

Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies

Loredana Antronico, Fausto Marincioni (Eds.)

Post-disaster dynamics in inner areas. An Italian hypothesis for transition management

Nora Annesi¹, Annalisa Rizzo², Matteo Scamporrino³

Abstract

The city can be defined as a balanced relation among *polis*, *civitas* and *urbs* (Salzano, 1998). Disasters impact this balance. Undermining the link between the components as well as the component themselves, the disaster can lead a city to the death, especially if the balance is already damaged (Edgington, 2010), at the same time it can represent the opportunity for changing the development trajectory of the territory (May and Williams, 2012). The catalyst effect of a disaster, and in particular of an earthquake, emerges more evident in inner areas where generally there are ongoing negative demographic and socio-economic trends (Barca, 2014).

With this premise, the chapter proposes an overview of Italian reconstruction processes from the post-war period until today with the main aim of highlighting the dynamics of disaster governance and community organization, which are often less visible in the ordinary circumstances.

The approach to reconstruction used seems not to be able to stem these phenomena and to reverse trends in order to “revitalize” the territories.

The chapter aims to show the possible application of a flexible tool, such as the Transition Management approach, to the issue of post-disaster management in inner areas.

Basing our study on transition management theories and (Rotmans *et al.*, 2001; Bosch and Rotmans, 2008) disaster and post-disaster literature, the research uses the window of opportunity concept to connect the concepts of development trajectory, transition, trajectory break and trajectory reshape. Finally, the aims of the research are explained under the light of the ultimate goal of contributing to resilience-building vocation of the National Strategy (Barca *et al.*, 2013).

Using a multiple case study approach, three different earthquake events will be analysed and reasons of the occurred (if occurred) urban-death in inner area will be outlined.

The work will try to connect the issue of disaster-management and inner-areas, and it will propose to improve the post-disaster phase thanks to the exploitation of an existing planning tool with the aim to start a conscious recovery by optimizing efforts, data and time.

Looking at the failure factors of three recovery processes the authors will propose the adoption of an existing National strategy (SNAI) as actant for the planning of inner and earthquake-impacted areas.

Keywords: Inner areas, Transition management, earthquake.

¹ *Corresponding author.* Ph.D. Student in Change and Complexity Management at Sant’Anna School of Advanced Research, e-mail: n.annesi@santannapisa.it.

² Ph.D. Student in Urban Regeneration and Economic Development at Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, e-mail: annalisarizzo@hotmail.com.

³ Researcher at Università degli Studi di Firenze, e-mail: matteo.scamporrino@unifi.it.

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