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Heritage / Culture and social cohesion in the project of Metropolitan City

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Abstract

The inclusive culture is here understood as a cultural context in which they exalt person, society and places excellence, in the belief that inclusion can be developed only by accepting the uniqueness and fragility of the territory, engaging to turn them into concrete and innovative resources for all. The ability to reconcile cultural and territorial balance / physical transformations goals leads to reestablish social rebalancing, such as unemployment fight and the start of inclusive policies directed primarily to disadvantaged. This work starts from these considerations to define the concept of inclusive metropolitan city in Reggio Calabria territorial context. The project examples (PISL "Progetti Integrati di Sviluppo Locale") concern relations between the story and the future project and can be the starting point for this rising metropolitan reality, between responsibility and participation. The knowledge / awareness of the held heritage, is set up as an ideal place, where you occur convergences that provide the opportunity to confront approaches and planning actions for the metropolitan city.

Keywords: Heritage; social ceosion; metropolitan city.

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1. 1. The role of culture and heritage in the fight against social exclusion

Only recently it has begun to support the role of heritage/culture in social cohesion and integration processes, a role taken in its broadest sense, and not necessarily related to certain categories of socially excluded people, but referred to wider and diversified population. It is undeniable, in fact, despite social changes, the decisive role that culture plays, even today, to build barriers, in defining borders, in legitimizing the exclusion of marginalized groups, in producing inequality and social exclusion. Questions of social cohesion are strongly related to the quality of life, and social balances (income, security, integration, quality of places). This is because the notion of social cohesion (as opposed to the social exclusion), not recalls only the idea of policies and interventions turned to marginalized, society excluded. It, occupies a larger role, shifting the focus to entire social corpus. The meaning of the word indicates the value to which it refers; cohesion: put together (by cohaerere to be combined) different parties to achieve an integrated society. The relationship between cultural policies and social cohesion involves at least two different areas of meditation. The first relating to the issues of use, access, participation and cultural diversity; the second, however, on the relationship of social policies with cultural policies and their contribution to the fight against social exclusion.

In Italy the cultural policies for many years have been characterized by an approach to protection and heritage preservation. This did not favor the use and accessibility, relegating places and goods to a marginal role in the transformation / planning processes of the places. In recent years, things have changed, the heritage safeguarding is strictly connected with the identity, quality of life and development of the places. The experiences starting over the years have shown that in places/territories with an important identity heritage, stands as development strategy a cultural project, capable of integrating actions related to the goods and activities, with the other sectors (economy, industry, infrastructure, education, social, etc.) and the other dimensions of intervention by mobility to physical regeneration of brownfield places and/or degraded and/or peripherals, promoting activities centered on culture and creativity, communication, education and involving all society sector, the results lead to economic growth, so affect on the level of equality, on the production potential and cultural enjoyment and participation to the enjoyment of the generated income streams.

Nevertheless, the use of inclusive cultural policies, which lead to social cohesion processes, is not a "common practice" by institutions or organizations that operate on cities and territories. Although it represents a key factor of sustainability, continuity of operations for the process of action towards the places development it is not a practice, but rather a set of discontinuous and fragmentary actions.

The active relationship between culture, social cohesion and development of the territory aims, however, to the possibility of producing long-term benefits, avoiding falling into a simplistic and not very useful restyling exercise. This means setting up complex project actions that take advantage from culture, which rehabilitate neighborhoods, areas and degraded areas with positive effects equally distributed among the social classes.

2. Development driven by the culture: the project actions

From organization and management perspective, Metropolitan Area's Heritage is characterized by a partition of structures and a large differentiation of methods and possibilities of use. Vision design for inclusive Metropolitan City, should aspire to a city model that can start up, including suburb area, opportunities that can enhance cultural and environmental resources, economic opportunity, through functions and attractors can seriously affecting the quality of life in the entirety city. Introduce the concept of social cohesion in this frame of reference, which owns fragility linked to the effects of the concentration of the marginalized and distress not only from an urban point of view, but above all social, means to attribute a central role, in the implementation of projects , leading to not generic processing operations, by impact that have a positive effect on the weakest sections of the population.

The direct satisfaction of the local population needs, with primary interest to the cultural growth, always has social and economic implications. The development of spatial phenomena, as effect of synergies and innovative processes, that are on the territory as a result Heritage good governance/management, defined as a set of relationships that lead to local system of production unity and management of culture, generating a dynamic process of learning and collective innovation are the basis of the metropolitan inclusive model. The culture, the heritage of a territory or a city, should be able to involve, in its project activities, the entire community in social and creative