INCLUSIVE CITIES AND REGIONS TERRITOIRES INCLUSIFS

14° Biennale of European Towns and Town Planners, Naples

Edited by Marichela Sepe

#Special Workshop



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Cultivating new biodiversity by resilient landscapes Opportunities to be seized in the Salento delle Serre

Paolo Galuzzi*, Elena Solero**, Piergiorgio Vitillo***

Multifunctional Ecological Networks, Resilient Landscapes, Natural Capital

The proposed research thematizes, articulates and develops an interdepartmental university research,1 whose main objective was to keep space, society, economies together. The result is an integrated project of territories, able to rethink cities and landscapes in an integrated strategy, with particular reference to the system of minor centres, triggering the necessary ecological transition to models of development without growth that focuses on the quality of living.

From this standpoint, the Salento delle Serre represents an incredible historical, landscape, environmental, rural patchwork, whose territories must not be places of consumption (of history, traditions, nature), but the production of new cultures, agricultural and landscape practices, of renewed ways of providing services and interacting with the environment.

Through the articulation of different ecology, the research identifies a landscape-settlement scenario aimed at the construction of a multifunctional ecological network, which supports and enhances the settlement, cultural and natural heritage, highlighting its qualities, peculiarities, characters. Re-infrastructure opportunities at different scales and sizes (infrastructural, landscape, ecological-environmental).

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- The research is called Reti|Città|Territoro 2.0 Strategies for the enhancement of polycentric systems, divided into regional areas. Paolo Galuzzi (University la Sapienza Roma); Francesco Rotondo (Politecnica delle Marche), Elena Solero, Piergiorgio Vitillo (Politecnico di Milano) worked on the Serre Salentine.

Reveal, enhance and increase the Natural Capital

The proposed objective is to reveal, enhance and increase the Natural Capital through three project moves, aimed at promoting multifunctional ecological networks:

- a) respect natural environments and landscapes (parks, reserves, beaches, dune habitats);
- b) promote a network of natural connections;
- c) enhancing coastal landscapes and the hydrographic network.

Cultivate new biodiversity

The cultivation of new biodiversity can represent an important alternative, able to activate an economic and social program to redesign the rural landscape of Salento devastated since 2013 by Xylella Fastidiosa: the damage does not only affect the economic-productive chain, but also extends to the environment and local communities; which must be involved starting from a cultural project capable of restoring the ecosystem, economic and social balance that for centuries has represented the richness of these territories. Putting together the pieces of a mosaic of communities and people whose identity characterizes the landscape, not only through a local reforestation project, which involves the regeneration of these territories-landscapes with resistant species, but also experiencing virtuous biodiversity resilient to climate change: the landscapes of the Mediterranean are resilient by nature, the plants evolved in frugal conditions exploiting the moments of abundance and resting in warm and dry periods, wisely optimizing the use of resources.

Triggering resilient ecology of Serre Ioniche

The project moves have been based on a structural interpretation of the territories of the Serre Ioniche as a system of ecology, as identity of living, of life, of integrated economies

a) The ecology of relations

The ecology of relations, extended to all the Salento delle Serre (Ionic and Salentine), is organized in Environments (Landscapes), Mobility (Infrastructure), Settlements (Heritage).

As for the Environments, in addition to the system of parks and landscapes, the multifunctional agricultural park of the Serre plays an important role, as it crosses the Salento from north-west to south-east and separates the Serre Ioniche from the Serre Salentine, hosting the numerous settlements on the slope, nom Galatone to Santa Maria di Leuca.

As for mobility, in addition to the historic coastal road network, the two east-west road axis structure accessibility and the main lines of movement. The system of the "mezzacosta pendulums", together with the local railway mobility to upgrade, plays an important role. The Railroads of the South-East covers 473,5 km of length (with particular reference to Gagliano-Leuca, Casarano, Nardò, Novoli, as well as Casarano-Gallipoli and Gallipoli-Lecce).

