The Mediterranean City and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

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THE MEDITERRANEAN CITIES

BETWEEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

15th April 2013-Naples, University Parthenope.
Palazzo Pacanowsky, Via General Parisi, Hall 1.2

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Introduction

- The recent events (e.g. the Arab spring, and the contemporary crisis of many southern European economies)

- The increasing urban societies empowerment (i.e. multi-level governance, EU direct financial support…)

- The challenge of the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020)

- The European Neighbourhood Policy and its strategy

- Potential funding opportunities on the North and South side of the Mediterranean sea

- New financial engineering, but also new institutional skills (policy integration)

- Where are the Mediterranean cities?

- End of the demagogy?

The Mediterranean cities

- In1992, started studying the Mediterranean city as a concept

- In 1996, the concept of "Mediterranean city" was too vague, and became a sort mental or ideological paradigm, a justification for failure lacking of any correspondence with many Mediterranean realities

- The Mediterranean city became a "way of thinking" (1998-2000), based on **contextualisation**

- In my last collective research (2003-2005) on this topic, I pointed out that a perception originated from suppositions and preconceived ideas brings to unsuitable planning actions.

    ◦ For example, a cultural legitimisation of the Mediterranean based on a unique identity has two negative effects: to reduce regional differences and to emphasise knowledge and preservation of the Mediterranean heritage as a planning priority

- On the contrary, Mediterranean cities need much more complex approaches and can't be condemned in an historical perspective and to only develop a tourism economy.

The Mediterranean cities

- Empirical approaches based on case-studies.
- Analysis of tangible phenomena, such as:
  - Impact of capitalism, socialism, globalisation and the open circulation of goods, people and ideas
  - New urban forms and changing boundaries
  - Planning tools and urban practices
- Vision:
  - Archipelago economy (Veltz), with cities put into competition among them
- New trends:
  - Urbanisation of interstitial spaces, often rural, and of external agricultural land
  - Growth of functional dependency of peripheral municipalities to the centre
  - Housing flows towards new peripheral neighbourhoods
- Evidences:
  - Irremediable gap between plans and practices

EC Med cooperation programmes

- Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP)
  - Provides a regional framework for cooperation which is complemented by a network of Association Agreements. Theoretically centred on three pillars - economic, security, cultural - in practice put a premium on the former and largely neglected the latter two dimensions
  - Funding Tools: MEDA programme (MEDA Regulation -Council Regulation no EC/1488/96) amended November 2000 by MEDA II programme - and since 2007 moved to ENPI regulation

- European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (2004)
  - Defines a set of priorities decided together by the EU and partner countries, to be incorporated in jointly agreed Action Plans, covering key areas for specific action, such as: Good governance, Enhancing the role of civil society organisations , Pluralism, Cross-border cooperation, Regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration
  - Funding Tool: European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI) (2006)

European Neighbourhood Policy

- **Goal**: to offers its neighbours a privileged relationship based on a mutual commitment to common values, such as:
  - democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development.

- ENP aimed to offer to the neighbours 'everything but institutions':
  - conditioning such offers to the implementation of specified and agreed-on priorities for action in the political, social, economic and institutional domains (Comelli 2004).

- **Specific assistance** is provided to partner countries that have concluded an **Action Plan** with the EU

- **Tools** in the **European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI)**
  - **Country strategy paper (CSP)** is drawn up and provides a framework in which EC assistance will be made available to each country.
  - The **National Indicative Programme (NIP)** attached to the strategy presents the EU response in more detail, highlighting programme objectives, expected results and modalities in the priority fields of co-operation

ENPI and the cities

- The only ENPI funding tool directly linked to the Mediterranean urban development is the Cross-border cooperation "Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme" (ENPI CBC MED)

- Based on two typologies of projects : standard and strategic

- Among the first group there are the following projects:

    1. Promoting Local Sustainable Economic Development (Project Wealth)

    2. MARAKANDA: Mediterranean Historical Markets

    3. Mediterranean Network for the promotion of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies (SUDS)

    4. Empowerment of Management Capacities of the Middle Eastern Public Bodies on Public Services and Socio - Economical Local Development (MIDEMP)

