



MORANDI NEIGHBORHOOD- URBACT LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Re-Block Project

The genesis of the project Re-Block in Rome

The “Universita degli Studi di Tor Vergata” was the actor/project partner which has made it possible to implement the participatory process in the area of the complex Morandi in Tor Sapienza (Rome). Through its relational network, the University has identified the project Re-Block, whose lead partner and the city of Budapest/XVIII district. The University identified and coordinated active forces on the territory, which had already previous experiences of participation inherent choices shared by neighborhood-level work, but that they should be coordinated within a process oriented towards structured and strategic objectives through a shared methodology.

URBACT, through its methodological approach has been the opportunity to relaunch the dialogue within the Morandi ,

1. the other partners of the project Re-Block are: Gelsenkirchen, Iasi, Komotini, Magdeburg, Malaga, Salford and Sodertalie.
2. Pietro Elisei, acting as initiator, Coordinator and project co-designer, Maria Prezioso, acting as scientific coordinator and responsible institutions and Angela D'orazio as head of communications) and has laid the foundations for the interaction between Morandi and Tor Sapienza: breaking the isolation of Morandi

The choice of the area

The Morandi Complex may be considered to be a central element in the Tor Sapienza area, one of the "peripheral" neighbourhoods of Rome, located in the 5th Municipio between Via Prenestina and Casilina.

Context:

- 60% of the neighborhood has been built between 1919 and 1960 and 8.5% in the '70 s
- The economy is substantially linked to small commercial distribution and to an increasingly reduced extent to crafts and, recently to self-promotion and recycling.
- (-6.5%) population ageing,
- spontaneous influx of non-EU migrants (about 4-5% of the population).

The project Re-Block in Rome, promoted by the University of Tor Vergata, specifically, the Department of Formation Science and Technology (STF), tackled the theme of urban regeneration of social housing neighbourhoods in high-density housing.

The first meetings held in the territory have managed to bring together the institutions ' attention on the project. The actors were involved within the URBACT path, and it managed to set up in a short time a Local support group. All this happened at a time of political crisis, as both national and regional, municipal and communal, between the end of 2012, early 2013..

The project team and the creation of the URBACT local support group





- The project was coordinated locally by a URBACT Thematic Expert validated by EU (Dr. Ing. Pietro Elisei – Tor Vergata University) supported by scientific coordination work by Professor Maria Prezioso (Tor Vergata University).
- The local action group coordinated by Dr. Riccardo Troisi (Economist and expert in social and ecological restructuring of the local economy), with the technical assistance of Dr. Adriana Goni Mazzitelli (anthropologist-PhD in urban policies, and expert in participatory planning and intercultural).
- Communication and logistic activities by Dr. Ing. Angela D'orazio (researcher in territorial development policies, University of Rome "Tor Vergata").

The project has begun its activities in the territory since April 2013, but some meetings and actions are even earlier than this date. These latter actions and meetings have made it possible to locate a key component of the local action group: actors who work directly in the area (associations, agencies, interest groups, etc.), along with their identified the first planning choices. URBACT projects finance the establishment of the local action group and implementation of the local action plan, as well as meetings for the exchange of knowledge.

Participation at local level is a core component of the URBACT II oriented methodology to define sustainable urban development.

Morandi actors have been involved in Local action group in order to make the decision-making path that respects the diverse needs in the neighborhood. (List of actors available in the original LAP in Italian language)

The President of the municipality V, Giammarco Palmieri, has joined the project. The Councillor for the environment of the fifth Municipio, Giulia Petroletti, has actively participated in the meetings. They also participated in the events organized within the project.

Data and impressions – analysis and survey within the Morandi neighborhood

The SWOT Analysis on the Morandi neighborhood showed the internal and external factors that influence the development of the area. Among these, we could mention:

The STRENGTHS reside in the existence of unused industrial areas, the very good collaboration with local institutions open to innovation of the local community. They will be used to mitigate the weaker points of remote location, distance from other services, and poor infrastructure, maintenance services and social issues.

The opportunities arising in the area refer to economic and real estate redevelopment through urban agriculture, requalification of the vocational potential of the local community.

The STF Department within the University has undergone a detailed investigation in the neighborhood, on the occasion of a master's thesis held on the issues raised and addressed by project Re-Block, thus enabling the project coordination group to have a thorough screening of the situation. Since the questionnaire mainly addressed to residents of "Giorgio Morandi Complex", the sample of respondents residing in the Tor Sapienza neighbourhood is much lower. Despite not being able to take the sample as a reference for any comparisons between residential areas, it does not necessarily have to be discarded from the analysis, as this sample demonstrates offset sharp dichotomy of two spaces between which there is poor communication in spite of the fact that they are components of the same neighborhood/



In the "Giorgio Morandi" complex there are approximately 512 families and 1238 residents. We interviewed 49 households equivalent to 24.5%, out of which 43 families are residing in Morandi, while 6 families are residing in Morandi.

The surveyed has shown that 37.2% would not want to move. The rest would move based on considerations such as: lack of services and associative aggregation spaces for adults; lack of spaces for children; general decay and poor maintenance of the neighborhood, lack of community cohesion and interest of participating to common expenses and issues; public transport related issues and lack of future prospects for a better life as well as high presence of foreigners – specifically of Rromi population - in the area, bringing delinquency and dirt.

Identified Applied Strategies

The project RE-Block, but especially the URBACT methodology applied in the neighborhood, has put in place an approach to begin to regenerate both the material and the immaterial aspects: an integrated approach, with strong strategic elements defining actions to be undertaken, through an inclusive process and participated, and this is what it has been pursued at Morandi in conjunction with local neighborhood associations over the past two years.

