

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

Prepared by

**Anastasia Stratigea (Chair) &
Maria Paradiso (Honorary Chair)**

A. Membership

Current Steering Committee

New COMB Chairperson: Anastasia Stratigea (2020-) - Professor (Spatial Planning and Policy), National Technical University of Athens, School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, Dept. of Geography and Regional Planning - Greece - stratige@central.ntua.gr
Honorary Chair - Maria Paradiso - University of Milan Statale - Italy - maria.paradiso@unimi.it

Executive Secretary: Mohamed Alouat – ENSB Ecole Nationale Bouzareah - Algeria - alouat777@yahoo.fr

Fathy Abo Ayana - University of Alexandria - Egypt - aboyana@yahoo.com

Habib Ben Boubaker - University of Manouba - Tunisia - hboubaker@yahoo.fr

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Mehmet Semoncu - University of Ankara - Turkey - mehmet.Somuncu@ankara.edu.tr

Barney Warf - University of Kansas - United States - bwarf@ku.edu

Honorary Board

Antoine Bailly - University of Geneva - Switzerland - antoine.bailly@unige.ch

Annick Douguédroit - University of Marseille-Aix - France - annick.douguedroit@univ-amu.fr

Aharon Kellerman - University of Haifa - Israel - akeller@univ.haifa.ac.il

Maria Sala - University of Barcelona - Spain - sala@trivium.gh.ub.es

COMB counts for 216 members. Their origin country is shown in the following table:

Country	Number	Country	Number
Germany	11	Portugal	8
Spain	19	Cyprus	1
France	51	Lebanon	1
Ireland	1	Japan	4
Italy	21	Singapore	1
United Kingdom	5	Finland	2
Luxemburg	1	Australia	1
Israel	6	Hungary	1
Slovenia	3	Russia	2
Netherlands	1	Algeria	1
Serbia	1	Greece	8
Turkey	5	Not identified origin	61

B. Meetings

a. The meetings your Commission organized in 2019-20 with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

COMB was co-organizer of the following Conferences / Workshops:

- 2019 1. IGU Thematic Conference on the “Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes”, Koper, Slovenia, 24–26 September 2019.
The Conference was organized by the following IGU Commissions: Land Use and Land Cover Change, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional Development, Mediterranean Basin and Land Degradation and Desertification. The Conference had attracted about 70 participants, 60 oral presentations and 6 poster contributions.
- 2020 2. 20th International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA) – Cagliari, July 1-4
Organized by Chiara Garau (DICAAR, University of Cagliari), Anastasia Stratigea (COMB Chair - National Technical University of Athens), Paola Zamperlin (University of Pisa) and Francesco Scorza (University of Basilicata)
The session attracted 25 participants and 10 oral presentations of papers. Papers presented were also published in O. Gervasi, B. Murgante, S. Misra, Ch. Garau, et al. (2020), Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2020, Proceedings - Part VII (Lecture Notes in Computer Science), Springer Nature Switzerland, ISBN 978-3-030-58819-9, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58820-5>.
- 2020 3. 4th Euro-Mediterranean Conference on “VISIONING MED 2020+ / Mediterranean in Transition: Preserving the Past - Preparing for the Future” (<http://www.smartbluecity.com/>) – Athens, October 9-10
Organized by the National Technical University of Athens and the Smart City Mediterranean Cluster, in cooperation with, among others, IGU Commission Mediterranean Basin.
The Conference has attracted 120 participants and 74 paper presentations. A

number of publications (Special Issues and Edited Volumes) are under preparation stage.

b. A brief summary of the topics addressed at each meeting and the findings or conclusions resulting from the discussions if appropriate.

