

Preface

As it was stated from the beginning, this is a publication materializing the work of a one-year project, and it is part of a series of scientific publications prepared by, OMB Observatory of the Mediterranean Basin, a unit of RDI Research and Development Institute at Polis University, Tirana Albania. It summarizes the project undertaken by PhD students and the respective staff of the joint international PhD program organized successfully since several years, in cooperation with Ferrara University Italy. More specifically the publication contains work done during the academic year 2015-2016.

As a methodology, Polis University initially developed a first research publication, namely: Albania 2030 Manifesto. A national spatial development vision – which could develop a starting methodology and technique on how to address and draft national scale policy documents and plans. The objective has been to link research with local needs and to promote positive and sustainable developments in emerging economies such as Albania. In the later years, the research units of both schools, respectively OMB (Observatory of the Mediterranean Basin) at Polis and SEALINE at Unife, together with the joint team of PhD Program, tried to detail each year focused geographic regions, by concrete thematic projects that address practically different regions of Albania. In this way the research work becomes useful, practical and tangible to the local development needs.

After visioning of 'Durana' Metropolitan area (2015); and Southern 'Albanian Riviera' region (2016); we presented in this publication the outcomes of visioning for the third region of Albania. This time the research and visioning are based on "watershed" planning principles of Semani River, at central Albania. As one can see, 'water' has been over years the main theme of our research interest, aiming to develop and consolidate the methodology and framework of planning and design for future cities and large territories.

Therefore, working in teams and in the field, has been always combined creatively with pure research work of desk and academic nature. The exchange of staff and researchers between Albania and Italy, working online, or confrontation face to face with best practices as well as failures, makes the work unique, both in terms of approach and methodology. We strongly believe that it might give useful hints Albanian authorities, and serves in the same time as an international scientific and professional reference for replicability in other situations and countries.