

Title: **EMUVE European Research Project. Barcelona Case: Post-crisis collaborative design processes and community self-management strategies for urban regeneration**

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Topic: The community and the city

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The European research project EMUVE (Euro Mediterranean Urban Voids Ecology), directed by Dr. Federico Wulff and developed at the Welsh School of Architecture of Cardiff University (UK) focuses on the territorial abandonment produced by current economic crisis along the Euro-Mediterranean coastline and the search of innovative methodologies for urban reactivation from flexible, resilient and collaborative approaches.

EMUVE has developed a research on several case studies in Spain, France and Italy with references to previous experiences in the United Kingdom. Each case was defined under a distinctive conceptual approach which portrays how the current economic crisis has impacted and what are the dynamics currently undergoing as a reaction to overcome this urban degradation processes. The cases have been compared from their different socio-political contexts, spatial organization, economy of the territory and governance, to understand their previous failures, present struggles and successful dynamics.

In Barcelona case study, EMUVE focuses on post-crisis innovative processes of community self-management strategies for urban regeneration. The role of the public institutions of the city has evolved from their previous position of leadership in the urban development to become in many cases mere mediators between communities and the private sector and providers of leftover spaces to be temporarily reactivated, signing concessions with social stakeholders which are developing their independent meanwhile programme of uses and resource management strategies, converting these abandoned spaces into new spaces of opportunity for the city.

The role of collectives of architects engaged in these processes is becoming key as spatial translators of the needs of the citizenship and as mediators between them, the public institutions and the private sector.

New alternative professional fields are explored by these architects and urban planners in a context where traditional commissions are lacking, such as programmatic design of economically sustainable uses that could generate new sources of income for the inhabitants.

The shift in the design methodologies from previous top-down overdesigned iconic approaches towards more complex 'open source' collaborative processes between the public institutions and the citizenship, within the new political landscape of the Council of Barcelona after the municipal elections of 24th May 2015 will be key in the future post-crisis redevelopment of the city.

The European research project EMUVE (Euro Mediterranean Urban Voids Ecology), directed by Dr. Federico Wulff and funded by EU, within the Marie Curie Research Programme, and developed at the Welsh School of Architecture of Cardiff University (UK) focus on the study of the problematic of territorial abandonment produced by the current economic crisis in the urban areas of the Euro-Mediterranean coastline and the investigation of new methodologies of urban experimentation for their reactivation from flexible and resilient perspectives.

Neo Liberal urban development which produces inequality urbanism cause a huge break even more radical in emergent countries than in western Europe

EMUVE research project has developed a comparative research on several case studies along the Euro-Mediterranean coastline in Spain, France and Italy. Each selected case study was defined from a distinctive conceptual approach which will focus on a specific aspect of EMUVE. These different approaches could be compared in terms of socio-political context, spatial organization of the territory and different models of governance where the public, private and citizenship stakeholders have different balance of power. Finally, we have investigated the different kind of engagement of the communities in these processes and the shift in the role of architects, urban planners, landscape architects and public agencies officers in these post-crisis regeneration processes.

In Barcelona case study, EMUVE focus on the innovative processes of community self-management strategies for urban regeneration **of the last ten years.**

In recent years, there was a significant evolution in the role of public institutions of the city. They are signing temporary concessions of leftover spaces with communities which are developing economic self-management strategies ~~for urban reactivation increasingly independent from public sector.~~

~~Barcelona is showing us how urbanism could be the resource for a rapprochement of citizens to the most important issues in the organization of their way of life, such as economics and politics .~~

The degraded condition of these abandoned territories could become an opportunity to rethink innovative regeneration strategies from the perspective of a sustainable symbiosis with the landscape, and through the interaction between bottom-up initiatives coming from community involvement with new top-down approaches.

~~It is no longer a negotiation between the **parties** and themselves interests, but an "open system" where the **parties** exchange their roles and discover new perspectives and where improvisation is possible.~~

~~To solve the present actual frictions and incoherences, the methodology for a future innovative plan should be based on a territorial recycling process built upon geo-urbanity, and on the hybridisation between urban and natural, as an interaction between categories that initially seem to be incoherent.~~

~~(Gausa M., 2001)?~~