- 2019 1. The focus of the Conference was on the study of the linkages between landscape features, their fair perception and valorisation on the one hand and their relevance for the design of policies related to land use and regional development, such as agricultural policies, regional policies and spatial planning policies.
- 2020 2. At the core of discussion in this workshop were laid developmental issues of island regions, mainly regarded as lagging-behind due to insularity repercussions. Territorial cohesion issues were raised as well as competitive advantages of such regions to be used for featuring sustainable future development pathways.
- 2020 3. At the heart of the conference were laid themes related to smart, resilient and sustainable pathways, data management and smart urban development, cultural resource management, etc. of Mediterranean regions. Also the Conference organized special sessions for the presentation of the EU ‘Green Deal’ strategy and the ‘Climate-neutral and Smart Cities’ initiative; and an expert panel workshop on “Visualizing the MED beyond 2020: Downscaling the Green Deal and the Climate-neutral and Smart City Strategic Mainstreams”, elaborating on the barriers applying to the implementation of the above EU future orientations in the Mediterranean Region.

c. The meetings or other events you plan to hold in 2020 and later years, including locations, dates, and the topics/themes to be addressed.

- 2021 21st International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA), Cagliari, Italy, July 5-8
“Smart and Sustainable Island Communities” (SSIC), <https://iccsa.org/workshops> (Workshop No 48)
Organized by Chiara Garau (DICAAR, University of Cagliari), Anastasia Stratigea (COMB Chair - National Technical University of Athens), Paola Zamperlin (University of Pisa) and Francesco Scorza (University of Basilicata)
At the core of this discussion lay developmental issues of island regions, as lagging behind regions due to insularity repercussions. Issues incorporated are as follows: Smart Islands, Smart Cities, Smart Regions, Smart governance, Smart Communities, Urban and regional growth, Open and Big Data, Cultural Heritage Management, Intelligent Transport Systems, Sustainability, Competitiveness, Cohesion.
- 2021 21st International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications (ICCSA), Cagliari, July 5-8
“Cities, Technologies and Planning”, <https://iccsa.org/workshops> (Workshop No 20)
Organized by Malgorzata Hanzl (Lodz University of Technology) Beniamino Murgante (University of Basilicata) Ljiljana Zivkovic (Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure/Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia), Anastasia Stratigea (COMB Chair - National Technical University of Athens), Giuseppe Borruso, (University of Trieste) Ginevra Balletto (University of Cagliari)
The future of cities is the focus of this workshop. Issues raised incorporate: Open

Government; Open Data; Resilient cities; Smart cities and Sustainable Urban Development; GIS-based mobile applications for Smart Cities; Planning 2.0; Participation 2.0; Urban social networks, Urban sensing; E-democracy, E-participation, Participatory GIS; Social networks and collaborative/participatory approaches; etc.

- 2021 34th International Geographical Congress (IGC), Istanbul Turkey, August 17-21
A COMB session will be organized comprising 6 papers to be presented by COMB members.

C. Networking

a. Means, if any, by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces during 2019-20.

COMB cooperates with C16.13 Geography of Information, Innovation and Technology, chaired by Tommi Inkinen.

Discussions are also on the way for future cooperation with the C16.12 Geography of Governance, chaired by Carlos Nunes Silva

b. Collaboration, if any, with other IGU commissions or other international, intergovernmental, or inter- and multi-disciplinary groups in 2019-20

Collaboration of COMB members with members of the EU Mission Board regarding the “Climate-neutral and smart cities” strategy. Three members of this Board (Chrysses Nicolaidis, Maria Vassilakou and Anna Lisa Boni) contributed to dedicated workshops of the 4th Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the peculiarities of the Mediterranean Region and the bottlenecks that may appear in implementing this strategy in this part of the EU.

c. Cooperative efforts, if any, with ISC (International Science Council), and CIPSH International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences) programs.

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D. Publications

a. Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published in 2019-20 (please provide complete citations). Note these publications should only be included if they are directly related to Commission activities (I.e. not a list simply pasted in from the CVs of steering committee members!)

