

## Regulating and transforming cities

A city's character is significantly influenced by the way it is regulated, and this gradually leads to its transformation. This issue of *Urbani izziv* focuses on these two topics and discusses how various cultural factors affect urban planners' intentions to regulate urban public space and how economic, social and political changes transform urban planning challenges.

In the first article, Visar Hoxha et al. report that the effects of cultural identity or ideology on urban planning are significant, but are often overlooked because they are difficult to quantify. To this end, the authors examine which factors affect planners' perceptions in Prishtina, which are further reflected in their intentions behind designing and producing space. It turns out that national identity is the most important factor affecting planners' perceptions, followed by political pressure, whereas ethnic nationalism and social constructs are much less important. In addition, the structural relativity of planners' perceptions and intentions has positive effects. In the second article, Sasha Tsenkova discusses important drivers of change such as efforts to create a market-based housing system and competitive housing markets in the post-communist urban environment. She explores the multi-layered processes of market-based housing reforms (privatisation, deregulation and devolution) and their impact on the spatial transformation of urban housing markets in eastern European cities. The author believes that the diverse role of urban social movements can be explained by reference to democratic traditions, practices and policy cultures in eastern European cities, and also to institutional structures and the capacity of non-market stakeholders. Yung Yau et al. explore the need to promote green or eco-friendly housing in the third article. Apart from regulations, governments can offer incentives to developers to provide green features in their developments by offering subsidies in various forms. However, such subsidisation is often uneconomical. Therefore, the authors compared potential homebuyers' willingness to pay (WTP) for various green housing features based on a structured questionnaire in Macau. The housing attributes studied included uses of green materials and construction methods, energy-efficient technologies and water-saving devices. Their findings indicate that the respondents' WTP was mainly motivated by economic incentives. In the fourth article, Richard Sendi presents a social innovation for combating discrimination against persons with disabilities in the built environment: an interactive internet portal that he presents and describes in his article as a "web forum". This internet portal uses a bottom-up approach, which qualifies it as an effective mechanism that will eventually lead to achieving barrier-free environments and consequently eliminating discrimination against persons with disabilities in the living environment. The last article analyses the importance and influence of Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc's mid-nineteenth-century monument-protection approaches to saving architectural monuments that were received critically by both his contemporaries and later developers of monument-protection principles. The author Helena Kalčić demonstrates deviations in Slovenian monument protection, which has been historically and professionally committed to the conservation principles of the Vienna school. She establishes that reconstruction measures are carried out for various reasons, but that they always reflect the historical context in which they are created.

The challenging topics raised in this issue are sure to provide interesting reading. Enjoy this issue of *Urbani izziv*!