Editorial: Dimensions of knowledge-based urban development

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This issue marks the beginning of a new editorial cycle. In the seventh volume of the journal the editorial team will continue collating novel scientific and social developments in the broader field of 'knowledge-based development' to report to our readers. In this perspective, the first issue of the volume focuses on different dimensions of knowledge-based urban development. As Gabe et al. (2012, p.1179) indicate, "[i]t would be an understatement to suggest that knowledge plays a key role in today's economy; for much of the developed world, it might be more accurate to assert that knowledge is today's economy". Thus, knowledge generation has been a priority for global city administrations, and there is a growing consensus amongst scholars, planners, politicians and industrialists in identifying knowledge-based urban development as a panacea to the burgeoning economic problems (Knight, 1995; Kunzmann, 2009; Yigitcanlar, 2010, 2011; Huggins and Strakova, 2012; Lönnqvist et al., 2014). Although, in the era of global knowledge economy, knowledge-based urban development is a critical factor for economic success (Pratt, 2000; Sheppard, 2002), it is not solely an economic policy. For many, knowledge-based urban development is a policy that targets building an urban setting to form perfect climates for business, people, and governance in an environmentally friendly atmosphere (Carrillo, 2006; Ergazakis et al., 2006; Angelidou et al., 2012). Each of these climates correspond to a dimension or domain of knowledge-based urban development – namely, economy, society, space, and governance (Carrillo et al., 2014). Each paper of this issue corresponds to at least one of these domains, or policy areas.

Following this brief introduction, the issue starts with a position paper (Paper 1: Place quality and urban competitiveness symbiosis? A position paper) by Niusha Esmaeilpoorarabi, Tan Yigitcanlar and Mirko Guaralda. This paper provides a critical review on the relation between place quality and urban competitiveness as it is claimed that soft measures – namely quality of life and place – help in fostering and attracting talent, and consequently draw investment to these urban localities. The paper, thus, scrutinise the role of soft measures in supporting urban competitiveness through a critical review of the scholarly literature, and sheds light on whether there is a symbiotic relationship between place quality and urban competitiveness.

Next in Paper 2, Juan Eduardo Chica and Carlos Marmolejo (Knowledge economy and metropolitan growth: Barcelona and Helsinki metropolitan areas as case studies) scrutinise and quantify how close proximity to metropolitan cores encourage location patterns of knowledge-based industry employment. This paper takes Barcelona and Helsinki metropolitan areas as comparative cases for the analyses. The findings reveal

that the employment growth of knowledge industries in both metropolitan areas retains concentration patterns instead of suburbanisation patterns, which underlines the importance of physical proximity to the metropolitan cores.

Paper 3 (Starting early: relational capital networks for street children in emerging knowledge-based public service models) by Leticia I. Lopez and Blanca C. Garcia introduces a contextualised case that stems from a research dealing with institutionalisation processes of abandoned children in Latin American cities. It brings a theoretical background on social change through network formation for community building purposes, and employs the action-learning method for investigating institutionalisation processes. The study finds from children to families, to nursery shelters and childcare entities, networks are expected to link with policy makers and authorities, in order to consistently prevent the perverse effects of homelessness: violence, abuse and social exclusion.

Paper 4, by Francesc Xavier Grau (A short communication on glocal universities) offers an analysis of glocal university concept. This short communication particularly emphasises on the dual responsibilities of universities at local and global scale, exploring the potential conflict, or intrinsic difficulties, in addressing both local demands of society based on the race for global competitiveness and local and global demands to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable society. The paper proposes some key elements that will allow for the global and local engagement of universities, and concludes by highlighting the real challenge of many universities all over the world that is becoming a glocal university.

The last contribution in this issue, Paper 5, is a policy practice paper by Timothy Hortz (The Smart State test: a critical review of the *Smart State Strategy 2005–2015's* Knowledge-Based Urban Development). The article investigates the effectiveness of Australian State of Queensland's Smart State Strategy. In order to do so, it identifies and analyses the shortcomings and barriers for knowledge-based urban development particularly in the state capital of Brisbane. Furthermore, the paper also ascertains the limitations of public policy development for urban planning, and summarises a number of lessons learned that may inform improved frameworks for intelligent urban planning for globalised economic development.

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