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Inclusive city, strategies, experiences and guidelines

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Abstract

This paper shows how to make the inclusive cities through the integration of disadvantaged groups (immigrants, elderly, disabled etc.). Identifies the actors, strategies related to the planning and urban design. Promises some experience implemented in Italy (north and south) and profiles the recent trends in large-scale and neighborhood.

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1. Inclusive city, strategies, experiences and guidelines

1.1 The non inclusive city

The characters that contribute to identify the non- inclusive city can be summarized as follows :

- the uses, prevailing in the area that produce fear , as the presence of the drug dealers , drug addicts , the places that attract criminals , to the excluded from the society . Unfortunately , often , immigrants or some of them are included in these categories;
- the bad maintenance of the area can influence substantially residential perception who warn the scarce presence of institutions and control of local authorities;
- an urban planning " problem list" that favors the lack of overseeing, the determination of isolated spaces and an unclear perceptive structure that causes disorientation.

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1.2 Actors

Reverse the trend, and thus operate in social inclusion direction requires the involvement of more parties. The actors involved in the process are numerous: the territorial government authorities of various levels (local, regional, national), building and planning commissions, city planners, planners, architects, engineers, private and public employers, law enforcement, businesses insurance, distributing companies of public facilities, educational institutions and training in general, the local population, representatives of immigrants (eg. a delegate of the council of immigrants). Each of this can and should play a particular role in the construction process of social inclusion.

After the territorial character of the intervention are established, the subject and the objectives of actors identify all the actors to be involved and their specific roles, then you can move on to the next step which attempts to define what strategies are necessary and practical to be undertake.

1.3 Strategies

The planning of interventions which is proposed as a discussion of the most suitable strategies to the particular object of the action (aggression, perception of insecurity, social exclusion and so on.) Must to be combined with the characters of the area (residential, commercial, mixed etc.). This calls for a range of policy matrices that guide the path in search of the most appropriate operational measures, which may be to improve street lighting, in drawing up a detailed plan of security and social inclusion. The main strategies outlined by the European Union through a specific Technical Committee and dealt with the theme approach to security and social inclusion, are fifteen and include over a hundred operational measures in different environmental contexts and in relation to various issues objective.

The strategies related to planning tend to harmonize the uses, the shape of the spaces and the diversity of the local communities in order to create a stable social structure within a functional and attractive physical environment. They suggest four main strategies:

- compared to existing physical structures;
- creation of congenial living conditions by integrating functions to public spaces;
- ensure mixité of functions to prevent isolation and segregation;
- support a certain degree of urban density to avoid open spaces and oversized abandoned.

Instead the urban design strategies relate mainly physical aspects and aim to:

- raising the profile of common areas;
- facilitate accessibility through clear inputs the settlement-district along with a road system that does not cause disorientation and also allows alternative motion solutions;
- highlight the territoriality carefully to an open space on a human scale and with clear hierarchy of uses;
- support an attractive appearance of the physical spaces taking care of the colors, materials, lighting and street furniture.

These strategies are complementary to each other and must help to promote the informal control of the territory and the feeling of territoriality to residents.

Finally, management strategies of the area include all the organizational measures that increase the degree of vigilance in the neighborhood and governing use and maintenance of public spaces.

These include:

- electronic surveillance with CCTV cameras;
- private security;
- the determination of common rules of the spaces;
- the maintenance of open spaces and roads;

- the provision of infrastructure which are necessary to particular social groups at risk such as the homeless and drug addicts;
- the organization of communication of activities and programs to residents.

Management strategies contribute to the determination of settlement security acting on unnatural mechanisms, in addition to those of informal control of the space resulting from the correct physical design and community participation. In this way, the legislation includes all the measures that can be used for surveillance of urban spaces.

The European standard for safety and for social inclusion that now draws to a complete definition is the main reference in the theoretical concepts and in the process definition. With the drafting of standards at European level you can prepare a planning instrument for the pursuit of security policies and social inclusion at the local level, through a multidisciplinary and integrated approach, and that is recognized as one of the many tools that can help improve the quality of the physical environment.

The strategies that are more interesting for our purposes, and that can be implemented are those pertaining to the planning and urban design. Between them the one that regards specifically the immigration and social inclusion phenomenon relates to "... create livability integrating functions ...";

1.4 Some Italian experiences

An interesting process of immigrants's integration has been recently implemented in Italy, in the north-east (Veneto) for example, which approaches to these principles. What emerges decisively is represented by capillary inclusion of immigrants into territory, particularly in the province of Vicenza, where in recent years some municipalities have hosted non-EU citizens who filled empty houses of natives who are working elsewhere. The City of San Pietro Mussolino is a model of integration and coexistence where about 20% of population consists of immigrants and where there are never recorded tensions. In a few years in this town they have been allocated new inhabitants coming from Morocco, Ghana, India. These immigrants are largely employed in tanneries or in marble in Chiampo's Valley. One form of stabilization into that territory emerges thanks to rooting through reunification of family and through offerings of purchase houses. An important step towards integration is obtained when is guaranteed work, housing and family's presence.