In order to allow an effective impact of network activities on local policies the project relies on creating

- a) Local support groups, which help to put together the main territorial local actors (public and private)
- b) Local action plan of subdivision/urban area by upgrading/rebuild. Technical and scientific coordination and operated by the University of Tor Vergata (Rome).

The strategy is based on the identification of problems, solutions and projects for specific areas of interest:

1. The re-enabling of Morandi
2. Widespread regeneration Actions of public space
3. Promotion of local scale economies and strengthening social inclusion actions.

The participatory process and workgroupsⁱ

The implemented participatory process has targeted the Local Urban Support groups. Each group has been assigned a theme of interest from the 3 mentioned above:

Group 1 The renewal of Morandi : Centro Culturale Morandi, Association Antropos, Local Tor Sapienza development agency, local Meat Center redevelopment Group and some citizens of Morandi.

Group 2 Widespread regeneration Actions of public space: Centro Culturale Morandi , Local Development Agency Tor Sapienza, local Meat Center redevelopment Group, Un Network, Municipal Cultural Center Michele Testa, Progetto Sar/Urban laboratory Reset (and Reciclone's eye)

Group 3 Promotion of local scale economies and strengthening social inclusion actions: Centro Culturale Morandi ,Local Development Agency Tor Sapienza, Un and Urban Laboratory Network Reset (Cooperativa Agricola Capodarco and Reciclone's eye)

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the workshops held during the participatory process, including meeting with the knowledge ambassadors - international experts in urban planning - of other cities involved, and the subsequent creation of the working groups has led to the definition of a conceptual schema that identifies the priorities of intervention and three design areas.

URBAN REHABILITATION OF MORANDI

- a) Redevelopment of the entire complex: little or no maintenance of physical facilities.
- b) Upgrading central spine, both for residential purposes, both for services (spaces for associations).
- c) energy efficiency actions: starting afresh from 2007, to update ATER proposal through new technologies.

REGENERATION ACTIONS for/PUBLIC SPACE

- a) Redevelopment of the school for social activities and Vittorini cultural activities that have a real impact on aggregate Morandi and Tor Sapienza area.
- d) social and economic reuse of the current local market for aggregation activity of young people or youth employment-related activities.

LOCAL ECONOMY and SOCIAL INCLUSION

- a) Promote local production linked to the field of reuse and recycling, connected to a short chain craft that involves informal work waste pickers and solid urban residues.
- b) Create a relationship between the activities of urban agriculture in view of the area and in nearby grant Park's Mystique with the local fabric of Kolhapur.
- c) Promote cultural and social activities by using the key to multicultural and integration, through the strengthening of Municipal cultural centre Morandi and Michele Testa.
- d) Creating a center of promotion and support for youth employment which offers information, guidance, training, consulting for auto entrepreneurship.
- e) Creating a consulting service and accompaniment to local small businesses and start-up companies and craft cooperatives (new market)
- f) Encourage actions of support to the development of the identity of the "artistic" and art as a tool of social emancipation, cultural transformation and economic development.
- g) Design consulting service for local sustainable development and empowerment of inclusive community
- h) Wood bridge connection between the Morandi and the Tor Sapienza neighbourhood, the path practically does not exist, it should be rehabilitated, reactivated and made safe.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

The re-block project has paid great attention to the sustainability of the action plan developed. Which is why, a short analysis of possible funding opportunities has been developed.

For the structure and priorities of the strategy of the Morandi neighborhood, the most appropriate opportunities of funding to follow are the European Social Fund and the European regional Development Fund.



Axis I Work Force Occupation, Axis II Social inclusion and reducing poverty, Axis III Training and Axis IV Institutional and administrative capacity; and the European Fund for Regional development, in particular Axis III competitiveness, Axis IV Sustainable energy and mobility. Axis refer to current programming set up by Regione Lazio for the structural funds 2014-2020.

The local action plan Morandi-Tor Sapienza, based on a structured, broad participatory process and continuously supported by the URBACT and methodology experts, offers an alternative model of intervention in the suburbs in a moment of absence of city policies and lack of political vision on how to handle the urgent urban questions in the Morandi.

This path of daily work with the population and local associations can be taken as an example to revive structured on policies and for the suburbs in the context of the new metropolitan area of Rome. The project RE-Block, but especially the URBACT methodology applied in the neighborhood, has proposed a methodology to begin to regenerate both the material and the immaterial aspects. An integrated approach, with strong strategic elements defining actions to be undertaken, through an inclusive process and participated, and this is what has been done to the Morandi, along with local neighborhood associations, over the past two years.

An integrated approach requires participation in the process of more levels of territorial governance, for this we tried, and we succeeded to involve several departments (environment, suburbs, urbanism), the local town hall, we have not succeeded with the ATER. The departments involved have expressed interest, and their representatives attended a meeting in Morandi (March 2014) which was attended by associations and citizens of Morandi, not all, but definitely the most active and constructive.

A list of projects has been implemented, with citizens, through the expert guidance of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, and validated by a pool of international experts (experts of the partner cities of RE-Block, called in Re-Block: Knowledge Ambassadors) was made available. Unfortunately, despite the huge effort of involvement of institutions operated by project Re-Block, on policy level, the political response is not yet satisfactory, and the real local issues (social, economic, cultural, environmental, cross-cultural) are not yet connected to the current political agenda.

ⁱ In the Local Action Plan original version in Italian, actors and stakeholders are detailed.