Πάντα ῥεῖ καὶ οὐδὲν μένει.
There is nothing permanent except change. (Heraclitus)

PREFACE

Manfred SCHRENK,

Chairman CORP,
Managing Director of CEIT – Central European Institute of Technology &
CEIT ALANOVA – Institute of Urbanism, Transport, Environment and the Information Society, Schwechat, Austria
Vice President ISOCARP – International Society of City and Regional Planners

WELCOME to REAL CORP 2012, the
17th International Conference on Urban & Regional Development and Spatial Planning in the Information Society!

Cities worldwide are facing rapid social, economic, environmental, technological and cultural changes such as rapid urbanisation, aging of society, security issues, housing emergency, new solutions on mobility, integration of immigrants, food and water shortage, etc.

Especially in times of economic crisis and demographic changes in cities, it is necessary to think about how to best handle the available resources, therefore this year's conference motto is **"RE-MIXING THE CITY"**.

How can planners deal with mixed city structures? Isn't the major aim of spatial planning to define usage structures by sorting different types of land use in space. Can mixed use or a mixed city be planned anyway? Or can planners only set up a framework of basic conditions so that the mixed use of the city can grow on its own? How can planners influence existing city structures, for example turn a former monofunctional industrial area into new town quarter a full of prospering city life?

Well, of course we must be aware that "re-mixing" – as all other approaches – can not be the one and only solution for any kind of urban tasks. But in the core areas, in the hearts of our cities, there is a need for multi-functional, mixed structures allowing life to take place without the need to cover long distances.

Some of the topics that we will be dealing with during the next 3 days are

- Can "mixed cities" be more sustainable and resilient?
- Living, working, learning, relaxing, enjoying, shopping, ... – anything anywhere & anytime?
- Is it the purpose of spatial planning to "sort land uses in space"?
- Do the urban patterns and structure of our cities still meet the needs of the people in their everyday life?
- How do urban, transport and environmental technologies and solutions shape our cities?
- New faces, new approaches, new ideas – does and can migration re-mix the city?
- Time-space patterns of the 24/7 city

Additional special topics of REAL CORP 2012

- Urban, Transport & Environmental Technologies and Solutions
- Urban Ambient Assisted Living (AAL)/intelligent urban environments
- Resilience, Safety & Security

The **conference venue Multiversum Schwechat** is an outstanding key project for an urban intermix. The versatile sports, event, fair, concert… hall with its perfect transport connection – directly opposite the railway station and only 10 minutes from the airport – makes it an ideal location for any kind of urban event.

Schwechat is and outstanding example of a "(Re-)Mixed City": it is Vienna's "airport city", directly neighbouring Vienna, situated between Vienna and Bratislava, the motorways A4 and S1 are crossing here, it hosts Austria's largest rail shunting yard and the Danube harbour and the oil and gas pipelines to the industrial complexes in the city complete the unique"5-modal Central European transportation hub".

Schwechat is not only an industrial city with a long tradition (there are more people working than living here), but Schwechat is also a small town which offers excellent quality of life with a good variety of shops and business opportunities, high quality social and educational infrastructure, an extensive green system and leisure facilities – and last, but not least, Schwechat is Austria's top sports city. The Werner Schlager Academy – part of the Multiversum – is one of the world's leading table tennis training institutions.

Last but not least the city of Schwechat has energetic and innovative city leaders who are willing to take up the challenges of the future and make the best for the city and its people – not only in the current situation, but also to prepare the ground for long-term successful development of the city.

REAL CORP 2012 in Schwechat offers the possibility to discuss a wide range of topics in different panel groups and workshops. It is a great pleasure and honour that **the world's four most reputed planners' organisations** are represented by their leading representatives at REAL CORP 2012 and take an active role in the conference:

• International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP, www.isocarp.org),
• International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP, www.ifhp.org),
• International Urban Development Association (INTA, www.inta-aivn.org), and
• Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP, www.aesop-planning.eu)

For the first time, REAL CORP is accompanied by an independent exhibition and trade fair: "CORP EXPO 2012" on the topic "Livable City" collects the key enterprises for urban development, mobility, environment, energy and the field of Urban Ambient Assisted Living (U-AAL).

REAL CORP 2012 brings together almost 500 experts from different fields and from all over the world and provides the stage for meeting and learning from each other how to deal with city structures and prepare them for a sustainable future enhancing their resilience.

REAL CORP 2012 covers many different topics in about 200 presentations. The proceedings comprise about 1,500 pages of hand-picked knowledge for planners and for cities.

Since our first conference in 1996, REAL CORP has turned into a real interdisciplinary and international event. This year again we bring together people from 5 continents, from around the globe. During the upcoming three days, Schwechat will be the host of an incredible exchange of planning knowledge, face to face networking and development of new thoughts, ideas and projects.

Welcome to Schwechat, Austria, and the outstanding conference site Multiversum!

Have a great conference!

Manfred SCHRENK & the REAL CORP Team