



Network conference of Spa-ce.net

Green infrastructure in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe: A universal solution to current environmental and spatial challenges?

27th-29th September 2015, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Green infrastructure, also referred to as “green systems”, is an important spatial component of urban areas. Here the traditional focus on parks and their function as open space and recreational areas for the urban population has now broadened to encompass a wide variety of concepts and roles. Today green infrastructure is viewed as a solution to the challenges facing urban areas and regions such as traffic overload, air pollution, noise and the negative impacts of climate change. Over the past few years policymakers and many other sections of society have come to recognize the vital role played by green infrastructure not just in improving the quality of life but also in safeguarding public health.

The countries in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe have created diverse concepts of green infrastructure as well as approaches and strategies to the planning and development of green systems at the local and regional level. The aim of the 2015 Spa-ce.net conference is to present, compare and discuss these approaches and strategies, to learn from them and to find common points and guidelines for the future development and role of green infrastructure in sustainable cities and regions. Any conclusions can enhance decision-making at various levels from project design and spatial planning to policymaking. The theme of the conference closely reflects the aim of the initiative “European Green Capital”, a title which Ljubljana – the host city of the Spa-ce.net conference – will hold in 2016.

The papers should address one or more of the following topics (and relevant questions):

a) Green infrastructure and governance, including planning

- How is green infrastructure (its provision, etc.) integrated within existing policies?
- How is green infrastructure integrated into regional or local planning?

b) Green infrastructure and climate change

- Which practices are currently employed to mitigate the effects of climate change through the development of green infrastructure?

c) Green infrastructure and health

- How can green infrastructure help to safeguard public health?

Alongside representatives of the member institutions of the Spa-ce.net network, PhD students undertaking research on one of the named topics are also invited to submit papers. The authors should send us a 500-word abstract, indicating which of the three mentioned topics their paper most closely addresses.



The authors attending the conference will also be asked to prepare a paper for a special issue of the scientific journal Urban Challenge, published by the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (<http://urbani-izziv.uirs.si/en/Urbanizziv.aspx>).

The application documents must be sent by **May, 20th 2015**. Please send your documents in PDF format by email to 2015spacenet@gmail.com. The selection and notification of participants is expected by the end of June 2015.

Organised by

University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
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