

Πάντα ῥεῖ καὶ οὐδὲν μένει.
There is nothing permanent except change. (Heraclitus)



PREFACE

Manfred SCHRENK,

Chairman CORP,

Managing Director of CEIT – Central European Institute of Technology &

CEIT ALANOVA – Institute of Urbanism, Transport, Environment and the Information Society, Schwechat, Austria

Vice President ISOCARP – International Society of City and Regional Planners

WELCOME to REAL CORP 2011, the

16th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development, Information Society and Urban/Transport/Environmental Technologies

Changes and diversification are ubiquitous in cities and regions. The quest for continuous renewal and improvement is a driver towards a thriving development, as well as land use impact, displacement and “constructive destruction” with all the side effects.

Urban development is not a one-way street leading towards an ideal end. Changes of the framework – like revival or crisis of economic sectors, the change of social ideals or ecologically driven challenges – demand the adaptation of the system of aims and development strategies. Also changes of the infrastructure and targeted interventions of planning lead towards elementary changes of the dynamics and trends of development.

Permanent change takes place – often as continuous, evolutionary development, but sometimes also with huge, dramatic turning points. Sometimes change is predictable, often it comes unforeseen – and sometimes change can even be planned and managed.

Cities are the most complex invention of mankind - and are permanently the subject of foreseen as well as unexpected change, foresighted planning and continuous transformation processes.

Therefore we chose the topic
**CHANGE FOR STABILITY: LIFECYCLES OF CITIES
AND REGIONS. The Role and Possibilities of
Foresighted Planning in Transformation Processes**

The matter of “change as requirement for stability of cities and regions” is the core topic of REAL CORP 2011. How can planning deal with “lifecycles of cities and regions”? Special attention will be paid to the technical possibilities of confronting and forming the changes: planning processes and instruments as well as urban, environmental, transport and communication technologies.

Some of the topics that we will be dealing with during the next 3 days are

- management of rapid growth, structural change and shrinkage,
- sustainability through intelligent resource management,
- stability, safety and vulnerability of modern cities,
- anticipatory planning under economically challenging circumstances,
- quality of life as benchmark of successful urban development,
- influence of “new technologies” on urban development,
- spatial aspects of innovation and transfer of knowledge and technology,
- together instead of side-by-side: rearrangement of cities,
- new life in old structures.

REAL CORP 2011 brings together almost 500 experts from different fields and from all over the world and provides the stage for meeting and learning from each other in order how to handle these “lifecycles of cities and regions”.

REAL CORP 2011 covers many different topics in about 200 presentations. The proceedings comprise about 1,500 pages of hand-picked knowledge for planners and for cities.

There is not “the one answer” on how to plan and manage cities, so we will hear about many different experiences and approaches – and there is always something to learn from each other. A conference should never be and CORP for sure is not only about papers and presentations – it is about bringing people together, about networking, it is the face-to-face contacts that generate new thoughts, ideas, projects and friendships!

There is no better place to deal with all those topics than the “**Ruhr Metropolis**” that has been facing fundamental changes over the past decades .

Welcome to **ESSEN/North Rhine Westphalia** and the World Heritage Site “**Zeche Zollverein**”!

Welcome at the outstanding **SANAA Building**!

“**GLÜCK AUF!**” **Have a great conference!**

Manfred SCHRENK & the REAL CORP Team