

## **Editorial Note**

I have the pleasure to publish the first issue of the GeoProgress Journal; a new scientific initiative offering to researchers an opportunity to publish the findings of their analyses and reflections, engage with a wider audience, discuss and validate their results with other scholars.

The Geoprogress Journal has an international dimension and it is posted online with free access, coherently with the non-profit nature of the association to which the Journal belongs (Geoprogress onlus).

The journal covers research in the area of Development Studies and Local Planning. It applies geographic methods to solve problems concerning several elements of the terrestrial system (or geosystem), which can be divided into four subsystems (physical, socio-economic, ideological-cultural and political-institutional) corresponding to the journal subsets.

Priority will be given to problems and policies of specific interest for the Geoprogress association which affect the local and the global scale and include: the cultural and socio-economic life, ecosystems, landscape and art-historical heritage, methods of territory governance, the progress of democracy in its various conceptions and of each nation's sovereignty. Moreover, priority will be given to research providing for suggestions and policy recommendations contributing to the gradual overcoming of internal and international conflicts and of all forms of discrimination, exploitation and social injustice.

This first issue publishes papers evaluated during a call for paper restricted to Italian scholars, whose works are generally unknown to the international audience for language reasons. The papers mostly deal with tourism resources, with a special emphasis to thermal places, linking natural landscapes of the past, the features of the settlement model, and the cultural heritage.

The next calls are open and will be disseminated to worldwide scholars to fully reflect the international nature of the Journal and to widen the scientific debate.

Every issue will be identified with an evocative image. Looking for an image for this issue, thermal baths and Sicily reminded me of the expansion of the spa under the Roman Empire and particularly the spa in the Villa Romana del Casale (Piazza Armerina, at the center of the Island). It is a great cultural heritage of humanity protected by UNESCO, especially for its outstanding mosaic floors, such as represented by the cover image.

Emer. Prof. Francesco Adamo, Editor in Chief