

SINERGI Project International Scientific Conference

INCLUSIVE / EXCLUSIVE CITIES

18 - 19 November, 2015. Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

International Scientific Conference "Inclusive/Exclusive Cities" will be held at 18-19 November, 2015 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia.

The objective of the Conference is to provide broader perspective on the issues and challenges of the urban communities and citizens, to open a relevant debate in our society about the role and responsibilities of city administration, decision makers, experts, civic activists and citizens and to provide sustainable and continuous framework for future practice of civic and urban rights and the role of all stakeholders in ensuring a more just and socially inclusive society.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Prospective authors are invited to submit one page abstract, of no more than 300 words, before **October 15, 2015**, in electronic form at the e-mail: sinergiproject@gmail.com

Authors will be notified regarding the acceptance of their abstracts no later than **November 1st, 2015**.

Full Papers are due on **December 15, 2015**.

Additional information about "Inclusive/Exclusive Cities" Conference can be found at www.sinergiproject.com

INCLUSIVE/EXCLUSIVE CITIES

Cities are complex systems of elaborated spatial and social relations. The challenges of the contemporary urban transformation have surpassed its economic aspect and emerge as a social, environmental, spatial and identity crisis with sometimes devastating effect on the social fabric of local communities and cities. The pressure of the financial crisis and outdated concepts and strategies of urban growth have caused the policies and politics of the urban growth and management of cities to become exclusively matter of city administration, decision makers and politicians. Whilst the questions of democracy and broader social inclusion in the scope of urban growth is mainly discussed and raised in the domain of the urban activism, within the academic debate or in marginalized and excluded groups of civic society. It reveals not only different ideas and tools how to provide the urban growth but also the tremendous difference in vision of the future of cities and urban imaginaries.

This condition has a direct implications for the process of development of cities but also of governance and confinements of democratic potentialities in designing of urban space that are only released with the broader inclusivity. Consequently, the emerging resistance to imposed spatial order made apparent the role of social and spatial inclusion in democratization processes and social relations in a society framed by its differences. Completely opposite from inclusive, transparent, participative planning for diversity, the process of creation of exclusive projects and spaces in cities encourages divisive tendencies and damages future prospects for open, connected and socially sustainable cities and societies. In spite of everything, these trends across the world provoked reawakening of public sphere and demonstrated that urban space is central to democratization processes. We can recognize strongest reactions in emerging every-day spatial practices with increased movement across newly marked social and cultural barriers and turning of the border zone into contact zone. In this dazzling blend of financial crisis, challenged concepts of urbanity, dysfunctional policies and citizenship in crisis we can go through the social and

economic contradictions and failures of the cities by innovating the urban policies and practices, aiming to enable a more inclusive, effective and socially responsible approach.

In order to understand the potential for joint effort for construction of better cities this Conference aims to develop a platform of knowledge and to promote an informative debate about concepts, approaches and tools that are coherent with the complex nature of the cities and societies, but comprehensible and simple enough to be useful for institutions and citizens that are affected by the processes that are shaping cities. The questions that could be addressed and topics are: Where and how we could identify and analyze the issues of social inclusion/exclusion in a transformation troubled cities and what we can learn from good and bad practices of social inclusion and/or exclusion? Is there a new complexity of the relationship between cities and society, uncertainties, and questions to be addressed? What are the new approaches, tools and practices that will enhance democratization of urban development through better inclusiveness? To what extent could urban disciplines can be engaged with urban progress in terms of theory, practice and education in an era with new social networks, new political policies, new digital tools and new forms of art and culture? How cities can encourage urban inclusion at a time of intense social and cultural transformations, especially through design and urban planning and to what extent are urban plans able to facilitate communication between citizens and institutions, society and the form of the cities?