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# Does culture create beauty?

# The experience of the Culture Urban Future Plan, DGAAP MIBAC, within the Italian debate on the regereration of urban peripheries

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#### Abstract:

The Future Urban Culture Plan (Piano Cultura future urbano) is a project of the MiBAC - Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, which was created to promote cultural initiatives in the peripheries of metropolitan cities and in provincial capitals throughout Italy. An action plan of 25 million euros by 2021, which will finance the construction of new services with the aim of improving the quality of life of the entire urban community, giving new personality to schools, libraries and public works that have remained unfinished. A cutting-edge intersectoral project that calls for civic collaboration, a pact with civil society that aims to promote the conditions under which citizens can cultivate their talents, not only in a strictly cultural but also human context ".

This plan today constitutes the major effort produced by an important and innovative Italian public department, the current Directorate General for Contemporary Creativity and Urban Regeneration, formerly Directorate General for Art, Architecture and Peripheries, born within the MIBAC, which for some years has launched an unprecedented cultural promotion action in Italy, straddling different and generally separate disciplinary fields, developing "numerous researches and initiatives on the cataloging and inventorying of art and architecture, as well as a cognitive analysis of the conditions of the Italian peripheries", together with the promotion of public calls aimed at promoting new forms of attention through pilot actions in the debate on the redevelopment and regeneration of cities.

The paper tries to formulate a first critical balance of this experience, still ongoing, starting also from some direct experiences - Call for Cineperiferie 2017, "Biblioteca Casa di Quartiere" call, 2019 - reflecting on the many opportunities, strengths, but also weaknesses and risks that this new kind of approach seems to reserve within the more general Italian and international debate on urban regeneration of marginal urban environments and more marked by conditions of inequality and social exclusion.

Online at: http://www.aap.beniculturali.it/rapporto attivita 15 17.html

**Key words:** urban regeneration, peripheries, urban inequality, social inclusion, public-community partnership Topics: PHENOMENA OF RE-GENERATION, REVITALIZATION, RECYCLE, REUSE

#### 1. Introduction

The debate and the framework of innovative actions produced around the theme of the regeneration of urban peripheries in Italy has known for some years some significant developments thanks to the action of an important public agency, set up within the Ministry of Cultural Heritage [1], whose initial denomination, only recently modified, already refers to a program as unprecedented in the traditional ministerial mission as it is ambitious: "Directorate General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries" [2].

Since its inception, this agency has been produced in various research initiatives, knowledge promotion (atlases), public calls for the generation of direct actions to contexts characterized by conditions of marginality and urban, social and cultural inequality.

Meanwhile, the interest of this action lies precisely in the nature of the subject in question, and in the decidedly innovative idea that urban regeneration also passes through material and immaterial actions with a strong cultural impact.

"Culture that generates beauty", placed in an interrogative form by way of this paper, which tries to analyze its experience within the Italian debate on the regeneration of urban peripheries, is the slogan that accompanies one of the programs of greater relevance and financial consistency of this agency, the Urban Culture Plan. This slogan is well suited to highlight the strong element of challenge of this company, qualifying it to belong to a sphere of action that brings together art, contemporary architecture, culture, in an integrated logic that comes to involve, by definition, a set of skills, technical, scientific and professional, certainly larger than that traditionally active in the field of protection and conservation of cultural heritage.

This challenge starts from the assumption that giving beauty, urban quality to the peripheries is an indispensable mission of every urban regeneration program, thus remaining in harmony with what has always been the commitment - not always, or perhaps a few times achieved - of the many or few interventions that characterized the Italian season of "urban redevelopment", a season that still awaits a critical evaluation of the results and actual benefits achieved in the cities and peripheries [3].

