



The Spatial Planning of Rural Areas

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 December 2021)

Message from the Guest Editors

The proliferation of buildings in rural areas, involving the use of architectural typologies far removed from traditional models, has brought about a loss of landscape values in these spaces. Integrating these buildings appropriately in the landscape is an essential step towards preserving landscape quality in rural areas, while it also implies having available an essential tool for rural development policies. In many cases, the legislation is a step behind. Planners need objective tools which allow regulation of the sustainable use of these landscapes, while simultaneously permitting local and economic development. New GIS technologies, 3D visualization tools for the simulation of scenarios, and surveys of public participation, among others, are some of the research techniques placed at the service of this purpose. Projects related to these methodologies and techniques, as well as practical cases of application, will be of interest in this Special Issue for policymakers, planners, landowners, and stakeholders.





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