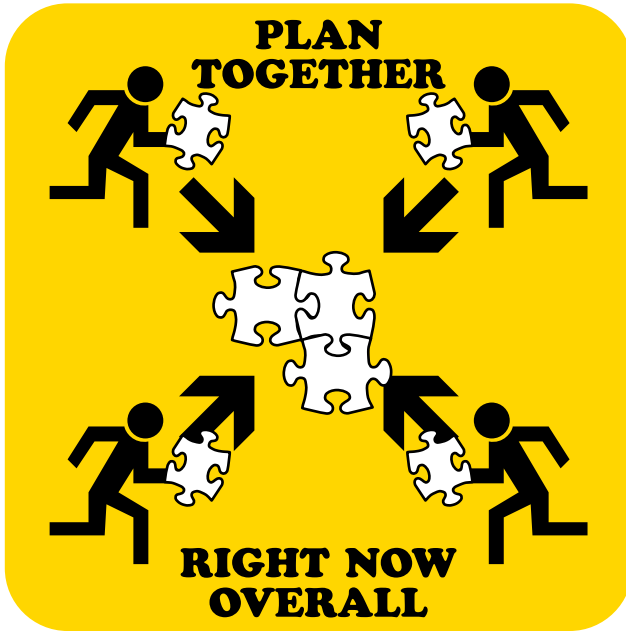


# REAL CORP 2015

20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society

**PLAN TOGETHER – RIGHT NOW – OVERALL**  
From Vision to Reality for Vibrant Cities and Regions



**5-7 MAY 2015**  
**GHENT, BELGIUM**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**OPEN**

**UNTIL**

**23 DEC 2014**

**REGISTRATION**  
**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**  
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DEPARTEMENT VAN DE VLAAMSE OVERHEID  
**CORP**

Kompetenzzentrum für  
Stadt- und Regionalplanung



Competence Center of  
Urban and Regional Planning



## VIBRANT CITIES AND REGIONS

Cities full of life, committed citizens, visionary politicians, a strong economy, attractive universities, a rich arts and cultural scene, joy and fun in the streets, prosperity, curiosity, inclusiveness – dynamic and stable and of course everything sustainable and resilient and “smart” ...

What are the ingredients for **VIBRANT CITIES** and **REGIONS**? And how to make them a **REALITY**?

Cities and regions are and always have been in permanent transition. Some of the key questions for the development of cities and regions are:

- What and Who are the drivers of development?
- Who defines the directions, whose visions do cities follow?
- Is “planning” still possible in contemporary cities?
- From VISION to REALITY - Visioning, Governing, Planning, Managing, Monitoring, Steering – how to keep cities and regions working and even improve them?
- How to improve quality of life in cities and regions in a permanent process of change by ensuring sustainability and resilience.

REAL CORP 2015 will deal with the question: How to make VIBRANT CITIES and REGIONS a REALITY? A major issue will be: What is the role of PLANNING and PLANNERS in the development of vibrant contemporary and future cities?

### SUGGESTED TOPICS AND CATEGORIES FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS

#### (1) Cities and Spaces in Transition/Changing Territories – How to Manage Spatial Transitions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

Spatial development in most developed urbanised regions is changing. Urbanisation processes used to be a matter of extension. The development of large industrial and residential sites on green fields and the comprehensive highway plans in the last century illustrate this. Nowadays development mainly takes place in direct relation to existing urban fabric and infrastructures. This makes sense as societal and economic actors wish to make use of the qualities of the existing built-up heritage. This tendency from extension to transformation opens an opportunity for most spatial policies aiming at the preservation of open space and strengthening cities. However,

governance models and instruments in our spatial policy tool kit seem still to be unsuited. Most of them were designed for guiding extension instead of transformation.

Stimulating Questions:

- Defining the “Vibrant City” or a “Vibrant Region”
- Urban Life under Spatial Transformation
- Better Planning – Better Cities – Better Life?
- Urban Technologies/Urban Solutions – how much technology do our cities need?
- Visioning, Governing, Planning, Managing, Monitoring, Steering – how to keep our cities working and even improve them?
- “Visionary Strategies” without spatial component, “Spatial Plans” without visions?
- Have zoning plans become an obstacle rather than a good means to guide spatial development?
- Are zoning plans in this respect still the most appropriate basis for delivering building permits?
- What new models of urban governance could be introduced to guide the complexity of urban transformations and give new functions a place?
- How and in which extent has legal complexity in urban development become a barrier to achieve spatial development objectives?
- How can urban design play a role in guiding urban transformation processes?
- Competition or Cooperation – how can vibrant cities or regions learn from each other?

#### (2) Governance, Budget Austerity and Financial Instruments for Cities, Regions and Area Specific Development

The position of regional or national authorities is changing dramatically. The shift from a top-down to a networked approach implies that the regional authority tries to be an equal partner in area specific development. Public bodies are willing to accept bottom-up (private) initiatives and delegate project ownership to local authorities. Regional and national competences tend to be decentralised. This evolution is paired with budget cuts. The main challenge is to find new ways of using and handling the remaining funds and financial incentives.

