Nowadays in Italy, the historic urban landscape of a city is a cultural and economic resource that requires an appropriate development and conservation to perform the tasks entrusted to it: for example the witness of the identity of a society or tourist attraction. The richness of the Italian heritage is protected by an important international body: UNESCO, which preserves a huge amount of cultural and natural sites of special interest around the world, 47 of them are in our country. UNESCO has proposed the introduction of an instrument, the Management Plan, to plan interventions to be implemented to maintain over time the integrity of the values that have allowed the inclusion in the list, in order to preserve the site for future generations.

At Italian legislative level there is the awareness that the instruments and laws mainly concern the establishment of restrictions or special-protected areas, but this is not enough, there is the need for a device that, promoting programs and projects at a strategic and operational level, maintains the integrity of goods and landscapes, and enhances them.

The Management Plan seems to be the researched tool but we need more thorough analysis.

Therefore the aim of the thesis was to analyze some case studies of Italian cities with a UNESCO World Heritage Site within its municipal area, which is a part of the city included in the World Heritage List, having characteristics similar to a context of historic urban landscape, and to highlight the influence that the presence of the site (and its Management Plan) can have on the town planning scheme and vice versa, with the idea to achieve a series of reflections on the relationship between the instruments mentioned.

To understand this work, in Chapter 2, was made an excursus on the concepts of landscape, historic centre and historic urban landscape according to the national and international debates.

In Chapter 3, three case studies were selected following a preliminary investigation and a careful selection guided by 5 criteria:
- Assisi, the Basilica of St.Francesco and other Franciscan sites,
- The historic center of the city of Pienza,
- The Trulli of Alberobello.
For each site were carried out the analysis by trying to define a uniform methodology to observe the relationships and the effects of the coexistence of the two instruments considered in the same territory. Thus an interpretative grid was created for each case study to reach a complete reading of the dynamics of the planning realities in question.

The interpretative grid

At the end of work for each case study was prepared a "summary scheme" which presents the key points of the grid, making it much quicker and easier to understand a long line of tools and special situations.
In a nutshell we can say that the analysis shows that the management plan in Italy has no actual planning value, nor in legislation. But however it plays an important role in supporting the preparation of the structural part of a Town planning scheme. The management document is proposed as a tool to coordinate the various programs of intervention, conservation and development in progress at the place where it acts, but also it can be the address for the most important strategic initiatives in the area. In chapter 4, from the final considerations, answering to the "research questions", some suggestions (or proposals) have been put forward to improve the planning system of this particular area such as the need for a new national law on the subject.

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