



POLITECNICO
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Honors thesis

COURSE OF Architecture, Construction, City

Abstract

**Balancing between informality and official planning policies in
Podgorica, Montenegro**

Tutor

Michele Bonino

by

Jovana Liscevic

Co-advisor

Valeria Federighi

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The birth of this thesis project was influenced by the fact that I was very much drawn to informal ways of living in Western Balkan countries, where I come from. This is a sight that can be seen very often in many aspects of our everyday lives. Different typologies of informality have developed in countries in Southeast Europe, depending on different economic and political factors.

Broader typology of settlement informality that this thesis will address with analysis and case study solution is the one that appears in form of illegal construction and in further text one will refer to the other and vice versa.

This project refers to part of informal sector which tackles the question of illegal / informal settlements inhabited majorly by Roma population. The project is approached as a case study in certain conditions; the nominated settlement is located in the peripheral part of Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro.

This thesis aim is to find a better effective approach to solve the issue of such settlements, which are most of the time neglected by authorities and left to themselves.

Numerous examples of failed attempts to imply control and stop growth of these settlements during the past practice show shallow understanding of the problem and a very negative attitude towards these kinds of settlements, many often resulting in demolition and relocating of the population that once inhabited self-built spaces. Destruction of their homes and neighborhoods breaks connections which were built for years and produces even bigger problems.

I wanted to explore in which alternative ways can architecture and urban planning be of help in order to bring more focus to this issue, since regular ways of planning in these kinds of settings don't work out very well.

How can we as planners, by intervening in such settlements, with results drawn from our research and design make authorities rethink the option of demolition and perhaps accept the alternative method of preserving and including this informality in the rest of our societies? Every urban element in informal settlements radically differs from the basic order and logic in usual neighborhoods. Complexity of problem requires thorough analysis and simplicity in response. It is necessary to define urban planning method to understand, predict and plan sustainable development of informal neighborhood created for and by those in need.
