

RT27 | TOWARDS HIGH QUALITY CITIES OF THE FUTURE – NEW APPROACHES TO THE EVALUATION OF PLANNING IN URBAN CRISIS

Chairs

- Marta Berni;
- .Paulina Schiappacasse

Speakers

- Vincenzo Bentivegna
- Stephen Curwel
- Gilles Verpraet
- Bernhard Muller
- Enrico Fattinnanzi

This roundtable forms the first of a series of workshops to be held during 2017-2018 with the overall aim to explore and understand the nature of evaluation problems in city planning and regeneration. Particularly focussing on the nature of the deep changes needed in project-thinking and project-making in order to develop an agenda for an International Conference on these issues to be held in Spring 2019.

Description

Urban transformation is a complex process in which urban planning and architectural projects form the arena for interplay between different interests, public and private, environmental, economic and social over both short and long term time periods. In the present urban crisis decision-makers and experts are confronted by: conflicts between perceptions of individuals and communities; changes in paradigms, value systems, system of powers; needs and demands. The complexities in the conception, design and implementation process of urban plans and architectural projects engaging a range of different decision-makers (architects, planners, engineers, investors, users, etc.) is very unpredictable and this can often result unintended negative consequences for the social structure and environment of cities. All that significantly changes the governance in urban planning. We think that we should focus more on the actors in the urban planning decision-making, than in tools and results (outputs, outcomes and effects) of urban planning.

Moreover in recent years, Participation in both plans and projects has become a relevant issue in public decision making, However, the widespread range of values among urban

actors, the decreasing power of public interest in favour of individual or partisan interests, calls into question the credibility of public and collective decision-making process and the anticipated results of projects and plans. Therefore local politics is itself failing to deliver effective strategic decisions when faced with globalisation, market conditions and local individualism. As a consequence it deserves a new a multicultural and multidisciplinary integrated evaluation approach.

In this context, due to the expanding task of project evaluation CITYQUEST group aims to promote a debate involving other experts in order to:

1. explore urban decision-making processes in the light of the above stated problems and related new evaluative approaches;
2. understand the ability of evaluation to introject, complexity, uncertainties and conflicts in decision-making and deliver better quality outcomes in the many different dimensions;
3. integrate different approaches in planning evaluation;
4. track the range of values, the dynamics of actors' points of view and preferences in the evaluation process;
5. define the role and position of the evaluator within architectural and urban design projects;
6. manage participation and the issues surrounding equity in the evaluation process and mitigate the imbalance of power among the various actors involved in or affected by urban planning and projects and their outcomes.

Organisation

- Prof. Bentivegna will briefly outline the strategic urban planning evaluation problems.
- Prof. Curwell will briefly outline the urban regeneration evaluation problems.
- Prof. Gilles Verpraet will briefly outline problems of the evaluation of environmental risks and their progressive integration inside urban project.
- Prof Bernhard Müller will briefly outline the urban resilience evaluation problems.
- This will be followed by a general discussion of the issues amongst the speakers and delegates in attendance.