

Visions and strategies

Strategic planning sometimes seems unnecessary and too vague to be of any use, at least in spatial planning. However, without a clear orientation toward a desired future spatial arrangement, implementation projects can take us in very different directions. What should be given priority in space, which is a limited resource? Settlement, agriculture, renewable energy sources, tourism, or nature conservation? When faced with such dilemmas and land-use conflicts, a clear vision supported by a strategy for how to achieve it can be used to suitably respond to various developmental tendencies and initiatives in society (a city, municipality, region, or country). The media are dominated by bad news and, in a time when a rapid response to various developments across the globe is expected, an energy crisis may very well manifest in a Slovenian village with solar panels on all the roofs, or a food crisis in a well-maintained home garden or a balcony covered in potted tomatoes.

Times like these call for visions with a clear view into the future that are based on values and the integration of the economy, environment, society, and culture – ones that are developed together with residents, in a process that allows them to be visionaries and idealists, and leads to the vision being accepted by all. In the long run, such visions also direct us toward a better society and environment. For more inspiration on this subject, I recommend reading the article that discusses the visions of future (Slovenian and Croatian) cities.*

In addition to this article on strategic urban planning, the June issue of *Urbani izziv* also features an article on sustainable urban development in Kazakhstan and an article on the current state of green infrastructure and connectedness with nature in Lagos, Nigeria, along with two articles by Slovenian authors discussing brownfield redevelopment and public transport accessibility. The issue concludes with a review of a book on the (economic) effects of migration and inequality across the globe. I wish you pleasant and informative reading.

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* See the article by Poljak Istenič and Gulin Zrnčić in this issue of *Urbani izziv*.