

The strategic point of view and the environmental matter: reflections and experimentations for a sustainable planning. The Italian case

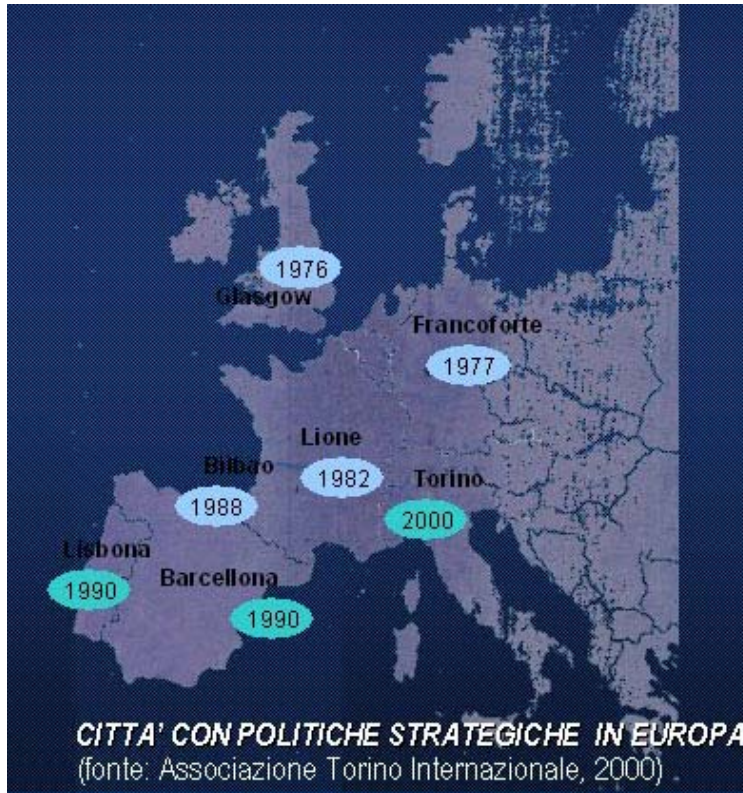
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In a period of rapid and mutable transformations, the public decision makers - and, with them, the planners – are asked to operate choices in increasing conditions of complexity and conflict. Facing the impossibility to foresee in the long term the evolutionary dynamics of the city and the territory, more and more they found in the demand to apply to new (and more effective) forms of planning. The tools made 'available' from the traditional urbanistic discipline (first of all, the PRG) is held definitely passed: too much rigid and hierarchical the formulation that characterizes them, too much formal and detached by the phase of implementation their elaboration. What is lacking (and this is also recognized in our country by numerous researchers and operators) it is a different form of planning. A 'medium-term' planning (10-15 years) that, from a side, uses of more flexible and informal tools, from the other, makes bearer of a new way of intending and to manage the complexity of the urban and territorial dynamics. To this intention, one of the tools that today in Italy mostly lift the interest of public decision makers and planners, is strategic planning. Grow quantitatively – and, perhaps, qualitatively (it will be confirm or deny by the time) - the experiences of planning that resort to the elaboration of strategic plans.

However, the strategic planning (this must be underlined) doesn't constitute a recent planning practice. The first strategic plans are made to go up again a sixties. And, although are there divergent positions around the evolutionary runs followed by this discipline (continuity or jumps?), we probably don't commit an error in to affirm that the actual strategic planning (i.e. the contemporary plans of city as Torino, Trento, La Spezia etc.) is the result of an evolution almost lasted half century.



Always with reference to the Italian experience, what strikes the attention it is the trust that is put back from the operators of the sector in such tools. Above all from who these plans elaborated and promoted, the strategic planning is proposed as 'the attended solution', the tool through which recover of effectiveness of public decisions.



Representation of the strategic plans (image of left) and plans with strategic contents (image of right) running in Italy nowadays

Among the functions that are attributed to the strategic planning there is also that to favor the pursuit of more sustainable processes of development. But which are the tools that justified this trust? This is the question that 'animates' the reflections introduced in the thesis and, what follows, is the story of the logical run which it has originated. In first place (chapter 1) we tried to trace the general picture of the inside front of the urbanistic discipline in Italy, putting in evidence which are, in our country, the themes more debated in subject of city and territory. Then (chapter 2), we considered the origins of the environmental matter: analysis of the origins of the environmental matter and of the paradigm of the sustainable development, reflections on the implications brought by the adoption, in a plan, of an objective of sustainability etc. Subsequently (chapter 3), object of study was the strategic planning and its development. In particular, we tried to clarify what strategic approach means and what the characteristics of this approach are. Done this (chapter 4), we tried to show the elements that make the strategic approach good for sustainable planning, underlining that the actual strategic plans (in specific conditions) can indeed bring to positive results in terms of sustainability. At least (chapter 5), we considered the developing italian experimentation of this particular form of planning. Some cases of study were introduced (urban plans as well as territorial plans) and, according to what had emerged from the examination, we tried to delineate the possible seams of development that such experimentations allow to presage.

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