But elements of innovation emerge, in the experience in question, thanks to the interest that in various programs is recognized in innovative forms of public-private relationship (which becomes, as we will see public-community), attention, measurement and identification of the demand for intervention for specific contexts and places (functional and economic social, rather than geographical peripheries), in search of organizational and management of the cultural activities to be produced and grafted into the amorphous bodies of the peripheries that develop autonomously and sustainably, such as "social enterprise", "community enterprise", "community cooperative", as we will see through some examples in the development of the paper. He would then like to say, anticipating some of the conclusions of this contribution, that "culture generates beauty" and regenerates the periphery, if it builds, strengthens, supports intact social communities, or to be integrated, through actions that revive (regenerate) abandoned urban common goods or low social use (parks, schools, libraries, public spaces and equipment), guaranteeing full accessibility and creative and active use, and in doing this they produce social, and community-based enterprises, guaranteeing even minimal conditions of income and employment in strategic sectors of the social body (young people, women, immigrants, ethnic communities with a high rate of social exclusion) in actions of high experimental, exemplary, symbolic value, to be translated into simple, direct, effective, and widespread actions.

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#### 2. The debate on urban regeneration in Italy

Following Angela Barbanente's effective definition, "The use of the term regeneration underlines the need to consider physical degradation and social unease in their close relationships, alongside environmental requalification, actions for social inclusion, and therefore related to the housing field, socio-health, training, employment and development "[4].

The idea of addressing the issues of physical degradation and social distress through an integrated approach is not, however, entirely new, being already present in most of the Italian regualification programs of the decades following the 90s, where also the theme of employment and development had already made their first appearance, often to justify an almost spasmodic use of "public-private" collaboration. What is it then that characterizes, for the better, and forward, the innovation of public policies on the areas of social and urban marginality, which we continue to call, out of habit, affection or perhaps cultural laziness "peripheries"? Or maybe the difference "urban redevelopment" between and "urban

regeneration" is only nominalistic, and has to do with the wear and tear of words, and the often recurring game of shifting the debate, in Italy, only on a formal level? Also because of an inability to deal with experiences, and the obvious scarcity of resources, economic, and perhaps even cultural, with which to face constant problems?

That there is a constant element, of little innovation, it is clear, for example, also dedicating a fleeting comment also to the newest of the state programs on the subject, the announced Urban Rebirth project plan, which seems to reduce the action, again, to the sphere of small-scale, family-supported building intervention.

It then becomes interesting to analyze the experience that arises and is produced within a context of parallel public government, but traditionally distant from that of MIT (Infrastructure and Transport), the MIBAC, in a period where new [5] and old [6] actions seem relaunching state action on urban regeneration.

#### 2.1 The new of the DGAAP from MIBAC

In its official formulation: "The Directorate General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries (DGAAP) is the MiBAC office dedicated to contemporaneity. Its OBJECTIVES are to promote and support contemporary art and architecture, to which is added the "mission" of initiating redevelopment processes in urban peripheries. Promote and enhance, support and increase, know and protect are the ACTIONS through which the DGAAP carries out its mission. The visual arts in their widest sense (painting, sculpture, photography, video, installations, performances, etc.), architecture and design as well as the redevelopment of urban peripheries, are the AREAS of competence. Institutions, public heritage, creative talents (artists, photographers, architects, designers, etc.), the new generations, students and scholars are the SUBJECTS, always with a view to providing the ultimate recipient - the citizen - with best possible use and to contribute to the cultural growth of our country.

The action of the DGAAP is implemented through a series of TOOLS: the implementation of laws and programs on which it has exclusive competence, the agreements it establishes with other institutional and non-institutional realities, the creation of specific initiatives, participation and support to activities, the incentive to research projects.

The RESULTS of the DGAAP action are reflected in the creation of competitions and orders, acquisitions, training projects, exhibitions and events, research projects and much more. The DGAAP was established with DPCM 171/2014 (art. 16 c 4 and ssmm) and has been operational since February 2015 " [7].

#### 2.2 The activities carried out

Almost five years after its formal institution, numerous actions appear and those launched. During its first three years of activity, the DGAAP has promoted, organized or supported multidisciplinary programs and projects that, with different approaches, put the peripheries at the center of the objective:

Exhibition Looking for a normal city; LIMES Atlas of peripheries; Art in the Light; I experience art! Museums and artists in schools; Biennale 2016: Workshop on social architecture; DGAAP and CNAPPC competition for young architects; Peripheries in action; 9 events for the peripheries; Conference "Future Peripheries. Culture regenerates"; Atlas of metropolitan functional peripheries; From me to us. The city without borders; CULTURABILITY; Award for research on urban regeneration; Atlas of Italian contemporary architecture; TAKE PART! Act and think creatively; Creative Living Lab Award; Cineperiferie; Education Hub; Smart periphery".

