Evaluation of ICT in Territorial Planning: the Perception of Planners

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This paper is centered on the relationship between new communication and information technologies (ICT) and spatial planning, particularly in what concerns the valorization of ICT in planning objectives and practices. Assuming that is desirable to achieve a deeper understanding of ICTs in planning in face of the importance of the so-called network society and of the changing nature of the discipline, this paper focuses on an evaluation of planners sensibilities towards the power of ICTs. Drawing evidence from a national survey conducted in order to measure planner's perception of the role of ICTs in spatial planning processes, the paper addresses two interrelated sets of questions: How do planners conceptualize the mobilization of ICT resources in spatial planning and municipal planning practice? In what sense can ICTs represent a useful tool for both actors' interaction and planning changes? The paper suggests that planners culture has a significant role on the perceived nature of the relationship between planning and ICTs and remains an essential issue for fostering their use of ICTs in face of new planning discourses on capacity-building and empowerment.

Keywords: communication and information technologies; spatial planning; e-planning; evaluation; interactivity.