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

by Alessio Mesiti

Tutor: Grazia Brunetta

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.

The thesis is divided into two parts: the first part introduces the analysis of the concept of participation in the processes of urban transformation and defines the families of participatory devices used in the national context and the main elements of innovation in recent forms self-organized; the second part presents the analysis of case studies of self-organized national practices with the objective to identifying the main elements of innovation.

The goal of the research is to recognize, starting from the comparative case study, a definition of self-organization.

The analysis of the experience is conducted on the basis of enhanced definition of self-organization and selection of a set of criteria for interpreting reported in a comparative array, divided by areas of territory (§ Table 1).

FASI ATTOR Soggetti pubblici Gradi di Ecosillaggio E.V.A ٠ . • • • • • . . • • ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ • ٠ ٠ • • . • • • . . • • • • • • • . . • • • • • • . • • • • . • . • • • . • . . •

Table 1 - Comparative Array

Source: Personal elaboration

The case studies concern experiences related to the redevelopment of rural villages, town of Pescomaggiore (AQ), Torri Superiore, of Corricelli and Urupia, and urban spaces, the experiences of *Badili Badola* in Turin, *Giardini in Transito* in Milan, *Quelli che il parco* in Rome, *Friarielli Ribelli* in Naples and the *Comitato per il Bene Collettivo* in Palermo. (§ Fig.1).

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).

Essential bibliographical references

ALLEGRETTI U., (2006) Verso una nuova forma di democrazia: la democrazia partecipativa. In Democrazia e Diritto, Milano: n.3. 2006, Franco Angeli. CELLAMARE C., (2011), Progettualità dell'agire urbano, Roma: Carocci. BOBBIO L., (2010), Democrazia e nuove forme di partecipazione, Bovero, M. e Pazé, V. (a cura di) (2010), La democrazia in nove lezioni, Roma-Bari: Laterza, pp. 46-63.

BRUNETTA G., (1997), Giochi negoziali nelle politiche urbane, Firenze: Alinea. BRUNETTA G., (2011), Conclusioni. Dimensioni sociali e organizzative di una teoria generale delle comunità contrattuali, in Brunetta G. e Moroni S., a cura di, La città intraprendente, Roma: Carocci, pp. 103-110.

FARERI P., (2009), *Rallentare: Il disegno delle politiche urbane*, Milano: Franco Angeli.

LAINO G., 2012, Il fuoco nel cuore e il diavolo in corpo. La partecipazione come attivazione sociale, Milano: Franco Angeli.

MORO G., (2008), *Cittadini e pubbliche amministrazioni: diritti, poteri, strumenti,* in Formez, Innovazione amministrativa e crescita. Rapporto con raccomandazioni, volume IV - Cittadinanza amministrativa, Roma: Formez, pp. 47-88

PABA G., (2009), *Partecipazione, deliberazione, auto-organizzazione e conflitto,* in Paba G., Pecoriello, Perrone, Rispoli. Partecipazione in Toscana. Interpretazioni e racconti. Firenze: University Press. pp. 15-52

For further information, e-mail:

Alessio Mesiti: ale.mesiti@hotmail.com

Maintained by:

CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyparc@polito.it