Within this vast framework of action, the work carried out in the construction of the Atlas of the Peripheries, in collaboration with the magazine LIMES [8], the "Atlante delle periferie funzionali metropolitane" [9], and the numerous calls for the promotion of activities in the field of urban regeneration, to which the Future Urban Culture Plan should be ascribed, to which the subsequent study is dedicated.

Fig. 1 Demix, Atlas of metropolitan functional peripheries, http://www.aap.beniculturali.it/atlante periferie funatorie.html







Fig. 2 Cineperiferie, winner project localization from 2017.



#### 2.3 National Urban Regeneration Network

In this scenario, it is appropriate to mention the case of the newly established National Urban Regeneration Network, now "Stato dei luoghi". The first meeting of the network took place on Friday 6 December 2019, in Sansepolcro (PG), in order to facilitate the comparison between managers of spaces and institutions, companies, foundations, non-profit entities to discuss objectives, results achieved, obstacles to be removed, enabling conditions, joint job prospects. [10]

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Sa manifattura (Cagliari) / Caos (Terni), Linda Di

Pietro

Spazi Indecisi (Forli), Francesco Tortori

Terzo Paesaggio / Anguriera di Chiaravalle

(Milano), Andrea Perini

Evento promosso da CasermArcheologica,

realizzato nell'ambito di

Toscanainconteporanea2019.

#### 3 The Public calls

3.1 "Cultura futuro urbano" plan

The FUTURE URBAN CULTURE PLAN started in 2019, according to three operating lines, two parallel, by title and by organization:

- "Scuola attivala cultura" call [11]
- "Biblioteca casa di Quartiere" call [12],

to which is added a third, announced for the first few months, of 2020 "Completed for culture" [13] dedicated to the selection of works, in consultation with the Ministry of Infrastructure, of "public works which have not been completed and which will be completed for cultural purposes for the local communities of priority and complex areas of metropolitan cities and provincial capitals."

The first two initiatives were launched with substantially common characters:

- same deadlines (both calls expired on 5 July 2019)
- same "focus of action" the interesting and in large ways unpublished 'civic collaboration', absent in the formulations of the DGAAP calls of previous years;
  - the same definition of the participating subjects,
- a common reference glossary, perhaps the most interesting document of the entire strategy, full of theoretical and operational references of sure innovation and experimental character [14]. Among these, in particular, the definition of "priority and complex neighborhood" [15], which obviously takes the place and qualifies, also through a precise and unambiguous (albeit questionable, and improvable) evaluation system, the now obsolete notion of "urban peripheries", Which also appears in the acronym of the DGAAP (U), linked to ISTAT indicators deductible through a dedicated platform (the ISTAT OttomilaCensus evaluation system [16]; and the notions, also unpublished, of" civic collaboration" [17], of "Public partnership community" [18], and again:" urban common goods " [19], "neighborhood business and / or urban communities" [20], "collaboratory" [21], with explicit references to key articles of the Italian Constitution.

#### 3.2 "Biblioteca casa di quartiere" call

This call, as well expressed by the title, starts from an interesting intuition, and from a latent question of intervention. The first is to recognize the potential of this public equipment as a new centrality in contexts of urban hardship; the second from the evident condition of deficit of equipment and human personnel in the years of the contraction of public spending in the fields of welfare, and in particular of the so-called "cultural welfare", according to the happy definition produced by recent studies [22]. It is not uncommon to come across, in many contexts, libraries under-equipped in terms of equipment, staff, which often frustrate their function, starting from the same opening hours. In the face of this criticality - well present also in the case concerning the city of Pescara, referred to in the following notes - together with the difficulty of finding public resources, there were numerous characters of innovation and of strong experiments inherent in this program, together with the expectations of the project responses, as well highlighted in the basic glossary, under:

"Projects, innovative cultural and creative activities

By projects, innovative cultural and creative activities financed with this Notice we mean ambitious, experimental and unpublished ideas and / or processes that are transformed into prototypes tested in real urban environments. The projects, innovative cultural and creative activities have a highly experimental character and would be difficult to achieve through channels other than this call which expressly recognizes and promotes the innovative character of

culture and creativity (see the definition of urban innovative actions proposed by the "Urban Innovative Actions Initiative" [23] promoted by the European Commission within the Regional Development Fund)".

