



Retake Rancitelli

The Regeneration of the Urban Common Goods as an Instrument of Social Inclusion and Empowerment of the Communities. Experiences of Research, Participation, Education for Active Criticism of the Urban Inequalities in the Southern Periphery of Pescara

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Abstract. The urban regeneration of suburbs - places of inequality, even before geographical and social suburbs - must go hand in hand with the identification, description and measurement of these inequalities, and in particular those that concern the supply and access to urban commons - schools, parks, public libraries, health facilities, childcare facilities, public spaces and services - intended, as well as essential elements of welfare, as places and structures linked to the exercise of fundamental citizenship rights (Rodotà 2015). A good urban regeneration process arises first of all through shared investigation paths, in terms of data, descriptions, graphic representations. Secondly, it can and must be addressed to the care and enhancement of urban common goods - schools, public spaces, parks and green areas, libraries and other places of culture and social relations - promoting their full access and maximum use, in particular for those aimed and addressed to children and adolescents, with direct, simple, effective, and shared actions. Urban regeneration, understood as a set of actions of different nature and sector of intervention, well calibrated to each other, capable of revitalizing in a general sense territories marked by inequalities, so that it assumes real effectiveness, contributing to the effective reduction of these inequalities, it must put together innovative practices of administrative governance, and active citizenship, within new logics of horizontal subsidiarity, moreover increasingly favored, today, in Italy, by recent legislative and administrative innovations. These practices must open up more space for direct, in-formed participation of the inhabitants and grassroots associations, for shared care and active custody of these goods. The contribution tries to develop these hypotheses starting from the experiences carried out by the author around the urban realities of the southern 'periphery' of Pescara.

Keywords: Urban regeneration · Suburbs · Urban inequality · Social inclusion · Public-community partnership · Horizontal subsidiarity · Shared administration

1 Periphéria. What We Mean When We Talk About

1.1 Background

The theme of the suburbs has experienced several seasons of interest in Italy, especially around the beginning of the 90s, on the occasion of the launch of an intense season of national¹ and international programs². This season has never known a real critical balance, and has produced generally modest results, in relation to the resources used, even if the examination should be articulated on a case-by-case basis, and tool by tool.

The malaise of the suburbs, the demand for intervention that almost by definition has always oriented, at least in general intentions, the proposed solutions, has historically leveraged on social and political motivations - the suburbs as parts of forgotten cities, where lower-income populations live, such as second-tier cities, compared to historic centers and areas of new centrality - finding their common denominator in the rhetoric of re-qualification. The suburbs, in the architects' approach, coincided with the ugly city, the re-qualification of the suburbs, more as a slogan of easy success, than as a real practice, has generally taken the upper hand on the solution of social, infrastructural problems, of services, and economic, which have timidly appeared on the agenda of such programs. The malaise of the suburbs, the question of the suburbs in Italy has in the meantime become a constant of the condition of all Italian cities, and in particular of the large metropolitan areas, due to the worsening of the economic crisis, the onset of new emergencies, and new problems, such as immigration, and in function of the increasingly reduced capacity of local public administrations to face urban problems (Berdini 2014). Taking a rapid leap to more recent years, the emergence of the suburbs, in Italy, is combined today with another emergency, in part real, in part subject to amplification by the media, because a good part of the Italian political game is played on this topic: that of urban security, which right in the suburbs - without yet reaching the degrees of real emergency which instead characterize the condition of the French banlieu, or of the other large European countries, seems to find major elements of crisis.

1.2 Rhetorical

The problem of the suburbs, or rather the prevailing narrative in the public discourses of the media, and in the political debate, is then associated with that of the "degradation", of which TV, newspapers, social media provide 'passionate' chronicles almost every day. It is the narrative of the aesthetic degradation that prevails, and which covers the real drama of the suburbs - youth unemployment, gender unemployment, school abandonment and avoidance, ethnic-based social exclusion, the proliferation of old and new drugs, together with the markets and merchandise of organized crime, never so common, in the suburbs of Italian cities, as in these years of crisis at a global level, and of the Italy system in particular, with third-world peaks in the many South of the

¹ PRUST, PRU, and the numerous programs that have followed since 1992 in the long season of complex programs and concerted urban planning.

