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## EDITOR'S DESK

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# THE POWER OF EKISTICS!

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Welcome to the third special issue of the contemporary international journal *Ekistics and the New Habitat: The problems and science of human settlements*.

It is with a deep sense of purpose that, on behalf of the international board of editors, I introduce this special issue: *Cities and Transport in the Mediterranean Region (Part 1 of 2)*. Led by transport planner, Prof. Dr George A. Giannopoulos, Professor Emeritus Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Corresponding Member of the Academy of Athens, this issue of two Parts is testimony to the power of Ekistics to bring together a range of contributors whose extended abstracts and short papers focus on the Mediterranean region. It is rooted in a combination of perspectives that allow readers to clearly perceive the interconnected nature and shared concerns of the cities and transport networks in this region defined by its seas.

The significance of seaports comes to the fore in this issue. The use of Big Data in running the ports of the Adriatic, the role that Mediterranean seaports play in China's Belt and Road initiative, as well as the importance of data for the development and funding of national transport works are introduced as key issues influencing the transport networks of the region. The contributors thus remind us of the contemporary importance of ancient connections and the impacts of their reinvention in a digital age. At the same time, our attention is drawn to street-level concerns about mobility, safety, and the user-perceptions of improvements to transport networks.

These analyses of regional networks, understood in terms of their national and global functioning, combined with a focus on local initiatives and their impact on individuals' daily lives is precisely where the power of Ekistics lies: As contributors and readers, we are able to study problems not simply in terms of micro and macro analyses, but as points on the Ekistics scale that tracks the interrelation of these two forms of analysis over time. The global movement of goods, managed through seaports and their associated networks influences the viability of urban living, just as local transport networks enhance or degrade our mobility, safety, and sense of well-being within our cityscapes. Ekistics is important because it is based on the principle that solving complex problems requires understanding the interrelation between various fields at different scales of analysis.

I would like to thank Prof. Giannopoulos for putting together this special issue which enables us to think in terms of Ekistics and in turn, to discover new aspects of the pressing issues of our time.

Dr Ian Fookes  
Deputy Editor | *Ekistics and the New Habitat*.