

**Title** - Looking Into the Dark. For a new epistemology and public action on territorial inequalities

**Scientific coordinator** – Elena Ostanel

**Department** – Department of Architecture and Arts

**ERC sector** – SH7

**Principal Investigator** – Carlo Cellamare

**Organization of PI** – “La Sapienza” University of Rome

**Iuav role** – partner

**Other partners** – Polytechnic University of Milan

**Duration** – 24 months

**Start** – 18/10/2023

**Closure** – 17/10/2025

**Project budget** – € 266 541.00

**Iuav budget** – € 83 271.00

**Funding to Iuav** – € 63 809.00

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**Description** – Urban contexts and territories are shaped by deep spatial, socio-economic, and recognition inequalities, often determined by major global processes. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has further accentuated these issues; some territories suffer more from the harmful effects of these inequalities, which are tied to dynamics of marginalization. Faced with this situation, various practices and initiatives are developing in territories, even those most in distress, which local inhabitants and actors generally undertake. These micro-stories are deeply rooted in the places and activate interesting generative paths of change that also have the effect of fighting inequalities despite them being generally underestimated by mainstream, globalized analyses and policies. To grasp these initiatives and processes, a change in mindset is necessary. The project aims to contribute to the definition of a more effective public action in reducing inequalities, a public action that focuses on the emergence and enhancement of those latent resources, too often left in the dark in various territorial contexts.

**Objectives** – The project aims to define a more effective public action when it comes to reducing inequalities and fostering attention on the emergence and enhancement of latent resources too often left in the dark in different territorial contexts. Organized starting from some research questions that contribute together to advancing the current debate and literature, the specific objectives are, therefore:

- a) Experimenting and codifying methodologies and tools of analysis capable of grasping the actions, initiatives, practices of the many different local players and their combinations to produce changes in the sense of reducing inequalities;
- b) Defining which arrangements of public action and which social, spatial, and relational conditions of local development can be most suitable to address and influence structural factors, thereby reducing social and spatial inequalities in different urban and territorial contexts;
- c) Verifying how and under what circumstances local public action is interesting and promising when tackling inequalities and whether (and how) it can intercept structural policies.



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