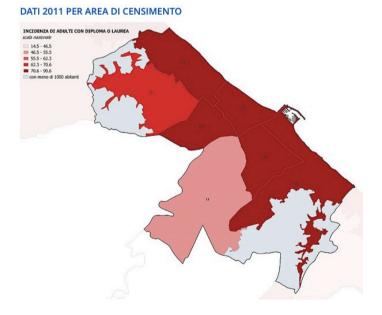
It was an important occasion, on which to test, in many local peripheral contexts, the intentions often advanced only on paper, to build common collaborative paths, with variable geometry, with reference to the skills and legitimate aspirations and social missions of each member.

#### 4 The process in Pescara

#### 4.1 Inside the peripheral network

The opportunity of the BIBLIOTECA CASA DI QUARTIERE call is taken in Pescara within the Ludoteca table, the informal body that gathers numerous third sector associations active in the outskirts of the city, together with schools and universities (Istituto Comprensivo 1, Manthonè Institute, MIBE Institute, Sign Store, CSV Pescara, FORM Art, Neighborhood Committee For a new Rancitelli, DdA\_OCA and numerous other grassroots associations). Initially, the idea is that the (public) University can be the project leader. Subsequently, this hypothesis is nullified due to the geographical non-belonging of the University to the area identified as "priority and complex neighborhood" according to the ISTAT classifications placed at the basis of the initial evaluations of the project (8 thousand Census). The identified area is that of the ACE (Census Area) no. 12, shown in the figure:

Fig. 3 Incidence of adults with diploma or degree by census area, ISTAT 8 thousand Census.



A working group was thus set up which, based on an initial document, also identified in the Ludoteca table, entitled "INsignalibro. Circuit of material and immaterial spaces - gardens and book rooms - for the dissemination, support and quality of shared cultural practices and reading in the neighborhoods of social exclusion in Pescara, an opportunity for community empowerment and active criticism of marginality and to urban inequality, the "F. Di Giampaolo "as a possible leader of a grouping of associations, schools, universities, public bodies and private

companies, which also groups around the Ludoteca table the new subjects who have shown an interest in the call. Subsequently, the composition of the project partnership is achieved through the selection of the proposals collected through a public notice, to which over 20 subjects including associations, schools, universities, businesses and temporary consortia of private companies of social and cultural orientation adhere.





4.2 The experience of the project "INsegnalibro" within the network of the associations of "Tavolo della Ludoteca delle periferie pescaresi"

The project that was eventually drafted and sent in the terms of the MIBACT Call by the lead entity Biblioteca Gianpaolo, by a working group to which the author of this paper also belongs, contains several reasons of interest; it is based on some credible hypotheses of action, and above all it represents the first outcome of a joint action of numerous associations and subjects that have long shared common objectives and missions within the Ludoteca table. It was built in a short time, and in an initially conflicting situation, between different subjects, characterized by different operational and financial capacities, which initially questioned the participation of public subjects (schools, universities) and grassroots associations, weaker in operational and financial terms. It is a fact that no private entity commits resources without a public entry fee; and yet this condition could be counterbalanced thanks to a greater sharing of the public subjects present in the necessary part of the co-financing. The University did so in part, which can in these cases, bring as co-financing the amount of hours that their teachers can devote to program activities; it is a given that this action has not been able to make it, for its own budget limits, the same public library as the leader of the project, burdened by budget limits and economic operations resulting from decades of cuts in public spending in the cultural field, operated by regional directorates with almost no political distinction. In light of the experience, however, several interesting perspectives open up, in particular also in light of the principle of "public-community partnership at the base of the program's glossary, mentioned at the beginning of these notes.