    5. New Cities of the Mediterranean Sea Basin (NEWCIMED)

    6. Gouvernance de la qualité de l'air dans les villes méditerranéennes (GOUV'AIRNANCE)

    7. Réseau d'Action en matière de Mobilité Urbaine Durable (RAMUD)

ENPI and the cities: examples

New Cities of the Mediterranean Sea Basin (NEWCIMED)

Summary: The NEWCIMED project focuses on the enhancement of the cultural heritage and territorial planning capacities of the so-called "New Towns", a urban phenomenon which is diffused in the Mediterranean area. A new town is a city or community that was carefully planned from its inception and is typically constructed in a previously undeveloped area.

Objectives:

• Valorization of the cultural heritage of New Cities in the Mediterranean area and exploitation as tourist destination improving economical and social conditions

• Development of a multi-sector strategic planning process for the territorial development of New Cities, combining the productive, cultural, environmental and social potentials and needs of the territories

• Enhancement of local identity of populations based on the recognition of the value of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of New Towns with a view of increasing social cohesion and multicultural dialogue

ENPI and the cities: examples

Mediterranean Network for the promotion of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies (USUDS)

Summary: To support the development of the Mediterranean area a system of socially and economically efficient cities should be fostered. USUDS intends to address the challenge of city development planning through the promotion of urban sustainable strategies and the exchange of knowledge. With that purpose in mind, the project will focus on the implementation of three specific Urban Development Strategies in the cities of Sousse, Saida and Laranca as well as on the creation of three Knowledge Transfer Centers in Málaga, Sfax and Al Fayhaa

Objectives:

• To create a network of cities interested in building strategies for urban sustainable development

• To develop three new Urban Sustainable Development Strategies in Sousse, Saida and Larnaca

Union for the Mediterranean

- In 2007, French President Nicolas Sarkozy launched with much fanfare his idea of a Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (Bicchi and Gillespie 2011)

- UfM came into being in the summer of 2008, but commitment has been low all around and the UfM has struggled to resolve its institutional problems

- The underlying logic of the UfM is that of compartmentalizing Euro-Med relations, by sidelining political and governance questions and proceeding unabated with economic cooperation through the promotion of specific projects (Tocci 2011).

- Logic of funding projects is that of promoting cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean, without questioning the political context in which such cooperation was embedded (Tocci 2011).

- Urban development is high amongst the UfM's list of priority projects, together with energy, infrastructure, transport, environment, research and SME development.

UfM and the city

- UfM Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Urban Development Strategy

- The strategy is based on four elements:

  1. Guidance framework for sustainable Euro-Mediterranean cities and territories , which aims to enable a shared perspective in urban and territorial strategies; specify the core values of a balanced sustainable urban development that respects people and the environment; and offer a basis for discussion for the authorities implementing sustainable development initiatives.

  2. Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI), which aims to favour the emergence of sustainable urban development projects likely to be coordinated by the Union for the Mediterranean.

  3. Creation of an Urban Agency for the Mediterranean to support sustainable urban development in the region.

  4. Award for Urban Innovation to identify and promote best practices

- The study will only be finalised during the first semester of 2013.

New EU trends

- EUROPE 2020 the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade is:
  - smart, through more effective investments in education, research and innovation;
  - sustainable, thanks to a decisive move towards a low-carbon economy, and
  - inclusive, with a strong emphasis on job creation and poverty reduction
- Review of the Union's policies with the aim of facing the risk that 'two years of crisis (are) erasing twenty years of fiscal consolidation'.
- The Strategy is presented in the belief that the crisis will function as a driver for future and more radical collective commitment by the EU. 'Innovation' is chosen as a key word for boosting a cohesive EU in the global arena, strengthening the single market and social inclusion.
- The Toledo Declaration (June 2010) emphasised the role of cities in contributing to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through an integrated approach.
- Territorial cohesion was included in the Lisbon Treaty

Europe 2020

The Europe 2020 strategy responds to the European and global post-crisis challenge by proposing seven flagship initiatives:

- Innovation Union,

- Youth on the move,

- A digital agenda for Europe,

- Resource efficient Europe,

- An industrial policy for the globalization era,

- An agenda for new skills and jobs,

- European platform against poverty.