² URBAN 1 and 2. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/cities/cities_it.pdf.

country. If the suburbs are only a problem of degradation - aesthetic degradation, ugly city, garbage at the corners of the streets and facades of peeling buildings, parks and squares smeared with writings and torn benches - then it is an easy problem to deal with, which is easily and automatically countered by the apparently easy solution of the “urban redevelopment”, a true passion of architects of poor quality and ethical sense, local administrators of poor foresight, committees of very material stakeholders, all united by the dream apparently modern - actually nineteenth-century - of the decoration and the rediscovered beauty of a context that in the meantime is increasingly losing its connotations of everyone’s home, community house, exploded and abandoned in many isolated and conflicting micro realities. If the problem of the periphery is also and above all a problem of security - real security, but above all perceived security, again because of how the media tend to amplify and sometimes distort the real picture of the exposure of people in the neighborhoods” at risk “to their physical safety, to their exposure to a snatch, a pickpocketing, or worse, to an attack by some” Islamic extremist - then the problem of the peripheries swarms from social problem to problem of public order, and its solution must be entrusted to the neighborhood policeman, or to the urban patrols, and to the remote cameras. The Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry is not rhetoric, which a center-left government, in 2016, started almost simultaneously with the start of the first national intervention program which intends to put substantial funds into action, after so many years of public latency, for the “urban redevelopment” of the suburbs, and yet its denomination declares the cultural and political back ground in an all too explicit way, demonstrating a horizon of thought, now completely flattened on that of the neo-liberal front: “Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the security conditions and deterioration of cities and their suburbs”. Security and degradation, as a starting point from which to start, and to which to respond with an Extraordinary program for urban redevelopment and safety of the suburbs of metropolitan cities and provincial capitals, which born in 2016, still awaits the start in many Italian cities.

1.3 Taxonomies Geographic Peripheries, Functional Peripheries, Social Peripheries

What we mean by periphery is then a question that still acquires meaning, precisely because of these delays, and a condition of malaise that perhaps deserves more attention, and new ways of defining and measuring.

The work done by those who have tried to overcome a purely geographical definition acquires some significant innovations on this type of question. Putting aside the “peripheries of the soul” of which Pope Francis speaks, as a metaphor for an existential condition that also asks non-believers, it then becomes interesting to try to build new ways of defining what we should understand as a city, or rather as a “city effect”, in relation to its opposite, the periphery, as a place of deprivation and absence. This is what the Directorate of Contemporary Architecture and Periphery, in the context of MIBACT, tried to do by building a method applied to different Italian metropolitan realities in the Atlas of Italian Peripheries, where this effect arises due to the coexistence of cultural, service, and community functions. A way to construct maps, and atlases, which finally reveal how the condition of the periphery, is actually a process

that allows variations also in a geographical and chronological sense. It can be, or become, a periphery, despite being historically and formally “historic center”, or central area, as in the fate of many small historic centers in the metropolitan crown of Rome. Even more interesting is the research launched by those who, recently, have tried to focus attention on the link between the periphery emergency and the condition that is at the basis of this emergency, namely inequality, and unacceptability with which it should be considered. It is necessary to start from here: consider the suburbs as a place of inequality and iniquity, and of injustice, a condition that generates malaise, deprivation, lack of development, conflict. Other than urban decay and decorum. Programs, actions and projects should be based on this kind of considerations. But to do this there is still a lot to do. How are inequalities in cities? How can they be detected, and measured, even before they are the subject of intervention?