The list of publications pertaining to the COMB themes, authored or edited by members of the Steering Committee is presented below, coupled with collective works of COMB members, presented in meetings or sessions organized or endorsed by COMB.

a1. Books/Special Issues

Kellerman, A. (2019). *The Internet City: People, Companies, Systems and Vehicles*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, Glos, UK, ISBN-13: 978-1788973588, ISBN-10: 1788973585, DOI: 10.4337/9781788973595

- Paradiso, M. (2019) (Ed.), *Mediterranean mobilities - Europe's changing relationships*, Springer, Cham, Print ISBN 978-3-319-89631-1, DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-89632-8>, Online ISBN 978-3-319-89632-8, <https://rd.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-89632-8>.
- Stratigea, A. and Argyropoulos, V. (2019) (Eds.). Linking land and underwater cultural heritage management to technology in smart cities and communities. Special Issue, *Heritage*, https://www.mdpi.com/journal/heritage/special_issues/smart_cities_communities.
- Stratigea, A. and Murgante, B. (2019) (Ed.), Potential of participatory urban planning and governance, *International Journal of Electronic Governance* (IJEG), Special Issue, Vol. 11, No. 1, <https://www.inderscience.com/info/inarticletoc.php?jcode=ijeg&year=2019&vol=11&issue=1>.
- Stratigea, A. and D. Kavroudakis (Eds.) (2019), *Mediterranean Cities and Island Communities: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient*, Springer Nature Switzerland, ISBN 978-3-319-99443-7.
- Kellerman, A. (2020). *Globalization and spatial mobilities: Commodities and people, capital, information and technology*. Cheltenham UK and Northampton MA, US: Edward Elgar, ISBN-13 978-1789901214, ISBN-10 1789901219.
- Leuenberger, C. & Schnell, I. (2020). The politics of maps - Geographic constructions of Israel/Palestine, Oxford University Press.
- Kellerman, A. (2020). *Globalization and spatial mobilities: Commodities and people, capital, information and technology*. Cheltenham UK and Northampton MA, US: Edward Elgar, ISBN-13 978-1789901214, ISBN-10 1789901219.

a2. Book chapters / Proceedings

- Panagiotopoulou, M., Somarakis, G. and Stratigea, A. (2019). Participatory Spatial Planning in Support of Cultural-Resilient Resource Management: The Case of Kissamos-Crete. In Stratigea, A. and D. Kavroudakis (Eds.), *Mediterranean Cities and Island Communities: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient*, Springer Nature Switzerland, ISBN 978-3-319-99443-7, Doi 10.1007/978-3-319-99444-4_8pp. 181-211 (Chapter 8).
- Marava, N., Alexopoulos, A. and Stratigea, A. (2019), Tracking paths to smart governance: The case of Korydallos Municipality, Greece. In Stratigea, A. and D. Kavroudakis (Eds.), *Mediterranean Cities and Island Communities: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient*, Springer, ISBN 978-3-319-99443-7, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-99444-4_4, pp. 81-112 (Chapter 4).
- Koutsis, D. and A. Stratigea (2020). Leveraging underwater cultural heritage (UCH) potential for smart and sustainable development in Mediterranean islands. In: Gervasi O. et al. (Eds.) *Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2020*. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Vol. 12255, pp. 237-252. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58820-5_19.

a3. Articles in peer-reviewed international journals

- Garau, Ch., Desogus, G. and Stratigea, A. (2020). Territorial cohesion in insular contexts: assessing external attractiveness and internal strength of major Mediterranean islands. *European Planning Studies* 28(12), November 2020, pp. 1-21, DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2020.1840524.
- Koutsis, D. and Stratigea, A. (2019), Unburying Hidden Land and Maritime Cultural Potential of Small Islands in the Mediterranean for Tracking Heritage-led Local Development Paths - Case Study Leros / Greece, *Heritage* 2(1), pp. 938-966;

<https://doi.org/10.3390/heritage2010062>.

b. The current (accurate) URL of the commission's website.

<http://igu-mediterraneanbasin.org/>

E. Archival Contributions

Materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives by your commission. Copies of all newsletters, monographs, special journal issues, *etc.* should be sent to the IGU Secretary General upon publication for forwarding to the archivist. Photographs from your meetings, field excursions, or other events that you are willing to share are especially gratefully received and will be included in the *IGU e-Newsletter*.



4th Euro-Mediterranean Conference – Athens, October 9-10, 2020
Opening Speech of the Chair of the Conference and COMB, Prof. Anastasia Stratigea



4th Euro-Mediterranean Conference – Athens, October 9-10, 2020
Expert panel workshop on barriers to the implementation of the “Green Deal” and the
“Climate-neutral and smart cities” in the Mediterranean Region