The economic dependence of this kind of project on private partners is, in fact, a strong weakness of the whole Urban Future Culture program, at least in the experience carried out. It is a question of understanding, for the next occasions, if, even with more time available and greater awareness of public subjects, it is possible to better weigh the share of co-financing between public and private subjects, also in favor of third sector associations, and of grassroots, which are evidently cut out, for characteristic economic limits, both from this role and in the function of co-creators and co-designers of such actions. The project is also a cost, in terms of people hours that only a few subjects can afford. Thus we witness the paradox that a program geared towards experimenting and strengthening the much-vaunted "public-community partnership" and the promotion of "neighborhood businesses and / or urban communities", or even "hybrid business models" is the prerogative almost exclusive and land of conquest of large associations and companies, albeit of the third sector, or of social orientation, which can, among other things, boast specialist skills for the construction of such projects, with the risk that these projects will, for habit and experience acquired in recent times, tailored to fit these organizations. Such associations, companies, companies of the third sector or of the cooperative world should instead grasp the real social innovation introduced by these kinds of public programs, - the declaration of the characters of social, economic and cultural innovation was, moreover, required by the program itself, together with a exercise of pre-evaluation of the results produced - which, in my opinion, concerns the subsidiary and real mutual role that these subjects should play right from the planning stage of these programs towards grassroots associations and small Community businesses. In this way, the capacity of the general program action to produce results in the economic and social field would be strengthened through the ability to start neighborhood and / or community businesses, on which it is hoped there will be an opportunity for true innovation and experimentation in the field., which also form part of the actions announced by some partners within the program itself. The dream is to see realized, as a follow up of INSegnalibro, together with its many good actions in support of widespread cultural practices, in the "priority and complex" neighborhoods of the sorrowful peripheries of Pescara, perhaps just a first "community cooperative" [24], in periphery, on the basis of the experiences that a subject of excellence of the partnership, Confcooperative, has been promoting for some time, in various marginal internal areas of the Abruzzo region.

#### 4.3 The final product

The project in its final draft defines objectives and purposes in relation to those of the initial call:

"INsegnalibro is a culturally based urban regeneration project through the identification and recognition of urban themes and solutions, activated by participatory investigation paths (workshops and laboratories), material and immaterial installations, also through physical and virtual 'bookmarks', and narrative, - as docufilm, collective narrative exercises, human library, and much more - of the places of cultural sharing and the rebirth of the Pescara neighborhoods, with the highest housing problems and social inequality. The guiding thread of our project is the ability to tell the process set in motion, the urban storytelling, documented in images, of a solicitation and a cultural impulse transmitted a few years ago by the network of activities and neighborhood associations, gathered in the Ludoteca table, who find new resources and opportunities for development in this project.

In particular, the objectives of "INsegnalibro" are:

- a) increase and diversify the offer of cultural and creative activities in the neighborhoods through the promotion of laboratory activities and the involvement of some targeted users (in particular childhood, adolescents, young people, families)
- b) recognize and stimulate the exercise of the right to act, through a plurality of actions coordinated with each other by the Library, carried out by the different project partners, individually or in associated form, such as:
- the creation, production and dissemination of a participated documentary film that tells the actions and location of the entire program;
- design and self-construction workshops for hotspots / Biblio Points (temporary places of the library service) for literary reasons;
  - c) integrate the offer of public services by stimulating the offer of diffuse (hotspot) and localized services;
- d) building opportunities for the social and economic improvement of the neighborhood, including through the incubation of innovative forms of cultural and creative businesses in the neighborhood or urban communities, through the concrete contributions of trade associations
  - e) involve children and young people of some primary and secondary school classes in creative workshops.

Particular attention is also paid to the definition of the partnership:

"The proposed partnership is a singular and innovative example of involvement of the library from below, starting from an active experience of entities and associations that work in the area with high housing problems. The local partnership is also strengthened by recent actions, such as the birth of the neighborhood committee For a new Rancitelli, and the constant growth of activities and adhesions to the Ludoteca table, the informal body that gathers and gives voice to many of the active subjects at a local level, also at a cultural level, active not only within the peripheries, but also in the entire city of Pescara.

Futurama is added to this already active partnership, a reality created for the activation of public coworking in Pescara, in which converge (Arci, CNA, Confesercenti,) and other associations and bodies, such as the Agency for Housing, Consortium of Cooperatives, parts of a growing network of people and associations who want to experiment with new housing, relational and urban models as goods that improve the quality of life of those who live in neighborhoods or villages. There are also grassroots associations present in the neighborhood."

