
PREFACE

This issue contains edited papers presented at the 1st International Conference on Urban Growth and the Circular Economy held in Alicante, Spain. The Conference, organised by the Wessex Institute and the University of Alicante, Spain, is the first international Conference that deals with the interaction between Urban Growth and the Circular Economy.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for the disciplines contributing to Urban Growth and the Circular Economy, such as planners, economists, architects, lawyers, engineers, policy makers and environmentalists, and, to discuss policies and practices and to identify solutions to the challenges posed by Urban Growth and the Circular Economy. The continuing and rapid growth of the cities and their regions of influence have led to the need to find new solutions which allow for promoting their sustainable development. The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide an increasingly important driver for the conference in shaping discussion and recommended action.

The conference is deliberately international in scope and seeks to provide an opportunity for experience and potential solutions to common problems to be shared. It is clear that the challenge of achieving a more sustainable development pathway requires both new knowledge and the wider uptake of existing knowledge, policies and technologies. The conference seeks to be a forum in which questions relating to the successful or unsuccessful application of knowledge, policies and technologies can be discussed and appropriate solutions proposed. This is a particularly important knowledge exchange role for the conference as the world's population becomes increasingly urbanised with a wide range of social, economical and environmental problems associated with urbanisation if sustainability is not built into urban development plans.

Urban Growth and the Circular Economy 2018 provides the opportunity for an international community of academics, policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders to discuss the latest advances in the field, share practices and recommend action to advance sustainable Urban Growth and the Circular Economy at local, national and international scales.

Papers presented at Urban Growth and the Circular Economy 2018 are archived online in the WIT eLibrary (www.witpress.com/elibrary) where they are easily and permanently available to the international scientific community.

The Editors wish to thank the authors for their contributions to the conference and to acknowledge the assistance of the eminent members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for their support for the conference and for their peer-reviewing of the manuscripts.

*The Editors
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