

BOOK of ABSTRACTS
of the
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on
CHANGING CITIES VI
Spatial, Design, Landscape, Heritage & Socio-economic Dimensions



Changing Cities VI, Rhodes, 24 - 28 June 2024

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Rhodes Island, Greece, June 24-28, 2024

Organised by

Research Unit of Urban Morphology and Design,
Department of Planning and Regional Development, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Thessaly, Greece.

in collaboration with

Department of Mediterranean Studies, School of Humanities,
University of The Aegean, Greece

Under the aegis of

The Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy
IsoCarp (International Society of City and Regional Planners)

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PREFACE

The series of international conferences on *CHANGING CITIES* aspires to bring together urban planners and designers, architects, landscape designers, urban geographers and historians, urban economists, urban sociologists, and urban policy makers, and investigate new challenges concerning cities and their future. The conference aims at becoming an international forum of transaction of ideas on cities' transitions. We have so far organised six conferences, with peer-reviewed Proceedings, taken place always in June, in venues with unique urban and natural landscape, built heritage and place identity.

- *CHANGING CITIES I: Spatial, Morphological, formal, and socioeconomic dimensions, 18-21 June 2013, Skiathos Island, Greece.*
- *CHANGING CITIES II: Spatial, Design, Landscape and socioeconomic dimensions, 22-26 June 2015, Porto Heli, Peloponnese, Greece.*
- *CHANGING CITIES III: Spatial, Design, Landscape and socioeconomic dimensions, 26-30 June 2017, Syros Island, Greece.*
- *CHANGING CITIES IV: Spatial, Design, Landscape and socioeconomic dimensions, 23-28 June 2019, Chania, Crete Island, Greece.*
- *CHANGING CITIES V: Spatial, Design, Landscape, Heritage and socioeconomic dimensions, 20-25 June 2022, Corfu Island, Greece.*
- *CHANGING CITIES VI: Spatial, Design, Landscape, Heritage and socioeconomic dimensions, 24-28 June 2024, Rhodes Island, Greece.*

All Changing Cities conferences have been welcomed by the academic community worldwide, usually attracting about 300 presenters from many countries - Greece and Europe, USA and Canada, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, Asia, Far East, and Oceania. On this basis, we believe the 6th Changing Cities conference will also be a successful academic event.

The 6th Changing Cities conference puts an emphasis on the transformations of cities related to climate crisis; the main theme is '*Climate Crisis. Cities' transitions towards smart & green development*'. Cities are on the front line of climate change. First, cities are the main contributors to climate change due to concentration of population and various human activities such as industrial activities, people's everyday mobility and transportation of goods, etc. – all of which increase the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Second, the impacts of climate crisis on cities are dramatic; Cities need to cope with the unprecedented challenges of climate crisis such as wild wood fires, floods, extreme weather conditions such as heat waves, heavy rainstorms, land drought, etc. Thus, cities as 'guilty' constituents to climate change, must also become vital protagonists in mitigating climate crisis. In this framework, the 6th Changing Cities conference welcomes the academic discussions on specific measures and policies of green and smart development of cities.

This year, about **350 abstracts have been submitted** from universities, research institutes, governmental organisations, and Ministries of environment from all over the world. In the conference, **will finally be presented 265 papers**. Among them, **54% of the papers have been authored by foreign academics** while **46% by Greek academics**- indicating the international character of the conference. For the first time the 6th Changing Cities Conference includes about 60 remote presentations organised in last day of the Conference mainly involving young researchers, PhD candidates, postgraduate students who faced difficulties to cover traveling expenses. The Conference Program includes **20 special sessions** that have been pre-organised by distinguished researchers enriching the academic discussion on portraying the impacts of climate crisis on cities and

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highlighting green and smart urban actions and policies to mitigate the negative effects of climate crisis.

I would like first to thank the Organising Committee, the keynote speakers, and the members of the international scientific board who supported enthusiastically the academic organization of this conference – and especially those colleagues who have also pre-organized special sessions in this conference.

I would like to show our gratitude to all the academic supporters – **University of Thessaly**, **University of The Aegean**, and **IsoCarp** (International Society of City and Regional Planners).

I would also like to express our gratitude to the sponsors of this conference - namely **The Green Fund** politically supervised by **the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy; The Secretary General of the Aegean and Island Policy in The Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy**; and **the elected Regional Authority of Thessaly**.

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of the series of Changing Cities Conferences

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The spaces of productive micro-districts: an asset available for adaptive projects?

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Extended abstract

This paper deals with the adaptive regeneration of productive areas and is a reflection supported by the outcomes of the recent experience in the research project “Productive Areas, Pro-Adaptive Areas” (AP+A) (<https://www.areeproadattive.polimi.it>) conducted by the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Polytechnic of Milan and funded by the Ministry of Ecological Transition (MiTE). The project carried out activities to spread the culture of sustainability and promote projects and actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It has made it possible to propose and test innovations for the adaptive regeneration of strategic areas for coping with the climate crisis, which, like productive areas, have received little attention in the history of urban planning since the Second World War. The main actions involved building climate knowledge at the micro-scale, raising awareness and involvement of the local business community and stakeholders, co-designing adaptive solutions, and developing specific urban planning and governance tools.

The research area was the Metropolitan City of Milan, with two pilot municipalities in the north-west and south-west. A territory in which productive areas contribute to a significant extent to determining critical phenomena such as heat islands, inefficiency of surface drainage, poor quality of open spaces, of public and public-private thresholds, in general, of urban habitability.

These are areas with highly impermeable soils, little vegetation, buildings of poor construction and urban quality, and low energy efficiency. The overall picture is one of a territory dotted with widespread micro-production areas, now integrated into the urban landscape. This spatial connotation, the result of functionalist urban planning since the Second World War, has helped to promote the idea of *adaptive productive micro-districts* and a model of *productive urban district governance* that aims to encourage stable, direct, and organised interaction between private and public bodies to carry out regeneration projects.

At the same time as the research was carried out, both the Metropolitan City and the two pilot municipalities developed new tools for territorial governance, the Metropolitan Territorial Plan, and the Municipal Urban Plan, respectively.

This fortunate circumstance was an important opportunity for further theoretical reflection and to explore and establish real implementation prospects for the proposed solutions. In the case of one municipality, the engagement and co-planning activities were part of the participatory process of the urban plan, and the adaptive solutions were classified according to a performance model that will be used, albeit in an experimental form, in the preliminary study phases for the approval of projects and possible bonuses for private interventions.

The idea of adaptive, productive micro-districts, supported by specific district governance, remains, for the time being, a proposal appreciated by public and private actors.

Keywords: *productive areas; adaptive urban planning; adaptive performance; Metropolitan City of Milan*

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