1.4 Operative Hypothetis

Addressing the theme of suburbs, freeing oneself from easy certainties and apparently reliable operational and methodological practices, therefore means developing analysis and evaluation tools that combine the critical interpretation of the statistical data, the construction of unprecedented indicators of marginality and exclusion - social, cultural, economic - to the solid tools of morphological and functional analysis. This activity has so far been lacking, even in the genesis of the national programs that we have listed above, and of the majority of the local actions that many local administrations, often starting with the best of intentions, have tried to put in place in recent years. Shy experiments begin to appear, for example in the experience of the Urban Future Culture Program, which has tried to experiment for the identification of the “priority and complex neighborhoods” of the program an elementary evaluation system of marginality factors, as we will see in the case study development to follow. Or in the research carried out by the Roman group author of the Maps of Inequality (Lelo, et al. 2019) to which a growing interest is finally reserved, by grassroots associations, stakeholders, public decision makers (see Fig. 1).

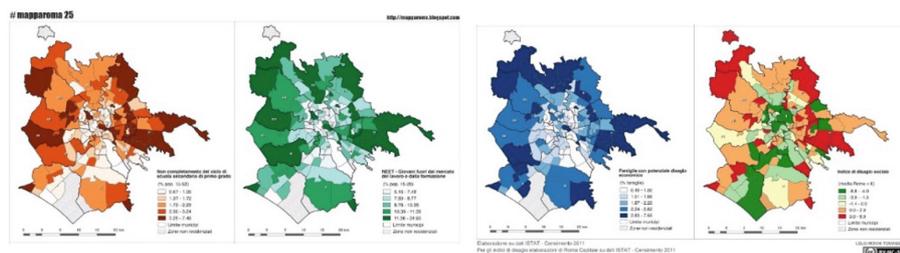


Fig. 1. #mapparoma25 – Social exclusion in the neighborhoods of Rome

2 Peripheria at Pescara

2.1 Geographical Peripheria, Functional, Peripheria, Social Peripheria

It then becomes interesting to try to apply these methodologies also to the case of medium-sized cities, such as Pescara, a small metropolis, according to the happy definition of Pepe Barbieri (Barbieri, P., 2003). Pescara is small metropolis, due to its modest demographic condition. Pescara has many of the negative characteristics of the metropolis, deriving from its distorted, substantially unplanned growth, starting from its war destruction, carried out in the post-war period, around a perhaps even disproportionate infrastructural system, made up of equipped axes, crossing of motorway routes., railways, port. Logic has it that this distorted development also produced in Pescara suburbs, both in the traditional sense - geographical suburbs, that is, distant from the city center, which in Pescara is not a defined center, but rather a linear development area, well defined between the line of coast and the railway, the true social separator between the city of the rich and the city of the poor (Secchi 2013), both in a functional sense, because far from the “linear center” the distribution of services and equipment, both public and private, in the sample city in central Italy due to the presence of shopping centers and consequent disappearance of local trade; both in a social sense, because it is true that, far from the center, ethnic groups with strong social exclusion live - the largest Roma community established in Italy, lower-income and lower-education families, a greater number of families and individual citizens coming from other nations for migration reasons. It is the picture that emerges for anyone who has direct experience of neighborhoods (Zanni, San Donato, Fontanelle, Rancitelli/ Villa del Fuoco, see Figs. 2, 3), recently risen - especially the latter - to national glory for news stories, emphasized by local media and important networks television programs, as in the case of the attack on a television crew of a well-known program. Perhaps a simple case, that of the Pescara suburbs, where the conditions of territorial deprivation, in terms of equipment, but also of limited road access and public transport, determine a leopard skin condition, where authentic black holes of the urban structure - the so-called Ferro di Cavallo, Roma enclave in the neighborhood, the abandoned areas of the Clerico buildings a recurring home of poor co-dependent people, the derelict Childhood Park - coexist a short distance with recently built residential neighborhoods, and more than decent building quality, and exclusive housing access costs.



Fig. 2. Pescara, Rancitelli, Children's Park, in the background the ruins of the Clerico buildings, next to the “Horseshoe2, a symbolic place for the city's social exclusion.

