

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Urban and Territorial Design)
Honors theses

**Process innovation starting from participatory self-organization.
Comparing experiences in urban redevelopment project**

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The thesis ranks of a theoretical framework that recognizes the need, in a territorial and social context now changed, to provide for new forms of urban regeneration that see the citizen as "active subjects" in the context of territorial transformations. The Italian context provides participatory approaches imported from other contexts that, with some exceptions, have shown some limitations respect to radical changes in course.

Participatory practices of the 90s have traditionally seen the prevalence of the role of institutional actor promoting and guiding the decision-making mechanisms of interaction with citizens.

In recent times, however, you are spreading participatory practices that see citizens actively involved as direct promoters and managers.

Telematics and Internet also allows new virtual relationships in the network, between companies, associations and individuals, multiplying "the voices" and strengthening the leadership of numerous social actors, and especially by changing the degree, the manner, the spaces-times and places of the traditional participation.

In particular, the research question is on the identification of the elements of innovation practices self-organized. In other words, if such practices they can represent possible elements of innovation, useful for the purposes of plan and of the redevelopment project?

With the intent that answer the research question, the thesis provides a twofold objective: (i) understand and investigate the practices self-organized, through the definition of the constitutive characteristics and (ii) identify, through a reading of recent cases in the Italian territory the main innovations useful to rethink the traditional mechanisms of participation.

Fig 1 - Distribution of experience on the national territory



Source: Personal elaboration

The comparison intended to bring out the elements of innovation, experienced in nine cases, of practices self-organized for participation in local urban transformations. In this regard, the goal is to reconsider the potential of self-organization, for one evolution of the traditional idea of the plan and the development plan towards a new, more rooted in the territories covered by urban redevelopment. In this sense, the elements of innovation emerged from the comparison criteria are interesting to rethink the shape of the plan and the development plan.

Are analyzed four key aspects: (i) **changes civic**, to emphasize the change of roles, spaces and methods in the construction of the plan and the urban project, (ii) the issue of **compliance of the project plan and the regulations**; (iii) the **conduct** or, rather, the degree of decision-making autonomy expressed by the promoters of the practices self-organized (iv) **learning and the 'institutional innovation**, to emphasize which of the possible reconfigurations can be produce, under the plan and the project planning, experimenting with new practices self-organizing (innovation potential).

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