



Urbanistica n. 137
September-December 2008
Distribution by www.planum.net

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The stages of the process

Maria Sergio

In the last 15 years some considerable changes have taken place in Reggio Emilia, of economic type (positive quantitative indicators with regard to new enterprises, the Gdp, the employment rate, new jobs, an increase in the active population employed, etc.) and of social type (population growth, in particular of non-Community persons), which, together with the downturn in resources, have caused an imbalance between the 'private' and the 'public' city. A start has now been made on defining an overall, structural and strategic project, with the approval of the town-planning instruments introduced by Regional law 20/2000, in a process that should reconcile the strategic aspects with structural ones, in a dialogue with the community.

The municipal administration has already come up with the first partial solutions:

- Ppa 2006-2010 for a better quantitative and qualitative alignment between the implementation of the 'public' and the 'private' city;
- updating the current Building regulations;
- 'Ecoabita', a public-private project aimed at reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions in building;
- a variant to the Masterplan for 'safeguarding the heritage of historical buildings and of buildings in extra-urban territory';
- a reference, for new places of production, to the ecologically equipped areas;
- establishing the environmental balance for detailed plans;
- approval of the large quality districts;
- widespread upgrading of the existing city;
- Services Plan, etc.

Sector policies

There are many sectoral

plans (the Mobility plan, the Plan for the historic centre, the Green plan, the Housing project, the Zonal social plans, etc.) which have enabled some of the themes of the plan to be anticipated and the objectives of the government programme to be pursued immediately.

The preliminary phases of analysis-participation

The Psc (Municipal structural plan) has to consider two reference perspectives that vie against each other: looking towards the future, but also being based in the present. Hence, a survey of the city, aimed at knowing and interpreting the ongoing phenomena and dynamics.

15+1 participation workshops or laboratories have studied in depth the strategic themes for the Psc through a case study:

- Lab 1 - The 'poles' of excellence;
- Lab 2 - Places of production;
- Lab 3 - The landscape system;
- Lab 4 - Upgrading works;
- Lab 5 - The welfare system;
- Lab 6 - Vast-area policies.

More than 20 interviews were held with privileged witnesses able to enrich, with their personal experience and their visions of the city, the framework of analysis, the strategies and the objectives to be pursued.

The planning conference

The planning conference provided the opportunity to take stock of the capacity of confrontation with the community, and was thus not a point of arrival, but rather the continuation of the listening process that will accompany the Psc in its institutional procedure of adoption and approval.

The proceedings covered 11 sessions, 5 plenary and 6 thematic, between October 2007 and April 2008 involving more than 300

guests.

The preliminary documents approved by the City council with its resolution of 23 October 2007 were agreed with, in particular the objectives and the strategic choices.