

REAL CORP 2018



**EXPANDING CITIES
DIMINISHING SPACE**

4-6 April 2018

TU Wien (Vienna University of Technology)

Campus Gusshaus

Gusshausstrasse 27-29

1040 Vienna, Austria

PRESS RELEASE

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Press Release 500 characters

REAL CORP 2018: “Expanding Cities – Diminishing Space”

23rd International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development and Information Society
GeoMultimedia 2018

About 180 expert lectures, presentations, round table discussions, workshops and small exhibitions will be offered on three conference days, composed by a traditional extensive social programme.

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About REAL CORP Conferences

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Cities are growing. Retreat and regeneration areas are getting smaller. This brings along enormous challenges and threats. At the same time there are unprecedented technologies that might help solve the issues. Can “Smart Technologies” and “Smart Cities” be the answer on how to handle the challenges of urban growth. What is the role of urban planning in those highly dynamic developments? Let us discuss these issues at REAL CORP 2018!

- Facts behind urban expansion
- Exceeding the city limits – urbanisation continues, in the area, to the sky and underground
- Housing, infrastructure, commercial development, ...: the real estate perspective on future cities
- GIS, 3D and 4-dimensional planning, BIM (Building Information Management)
- Vacant countryside
- Migration and movement into cities
- Future Mobility: eMobility, autonomous vehicles, multimodal systems
- Soil sealing, urban microlimates, extreme weather
- Energy of the future: renewable resources and downscaled demand
- Scarcity of resources
- Expansion of the internet, Big Data
- Cities as liveable, accessible, human-oriented places

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The world's total population is expected to hit the 10 billion point in the 2060s, more than 70 % living in urban areas.

Cities are not only growing in population, but are expanding in area. Even with constant number of inhabitants there is a demand for more space. In many cities the demand of floor space per capita for housing is still growing, on the one hand due to higher living standards, on the other hand also as a result of changes in social structure resulting in high percentages of single person households. Also transport infrastructure, industrial zones, shopping centres, logistics centres, event and leisure facilities etc. consume additional space.

As a consequence cities also grow into 3rd dimension: “up into the sky” and “going underground”. Many cities kind of expand in time, become “cities that never sleep”, extending their urban activities to 24 hours per day all the year round – 24/365. Even in countries and regions with constant or declining population numbers, it is still the cities that attract people.

While the “hunger” in the literal sense for food and resources is growing, the “spaces in between”, especially agricultural land, but also natural retreats and buffer zones are diminishing.

These aspects of city expansion do not only lead to massive changes all over the world, they also arise multiple challenges, chances and risks which have to be dealt with in planning processes. Current projections indicate that during the next decades the space occupied by cities will be more than three times the amount of today's urban areas. This leads to a loss of agricultural and green spaces as well as to huge growth of urban population.

REAL CORP 2018 is going to show the current state of the art as well as to present projects and approaches for the use of future technology to find solutions for current and upcoming questions of urban planning and research.

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So on the one hand there is the threat that the permanent demand for more space leads to a number of consequences such as scarcity of resources, infrastructural bottlenecks, pollution and devastation of land or social conflicts. Questions arise on how to deal with these problems at short notice, and what has to be done to find solutions to these challenges thinking in long-term strategies – the challenges and problems seem huge. On the other hand more and more unprecedented (urban) technologies are available to monitor and manage cities. Monitoring is as well done by remote sensing in stunning precision, and by extensive sensor networks in (almost) real time.

Smart urban technologies can be applied in wide fields such as:

- Administration, (e)Government and Governance
- Communication and Information Processing
- Transport and Mobility
- Energy Management, Resource Management (Utilities)
- Safety and Security
- ...

An essential aspect is to overcome “disciplinary approaches” and having a holistic view of the city – an approach that urban planners claim to have been using forever. With all the technology in focus of course the goals of sustainability and resilience remain as important as they have always been. Cities are mainly about people and not about technology, so it is still “quality of life” that should be in focus.

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