A sustainable coordinated model for the regeneration of Ljubljana

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The Future of Cities: a global perspective - statements

Cities are powerful economic vehicles to ensure continued economic growth especially in a period of economic recession.

Demographic growth does not affect the economic growth potential of cities, but offers a great opportunity for the future.

Flexible governance and strict land use control are necessary to keep cities – or more generally, metropolitan areas – alive as engines of economic growth.

Creative classes in cities may be important conditions for innovative development, but are more important elements (such as educational superstructure, connectivity infrastructure).

Socio-economic inequality is a logical consequence of urban development, but should not be seen as a major impediment for future urban prosperity.
Some issues of the European Urban Trend during the Economic crisis

Reduction of investments into the real estate;

Actions to improve internal low impact urban accessibility (green corridors);

Cultural and natural heritage preservation activities and high quality modern design;

Policies for higher integration between core town, periphery and surrounding lands (es. Cultural Territorial Systems and Cultural Districts)

Higher demand by the population for low impact products;

Higher demand by the population for better environment;
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Few issues about urban regeneration, cultural heritage and sustainability

Urban landscapes and historic urban landscapes are places to generate culture and cultural attitude;

Culture and cultural heritage as glue and operational context of the three pillars of development;

Environment should turn from being collective good to common good;

From government to governance of urban contexts, from normative development (administration) to negotiated development (management);

Communication to communities (either collectivities);

Importance of resident oriented policies: sustainability should be the goal, culture the operating context;
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The example of Ljubljana

• Potential model for South-Eastern Europe
• First capital facing the transition to the new political system
• Dynamic preservation of the historic city centre
• Updated tools for heritage preservation
• Specific Corporate Coordination in city management
• Vision on urban sustainability
• Residents oriented policies
• From normative to negotiated urban management and planning
Potential model for South-Eastern Europe

“cities in South East Europe can be even more connected since cities in the region are mostly older than states with tradition of cooperation and connection” (Zoran Jankovic)

*Slovenia is positioned as a promoter of trends and developments*” (Blaž Golob)

The Role of Cities – Smart cities
- Smart economy
- Smart mobility
- Smart environment
- Smart people
- Smart living
- Smart governance
First capital in transition to the new political system

Slovenia relatively involved in the recent Balkan wars

The country passed from the previous socialist to the new capitalist system

The development of the city entered into a market logic

Many of the fundamental social tools of the socialist system survived (social security, family assistance, etc.)

The attitude to social bi-univocal assistance survived
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Dynamic preservation of the historic city center

• Roman archaeological site of Emona
• Fortified city
• Medieval town and architecture
• Venetian Baroque city
• Fabiani’s town (reconstructed after earthquake of 1895)
• Plečnik Capital
• Šubic Cosmopolitan City
• Ravnikar School and Post-Modern Architecture
Dynamic preservation of the (historic) city center

Although strict rules in the conservation of the historic centre, the town is favouring restoration projects aiming at enhancing the standards of living environment.

The urban infrastructures are designed to be highly accessible and daily usable. New design is not shy in dialoguing with the past, in line with historic architectural and artistic coexistences.

Keen attention to high quality interventions for infrastructures (best materials, techniques and technologies).

Tools for communicating to the population on the importance of conservation, of its contents, of the process and the relevant contacts to carry out the process itself.
Specific Corporate Coordination in city management

All civil servants should be aware of all ongoing activities by the city government and the civil society to integrate projects and optimize interventions.

Standing commissions
Commission for mandate questions, elections and appointments
Statutory legal commission
Commission for citizens’ initiatives
Commission for international relations
Commission for awards

Boards of the City Council
Board for finance
Board for local self-government
Board for pre-school education and schooling
Board for sports
Board for cultural and research activities
Board for health and social care
Board for economic activities, tourism and agriculture
Board for economic public companies and traffic
Board for spatial management and planning
Board for managing real estate
Board for residential policies
Board for environmental protection
Board for the protection, rescue and civil defence

Other bodies of MOL
MOL council for road safety
Council for the protection of tenants’ rights
Editorial board for Ljubljana magazine
Council for citizens’ safety
Vision on sustainability

“The goal of the new term of office is to move from development to the protective policies of sustainable cities. This means moving towards achieving sustainable mobility, sustainable construction and a sustainable urban economy in line with sustainable principles and environmental responsibility” Janez Koselj

SHARE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO BE INCREASED TO 30%;

SHARE OF NON-MOTORIZED TRAFFIC TO BE INCREASED BY 20%

NEED FOR MOTORIZED MOBILITY TO BE DIMINISHED

LONG-DISTANCE ROAD TRANSPORT TRAFFIC AND FREIGHT TRANSPORT LINES TO BE REDUCED BY 20%

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY TO BE INCREASED

NEW CONSTRUCTION ENERGY EFFICIENCY TO BE ENSURED

LARGER BUILDINGS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE CENTRAL COOLING SYSTEM

SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES TO BE INCREASED TO 12%

EXISTING GREEN SPACES TO BE PRESERVED AND NEW ONES CREATED
 Resident oriented policies

City policies will be oriented towards preservative, social and commercial restoration of the heart of the city, to the energetic, traffic, landscaped and programmed regeneration of residential areas for every generation, the improvement of roads and bridges, the renewal of communal infrastructure, the renovation of public spaces, green areas and footpaths, and the regeneration of villages and the countryside.
Resident oriented policies

The objective is creating a inhabitants friendly city, creating the condition for existing inhabitants to use the city center and move constantly and easily from the center to the periphery, served by district services.

Culture and art are the “environment” of the city life, given by design, cultural activities (organized by public, private and no-profit organisations), environmental quality.
From normative to negotiated urban management and planning

• Any project carried out in the center is discussed and negotiated with authorities representatives (Mayor/Deputy Mayor)
• More than incentives in investing, the local authorities practice the compensation method, offering strategic local and asking for infrastructural and renovation investments
• Development projects (and regeneration ones) are directly followed by the deputy-mayor office
• Project are mostly covered (75%) by public national companies and private investors
From normative to negotiated urban management and planning

• Districts communities are dialoguing with the city government, being weekly (daily) represented in their suggestions/comments, although some statistic analysis show that more could be done and that the level of satisfaction of residents is not yet high (Baclija-Brezovsek)

• In accordance with the statute, MOL bodies include: the City Council, the Mayor and the Supervisory Board. Other MOL bodies are the City Election Committee, MOL City Administration and Internal Audit Office. Ljubljana districts are also important authorities in the structure of MOL
Conclusions to the discussion from the case study of Ljubljana

• Clear vision on the re-assessment of the city governance for a better efficiency of physical projects targeting high quality interventions. Generating a “corporate” identity in the city administration, where everyone knows the on-going projects and investment and who is their leader.

• Art, design and culture as leading motifs to create the progress context: art and culture are considered basic assets and achievements to educate people, directly and indirectly.

• Sustainability is the core and conservation is by nature sustainable. The city (not only the inner city) should be oriented to the improvement of efficiency and reduction of waste (time-accessibility, energy-low consumption tools, improving air quality-new infrastructure and enlargement of pedestrian areas, etc.).

• Policies oriented to residents: no stress on metropolitan competitiveness and city attractiveness, but on the provision of services to residents. The local authority is coming back to its statutory goals, that is serving residents (more than potential residents or visitors).

• Negotiation rather than “normation” – from government to governance. The city and its landscape are common goods, more than collective/public goods.