

Acronym – URGENT

Title – Urban Re-Generation: European Network of Towns

Scientific coordinator – Laura Fregolent

Department – Department of Design and Planning in Complex Environments

Scientific sector – ICAR/21

Iuav Role – partner

Lead partner - ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy

Duration – 24 months

Start – 01/09/2016

Closure – 31/08/2018

Project budget- € 150.000,00

Iuav budget – € 16.000,00

Funding to Iuav – € 16.000,00

Source of funding – Call EU: EUROPE FOR CITIZENS/Strand2: Democratic engagement and civic participation/Europe for Citizens - Programme Guide 2014-2020/2.2: Network of Towns

Description – In today's Europe we are reaching alarming levels of urban fragmentation, inequality and structural socio-spatial divisions within our cities, which are feeding extremisms and radicalised behaviours. The most vulnerable part of the population is often given no other choice but concentrate in disadvantaged areas or neighbourhoods where social exclusion and deprivation usually overlap with high level of cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity, further challenging an already weak social cohesion. Increasingly marginalized and stigmatized, these areas and their inhabitants are pushed into a vicious circle of poverty. New physical and symbolic boundaries emerge within European cities from growing xenophobia, intolerance and discriminations even before those built at European internal and external borders.

Through a bottom-up approach aiming at promoting city-level and local awareness-raising about the urgent need for establishing new intercultural connections among inhabitants of marginalized multi-ethnic neighbourhoods/areas and population of central areas, URGENT project aims at tackling growing fear of immigration and to overcome related misleading stereotypes, which feed euroscepticism and undermine fragile European cohesion.

Objectives – Starting from these assumptions URGENT aims at:

- Creating spaces of discussion and mutual learning among citizens from different socio-cultural background and from different countries of Europe;
- Fostering active citizenship and co-creation of policies and services in local societies, particularly for citizens often excluded from the decision-making processes;
- Enhancing the capacity of local institutions of being "multipliers" in their own communities in order to engage a wide range of stakeholders;
- Providing a new impetus to the EU enlargement process, contributing to the establishment of a long-lasting thematic network of cities strongly active and committed as key players in Europe.
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Website – www.unescochair-iuav.it/urgent-urban-re-generation

