



PREFACE

Manfred SCHRENK,

Conference Director,

Chairman CORP – Competence Center of Urban and Regional Planning

WELCOME to REAL CORP 2014, the 19th International Conference on Urban Planning, Regional Development, Information Society and Urban/Transport/Environmental Technologies!

“Smart Cities” has become a widely used term for the implementation of information and communication technologies (ICT) into the processes of cities and the built environment, aiming to improve the integration of the physical assets as well as social and environmental capital. Fired by several rankings there seems to be a competition for the title of the “Smartest City”.

This kind of hype raises a lot of questions that REAL CORP 2014 will deal with. Can we plan it smart and find clever solutions for smart cities?

During the three conference days we will go deeply into the subject of smart cities and smartness and exchange our knowledge on current topics such as:

- What does “Smart City” mean in terms of quality of life?
- How does it influence the economic perspectives?
- Are the concepts of sustainability and resilience part of “Smart Cities”?
- What about politics and administration, policies and governance?
- How do “Smart Solutions” influence the “hardware” of a city, the urban fabric?
- Last but not least: what is the role of urban/spatial planning in and for “Smart Cities”?

Our conference takes place at a site with long historical background: People started to settle down in today’s Vienna area from the Neolithic era, later the spot was used to erect the Roman fortress Vindobona. The history of Vienna dates some thousand years back, and in its history the city has faced lots of changes and challenges. For sure this is going to continue in the future as cities have always been places of change, innovation and competence. We are still facing the effects of economic crisis and we have to deal with environmental issues more than ever before; handling these challenges and still being able to improve our cities and find

strategies to point out their extraordinary opportunities as centres of interest will confront us with many different views – but which of these views can be considered smart and why?

Therefore, it will be a pleasure to discuss with colleagues from all over the world how we can make use of today's tools and technologies to improve planning for our cities and for the people who live there to improve their quality of life.

REAL CORP 2014 in Vienna lets us compare and present different approaches to smartness including theory and practical examples from all continents – we are happy to welcome around 300 participants from over 50 countries worldwide. 140 presentations and more than 1,000 pages in the proceedings clearly show that there is plenty of room to discuss thoughts, make new contacts, develop new ideas and initiate upcoming projects.

Let me last but not least emphasize that the organisation of this year's conference took place under truly difficult conditions, so I really want to say thank you especially to Clemens Beyer and Christian Eizinger for their huge efforts in the preparation of this event.

Welcome to the Smart City Vienna!
Have a great conference!

**Manfred SCHRENK, Christian EIZINGER, Clemens BEYER
and the REAL CORP Team**