Paradoxically simple to solve, if the substantial absence of constant public intervention - despite the considerable efforts made also with exemplary commitment and generosity of public resources in past years - for example in the Urban 2 program, implemented starting from 2004 - had not gotten fat until it almost made insoluble problems of an almost ordinary nature, on the outskirts of a large Italian city. But the delay and ineffectiveness shown by public action towards the suburbs of Pescara is even more evident in the inertia and substantial lack of interest of the private sector. It is a data that emerges in the examination, just barely accurate, of the state of implementation of the current urban planning tool, the PRG, which reveals, right in the outskirts of the city, its most surprising and unexpected data. It is here, in fact, that contrary to the rule that can be observed in almost all Italian cities - the prevalence of the implementation of private building forecasts compared to those of public services, such as parks, schools, public spaces, it is possible to observe the exact opposite: vast building sectors still unedited, despite - or perhaps also because of - equalization building sectors envisaged by a plan some years ago in the forefront, born from a high-quality urban planner, Bruno Gabrielli; almost all the service areas created - also thanks to the resources of European programs - even in conditions of serious inefficiency of forms of public management - in particular parks - which often make them inaccessible and impractical for children. A clear and emblematic case of substantial planning failure, and of the disavowal of the 'historical' role of the periphery: that of being a place of production of low-cost houses of entry, by population share - young couples, immigrants, wage earners medium and low-income, who must therefore turn their housing demand elsewhere, which therefore remains unanswered, even in the response of the private market. A condition that beyond statistics, and the study of official data, which should also be developed, and which hardly anyone practices in the city is well known to parish priests of parishes, who complain about the scarcity of marriages, compared to funerals instead. Four funerals for a wedding, he would like to say, playing on the contrary with the title of a successful film a few years ago.

2.2 Methodologies, Indicators, Instrument of Survey

And then it is from here that we should start. Reactivate the gaze and the investigation of the characters and processes that today affect these contexts, and which often appear peculiar and characteristic, if not unexpected and in contrast to those that can be observed in other Italian cities of the same size, Italian and European. It is this line of thought, together with research and cultural and civil commitment, that have started to move some initiatives from below, often alternatives to actions that act at an official level, which still seem unable to detach themselves from old habits, and to disobey recurring and substantially harmful rhetoric, because ineffective, as well as unfair, which we have already mentioned in the initial notes.

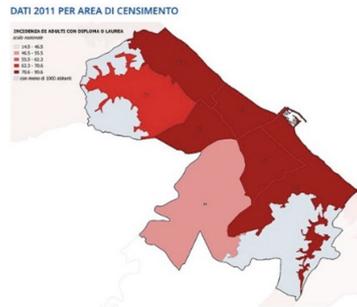


Fig. 3. Pescara. Incidence of adults with diploma or degree, ISTAT 8milaCensus.

3 Administratives Action and on Going Process

It would in fact be of great interest to make a comparison between the main public actions put in place in the field of redevelopment and regeneration of the suburbs in Pescara, if there was the space and time to devote precisely to this treatment, which refers to a possible updating of ongoing research, limiting ourselves here to some summary notes.

3.1 URBAN Program, 2003–2006

In the case of this experience, it was an important program, of which significant physical traces still remain within the intervention districts, which still retain for many inhabitants of the city the toponymic denomination introduced for a set of districts that do not have they ever known a common denomination, the Urban area³, which still survives in the almost archaeological finds of the signs then introduced, together with the regret of having seen the presence of initiatives that had characterized, for the first time, a requalification program urban formulation also in the form of social and cultural actions, and which therefore had characterized the characteristics of innovative and exemplary experience.

3.2 Nazionale Peripheria Programm (2018 - in Corso)

On the other hand, it becomes difficult to discern this program, due to the difficulty of accessing information, the long stagnation that has accompanied the launch of the program since its inception in 2016, also due to the political responsibility of recent

³ The program covers the entire urban area of the city covering an area of 5.48 sq km with a population of 21,769 inhabitants. The Urban II program aims to stimulate an economic and social regeneration of cities and suburbs in crisis in order to promote sustainable urban development. The City of Pescara, for the years 2001–2006, will receive Community financial support in the amount of EURO 4.90 million. Furthermore, the Community funding will attract a total of EURO 7.35 million in investments from the public sector, thus creating a total amount of EURO 12.25 million to be invested in the City of Pescara.

