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Collaborative post-conflict urban planning tools, to help ensure that reconstruction efforts are people-centered and accessible to all.

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Urban areas and living settlements are frequently nowadays at the center of modern conflicts or crisis. They all face somehow their own unique set of challenges of "post-conflict/crisis" nature - including situations like wars, pandemics, environmental crisis, social unrest, political instability, economic collapse, demographic decay, etc. Aliaj, Toto & Perna conclude that such crisis situation needs to face the "new normal", that becomes soon the "new normal" that pushes for transformative shifts of society, and changes in ideologies or systems. This is a call to think beyond the "stable state" and the "stable normal" *(Schon, Donald).*

Therefore, urban reconstruction processes of post-conflict/crisis settings need to be spatially coherent, but also inclusive to different social groups and vulnerable populations, as well as attentive to cultural, educational and environmental heritage. Under such circumstances only "collaborative/consensual post-conflict urban planning tools" can help ensure that reconstruction efforts are people-centered and accessible to all. The point is not to fall in the trap of being "virtually halted" or emergency-intention driven, or socially excluding situations. Therefore crisis/conflict situations and their effects on the city and society, enforce the rise of new scientific research trends that are based on transdisciplinary approaches.

While it is common knowledge that public community meetings and design charettes allow for community participation in the process of cities planning, the level of stakeholders' involvement remains an issue. This research project of the joint PhD program between Polis University (Albania) and Ferrara University (Italy) supported by AKKSHI Albania, tries to spotlight how such territorial planning process translates in a post-conflict setting, by focusing on the practical tools needed to support engagement of actors in the post-conflict urban reconstruction phase. Municipality of Lezha, Albania, has been selected as a study area because it combines several dimensions of post-conflict/crisis settings, such as: the pandemic, environmental and climate change issues, boom of constructions because of tourism, population loss because of emigration of youngsters, continuous earthquakes, etc. This emphasized the need for community resilience as a pragmatic approach, to generate operative tools not only for the physical dimension, but above all for the social-ecological sub-systems that help quicker recovery ***(Aimar, Fabrizio)***. He underlines the critical role community participation and capacity building has for resilient planning, although that this continuous monitoring of the impact.

Three approaches could be identified under such settings of post-conflict circumstances:

- The area-based approach – which requires spanning multiple sectors in geographically circumscribed areas within cities to ensure integrated urban services and emergency projects.

The objective of the first approach is to

restore access to critical urban services in the selected city, while the conflict/ trauma might be in was ongoing status. This helps to lay the foundation for long-term reconstruction planning in the future. Application of the "area-based multi-sectoral approach" aims at coordinated reconstruction activities in different vital sectors such as water, health, transport, and education. The post-pandemic experience of Lezha Municipality and assistance provided by Co-PLAN Institute shows that in order to be successful in the challenging environment of a conflict-torn country or city, the planning logic to be applied must be a "flexible implementation approach" that relies heavily on local institutions and citizen engagement thus benefiting from their trust, capacity and expertise.

▪ The healing framework – which places administrative-cultural-environmental aspects at the core of reconstruction and recovery processes by embedding all above-mentioned local heritage and creativity, at the foundation and intersection of the place-based and people-centered policies.

The second approach is useful specially to explain how restoration of historic sites, buildings and markets promote urban recovery and cohesion between various factions of society. Cultural, educational, environmental and administrative heritage could be common denominators to bring together warring groups. Recently developed "healing framework programs" by EU, UNDP, UNESCO, and Albanian authorities, etc., in post-earthquake, post flooding or post-pandemic situations Albania (including Lezha Municipality), places culture, environment, education, and local capacities at the core of reconstruction and recovery processes by embedding human resources, cultural heritage and environmental creativity at the foundation and intersection of "place-based" and "people-centered" policies. One must underline the fat that while "place-based strategies" prioritize the reconstruction of physical assets, "people-centered strategies" strengthen community ownership and social inclusion, improve livability of the built environment, and accelerate the socio-economic recovery of cities.

