



SPAZIO13 | Urban regeneration and social innovation

Good Practice Summary

The urban context: a peripheral neighbourhood in transition

The first west urban expansion of Bari, in the early '900, created the District called "Libertà" (Freedom), as a land where to resettle large industrial agglomerations including the huge Tobacco Factory: here arise the first social housing blocks for workers and the first blocks of rent for students, devoid of important buildings, squares and places for leisure. A marginalization unsolved and today, this multicultural and popular Neighbourhood, is populated by more than 43,000 residents: it hosts the greatest number of craft shops, families, younger age groups 9-29, thousands of college students and immigrants (25% of total). The unemployment is 30%, just 8% of people over 25 years old is graduated and 2/3 of the illiterate are women. In 2014, the City of Bari has started an integrated urban regeneration programme that intends to redevelop the public space, convert the former Tobacco Factory in scientific research Campus, redesign the sustainable mobility and revitalize the local economies.

SPAZIO13: a community hub open to urban change

In this regeneration process, the City of Bari has chosen to establish a Creative Hub to engage the local community through participation, cultural empowerment and social innovation. SPAZIO13 arises from the conversion of a former disused school through the implementation of an extensive network of 15 youth associations. SPAZIO13 is a community experience of social innovation and reuse of a neglected public building, opened and re-oriented to the social and cultural involvement of residents and stakeholders in the transformation process that marks the Neighbourhood. SPAZIO13 is distributed on three levels of the building (on the ground floor the City had set up a public multicultural nursery school) for a surface of 1,000sqm divided into 3 areas: 1. Informal Education (design, photography, start-up businesses, European programmes, digital communication); 2. Making and Urban Regeneration (3D printing FabLab, carpentry, audio/video production, editorials and photo printing, DIY design, collaborative urban workshops); 3. Arts and Cultural Events (visual, applied and performative arts, coworking, public library, public events and talks). SPAZIO13 is a collaborative project based on the participation of civil society and local networks preliminarily involved in the co-design phase of conversion. The start of the conversion has been marked by two important experiences: a photo contest opened to all citizens to attest the school's identity before the change, also with dedicated hashtags on Instagram (#nontiscordardimelo, #spazio13 and #exscuolamelo) and with Huffington Post as media partner (#meloHP); the beginnings of the experience of collective self-build to adapt the spaces at the new functions.

SPAZIO13 as key action in a European and national framework focused on suburbs regeneration

SPACE13 is a strategic experience within an urban vision that is highly investing in physical regeneration and social innovation, in coherence with the guidelines of the European Urban Agenda that promotes reuse and participation, the Italian legislation and NOP that promotes social inclusion and the recovery of suburbs for communities, with its role as Urban Authority of PON METRO (art. 7). SPAZIO13 was recognized and



funded by a national governmental body (ANCI - National Association of Italian Municipalities) as best practices on the topic of urban regeneration and creativity.

SPAZIO13 main objectives, results and innovative elements

SPAZIO13 experience is currently underway. The results achieved and expected are: 1. promoting the conversion of the former school through a collective self-build path and co-design workshops with associations and residents; 2. activating an urban laboratory of education, production and social innovation serving communities; 3. promoting a collaborative network at the neighbourhood scale composed by associations, professionals, institutional, economic and research able to play an active role in the regeneration process. The most innovative aspects of SPAZIO13 are the bottom up and co-design reuse, the participatory definitions of the activities and the sharing exchange of goods, experience, and skills on territories in a community-oriented approach. Another aspect concerns the governance model and PPP: the management of SPAZIO13 is designed according to the principles of Community Governance, through collaborative mechanisms between partners and institutions. SPAZIO13's results are monitored by an internal committee at the Municipality of Bari and by the ANCI technical committee which financed the project.

Potential for re-use and improvement

SPAZIO13 is a replicable, transferable and scalable model in any European city context where there are changes going on. The idea of converting a public building through social innovation paradigms in creative hub, production and informal education is a model adaptable to any environment, small and large. A solution that accompanies the processes of urban change, actively involving the youth component and local networks, enabling residents in participatory processes that generate consensus, information and new collaborative models on territories.