governments, which still awaits, in Pescara as in other Italian cities, substantial start. From what it is possible to observe from the public documentation (when a national Open Data archive of urban regeneration in Italy?), however, some doubts emerge about the overall organization of this “program”, which appears overall to be even larger in economic size than the previous program Urban, but of which it does not have the same layout. It also perplexes the extemporaneous character of many actions, difficult to trace back to an overall logic, perhaps the result of a collection of requests and project proposals more or less from below, perhaps also the expression of homogeneous groups and groups from from a political and administrative point of view, perhaps little addressed to an accurate examination of the problems and priorities of the contexts subject to intervention. A program where pieces still to be completed of projects already started by previous programs coexist, as in the case of the completion of the Pendolo axis, the important road axis destined to cross the entire Urban area in a transversal direction, which alone takes over a third of the entire public financing fund made available to the city outskirts, together with a large number of cultural and social “urban regeneration” projects, at different levels of social innovation, where above all it appears still completely obscure and unexpressed the purpose and the overall sense of the private resources (promoted by whom? for the benefit of whom?) that accompany the 18 million of public funding to compose the remarkable amount of 55 million euros to cover the entire program. In this regard, the many promises of transparency on this and other programs, recently announced in different forums, are welcome. Among these, the ambitious Milleperiferie project, promoted by ANCI SICILIA, aimed at building “an interconnection platform” of all the projects in the field for the regeneration of the suburbs, in order to structure a single, large national program for the redevelopment, promote the Manifesto Milleperiferie, establish the Observatory of the peripheries, able to promote the birth of new tools and opportunities, including: the “National Strategy of Peripheral Areas” (SNAP), in parallel with that of the internal Areas, to be implemented in the 2021–2027 community programming and able to implement the objectives of the United Nations Agenda 2030, focusing on the creation of inclusive, safe, sustainable cities capable of initiating new integrated development processes”. Credible, in a country where four years after its establishment, perhaps also due to the change of four governments - Renzi, Gentiloni, Conte1, Conte2 - the database of the projects presented by the 120 Italian municipalities in 2016 Program is not yet in the public domain?

3.3 Recent Administrative Actions

The recent change in local administration - following the renewal of the City Council and the direct election of the new Mayor of the city, in the last spring of 2019 - leaves many operational hypotheses open also due to the centrality that the issue of the suburbs had assumed in the recent, lively election campaign. A liveliness perhaps only apparent, where the whole debate, amplified and artfully directed by many local media, has always privileged the themes dear to the political right, such as degradation, security, immigration, with its ritual solutions: repression, control, order, urban decor, remote control of the public space and even of the schools, without any real distinction of analysis and proposal between the three main antagonists in the field, representatives

of the right, the center left and the Five Star Movement. When the debate takes place on the ground imposed by conservative and reactionary forces, it is quite logical that this is the political part to prevail, demonstrating that political hegemony is founded and almost always arises from cultural hegemony, and all this has been confirmed also in Pescara, in a year in which the right has dominated almost all electoral competitions in the country. The first administrative acts of the new center-right municipal administration, winner of the elections, with strong Northern League traction, were also in line with the approach taken during the election campaign: strong affirmations and commitments on a symbolic level, support for the work of the forces of the Order, active in perhaps inevitable actions of public order in the particularly critical places of the suburbs - blitz inside the Horseshoe for the arrest of fugitives, eviction of homeless and homeless in the abandoned buildings of the neighborhood and illegal occupants of public housing in some ATER offices, widely documented with little social compassion by reporters from national and local newspapers, such as *Il Messaggero* and *Il Centro*. An action therefore that of administrative has very little, crystallized in recent times around the great promise, expected and artfully anticipated and favored among the “good” part of the local residents, of the “demolition”, total or partial, of the Horseshoe, once a solution to the honest part of the residents has been found, in a housing complex that sees the presence of over 70 families, often with large offspring and elderly disabled, without any hypothesis of relocation of the illegal inhabitants, majority share of the residents, in a urban sector already characterized by an almost explosive situation regarding the management of public housing, due to the dilapidation of the existing patrimony and growth in social demand. A promise affirmed in a united voice by the new mayor of the city, by the President of the Abruzzo Region, and by the president of the Regional Agency for Public Housing (ATER), at the beginning of the year. Following this promise, reaffirmed with less and less vigor - and object of a daring attempt to overturn the regional rules on the matter - also operated by the previous Regional Center Left Administration, also subject to rejection by the Constitutional Court - the announcement then appeared of an overall plan for the reorganization of the areas of the Horseshoe, whose information and financial coverage is still lacking, evoked as a solution to what should also be implemented in Pescara, based on the example of what State, Region Campania, the Municipality of Naples has long been realizing, with very other problems, times, resources available, and even uncertain outcomes, in the much more relevant case of *Vele di Scampia*, the location, just to understand us, of the famous *Gomorra* TV series.