Albanian government, EU and other bilateral donors have been jointly supporting ambitious reconstruction projects after the earthquakes of September and November 2019 where the cultural-educational heritage have been combined with urban and housing redevelopment projects, focused on the regeneration of historic cities. With their densely populated neighborhoods, cities of Durres, Tirana, Lezha, etc, are dotted with historic, including some of the world-class heritage assets. Parts of these cities have been successfully regenerated and rehabilitated, aiming at building more inclusive communities. The project created a space for residents to live and enjoy, linking public space, schools, cultural heritage, and private business. The specific case of Durres-Tirana region is an example of how the revitalization of educational and historic assets can be leveraged to provide larger societal benefits, fully exploring the potential of educational and cultural heritage as a force for social inclusion and cohesion, and economic development in local communities.

▪ The urban recovery framework - which encompasses strengthening institutional arrangements, enabling the policy environment, financing urban reconstruction, and improving implementation arrangements

This research project reflected on the drivers of urban conflict such as unmanaged population movement and decay or growth, consequences of climate change in flooding and wetland areas, or increase in poverty and overall fragility of society, etc. It provided an overview of the "urban recovery framework" that supports resilient urban recovery at scale, and the renewal of the social contract beyond mere physical improvements. Such framework starts with the establishment of a "common urban information baseline by local administration, with regard damages and needs during and after the crisis/conflict.

Building on this baseline, a common vision and respective strategic objectives, might help to guide the development of urban recovery plans from the national, regional or municipal scale to the household level. The "framework logic" calls for these plans to be complemented by an enabling institutional structure and a sustainable financing strategy. Remote sensing-based methods could be employed to assess damages, reconstruction and recovery needs. High-resolution satellite images can be used to get a detailed picture of the dynamic situation on the ground. The data are not only able to support the mapping and evaluation of damaged infrastructure, but also give insights into the current conflicting dynamics by showing the

establishment of frontlines of the problem. Such data and analyses can support future reconstruction planning as well.

This workshop / project of the joint international PhD Program of Polis University, Tirana, and Ferrara University, Italy deals with the theme of post-pandemic / post-crisis city looking into the transformations; the intertwine of health and wellbeing with these transformations and city-making in post-crisis period, etc. It focuses on the role of architects and city planners in such situation and in promoting potential new models of resilient life. Some of the findings are:

Besjana Qaja, considers the disbalance created between urban and rural population of Lezha Municipality, because of aggressive urbanization and emigration rates. She considers important the investments on access infrastructure, as an instrument to raise quality of life and services for the rural areas, therefore stimulating the increase of economic (agrotourism) activities there, in order to have better chances for the potential return of local population. In addition, well-accessed and well-served rural areas can be used as a buffer/escape area in time of crisis where people return to nature and resources, and have a better and healthier life in cases like pandemics. This can also complement better urban and touristic areas to reduce pressures on them in the so called 'normal days' and distribute smarter population and activities all over the territory.

Emel Peterci illustrates the use of "digital survey modeling" as a critical process not only for knowledge but also documentation purposes. Furthermore, she applies it in the situation of the historic assets of Lezha Municipality.

Meantime, ***Ilda Rusi*** focuses on the evaluation of the current periphery building environment, and projects certain vision for the future. Her conclusions emphasize that database must consider: structural typologies, construction dates and potential upgrades needed. This helps to undertake pre-earthquake preventive interventions and not post-factum emergency actions. For that purpose, municipality must identify

Filippo Petrochi, calls for a balanced way of local and tourism development. The potential is there, but the main beneficiaries must be the local population. He underlines the need for adopting a human centered design moving from the existing car centered system toward a multi modal mobility system. The purpose is to rethink entire mobility system by making it more inclusive and accessible to all ages and economic levels, and increase cohort of users.

Albina Tocilla, focuses on the main access road between Lezha (main urban and administrative center) and Shengjin (main touristic attraction) which suffers heavy traffic especially on the summer season, She recommend to work in two direction: i) providing alternative access road; ii) and using internet of things technology (speed sensors,

Flogerta Krosi, deals with construction and demolition (C&D) waste in Lezha region. Because of tourism and housing growth, construction trends are also growing in Lezha, Shengjin and other settlements. It creates serious problems with C&D waste, that by the end of decade is foreseen to reach a volume of 25,000 tons per year. This is a threat for the transformation of agricultural land into landfills of non-degradable waste materials such as: soil, concrete, bricks, glass wood, plasterboard, asbestos, metal and plastics, etc. The author recommends the use of alternative management routes, as an instrument to encourage both environmental protection and cost savings. This in return increases the quality of life both for the local population and the increasing number of tourists. In addition, the authorities must establish a management plan for solid waste dealing with the pressing urgent situations that must be dealt with short and middle-term instruments, while also considering a stable long-term plan for dealing S&D waste.

