
**International Conference of IGU (International Geographical Union)
Commission C08.14 – Global Information Society on
“Heritage, Planning and e-Participation: The evolving Forms of the Information
Society”
National Technical University of Athens
School of Rural and Surveying Engineering
Dept. of Geography and Regional Planning
Conference Overview by Stratigea, A., National Technical University of Athens**

The International Conference of IGU (International Geographical Union) – Commission C08.14 – Global Information Society, on “**Heritage, Planning and e-Participation: The evolving Forms of the Information Society**”, took place in Athens, 3-6 July 2011. The Conference was organized by the National Technical University of Athens, School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, Dept. of Geography and Regional Planning, Unit of Spatial Planning and Regional Development.

The Conference has created a platform for discussion on various dimensions of ICTs and their contribution to planning and e-participation in order to cope with contemporary problems of our society. It has attracted researchers from all over world, ranging from USA to Japan, but also from many European Countries and Israel as well.

Thirty (30) very interesting topics were presented, falling into the 10 sessions of the Conference program. Key thematic issues of the Conference in respect to ICTs were:

- ✓ Accessibility and Networks
- ✓ ICT and Regional Development
- ✓ Planning for Smart Cities
- ✓ Planning Methods
- ✓ Greek Information Society
- ✓ e-Government in Practice
- ✓ Socio-spatial transformations
- ✓ e-Participation and Heritage
- ✓ ICT, Innovation and Governance
- ✓ Mediterranean Renaissance Project (MRP): The Role of ICT in Mediterranean Democratic Movements

The Conference has been considered as a very successful one, based on the:

- ✓ Establishment of a platform for exchanging information, experience and research results among researchers of a quite different origin, disciplines and culture (USA, Japan and Europe), broadening thus the context of discussions; and
- Enrichment of the C08.14 Commission’s work and content, by adding some new areas of interest that need to be further elaborated, based on the evolving context of ICTs (mobile communication, web-based developments etc.), such as ICTs and urban development (e.g. smart cities), ICTs and modeling, ICTs and e-democracy, etc.