4 Experiences Bottom-up and Cultural-Based Urban Regeneration Projects Started and Underway

If this is, briefly, the condition of the problems and solutions put in place by the public administrations for the Pescara suburbs - on which some recent information still needs to be added regarding some timid initiatives of the private and cooperative sector for the solution of some others critical areas of the neighborhoods, such as those advanced for the building replacement of abandoned building complexes close to the Horseshoe), some small signs of countertrend seem to appear, though not without difficulty and

elements of contradiction, in some movements from below, and in some ways unexpected activism - within a social, cultural and political context of the city not particularly lively, at least if compared to other political seasons - observable within the world of local associations and the third sector, together with the birth new representative bodies and political organization of the inhabitants.

4.1 The Neighborhood Committee for a New Rancitelli

Born just two years ago, on the initiative of an initial small group of residents of the neighborhood who have always carried the city's stigma of the "cursed neighborhood" of the city, Rancitelli is perhaps the real new fact of a local framework made up of different stakeholders, but basically oriented towards the preservation of the status quo.

It is a conviction that I have gained for some time, continuously attending contexts for over five years. A suburb far from the city, little known, and little frequented by the majority of the other inhabitants of the city, but actually around the corner, since Pescara is a small city, rather than a small metropolis, as evoked in the initial notes. Rancitelli, in particular, is then a desperate little Africa, a few steps from home, to be delivered, by well-thought provincials, to the action of the parishes, and to a few parish priests of the suburbs, more or less barricaders, and to that of a few associations that survive with difficulty, in their social support action in the neighborhood, through the aid of a few public resources sometimes banned by local administrations under financial control; a reality of abandonment, where schools, the true and last public defense of the defense of collective rights, and of children, in the first place, and therefore of all, only left alone to defend themselves against the progressive demolition of the now residual forms of welfare urba-no. A small Africa around the corner, a formidable land of conquest for every campaign of electoral votes, for a political class with almost no color distinctions that still shows habits of old traditions, and of old exchange logics, still largely unable to assume responsibilities and rules of conduct appropriate to the complexity of the problems and functions to which he would like to arise. A situation, therefore, useful to everyone, except for those who live there, by family tradition, or by choice, or by necessity; unacceptable for those who live in the neighborhoods every day, not only during the election campaigns, and who witness every day the worsening and becoming gangrenous of an overall urban condition ever closer to a point of no return. It is for this reason that it appears of vital importance, beyond the positions taken on this or that problem, the birth, after so many years from the disappearance of the institutional neighborhood representatives, of a District Committee that proudly gave itself the name of New Rancitelli, against any proposal that from many sides even tends to deny its toponymic identity, thinking with this act of overcoming its contradictions.