Stimulating Questions:

- Planning for Tomorrow – creative, collaborative, flexible
- What new financial mechanisms and instruments are applied in spatial development? Which

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are based on equality between authorities and private parties?

- Can local authorities share costs and benefits in city development?
- Is it possible to estimate private profits from spatial policies? What knowledge is needed to quantify direct and indirect financial profits in spatial development? Who can be trusted to do this?
- Can governments tax gains and profits from spatial policy and changes in land use plans?
- How to construct a financial cooperation for city or regional development
- Competition, Cooperation, Coopetition – how can vibrant cities or regions learn from each other?
- Who plans the city? Who makes the vision come true? How to involve stakeholders and citizens?

### (3) Exploring and Imagining the Future of Cities and Regions – Vibrant Cities and Regions 2025 – 2050 – 2100

What future can we imagine for our cities and regions? As experience in research by design and future explorations on regional scale is growing in the last 10 years, there is an evolution in the working process towards more focused and more defined research topics and towards an international collaboration. Future explorations and research by design on regional and city level have an extra explorative dimension and a new vision on forecasting and back-casting (Dreborg K. H. 1996). Most research by design is done to explore, spatialise and visualise new concepts, to make new transitions in urban planning matters understandable. On a regional planning level, spatial form is directly linked to the functional aspects of the society. This means that some kind of transition path will be incorporated in the research by design process.

Stimulating Questions and Keywords:

- Can research by design or future explorations help to introduce new concepts in city and regional planning?
- Where is the line between visionary ideas and madness? Or: How crazy do you have to be to make visions come true?
- Visionary Territories – and how to make them come alive
- Who plans the city? Who makes the vision come true? How to involve stakeholders and citizens?
- Cities 2025 – liveable, smart, vibrant?
- Contemporary Cities, Future Cities, Cloud Cities?
- Barrier-free Cities

- The future of TRANSPORT & MOBILITY: Seamless Barrier-free Sustainable Mobility
- Expanding Cities, Shrinking Cities
- Cities are for Citizens, and Citizens are free

### (4) Involvement, Participation, Active Citizenship

Stimulating Keywords:

- Identity in transforming cities
- Arts and Culture
- Science and Technology
- The power of youth
- Why resistance to change is essential

### (5) Information Technologies for Vibrant Cities and Regions

Stimulating Questions:

- Data and Information Infrastructures – from Data to Wisdom?
- 2D/3D/4D/5D/...
- What comes after the Smart City?
- Contemporary Cities, Future Cities, Cloud Cities?
- Sensor Networks, Data Harvesting, Real Time Monitoring, Humans as Sensors
- Social acceptance and social integration of smart city technologies

### (6) Ecologies of Vibrant Cities and Regions

Stimulating Questions and Keywords:

- Safety and Security in and for cities
- Handling the ecological footprint of our cities
- Reactions to climate change: How can we make our cities act more sustainably?
- What are the chances and dangers of modern, dynamic, transitive cities?
- Cities are for Citizens, and Citizens are free
- Planning without barriers - planning without borders
- How boring are “Smart Cities”? What about “The Dark Side of the Smart City”?

### (7) Open topics

- What is missing in the other topics?
- The BIG PICTURE
- Details matter
- ...

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Submission of abstract until 23 Dec 14  
Feedback on general acceptance until 31 Jan 15  
Full paper for reviewing has to be submitted until 28 Feb 15  
Reviewing process until 15 March 15  
Final version of full paper for publication until 31 March 15

## CONFERENCE FEES

Standard fee 520.-  
Reduced students' fee 390.-  
**EARLY BIRD RATES UNTIL 15 MARCH 2015:**  
Standard fee 420.-  
Reduced students' fee 290.-

## CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

English and German

## PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS

REAL CORP 2015 is expecting about 170 reviewed and 60 non-reviewed papers for presentation at the conference. We offer a double-stage peer review procedure for scientific papers. The reviewing procedure is an important tool in enhancing the paper quality and therefore the expert output of REAL CORP in general. Papers are not only evaluated on scientific quality but also with focus on practical relevance and "visionary approaches". The group of reviewers comprises of researchers, practitioners and business experts.

## PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of REAL CORP 2015 are going to be published on CD-ROM as well as online at [www.corp.at](http://www.corp.at) where you can find all papers since 1996 free of charge. Every REAL CORP participant will receive their own 2015 CD-ROM upon arrival at the conference venue.

## ABOUT REAL CORP

REAL CORP conferences are held annually since 1996. About 400-500 experts from around the world from the fields of urban planning, transport planning, information and communication technologies, architecture, social and environmental sciences, real estate, GIS, surveying and remote sensing and more meet to discuss the latest tasks and topics on urban planning, regional development and information society in an international and extremely interdisciplinary conference.

Between 150 and 180 expert lectures, presentations, round table discussions, workshops and small exhibitions will be offered on the conference days, composed by a traditional extensive social programme with informal welcome, evening reception, tours to companies or to implemented urban solutions in the region etc.

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