Where is our city?

In the past, the distinction between the city and the countryside was very clear. The city was characterized by its functions and activities, as well as freedoms that its residents could enjoy. Cities were the beacons of development and the centres of the economy, knowledge, and culture. Their historical development reflects a sequence of steps and adaptations to particular conditions, resources, and values, which is why they can be seen more as a process than a result. Consequently, no two cities are alike; each has its own identity, which can be seen from the space itself, typical streets and buildings, residents' lifestyles, and the city vibe.

The development of any city also encounters obstacles that a city can either successfully circumvent or its development slows down and the city loses its competitive edge. Several strategies lead to success, and today concepts like smart, sustainable, green, and most and least liveable city are being used. Some of them come very close to the garden city ideal, whereas expansion has caused others to lose their humanity and essence.

The June issue of *Urbani izziv* features four articles related to the issues of a specific city. The Pakistani cities of Peshawar and Hafizabad are dealing with population and traffic growth, and the authors have explored the influences on residential location choices and the use of urban open space. In Tokyo, the dynamic urban rhythm forces people to transform their habits and sense of place attachment. In Odesa, experience from European ports is used to find solutions for both the regeneration of the city centre and the sustainable growth of port activities, which were key to the establishment of the city. This issue is further complemented by an article on the impact of spatial data quality on the efficiency of the property tax system and a presentation of an international project focusing on developing and implementing nature-based solutions in cities.

Unlike daily news, research publications are fairly optimistic, expand people's horizons, and yield useful findings. Even though humanities and social-science publications may seem less vital to saving lives, they nonetheless encourage us to become aware of problems, conduct more detailed research, and seek new solutions. I wish you a pleasant and instructive read.

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editor-in-chief