4.2 Ludoteca Table - Network of Local Associations

Before this act, the birth of the Committee, perhaps with greater contradictions and with perennial and unresolved questions about its actual necessity, the birth, and the current difficult survival, of a network of grassroots associations active in the field of services must still be mentioned. A network of local associations, active in social, cultural and sports practices, enlivened by the presence of the schools, in the neighborhood, and the public university (which was the activator of this network), for the “social cohesion and urban regeneration” of the neighborhoods in which it operates, as stated in the name that accompanies the name of this network, the Ludoteca table (see Fig. 4), from the name of the place where this network has the opportunity to meet and operate. A labile organism, endowed with its own protocol of understanding, never reached as a legal organism, but held together by passions that are not always constant, but basic goodwill, common visions, legitimate interests of project sharing and common job opportunities, also in relation to the opportunities for public funding on competitive tenders, which today represent the few opportunities to create actions responsible for combating social exclusion, the growing social inequalities and disparities in the neighborhoods where social malaise is still alive. Within this experience, two experiences still deserve to be briefly summarized, as an example of the activities of this association network: the experience of the PON MIUR “At school of city” (see Fig. 5), and the experience of the INsegnalibro project, still ongoing implemented within the Urban Future Culture Program, promoted by the DGCC of MIBACT.



Fig. 4. Meeting of Tavolo della Ludoteca, Ludoteca Dezi, June 2019



Fig. 5. Pescara, Parco della Speranza, Rancitelli, laboratory “At school of city”, June 2018 (photo by Alessandro Feragalli).

4.3 PON MIUR Project “A Scuola Di Città”

This first experience represented an excellent opportunity to put schools, universities and associations to work on the issue of childhood at risk, operating in three primary

schools in the neighborhoods. The experience was presented within the recent Public Space Biennale, in Rome, in 2019 in the session dedicated to the theme of the City of Children⁴.

4.4 An on Going Experience: INsegnalibro Project, Rancitelli Quarter

INsegnalibro is a cultural-based urban regeneration project, born within the Casa di Quartiere project, in the national Urban Future Culture program, promoted by MIBACT, within the priority and complex neighborhoods of the suburbs of Pescara. It starts from the basic idea that it is necessary and useful to overcome the current rhetoric of urban degradation and insecurity - the prevalent narratives made by the media, and by most local institutions, towards urban contexts characterized by high degrees of social exclusion and inequality, but also of social innovation and experimentation - favoring a movement of subsidiary solidarity by the whole city of Pescara, towards its peripheries. The commitment is to act through immediate and simple, and effective actions, aimed primarily at childhood and adolescence, which inhabits these neighborhoods, aiming to defend their basic rights, such as access to education and to gambling, services and urban common goods, as conditions of well-being and social redemption and as an active critique of inequalities. INsegnalibro is therefore a project of investigation, discovery, urban recognition, and storytelling, reactivation and enhancement and networking of places of cultural sharing and rebirth of the Rancitelli, Villa del Fuoco, Fontanelle and San Donato neighborhood in Pescara, and which starts from the basic hypothesis of the MIBACT program, "culture that generates beauty, and regenerates places and social relationships", trying to implement them through a varied and complex program of actions, both tangible and intangible, which involves a large area of associations, schools, cultural and academic institutions, simple citizens, developing a network that has been active for some time in the neighborhoods (Table of the Thomas Dezi Ludoteca in Rancitelli), also in continuity with projects already produced in the recent past, and with those who announce themselves for the immediate future, addressed to the common goal of the regeneration and social cohesion of the neighborhoods. The DdA, Department of Architecture of the G. D'Annunzio Chieti Pescara University, is the scientific coordinator of the project, and carries out its third mission with the territory by trying to report the results of its research in the territory. The Observatory of Participation and Active Citizenship of

⁴ "At school in the city", a project conceived and conducted by the author of this essay, is an experimental laboratory/research in the world of childhood and adolescence in the urban suburbs of Pescara, composed of investigative and social research activities, analysis and urban discovery and direct practices of active citizenship. It is aimed at introducing and educating young citizens in formation of one of the most problematic neighborhoods, and together, richer in potential and resources of the city of Pescara, to the themes and practices of shared management of urban common goods. A school of the city is a didactic course of laboratory and field research, which takes place through the close collaboration between the world of research and university education (students, young graduates and researchers from the Department of Architecture of Pescara) with pedagogical structures and the students of schools present in the western suburbs of the city, and some voluntary associations and active citizenship operating in this urban sector. The Facebook page of the project is still active: A scuola di città.

