

# **New Bulgarian University**

**Centre de Réussite Universitaire de la Nouvelle Université Bulgare**

**Department of Administration and Management**

**Department of Architecture**

**Department of Economics**

**Department of Mass Communication**

**Department of Political Sciences**

**School of Distance, Electronic and Continuing Education**

**With the support of :**

**Francophone University Agency - Central and Eastern Europe**

**and**

**French Institute - Bulgaria**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

## **CHANGING CITIES**

**Challenges, Predictions, Perspectives**

**Sofia, 18-20th October 2018**

**New Bulgarian University**

**Working languages: English and French**

Urban life is already commonplace for most of the Earth's population (4, 027 billion people live in the cities, according to the World Bank data of 2016, as the tendency is to reach 66% by 2050 (UN Report of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, 2014). The growth of the urban population is accompanied by numerous and complex changes. Conventional concepts and ideas about the city and city life are being transformed. Megapolises, rightly called "cities-regions", are exposed to a combination of risks arising from overpopulation, insecurity, segregation, alienation, violence, pollution and the general deterioration of the environment and the quality of life of the citizens. On the other hand, the expansion of large cities has led to depopulation and decline of small settlements with all the consequences for sustainable development. These imbalances also have effects on the regional level leading to significant differences in the development dynamics and the living conditions. Thus, urban governance stands out as one of the most significant challenges facing the societies in the 21st century.

New conceptual approaches to urban planning and management such as *Smart Cities* and *Villes en transition* are trying to respond to the most significant technological, economic and environmental challenges of our time, such as climate change, economic restructuring, demographic growth, population aging and prolonging life expectancy - factors that exert considerable pressure on the public resources and finances. The first approach is inspired mostly by technical and technological solutions based on advances in the digital sphere, the development of artificial intelligence, the emergence of new "smart" data networks, services and connections. The second one relies on local-level bottom-up solidarity solutions that aim to mobilize communities and territorial resources. A number of major cities have already demonstrated excellence in this area.

The purpose of the conference is to systematize the challenges facing the modern city and to investigate the prospects for urban development (from urban planning to urban governance) through panel discussions, models, projects, solutions and good practices.

The complexity of the problems and their interdependence imply an interdisciplinary approach. Theoretical and conceptual models as well as models based on field research or drawn from already applied practices will have the same weight in the selection process.

Academic researchers, professionals and policy makers interested in the area of the conference are invited to present papers related to the conference topics. **You can propose a paper title and abstract** in the following sections:

#### I. TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE URBAN SPACE PLANNING

Architecture, urban planning and housing

Public transport and urban connectivity

Cultural infrastructure

Infrastructure for recreation and sports

Urban nature: parks and green spaces

Waste management infrastructure

## II. DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATIONS AND GALLUP POLL OF THE CONTEMPORARY CITY

Demographic changes - spatial, social and cultural dimensions

Migration challenges and dynamics

Urban stratification of the population

## III. TRANSFORMATIONS OF CONTEMPORARY URBAN MANAGEMENT

Urban governance and local self-government

Territorial distribution of production and jobs: trends, imbalances, solutions

Order, safety and security in the city

Digital transformation of the cities

## IV. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE CITIES

Investments and entrepreneurship

Social and solidarity economy, sharing economy

Urban mobility, social and economic aspects

Changing relationship between town and village. Urbanization, peri-urbanization, rurbanization

## V. CITIZENS AND THE CITY

New forms of participation in the urban community life

Urban cultures and sub-cultures as new forms of integration and disintegration

Citizens' Agora – transformations and uses of urban public spaces

Civic movements and community mobilizations

Migration, multiculturalism and urban resistance

## VI. CITIES OF THE FUTURE

Smart Cities and urban development. Information and Communication Revolution and Artificial Intelligence in favour of changing cities

New city strategies for autonomy, connectivity and quality of life in urban area (intermodal and autonomous transport, new approaches to the energy supply and energy use, trade, consumption, waste management, etc.).

Cities as actors of Sustainable development: eco neighborhoods, sustainable cities, (inter)urban diplomacy, networks of cities

### **Organizing Committee**

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### **Requirements for abstracts and papers:**

Abstracts and reports should be presented **in French or English**. Abstracts should not exceed **2000 characters or one standard typing page (with spaces)**.

All abstracts will be reviewed.

All titles of the accepted reports and abstracts will be published in the conference program on our website <http://citiesconf.nbu.bg/>

### **Deadlines:**

Deadline for submission of proposals for reports: **15th June 2018**

Deadline for announcement of the approved proposals: **15th July 2018**

Conference dates: **18th, 19th and 20th October 2018**

Publication of Conference proceedings: **end of 2019**

The final reports presented at the conference will be subject to scientific expertise with a view to publishing the conference proceedings by the NBU Publishing House in 2019.

### **Registration and participation fee:**

PLEASE, REGISTER WITH A TITLE AND AN ABSTRACT AT THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS:

[cities\\_conference@nbu.bg](mailto:cities_conference@nbu.bg)

<b>Registration fee</b>	<b>Early payment until 31st August 2018</b>	<b>Payment deadline 1st October 2018</b>
Bulgarian participants	100 BGN	150 BGN
Foreign participants	50 €	75 €
Full-time PhD students and students with single-author reports	40BGN/20 €	60BGN/30 €

**The fee includes** participation with a report, materials and conference program, coffee breaks and cocktail on 18th October 2018

The fee does not cover transportation and hotel costs.

NBU reserves the right to cancel the conference in the event of a natural disaster, strike or other unpredictable event that makes it impossible to conduct it.

**NBU bank accounts:**

BGL: Raiffeisenbank Bulgaria, IBAN: BG12RZBB91551060052910, BIC: RZBBBGSF  
Reason: Conference 2018, Villes en transformation / Changing Cities

