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"Plan, plan and plan only" had been a sacrosanct sintagma repeated by famous ideologist Grigorii Konstantinovich Ordzonikidze during Stalin's regime in the former Soviet Union. But not only there. The whole communist world had been overwhelmed by planning and plans, overoptimistically promising better tomorrow and happiness for people there.

The new situation in the post communist period completely has changed the orientation. The free market liberalism condemned planning at the beginning. The result was decay of planning institutions, planners and their rather long and well established experience. After a few years of turbulent and harsh practice with transition, the new planning paradigm in Eastern and South Eastern (Balkans) Europe raised in a different social, economic and political milieu. Some old experience has been revived; some EU methodologies have been overtaken but also some new and original attempts have been initiated. Altogether, spatial planning as an comprehensive planning activity has been delivered and developed as an urgent need to better developing countries and regions, more careful protecting and enhancing the nature, living environment and cultural heritage, opening many social and economic issues and being confronted with institutional constraints for implementing planning policies.

Experiences of Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Serbia&Montenegro, FYR Macedonia, Bosnia&Herzegovina and Greece, as the only EU country there, are therefore collected in this issue to be compared with other European experiences nowadays, exhibiting the notorious fact that spatial planning is not and should not be uniform in terms of methodology and goal setting.

*Prof. Dr Borislav Stojkov
 Editor in chief*