Fig.5 Local authorities / institutions, cultural associations involved in the project partnership:





































The final product packs several actions, held together by a double objective:

to strengthen the role and substance of the Gianpaolo Library as an effective "neighborhood house", in accordance with the title of the initial Call: to build around it a network of spaces and activities, related to it, as "antennas "And" receptors "of the cultural activities to be produced or which find production within the main" urban common goods "present in the neighborhoods.

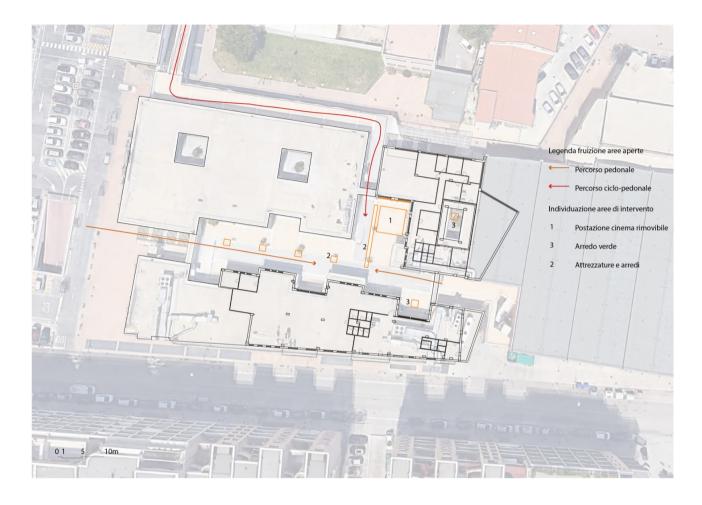
#### INSignalibro: set of project actions

- 1. Investigation activities (Workshop of investigation on places, public equipment, services, enterprises of the cultural sectors in the neighborhoods covered by the program, accompanied by social investigations on cultural behaviors and the propensity for cultural practices reading, theater, music, dance, arts visual especially childhood and adolescence).
- 2. Biblio Point design activities (Participatory design workshop, in collaboration between the schools and the DdA).
- 3. Activities for the realization of Biblio Points (participatory self-construction workshop in schools and at the headquarters of the Library of Giampaolo); at least 2 in the schools of the network, 1 in the Thomas Dei Ludoteca, 1 in the headquarters (being assigned within public spaces) of the District Committee for a new Rancitelli;
  - 4. Activities for the animation of Biblio Points (hotspots) in the urban common goods of the neighborhoods
  - 5. Workshops for the construction of books and illustrations, dramatization, socialization games
  - 6. Neighborhood gaming aimed at the cultivation of fantasy through the reading of books, with prizes at stake
- 7. Training, production, editing, post-production and reproduction of a video of the project to be carried out with the neighborhood kids.
  - 8. Training course for volunteers born to read
  - 9. Realization of a literary garden / vegetable garden.
- 10. Participatory path (also with meetings and business training) for the activation of an urban community cooperative, to be converted into an active business entity. The meetings will last for the duration of the project and will involve the inhabitants of the neighborhood.

- 11. Interaction workshop with contemporary authors and artists
- 12. Training workshops to deepen the languages of youth culture and street art (writing, music, etc.)
- 13. Workshops of meetings to overcome the differences between ethnic groups, religions etc. (first classes of primary school and families)
- 14. Coordination, internal and external communication, online communication management, and final dissemination of the project through various means (social media, brochure printing, poster printing, sign production, video production in pills and final publication) and organization of the neighborhood's parties.
  - 15. (Futurama) Melting library, human library, public reading and information desks on work.

The product delivered, in a situation of great uncertainty, and in the midst of a thousand problems, represents an important product, even if it can be improved, and still to be explored. It is the lead subject, the Di Giampaolo Library, which can establish with certainty how to develop the programs defined so far as a preliminary. A long work awaits us, hopefully with the best availability towards the interest of all partners, and above all of the subjects and territories to which this program is addressed. The real purpose of INsegnalibro always remains the initial one; that of activating relationships between people, subjects, institutions, businesses that live "in the neighborhoods of social exclusion in Pescara", activating "Circuits of material and immaterial spaces - the gardens and the rooms of the book - for the dissemination, support and quality of shared cultural practices and reading, as a real opportunity for community empowerment and active criticism of marginalization and urban inequality.

