

NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES 2018

THEMATIC SESSIONS - TS

TS-12

RESILIENCE AND CREATIVITY OF MEDITERRANEAN HISTORICAL PORT CITIES: URBAN INTEGRATED CONSERVATION AND URBAN REGENERATION OF THEIR OLD WATERFRONTS, IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Keywords: Mediterranean Port-Towns; Historical Waterfronts; Urban Integrated Conservation; Historical Cultural Landscape; Sustainable Re-Use.

Much of the current debate on urban renewal revolves on how we should preserve our cultural heritage of historic districts, historical towns, but especially in the historical core of the metropolitan cities. Many Metropolitan City in the Mediterranean area are port cities and consequently the rehabilitation of the historical port cities and their waterfronts is today one of the principal themes of the urban policies of all the metropolitan port cities. The Mediterranean port cities have a long history as places of economic exchange and as gateways for the transmission of people, goods, buildings, urban fortified form and is today in activity. The Mediterranean port cities are characterized by a high value of historic urban landscape and by a singular long historical past with tri or by-millenary stratifications, that form numerous layers. That constitutes the historical identity of the Mediterranean port towns.

Since the mid 19th century, globalization has further promoted them as major nodes in a worldwide economic network. The connection between the historic cities and ports has carried out to a new project of the role of the historic port with new implications for the settlement with coherent, functional and morphological transformations. The strategic role of the integrated conservation of cultural heritage is today well known for a creative, resilient and sustainable city (after the definition and popularisation of the term "sustainable development", the 2009 Copenhagen Summit on climate change gathered to focus on the urgent need to take action, the Resolutions, adopted in Valletta, Malta, at the ICOMOS CIVVIH meeting of May 2010: Historic City as a Reference Model for Sustainable Urban Development Policies, and for defining policies and planning sustainable urban development the new ICOMOS Charter in urban conservation of historical towns and urban areas, named "Valletta Principles" 2011).

The central question of the debate in this proposal of session is: Are there any current examples of urban heritage sites worldwide to demonstrate key issues and best practices in the integrated conservation of historical port cities urban heritage and their historic landscape today?

The Proposal Session for the Congress "New Metropolitan Perspectives" (Reggio Calabria 2018) would offer a comprehensive overview of the integrated urban conservation role in the renewal of the historical port cities in the Mediterranean area in the 21st century. We would like to discuss this general theme on the basis of the evolution and operational context of urban management and the development of local urban conservation policies and practices in comparative perspective.

Papers may include reflexions on three sub-topics:

- Creativity in the preservation and valorization of the multilayered Mediterranean port-towns and the regeneration of their historical waterfronts as place of leisure and cultural heritage (examples and best practices);
- The opportunity of cultural tourism for a sustainable development of the Metropolitan Mediterranean port cities with the safeguard of their historic role (examples and best practices);
- The resilience of the port cities with their urban value and their historic urban Mediterranean landscape through cultural and political changes (examples and best practices).

CHAIR

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