

# Editorial

*Michael Getzner*

The evaluation of alternative projects, planning efforts and planning results, can take place from numerous perspectives and within the realms of manifold scientific disciplines.

The perspective on (e-) valuation of this issue of “Der Öffentlicher Sektor – The Public Sector” is certainly an economic one in its widest sense. From rather standard or mainstream approaches in environmental policies to regional and local programs, this issue ascertains the roles and functions of (economic) valuation for planning. While our methodological perspectives are broad, so are the geographical regions. Papers deal with aspects of valuation and planning concern projects and policies in different countries in Europe and Southern America, and concern different spatial scales.

The first paper by Michael Jungmeier and colleagues discusses the manifold connections between academic research, policies, “knowledge landscapes”, and regional instruments in developing and managing a Biosphere reserve in Carinthia, Austria. Vania Paccagnan shows how environmental valuation can influence alternative financing mechanisms for flood prevention and control.

Outside the environmental policy realm, the next two papers treat valuation instruments with respect to architecture and social infrastructure. Angelika Psenner pre-

sents a case study of the “Gwölb”, an architectural specificity in Vienna, while Pia Dostal values the importance of social infrastructure for refugees in Austria.

Michael Getzner describes the economic valuation approach and discusses its application by the example of a small snail, while Antonia Schneider shows how reciprocal water agreements could work in their specific local and institutional setting.

This issue includes four additional papers outside the special issue focus. The first one by Maximilian Jäger presents an assessment of political programs according to their accounting for spatial planning issues. Lena Rücker deals with the financing of infrastructure by means of contractual agreements.

Claudia Loidolt discusses the territorial capital approach and applies this new concept for local development in Austria. Finally, Alfred Franz presents his concept of improving the national accounting system to consider the specifics of the public sector more appropriately.

I thank all authors of this issue of our department’s open-access-journal “Der Öffentliche Sektor – The Public Sector” – enjoy!