Cohesion policy and its structural funds are set out as key delivery mechanisms to achieve the goals

Europe 2020 Strategy risks to remain trapped in a growth paradigm that ignores the ambiguities and problems that obtain in reconciling the principles of competitiveness, cohesion and sustainability.

It is particularly in the cities that these tensions are played out.

Smart growth

- Europe must develop its own distinctive approach to innovation which builds on its strengths and capitalises on its values by:
  - Focussing on innovations that address the major societal challenges
  - Pursuing a broad concept of innovation
  - Involving all actors and all regions in the innovation cycle

- Societal benefits of innovation and importance of broad stakeholder involvement in the innovation cycle

- The closeness of cities to both social needs and a wide range of local stakeholders place them in a potentially pivotal role for linking the two and ensuring that the conditions are in place for effective cycles of innovation

- Cities can have a facilitating role as brokers, have responsibility to explore how smart growth can be strongly integrated with sustainable and inclusive growth. can include pilots which deploy social innovation techniques to improve the delivery of services and involve quadruple helix models

- The territorial dimension of smart growth has been introduced by DG REGIO with the concept of 'smart specialisation' by regions

Sustainable growth

- Cities and urban areas can and should play a major role in realising 'green growth' policies.

- They will be crucial players in contributing to the Europe 2020 flag-ship initiative 'Resource Efficient Europe', shifting towards a low carbon economy, maximising the use of renewable energy sources, radically remodelling the transport sector and using energy more efficiently.

- Many cities are attempting to respond to both aspects of sustainability, to achieve durable improvement and development as well as exploring new green options to reduce their carbon footprint.

- In this way, sustainable growth is not simply equated with green growth but should also result in developing green enterprise, green service provision and green jobs, so combining smart and inclusive objectives.

- Cities should support projects which regenerate abandoned, underused land within the existing built-up areas and to make them as compact as possible.

Inclusive growth

- The primary goal of inclusive growth is to ensure high employment which also delivers economic, social and territorial cohesion, that is, raising employment rates, by modernising labour markets and welfare systems and investing in skills and training.

- The initiative "an Agenda for new skills and jobs" and the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion "will be crucial instruments which major players like cities and urban areas can use.

- Cities need to foster lively partnerships , crucial for the success of projects which deal with inclusive growth. They need to be animated by skilled coordinators to bring actors from different levels on board.

- The third sector is a key partner in developing innovative inclusive growth projects, and cites should take steps to build long-term relationships with civil society organisations.

- Cities should ensure that inclusive growth projects are based on a sound needs analysis and a thorough evaluation of the impacts.

A Start of a New ENP?

- The EU revised the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in 2011, establishing instruments to provide more support to partner countries in order to building **deep and sustainable democracy** and to support **inclusive economic development**.

- The **new ENP's main features** are :
  - political association and economic integration,
  - the mobility of people,
  - more EU financial assistance,
  - a stronger partnership with civil society and
  - better cooperation on specific sector policies

- The Commission recognises the vital role of the cities by:
  - The society plays an active part in the process of democratisation. Values, models of governance or reforms cannot be imposed from the outside. They can only take root when the political leaders and citizens buy in to the reform objectives commonly agreed between the EU and its partners

ENP Sectoral cooperation

- Cooperation on sector-specific policy is an important and expanding part of the renewed ENP, bilaterally and in the context of the EaP and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

- It covers a wide range of areas:
  - employment and social policy,
  - industrial policy,
  - competition policy,
  - agriculture and rural development,
  - fisheries,
  - climate change,
  - environment,
  - energy security,
  - transport,
  - Integrated maritime policy,
  - information society,
  - research and innovation,
  - education in particular higher education cooperation and mobility, youth cooperation, health, and culture

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Questions?

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