

chapter 2

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY STRUCTURE AND SYNTHESIS OF THE ARGUMENTS CONSIDERED

WHAT IS REGENERATIONET

RegeneratioNet (Urban Regeneration Net) is a project developed in partnership with the municipalities of Catania, Novara and Navalcarnero. This project promotes the exchange of “experiences, methods and instruments of territorial governance” with particular emphasis on policies and instruments that support the regeneration of urban environments.

The reference point is the Regional Framework Operation “Progresdec/ESDP STEPS”, which is a part of the European Community’s INTERREG IIIC South programme. INTERREG IIIC South is a programme for interregional cooperation focused on reducing the gap between the economic and social development levels of various European areas and favoring a more balanced territorial integration through the exchange of significant experiences.

Progresdec’s objective to improve the strategies and instruments which are made available to local entities in order to stimulate development and an adequate management of related processes is considered to be one of the most ambitious aspects of this operation. Progresdec, emanated and coordinated by the Lazio Region, represents a “verification of the actualization of the European Spatial Development strategies through the analysis and experimentation of urban instruments applied at a local level”.

In other words, it is necessary to evaluate if the European Spatial Development Perspective and its programmatic indications have had a significant impact on the territorial governance at a regional and local level. Furthermore, it is necessary to understand if those indications have contributed towards the creation of planning processes and methods at a local scale that can take on a paradigmatic role for similar actions in the future. This last aspect is particularly interesting and forms the nucleus of the RegeneratioNet sub-project which focuses primarily on the comparison of innovative experiences with regards to territorial policies in terms of general governmental and specific transformational actions.

Progresdec’s projects deal with a selection of urban themes of acknowledged importance. The disciplinary framework hopes to gain from the comparison of these themes in terms of strategies undertaken, phases of each project and evaluation of results:

- Policies and instruments for landscape management and sustainable development;
- Strategies and instruments for the development of polycentrism in systems located in vast areas;
- Policies and instruments for urban regeneration;
- Rebalancing policies between urban and territorial, peri-urban and rural.

The partnership activities involve territories located in the following regions, united by means of a specific resolution, belonging to five Member countries:

Regione Lazio (I)

Regione Piemonte (I)

Regione Siciliana (I)

Comunidad de Madrid (ES)

Gobierno di Navarra (ES)

Perifereia Dytikis Makedonias (GR)

Perifereia Kentriki Makedonias (GR)

IRS, Institut fur Regionalentwicklung und Strukturplanung, Brandenburg (D)

Dienst Landelijk Gebied (NL)

The partnership project between Catania, Novara and Navalcarnero, as mentioned

previously, pertains to issues that deal with regeneration policies and actions and permits each partner to “exchange and transmit experiences and best practices (with regards to plans/projects/procedures)”. This exchange allows for the “comparative evaluation of plans/projects/procedures, relative to each partner’s context.”

The portrait that results from the comparative analysis of the initiatives examined in this study, confirms the complexity of the aspects that the regeneration objectives imply. This complexity considers the circumstances to which the objectives pertain, the important role of the physical, cultural and normative context, and the evaluation parameters. Important indications, useful in stimulating a more conscious urban and territorial governance, are drawn from this analysis. These indications regard fundamental topics, possible courses of action and difficulties. In this sense, the study which will be described, although of a questionable nature, seems to represent a valid basis for a disciplinary reflection.