

The city belongs to you¹

This is a slogan displayed on Vienna's city buses, and it conveys much more than a simple invitation to use public transport. It also means that the city belongs to all of us, offering us the opportunity to use it, or calling upon us to act responsibly and promote inclusion. What does this mean in terms of city planning and management, which – given the diverse desires and needs that are sometimes at odds with one another – tend to be demanding tasks with enormous responsibility? Namely, there are as many different life stories and paths as there are people in a city.

For a city to function as a coherent whole, its planning and management must consider all the relevant aspects. Interdisciplinarity is the first precondition for achieving this coherence. In turn, recognizing the needs of residents and visitors, and jointly developing good solutions for meeting these needs is a vital collective step toward vibrant and liveable cities. Public participation in the early stages of spatial planning is key to urban revitalization, through which “nobody's spaces” can be replaced by “everybody's spaces”.²

Altered conditions in recent years have also led to adaptations in spatial behaviour, with social aspects, access to green areas and high-quality services, solidarity and helping one another, and the need to socialize and spend time together being placed at the forefront. The December issue of *Urbani izziv* also focuses on the social aspects of urban or public open spaces and their accessibility, safety, and quality design, so that various users, regardless of their ethnicity, sex, or age, can use them and feel good in them. Individual articles present concrete issues in Istanbul, Ljubljana, Edinburgh, and Sarajevo. I hope you find them pleasant and informative reading, and that they stimulate further research and good solutions.

Damjana Gantar, Editor-in-Chief

¹ *Die Stadt gehört Dir*. An award-winning advertising campaign launched in 2000 that enhanced the profile of Wiener Linien as a sustainability-oriented company (<https://schuellerheise.at/die-stadt-gehort-dir/>).

² See the article by Dina Šamič-Musemić and Nermina Zagora in this issue of *Urbani izziv*.