Rodion Gjoka, elaborates the idea of energy and ecological corridors. He believes that climate resilience in Lezha could be established reasonably by investing in the 'blue" and "green" corridors, via biodiversity preservation and joint management. Ecological networks, including hydrology, green areas, geography, climatic conditions, energy metabolism, transport infrastructure and industry interactions, - according to the author, - can coexists in harmony if they are extracted form of the "ideology of approaching them" as separate networks with a linear logic. Indeed, between them there is no contradiction, but only profound opposition. Gjoka proposes to establish relations between

the natural (blue & green) networks of Lezha-Shengjin axis, with the ecological and biodiversity corridor of Kune-Vain-Tale preserved areas. This will be very useful in cases of flooding, wildfires, and other extreme events in the area. It will pose a new systemic approach towards problems and issues of high relevance at local, regional and national scale.

Antonella Volta, elaborates on lagoon areas as a transitional ecosystem between land and sea, with strong environmental fluctuations, which affect the psychological and ecological adaptations of the living beings. It is essential for Lezha local administration to consider that the environmental quality of the lagoon ecosystem depends on the balance between chemical-physical components and biological processes that define the complexity of the trophic chain. All these factors are strongly influenced by human activities that causes lagoon eutrophication. This is a serious threat to Lezha region that can harm one of the most important local natural assets. This encourages loss of lagoon surface, coastal erosion, increase of flooding phenomena, and significant biological changes in waters. Author recommends a study to evaluate the structure and time-space dynamics of the biological communities of the area, thus to asses ecosystems' quality, and evaluate healthiness level to the potential environmental remediation. The identification of specific bioindicators becomes fundamental for the assessment of "health status" living organism, their habitat, as well as communities living there.

Mateo Bisi, goes further in this direction. He elaborates the relation between lagoon and rivers under the light of their threats and fluxes of contamination (especially by P-phosphorus, and N-nitrogen) related to mining, industry, and urban waste, as a risk for anthropization, proliferation of invasive species, and damage of biodiversity. He strongly recommends systematic monitoring of the state of waters in general, and specifically in the lagoon as a natural filter between land and sea. In addition, he urges: reactivation of abandoned agricultural land; cultivation of vegetations that clean such pollution; filtering changes of economic activities, mining and industry; and investing on sewerage infrastructure and treatment plants.

Rine Zogiani, elaborates a scenario of proactive use of the environmental architecture as a sustainable solution against crisis like the (post-)pandemic city. She focused on three situations: two in urban areas and one in coastal; than using the findings to recommend a holistic and systemic approach. One of the typical problems of daily life during the pandemic (that was easily identified by all), it was air pollution/cleanness. Author proposes smart and sustainable architecture and urban design solutions such as: better use of the angle orientation of buildings; considering the height of the building; use of green corridors when possible; natural ventilation and energy efficiency; use of wind energy; considering terrain morphology; focusing on urban blocks rather than single buildings, etc. Though the use of sustainable solutions, authorities can also successfully address social and economic differences and inequalities.

Armela Lamaj, considers the use of textile material as an instrument for improving the aesthetic and functional aspects of buildings, housing blocks and public spaces, but also to impact positively the image of the city, with flexible and low-cost materials. In addition, she empathizes the fact that textile combined with technologies can also improve the (energy) performance of buildings and public spaces, such as in the historical areas, main squares, and paths exposed to heavy sun or rains. The material helps also to reduce the weight of building form structural-seismic perspective, while lower the costs in case of adaptation. According to tests undertaken the use of such material and technology can absorb 10-degree Celsius difference by reducing or maintaining temperatures as buffer space, depending on the season.