

Urban regeneration of minor centers and climate change

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Abstract

From the first of August 2018 human beings are in debt to the earth, they have lived on resources they did not own, taking them away from future generations. The reckless exploitation of land resources translates into phenomena such as deforestation, collapse of water resources, scarcity of fresh water, loss of biodiversity and accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and in the seas on a worldwide scale. We remember the great districts that occurred in the last twenty years: the floods of the Cinque Terre in Genoa in 2011 and Hamburg in 2013, the snow blanket of 2013 in New York, the fires in Athens in 2007 and 2018. Drought, fires hurricanes and water bombs are becoming more frequent, affecting cities and causing loss of life.

It is quite clear that human influence has been the dominant cause of global warming observed since the mid-twentieth century. Climate and cities are in strict relation and the importance of the local level is fundamental.

In the Bonn's declaration of Mayors 2011, it was stated that "Local governments play a strategic role in addressing climate change for their responsibility in plans and regulations capable of influencing innovative adaptation and mitigation processes and solutions".

The topic is much more pressing if we speak not only of cities of rural areas and small urban centers that in this historical phase suffer the phenomenon of abandonment with the loss of an inestimable cultural and landscape value.

The smaller centers are often located in areas of high natural quality, sites of community importance or special protection area, to be protected from a hydrogeological point of view. The needs of tourism, of the valorization and of the recovery of the territory can interact positively with respect to the search for experiences of global sustainability.

There is therefore a need to develop climate proof policies and instruments associated with local emergency plans as well as to upgrade local infrastructure together with the participation of civil society and private actors.

In this perspective, the adoption of green infrastructures turns out to be the right approach to orient cities to urban regeneration, having a great potential for resilience. Transforming our cities into smart cities is essential, putting them in the system by integrating the various functionalities of the territorial and urban green through a policy of Best Practices. The indispensable bases are based on the use of the public green that must be able to guarantee a good hydrogeological and climatic function, based on the maintenance of biodiversity and on the possibility of enjoying a beautiful and functional city able to promote human relations. It is essential to focus on the small centers as settlement structures with morphological and dimensional stability over time, with a certain degree of autonomy and isolation from the main urban centers in order to define the "minimum" conditions essential to ensure habitability, counteracting their abandonment, maintaining the resident population or favoring the stable establishment of new communities.

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