Fig. 6 Proposal for reorganization of the internal and external spaces of the Di Giampaolo Library as a "Neighborhood House"



#### 4.4 The state of the art of INsegnalibro

The project was delivered on time, and was well judged, being admitted to funding with a flattering position in the national ranking: 7 out of the total of 69 projects submitted, of which 45 eligible for funding [25]. Based on the experience gained, it would be very interesting to involve all the subjects who participated in this experience in a collective exercise of analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of both the project delivered and the process implemented. It would be nice to devote the space of a real seminar to all this, to be conducted together with all the subjects participating in the Ludoteca table. It would be interesting to report and involve, in this exercise, the other experiences that have so far seen the Ludoteca table as an experimental "collaborator" of the outskirts of Pescara.

In the short term, activities are planned to raise awareness of the participants in the project towards relaunching the life of the neighborhood or neighborhoods of the reference ACE of the project and urban design. This is in the activities of the program, in relation to the participation of schools and universities strongly oriented towards this kind of practice. The entire program also intends to reinforce a new idea of design practice, oriented towards active participation and direct, sustainable action, also through tools and methods with a high degree of innovation. Design for all, collaborative mapping, and tactical urbanism, combine in this sense with the ultimate aim of combining the many intangible actions of the program with concrete actions, capable of "leaving a trace", in the spaces and along paths of relationship between them, which characterized a new system in which to re-read

and revive the not insignificant heritage (even if to be enhanced) of urban common goods present in the neighborhoods.

All activities foresee this ultimate goal, and at the end of the project the feast of the neighborhood will be realized, intended as "Festival of the Common Goods of the active outskirts of Pescara", a moment of rebirth and an element of conjunction of new projects and initiatives that the network of associations of the Ludoteca has been planning for some time.

Fig.7 Project meetings and first actions





#### 4.5 What to learn, and what to expect from this way to the urban regeneration of the peripheries

That the regeneration of the peripheries has to do 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 income differences, is taken as the theme of interest 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 like unexpected spatial outcomes apparently highly urban redevelopment programs. But it is also true that the fragility of those who live in the peripheries derives also and above all from "objective' conditions: devalued schools, withdrawal of services, spatial distance of job opportunities, very limited resources of the neighborhoods themselves", but also from "subjective" conditions: 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 " [26].

Perhaps this is what we need to talk about, with regard to the peripheries, which are no longer, only, or not only geographical peripheries, but are social peripheries, and functional peripheries, precisely because within them the condition of well-being [27] of them lives it is greatly altered, and reduced, precisely by the difficulty of access to urban common goods, places of exercise of fundamental citizenship rights, according to the well-known definition of Stefano Rodotà.

And on this we must investigate, in addition to the already indicative methodologies of 8 thousand Census, placed at the base of the investigation of the MIBAC of this call, perhaps following the example of the Maps of Inequality developed by Keti Lelo, Salvatore Monni and Federico Tomassi in their beautiful work on the metropolitan social geographies of the capital of Italy [28].

#### 5. Conclusion

Culture generates beauty and mitigation of 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 large associations in 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 for integration 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 yet of self-evaluation without waiting for this to become bureaucratic activity as a continuous exercise of verification and correspondence between expectations and outcomes, meanwhile of those who operate, 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. Among these, the all too ambitious Milleperiferie project [29], promoted by ANCI SICILIA, aimed at the construction of "an interconnection platform" of all the projects in the field for the regeneration of the peripheries, 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 2030 Agenda, focusing on the creation of inclusive, safe, sustainable cities capable of launching new integrated development processes".

