


# Conference Report: The 8th International Conference on Urban E-Planning, 2024

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The 8th Annual Conference of the ‘International Journal of E-Planning Research’ (IJEPR), as the previous seven conferences, was organized as a forum for the critical discussion of new perspectives, methods, and e-tools in the field of Urban e-Planning. It was held online on 25-27 March 2024, from the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. In total 96 authors were engaged in the conference, from different academic backgrounds - Geography, Planning, Social Sciences, and Information Science - and from 26 countries, in Europe, Africa, North and South America, and Asia (Fig. 1). The delegates and co-authors - scholars, researchers, planners, and postgraduate students - presented 47 papers (Fig. 2). Around 65% of the abstracts submitted in 2024 have been included in the final program. These numbers are similar to those of the pre-pandemic years, as figures 1 and 2 show.

The 8th IJEPR Annual Conference explored and discussed recent developments, emerging issues and future challenges in the field of urban e-planning, focused on four main themes or tracks: Smart Urban Governance and E-Planning; Citizens E-Participation in Urban Governance; Urban E-Planning and Climate Emergency; and Artificial Intelligence in Urban Governance (Fig. 3). The program was organized into these four themes, or tracks, divided into 12 Sessions, in which the state-of-the-art of research on Urban e-Planning was discussed, plus the Opening and Closing sessions.

Track one - Smart Urban Governance and e-Planning - with six sessions was the one that received more papers, followed by track three - Urban e-Planning and Climate Emergency - with three sessions. The other two tracks, on Citizen e-Participation and on Artificial Intelligence, had two and one session respectively. The total number of sessions was similar to the pre-pandemic onsite conferences (Fig. 4). After each presentation and at the end of the session there was a period for questions and answers, which proved useful and insightful, engaging two discussants and other participants in lively debates.

Each of these four tracks included a wide diversity of research and policy issues. Methodological problems is certainly one of the dimensions that received special attention, as in previous conferences,

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Figure 1. Number of countries represented in the IJEPR Annual Conferences (Source: own elaboration)

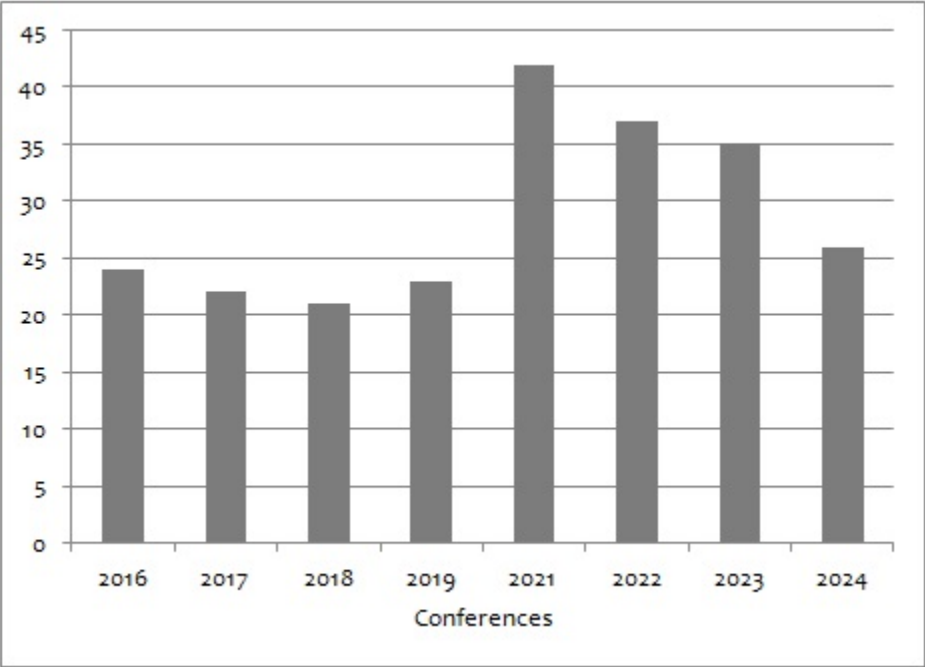
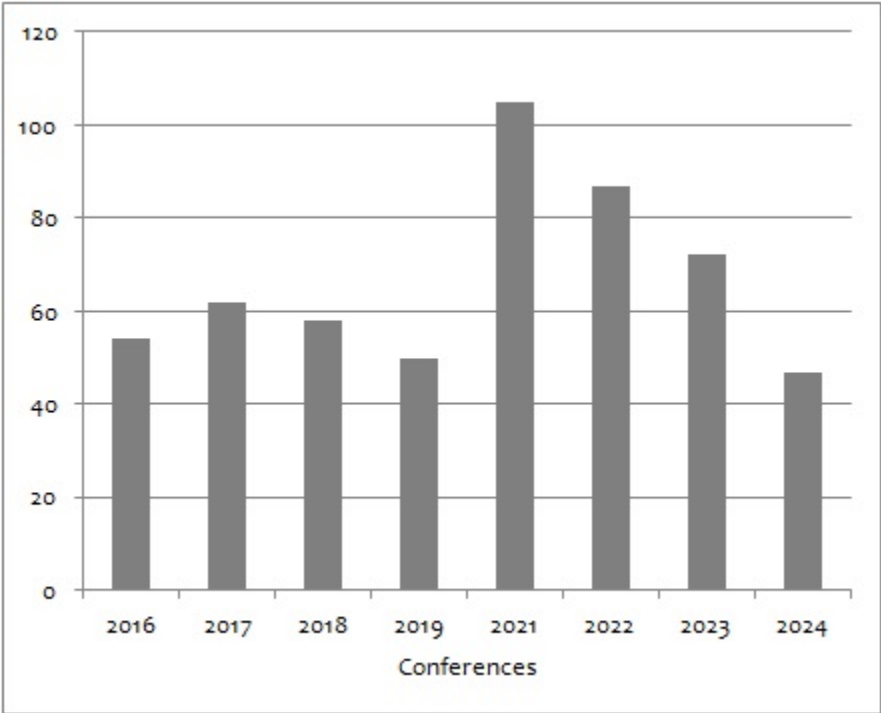


Figure 2. Number of papers presented in the IJEPR Annual Conferences (Source: own elaboration)



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