

Interactive comment on “Urbanization susceptibility maps: a dynamic spatial decision support system for sustainable land use” by M. Cerreta and P. De Toro

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The paper underlines the importance of multidimensional tools for integrated evaluations of planning choices. Participation and consultation of stakeholders are described as basic for transparent actions in the urbanization processes. The complex issue of the assessment of land consumption is highlighted, underlining that screening criteria and suitable indicators, as well as the identification of alternatives are considered essential for the effectiveness of the SEA and EIA processes. The description of the evaluation criteria according to the AHP approach for the assessment of the plan alternatives is treated. Besides, in order to take into account the data of territorial and

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environmental characteristics, the integrated use of a GIS is deemed useful to generate “urban susceptibility maps” and “to analyze the opportunity for the plan to reduce land consumption”. It is very interesting the use of the AHP approach within a GIS containing the data of the general territorial system investigated, in order to analyze the multidimensional character of the territory and to describe “the attitude of the territory to receive” urbanization processes, considering their impacts. It seems significant also the identification of the five indicators and indexes used in the case study to compare the situations before and after the City plan implementation. Finally, I believe that the paper contributes in a very original way in-depth discussions on the evaluation of scenarios of urban and territorial transformation, in the view of a sustainable urban development.

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