**International conference „Separated Spaces“**

**Spatial segregation – an unacknowledged problem**

14 November 2019 in Kumu Auditorium in Tallinn

**The research “Socio-Economic segregation in European capital cities. East meets West“ co-edited by Tiit Tammaru, the Professor of Urban and Population Geography of Tartu University, reveals that the process of segregation in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is the fastest among the European capitals.**

In other words, the wealthy and less wealthy people tend to move to different urban areas with the distance between them increasing further and faster.

Considering the importance of the issue, segregation has received very little attention in Estonia and thus it is the aim of the present conference to draw the attention of the society and the local government leaders, in particular, to the given matter. It is highly important that the entire society and especially the decision-makers and influencers acknowledge the seriousness of the problem and provide solutions together to prevent and mitigate possible consequences.

A major part of segregation is directly related with architecture and space. Urban planning in Estonia is still based on the Modernist principles of the 20th century repeating all the mistakes made in the Western countries instead of learning from them.

One such an example is the construction of new social housing in low income areas. This way the segregation process is given a further boost and the economic loss increased: the competitiveness of the city decreases, new social problems arise, crime and cultural exclusion deepen further etc. High property prices in the city centre, however, function as a catalyst for urban sprawl which also aggravates the social burden brought about by the mistakes in spatial planning.

The confrontations resulting from segregation will bring about very high costs for the society in a couple of decades with a devastating effect on the economy and unity of the society. Thus, the conference will focus on the city and its spaces as a whole. The issues to be covered include housing construction, infrastructure, social networks, urban scrawl, immigration etc.

The cities with the best living environment always prove to be the ones whose leaders have a powerful command of the coordination of the housing policy in the city. It also affects how attractive the city appears to international high-paying jobs. The higher the person’s salary, the more important role in his life is played by the work and living environment.

The keynote of the conference is **Umberto Napolitano**, the architect of French architecture office LAN. He will talk about the French experience and processes, primarily on the basis of the Carré Lumière’ quarter recently completed by the office in Bordeaux that was also featured in the French exhibition at Venice Architecture Biennale. The main role in the given municipal housing was played by innovativeness: the quality of a private house transferred to an apartment building.

The only Estonian with a presentation at the conference is one of the authors of the research “Socio-Economic segregation in European capital cities. East meets West“ **Tiit Tammaru**, professor of Tartu University. He will present the results of the study in more detail and envision the possible scenarios of urban spatial segregation for Estonia in the near future.