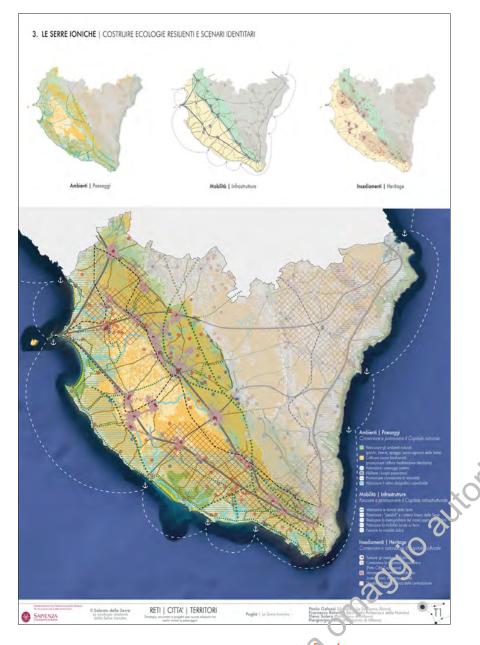
With regard to the Settlements, in addition to the spread of a real urbanized countryside, the stratified system of Heritage emerges clearly: the centuriation and the point heritage of historical and cultural settlements (farms, castles, coastal tower).

b) Ecology of Terre Alte e Terre Basse (Highlands and Lowlands)

The Terre Basse, crossed by the coastal road, are characterized by all the seaside villages with their historical cores, coastal landscapes and dune cordons, the "mid-coast pendulums" that from the sides reach the sea, the surface hydrographic system and the historical and panoramic roads.

The Terre Alte, crossed by the ridge of the Serre Salentine, are characterized by numerous settlements on the side with their historical cores; as well as by the linear systems of the side of the Serre and the multifunctional agricultural park of the Serre Salentine, real inhabited park with strong morphological and historical-identity features.

Both the Terre Alte e Terre Basse are dotted with a large and characteristic historical-cultural heritage.



Tig. 1. Triggering resilient ecology of Serre Ioniche The Biennial of European Towns and Town Planners is an event of the European Council of Urban Planners ECTP-CEU which aims at discussing the main issues in the European debate relating to urban planning by sharing them with urban planners, architects, engineers, economists, sociologists, historians of architecture, citizens, politicians, private and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The theme chosen for the 14° Edition, organized from 22 to 24 April 2024 in Naples with the INU as the main organizer, is Inclusive Cities and Regions/ Territoires inclusifs. Inclusion is understood in its multiple declinations that define the 10 general themes of this Biennial - Regional issues and regional disparity, Metropolitan or city proposals, Urban regeneration and Public Spaces, Migration and cultural inclusion, Cultural heritage, Resilience and adaptation, New economic approaches, IT and the use of artificial intelligence in planning, Ports, airports and other infrastructures, Underground space – and in additional ones proposed by the participants who further specify the general themes namely About Spatial Inclusivity, Urban regeneration and spatial justice with Nature-Based Solution, Inclusive public spaces for water cities facing climate change, Italian UNESCO Chairs vision and actions, A Transdisciplinary Approach to Placemaking and Inclusivity: COST Action Dynamics of Placemaking, Inclusive city Ecosystems, Youthbanism for a New Generation of Urbanists, Fragile geographies. Visions, projects and studies to mitigate and adapt to environmental and anthropogenic risk, Green Oasis for the 15 minutes city model, Making/unmaking urban circular economies with otherness, Public space for inclusive cities: the Biennial of Public Space, Universal accessibility and university education, the knowledge network, Findings and Evidences from the PNRR project RETURN, and River Contracts as voluntary and negotiated planning tools.

The works contained in this Catalogue, presented by administrators, professionals, academics, and researchers concern projects, policies and research that have international interest and, at the same time, attention to the local, all at different scales.

It is possible, from this vastness of topics, to understand the broad discussion that resulted, outlining new interested subjects and involved actors, as well as new possible intersections of themes.

Marichela Sepe is Associate Professor at the DICEA Sapienza Università di Roma. She has also joined the ISMed-CNR and the DiARC-University Federico II. In 2013 she has been visiting Professor in the Peking University and held lectures in the Peking, Wuhan and Xi'an Universities. Her research interests include: urban design and planning; place identity; healthy city; livable public spaces; creative urban regeneration; multimedia. On these topics, she has published several national and international journal articles, conference papers, books and book chapters.

Currently she is Responsible of the Urban Impact Unit of the "SUMMA" PRIN 2020, and member of the COST Dynamics of placemaking, and Writing Urban Places. She is responsible of the Scientific Laboratory "Geodesign and Urbandesign" of LUPT University Federico II.

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