Editorial

This is a special issue that includes papers in the field of Land and Information Management in South Eastern Europe. Our region, in its recent history, has gone through an economic and political transition, which included conflict as well as major land reforms. Some of these land reforms relate to land administration and the need to satisfy the housing needs and to establish efficient property markets. However, during these reforms major challenges also appeared such as illegal construction and the need for rapid urban development, but also significant environmental issues and loss of rural land. We believe that increasing awareness and sharing experience and information about the challenges and the achieved results in our region is for the benefit of many others countries worldwide.

This issue includes a paper that makes an overview of the causes and characteristics of the conflict and post-conflict period, war torn societies and issues related to land administration in such environment. ‘Land administration in post-conflict environment’ in this research paper is recognized as land administration performing in peace - normal life conditions - but loaded with the characteristics of the post-conflict environment.

Other articles include a paper dealing with the problem of informal development in the FYROM, the need for integrating these illegal constructions into the economy and the remaining challenges. We have an article about the strategies and policies applied in Albania and the priority given to establish a real estate market in order to boost the national economy; another paper that investigates the land cover in the municipality of Prizren, in Albania; and another one that investigates the main factors that influence vulnerability of land degradation and agriculture in Albania due to climate change in a context of multiple risks. The loss of the land’s biological productivity in the region is one of the most serious threats. The need to address, sustainable land management is crucial for Albania. Another paper investigates the preliminary findings from a regional cooperation for the border demarcation between Kosovo and the FYROM.

Finally, we bring another paper from eastern Mediterranean region which deals with a study case for the city of Haifa, Israel, taking into account urban and geographic parameters to indicate their effect on real estate assets’ prices-the method may be implemented in other countries, too.

Yerach Doytsher, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology
Bashkim Idrizi, State University of Tetova, FYROM
Chryssy Potsiou, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Guest Editors