Compared to the logic of "... functions congenial to public spaces ..." there was a substantial gap between local public places and those of the wider public, based on experiences which are taking place in the south of Italy (Puglia). If the native population has a recognizable trend towards an ever more intimate and private dimension of time dedicated to socializing, the foreign trend proposes an alternative model of public space consumption, related not so much towards aggregation moments, but especially towards those of commercial practice of work activities. Peddlers, window washers, dogsitter carry out their tasks outdoors in nodal points of pedestrian and vehicular traffic constantly. Their places are "non-places"; we find them near train stations, shopping streets, in urban residual spaces for ethnic markets. Squares, essential elements of the urban design of the Islamic city, in Bari there are none. In the absence of appointed places the immigrants are forced to arrange meetings between compatriots within community associations. The Municipality of Bari has destined an apartment for immigrants's meeting but this location has been disliked by other tenants. Places of worship are another important element of integration process. Always in Bari a ground floor garage becomes a mosque; small Buddhist and Hindu altars are housed at Catholic religious structures, waiting to find suitable places for worship services. The fact that emerges from the experience of Puglia shows that the ethnic settlement connected to the spaces and the public functions are, after home and work, the next step for the real integration in the context of interethnic.

1.5 Guidelines recent large scale and at the neighborhood scale

In concrete terms, security and social inclusion can be pursued acting basically four different levels:

the first level is the upgrading of the physical space, thus acting on the structure and design of the space, on the design of buildings, urban furniture, parks's planning, transport, the degradation etc...; the second level is related to

supporting the urban vitality. It acts on functions's distributions into the city, on trade, on cultural and on leisure activities, on transport, timetable (with attention to the positive or negative cumulative effects).

The third area is related to community's mobilization, promoting actions aimed at social cohesion, inhabitants's mobilization, the bond of neighborly relations in a perspective that is not only safe but also social solidarity toward all without exception ;

The fourth trend is the collaboration with public order forces. Where surveillance of an area is difficult , as in suburban neighborhoods, for example, it is necessary for planners and police are agree on a plan for the mainstreaming of natural surveillance of land.

1.6 Local authorities, "non-profit" associations, ethnic entrepreneurship, welfare in favor of the excluded

Integration process is guaranted by housing and job .

Only a path of inclusion seems possible with combination of public and private resources in a planned manner and with the participation of local public bodies, such as the region and the municipalities. The latter could take care of the construction of structures to devote to home, renting, solidarity, cooperative property, the concessions given that until now the non-profit organizations have fulfilled a role of public intervention that, except in rare cases, it is limited to offering financial support to the existing voluntary and private initiatives.

In the early 90s, in Italy (also in Veneto) were set up housing associations for homeless in favor of excluded. Voluntary associations's experiences, that have created these cooperatives, have followed different paths and have not always have expected results. A decent housing but eradicated from the territory, in a ghetto, means non real integration into the social fabric of the city. An interesting experiment was launched by the Municipality of Schio, always in Veneto, in the province of Vicenza. Some cooperatives have provided the "accompaniment" to live and have taken care of immigrants for education, training in the urban environment where you place their home. The intuition of these cooperatives has been to understand that putting the excluded in condition of owning a home means to be open to the relations towards the outside.

In Veneto, then, a stabilizing framework of the excluded is emerging, specifically applied to immigrants who have reached a certain level of rooting, through family reunification and possession of housing and, in some cases, with the housing purchase . In this case an important role was played by the so-called cultural mediators. They are essential because the greatest difficulties of immigrants arise precisely from the lack of knowledge of economic and legal systems, very different from those of their home countries, the lack of information on the legislation, the complex procedures to access to bank loans, the data that is obtained it is represented by the utility that the mediators have had in facilitating entry into the private market and the sale of the lease.

The type of property purchased is still a bit 'old and modest in size, and at a rate which corresponds, in essence, to the rental for the current market. This type of experimental project could be embodied in a real social agency with a double meaning:

- to guide the immigrant to enter the private market and as a tenant, as the owner;
- to help the stranger to access various forms of social life, starting with the first group, that of the building where the dwelling . The training education to housing projects underway in Veneto have as an objective the mutual adaptation between the old and new residents in the affected district. Operators are looking to play a different role from that of public entities, with a substantial redefinition of housing policy and available resources.

In addition to the roof like the other needs of the job. In Milan, for example, there are important phenomena related to the construction work through entrepreneurial forms specifically dedicated to urban activities. The capital of Lombardy is particularly attractive to many immigrant populations: the 420,000 legal immigrants in 2001, more than 140,000 are living in cities. It is very important presence of significant populations devoted specifically to urban activities, that are in Milan a concentration of jobs in the field of services to individuals and businesses, or in

business, from the simplest forms of trade to the more complex catering, the production of immigration services, wholesale marketing of production. These job opportunities in the city hold the new inhabitants; However, the decision to stay in the city has always been very high costs: the difficulty of finding home, difficulty in finding spaces in which to express cultures and sociability and to participate within segments of the labor market than those often rigidly ethnic lines.

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