Pescara (OCA), was born, within the Department of Architecture, as an active, informed participation tool in the government of the territory and is aimed mainly at all the citizens who they live and carry out their life and work activities in the territory of the municipality of Pescara, and in perspective in the municipalities of the metropolitan area of Chieti and Pescara. The main objective of OCA is to contribute to spreading greater awareness and awareness of the value and qualities of this territory, supporting the development and diffusion of new practices of active citizenship, aimed at the protection, care and full accessibility and safety of urban common goods, intended as a set of places, areas and paths of indispensable historical, cultural, environmental, social and community value, irrevocably linked to the essential rights of the city's inhabitants. In the INsegnaLIBRO project the DdA, of which I belong, collaborates in the creation of collective investigation and mapping laboratories of the places, networks and cultural practices already active in the neighborhoods, design workshops and self-construction of ho-tspot (local antennas of the library service but at the same time and places of facilitation and invitation to reading and cultural functions), to be placed in the schools, in the playroom and in the symbolic places of the district, co-participated with the students of the schools of each order and grade of the neighborhoods and with the students of the University. It also organizes two seminars and takes care of the scientific coordination of the project and the *ex ante* and *ex post* evaluation activities of the program activities, with respect to the objectives assumed (Bibliotecacasadi-quartierepescara Homepage, 2020).

5 Some Conclusion

That the regeneration of the suburbs has to do also and above all with the promotion of actions in the cultural and social field is in the reason of things, if the mitigation of inequalities, not only traditionally vertical, to be attributed to the income differences, but also what Agostino Petrillo, in his recent work, defines as horizontal inequalities.

Because it is true that “the growth of social inequality goes hand in hand with the growth of spatial disparities, which are further accentuated by processes such as urban renewal, gentrification and housing market strategies”, often just as outcomes unexpected spatial aspects of apparently bent-back urban redevelopment programs. But it is also true that the fragility of those who live in the suburbs derives also and above all from “objective conditions: devalued schools, retreat of services, spatial distance of job opportunities, very limited resources of the neighborhoods themselves”, but also from “conditions ‘subjective’: feeling of inferiority, inadequacy, (...) impossibility of a full realization of one’s abilities, internalization of a negative image of the place where one lives, loss of roots and sense of belonging”. And perhaps this is what we must talk about, with regard to the peripheries, which are no longer, only, or not only geographic peripheries, but are social peripheries, and functional peripheries, precisely because within them the condition of well-being of the houses are heavily altered, and reduced, precisely by the difficulty of access to the urban common goods, places of exercise of the fundamental rights of citizenship, according to the well-known definition of Stefano Rodotà (Rodotà 2015). And on this we must investigate, beyond the already indicative methodologies of 8 thousand Census, placed at the base of the investigation of the

MIBAC of this announcement, perhaps following the example of the Maps of Inequality developed by Ketj Lelo, Salvatore Monni and Federico Tomassi in their nice work on the metropolitan social geographies of the capital of Italy. And then, to conclude, Culture generates beauty, and mitigates inequalities, provided that....

1. This kind of programs succeeds in the stated intention of being able to grasp the creativity and social innovation that comes from the contexts of intervention, opening up to the collaboration of grassroots associations, micro social enterprises, together with the large associations of the third sector, and to public institutions, such as schools - in many local situations the last public garrison of legality and education - and universities, which could carry out a strong subsidiary action in this field, within their third mission mandate;
2. The actions promoted find an opportunity to integrate with other programs, (and with the ordinary action carried out by local administrations) which often with quite a few other resources available act on the terrain of "urban regeneration";
3. An effective culture of evaluation, or better still of self-evaluation - without waiting for this to become bureaucratic activity - as a continuous exercise of verification and correspondence between expectations and outcomes is asserted, also through the execution of these programs, in the meantime within those who work, and then, in public form, against the beneficiaries of these actions.

To do this, the road, even in Italy, is still very long, even if some important signs are on the horizon.

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