction land sprawl.”
- 11** | Processes of inadequate urbanization have a strong and irreversible effect on the functioning of the geosystem, as well as on the local population’s health, psychological, and sociological condition.
- 12** | Use of green infrastructure (green roofs, green walls, permeable pavement, urban gardens) reduces stormwater runoff, improves air and water quality, reduces the effect of urban heat islands, and ensures green areas for recreation and relaxation. Under the contemporary urbanist concept, the urban greenery system plays a significant role, linking different zones of function into a single compositional whole, with the zones being in continuous and dynamic interaction with the city’s built infrastructure.
- 13** | The green planning paradigm comprises drafting and adoption of spatial and urban plans based on early inclusion of citizens and a substantive shift to decarbonization, use of renewable energy sources, introduction of nature-based solutions, renaturalization of urban cores, as well as on risk assessment and solutions to protect from climate extremes and natural disasters (floods, extreme precipitation, extreme droughts, etc.).
- 14** | By employing the circular economy strategy – reuse, upgrading, and recycling of products – cities can reduce their overall impact on the environment.
- 15** | Raising awareness about sustainable urban development needs to be supported through dialogue between citizens and city officials, local entrepreneurs, research centers, and other interested parties.

- 16** | Education is a key factor when it comes to sustainable urban development. At the educational level, it is necessary to teach pupils and students about different sustainability components – from renewable sources of energy, through waste management and building smart cities, to green infrastructure, urban resilience and climate change. This knowledge needs to be incorporated in the curricula in schools and universities.
- 17** | The planning documents concerning issues of urban planning and regional development need to be made more accessible so as to reach all of the relevant stakeholders in the society, starting from politicians, through public and private sectors (which also include investors), to civic associations and, ultimately, individuals.
- 18** | It is essential to use sustainable materials in construction. They are made from selected raw materials as well as from waste and recycled materials, which ensures reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂).
- 19** | By investing in smart initiatives and practices, cities can help to reduce energy consumption, waste, and pollution. This also brings economic benefits such as new business and employment opportunities.

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