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INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LAND USE AND URBAN PLANNING PRACTICES IN CITIES OF EU ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES.”

1st and 2nd March 2019

Venue: Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU). Tbilisi, Georgia

In 2014, European Union signed the Association Agreements with Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. Although the Agreements are the profoundly technical documents, they also bear a geopolitical significance affirming the European identity of the associated countries. While the documents do not address cities directly, nearly every economic sector will undergo the comprehensive adjustments. Hence, those changes will inevitably affect the way we plan (and study) cities. Therefore, the professionals and scholars in the field of urban planning and design, as well as city

governments shall not overlook the holistic harmonization process with EU.

Furthermore, Association Agreement marks the beginning of yet another metamorphosis for the region. The radical socio-economic changes faced by cities during the last three decades left a vivid mark on the urban landscapes. Issues, such as environmental and social injustice, as well as transportation and housing shortages are well documented in both academic literature and governmental papers. Addressing those challenges will require professionals to foster

the critical attitude towards the legacy of past practices and EU values.

The goal of the forum is to analyze the concepts and practices of urban planning, which have been employed as a response to the Association Agreement. The theme of the forum enables discussions on the representation of local behaviors and EU values; questions of expertise and education; and of ideas and methods. The forum will be organized around the following panel discussions:

RETROSPECTIVE OF URBAN PLANNING PRACTICES IN GEORGIA SINCE 1991

Newly elaborated strategies, norms, and approaches have been exercised through the prism of the long-established professional behavioral practices. Such practices proved to be inert to implicitly realize new formal protocols. They failed to effectively adapt to the new modes of governance and its definitions of human and space. Hence, the goal of the panel is to track the evolution of an urban planning in Georgia during the last thirty years (1989-2019). It aims to challenge and advance a cultural knowledge we acquired through a critique of the way we design Georgia's cities.

CURRENT URBAN DESIGN/PLANNING PRACTICES AND PROJECTS

The panel considers discourse on contemporary issues of urban planning and design practice in light of the EU association agreement as well as the New Urban Agenda (2016). It confronts pressing questions regarding the external factors of economic, environmental, and political systems, and internal forces of tools, techniques, and strategies for design. Addressing the multifaceted nature of the profession, we invite scholars and practitioners to explore

issues currently at stake within the industry. The panel welcomes presentations that explore the relationship between research and practice, as well as how research by design warrants the pathway through which knowledge, plans (or other design products) come into being.

INTEGRATED SCIENTIFIC APPROACH FOR URBAN PLANNING

Today urban planning and design studios have emerged as domains of interdisciplinary, collaborative examination of specific topics, policies, and geographies. The panelists will investigate the ways in which urban planners and designers interact with other professionals to ensure the lasting urban change. Speakers will address the challenges that planning teams face when "translating" the data from various disciplines and prioritizing the particular aspects of urbanity.

TEACHING URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

Global transformations taking place in world's cities are exerting pressure on educational institutions to develop numerous urban-focused programs and courses. The demand for such programs is also stimulated by the new international policies with growing sensitivities towards the local contexts. The goal of the panel is to give the floor to leading educators to discuss new and innovative ways to teach urban planning and design in the classroom.

After the forum, the organizers will publish **conference proceedings** and distribute them in Georgia's higher education institutions and libraries. The electronic version will be available in both Georgian and English languages. In addition, we intend to submit a **special issue** to the indexed/peer-reviewed journal(s).

Participants are expected to submit their papers (1500 words with not more than 5 images) by April 15, 2019.



შოთა რუსთაველის ეროვნული
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INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

To participate in the forum, please send your application by **January 25, 2019** to **tsu.urbanforum@gmail.com**

Selected authors will be notified by **January 30, 2019**

The registration deadline is **February 4, 2019**

The registration deadline is **February 4, 2019**

Paper submission deadline is **April 15, 2019**

Conference proceedings will be published in **August 2019**.

The application should include:

- An abstract of max. 300 words, containing: title; goal of the paper; where it locates in current debates; approach; broad findings;
- Full contact details: Name, affiliation, phone number and email;
- Short biography of the author(s).

Conference Fee

- Regular: 100 €
- Student: 50 €. Limited number of PhD students from EU Associated countries will be offered the fee waivers.

ABOUT THE FORUM

Aspired to continue the dialogue on how different political, economic and socio-cultural events shape urban planning practices, this international forum brings together an international community of researchers, practitioners, and educators to create an open, interdisciplinary discussion platform.

The forum is a result of a long-term collaboration between Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), represented by the Department of Human Geography and NLP City Institute Georgia.

TSU is a paramount partner, which is responsible for the scientific component of

the event. It has a long history of delivering high-quality research on urban and regional development, providing expertise to national and local governments, as well as international donor organizations in South Caucasus and beyond.

City Institute Georgia (CIG) is a German-Georgian NLP, which aims to study, analyze, and develop approaches to solve problems of spatial and urban planning. The company recently consulted Tbilisi City Hall on one of the most important projects in the region – Revision of Tbilisi General Land Use Plan 2030. During the project CIG faced the new realities constituted by the Association

Agreement and a new urban agenda. This unique experience served as an inspiration for the forum.

Scientific committee:

Dr. Abel Polese, Dublin City University and Tallinn University

Dr. Joseph Salukvadze, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Dr. Vladimer Vardosanidze, Urban Planner

Dr. Rusudan Tevzadze, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Dr. Nikoloz Abashidze, Union of Architects of Georgia

Organizing team:

Elena Darjania, PhD candidate at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Gvantsa Salukvadze, PhD candidate at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Dr. Mamuka Salukvadze, CEO, City Institute Georgia

Nino Khositashvili, Communications Manager, City Institute Georgia

For more information please contact: tsu.urbanforum@gmail.com