

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Conversations with TeMA 1.2023

For the evolution of spatial planning

ROCCO PAPA

DICEA - Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

University of Naples Federico II, Italy

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3355-1418>

e-mail: rpapa@unina.it

With this volume - Conversations with TeMA - the Journal opens a new editorial line specifically dedicated to promoting and disseminating the discussion between worldwide researchers on specific issues concerning the contents, methods and timing of our work.

In short, the Board of the journal has decided to put a venue/tool at the national and international scientific community's disposal in order to address, in becoming, the most controversial issues of our work as researchers and scholars working in the fields of urban and territorial planning.

This first experience is dedicated to a deepening blending several voices on the future of spatial planning in Italy both from a regulatory and technical-disciplinary perspective, also concerning what is happening in other countries. In line with the aims we had set, we decided to involve, in this first phase, both colleagues working in Italian universities and those working in foreign universities and research centres.

We chose to develop the discussion through the interview formula in order to achieve several results at once: to keep the focus of the discussion within the narrow scope of the chosen topic; to facilitate the work of the colleagues who agreed to engage in this reflection by dedicating part of their time to this initiative (the interview is a streamlined formula and at the same time unconstrained by the breadth and type of answers); to encourage, thus, more direct prose that could tempt the reading of the texts and, hence, increase the dissemination and quality of the discussion.

This first volume of Conversations with TeMA is divided into two sections. The first part contains contributions from colleagues who have joined this initiative, divided into contributions from colleagues working in evenly distributed universities in Italy and contributions from those working in foreign universities, in alphabetical order. In the second part, we publish a scientific article by three young colleagues of the DICEA – Department of Civil, Building and Environmental Engineering of the University of Naples Federico II, who carried out a textometric analysis based on the received texts, useful to get another insight. The textometric analysis was developed separately on the texts of the answers to each question and subsequently for all the texts of the contributions received. From the reading of this contribution, many points of reflection emerge on the type of words used (in Italian, of course), the frequency with which these words occur, the distance between pairs of words that recur within a text and so on. Points which, correctly, we have decided not to report here so as not to bias anyone's assessments and which we entrust to the analysis of our readers. For a scientific journal, precisely Open Access, which enjoys no funding, neither public nor private, this is an extraordinary effort made possible only by the commitment of so many who, without any personal gain but only for the love of research, work on the journal.

I would like to close this brief presentation with a few due thanks. First of all, to the Board of the journal that accepted the proposal to activate a new editorial line and formulated its strategic guidelines; secondly, to the Associate Editors and Editorial Staff who worked on this volume with their habitual enthusiasm; and finally, a special thanks goes to the colleagues who joined this project not only for their availability and extraordinary scientific contribution to the discussion but also for their patience in responding to the several (but necessary) requests received by the TeMA editorial staff.