Perhaps too much topics, perhaps not very credible, in a country where four years after its establishment, perhaps also due to the change of four governments - Renzi, Gentiloni, Conte I, Conte II "- the database is not yet in the public domain of the projects presented by the 120 Italian municipalities in the 2016 Periphery Notice. Better, perhaps, more realistic, the project, born from below, with the support of some public universities and local authorities, of the first National Urban Regeneration Network, which gathers "among the founding subjects some of the longest-running realities in the reuse of unused spaces, through innovative cultural processes and the activation of local communities ". Perhaps it is precisely what needs to be done now, to put in contact the numerous experiences of reactivating spaces for cultural and social purposes that have already been realized, and which despite a thousand contradictions and difficulties represent that this path is possible, and is still waiting to be traveled by new travel companions, even apart from the "big programs" of "redevelopment", of which we hardly ever manage to make an effective budget in Italy, and which perhaps they are little aware of, the same inhabitants of these contexts to which this kind of programs are addressed.

The peripheries where urban generation programs with up-to-date ideas are often filled, is where young heroin boys and girls die, where public schools risk closing because parents of low-income and middle-class Italian families they do not register their children for the presence of Roma or foreign children, where social exclusion is the rule, and politics (and a large part of the local administration) use spaces of inequality and social conflict as the location of the election campaigns, and little other.

It is within this reality that every effort, every occasion, if well used, with intelligence, care and passion, can try at least to put a barrier to processes that none of us is able to manage, at least in the short term. Well then the 100,000 euros of the MIBE DGCCRU are welcome, if you can, with these, produce some small results - some Roma boys

or children, most in the library, less dropouts in schools, a little more happiness [30] in the streets and between the houses for the cultural initiatives that we will be able to carry out for a few days thanks to the collaboration of associations, committees, schools - and to strengthen the role of the Di Gianpaolo Library as a small cultural "refuge" in the neighborhood, in the hope that it will soon become "Home" as in the optimistic title of the program, center of a network of associations, committees, schools, to which the University has long been trying to offer support.

Fig. 7 Pescara, Parco della Speranza, Rancitelli district, Cittadini in Erba laboratory, June 2016 (photo by Alessandro Feragalli).



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- creativi, richiede il riconoscimento o la creazione di forme di cooperazione tra le comunità medesime e gli attori pubblici, privati, sociali, cognitivi interessati nella riattivazione e/o rigenerazione di tali beni e servizi. "
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## **Sitography**

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Extraordinary program for urban redevelopment and security of the peripheries of metropolitan cities and provincial capitals, 2016, in progress, established with the stability law L. n.208 / 2015, Renzi Government, which allocates the expenditure of 500 million euros for 2016 to the program. The projects were presented by 13 metropolitan cities (the CM of Cagliari did not submit an application) and 107 Municipalities of the provincial capital (the Municipalities of Bari, Como, Lecco and Lodi did not apply). The total financial value of the projects amounts to  $\in$  3,881,000,000 inclusive of co-financing from other public budgets, from the same participating institution, or from other public or private entities. The total portion to be attributed to the state financing corresponds to a value of 2,061,321,739.61 euros.

The subsequent stability law L. 232/2016 provided for the use of the funds necessary for the integration of the initial fund. 120 municipalities have been eligible for financing, with public expenditure shares ranging from 40 million in Bari, Florence, Milan, Bologna, Venice, Palermo, Messina, Reggio Calabria, to a few hundred thousand euros (Tempio Pausania, Crotone. Pescara it ranked in 46th place, with a loan equal to that of Rome (22nd place): € 18 million, to which € 40,123,984.39 of private financing, almost impossible to decipher, is connected. Three years after the publication of the ranking that allocates funds to the municipality (four from the law that initiated its formation), the program in Pescara is still awaiting start. Online at: http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/bando-la-riqualificazione-urbana-e-la-sicurezza-pubblicato-il-dpcm-25-maggio-2016/4875

Article I. paragraph 974, of law no. 208. This article established for 2016 the extraordinary intervention program for urban redevelopment and safety of the peripheries of metropolitan cities and provincial capitals. Aimed at the implementation of urgent interventions for the regeneration of degraded urban areas through the promotion of projects to improve the quality of urban decor, maintenance, reuse and refunctionalisation of public areas and existing building structures, aimed at increasing territorial security c

urban resilience capacity, to the enhancement of urban services also with reference to sustainable mobility. The development of practices, such as those of the third sector and civil service, for social inclusion and for the creation of new metropolitan welfare models, also with reference to the adaptation of infrastructures for social and cultural, educational and teaching services, as well as cultural and educational activities promoted by public and private subjects. Online at:

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