

Conférence : le «Droit à la Ville» (R2C)



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The R2C was born inside a philosophical discourse, and therefore it mirrors a way of conceiving territories as the product of a permanent social conflict, which change forms but never disappear...

The R2C is at the same time a framework to reimagine PARTICIPATION as part of a larger project, but also a concept which share with participation rhetoric ambiguities and the risk to become a "buzzword" - as it is still not anchored to international law frames



Henri Lefebvre

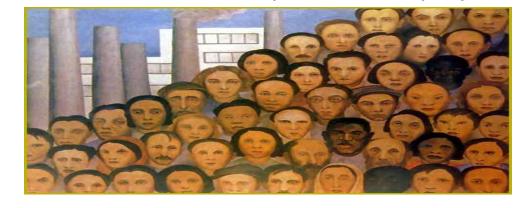
WHICH ARE THE SOURCES ? (2)

Two of the central ideas of Lefebre remained unchallenged, and are still main pillars for the modern vision of the R2C

1) The idea that WHO IS ENTITLED TO THE R2C are ALL THOSE WHO LEAVE IN A TERRITORY and CO-PRODUCE ITS TERRITORY, CULTURE and ECONOMY, independently from their "formal citizenship of a certian country" (post-Westfalain vision of the State)

2) The idea that the "social production of space" is much more important that the solely action of the State in the transformation of the places where people live

and produce.



For the rest, many other "intuitions" of Lefebvre were expanded and reviewed. For example the term CITY has been resemantized, imagining that R2C must refer to all settlements and PLACES WHERE PEOPLE LIVE, independently from their size, formal administration rules and urban or rural prevalence. CHOOSING WHERE TO LEAVE AT EASE, in fact, is TODAY one of the first component of the R2C discourse. But the permanence of the term "CITY" in the slogan, sometimes makes it not-understandable or attractive for all....as it seems a defence of the "urban life" vs other mode of living...

Defining the R2C is not that easy, as each single word is problematic

The Right to the City can be seen as an "umbrella right"

which includes the right of inhabitants to have dignified conditions and fully exert their citizenship, enlarging their fundamental rights (individual civil, political, and economic rights, but also collective rights as cultural rights or those to a healthy environment) with new rights and responsibilities, as having a voice that counts, granting memory to places and urban transfornmations, participating in urban management, living in places ecologically balanced and sustainable... In this sense, R2C include rights of not only those WHO ALREADY LEAVE in a specific place, but of those that WILL COME there. And somehow includes also the idea of NATURE seen as "mother hearth, to which we belong" and must be in hgarmony with....

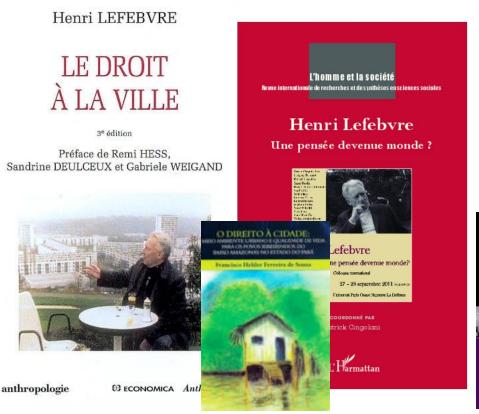
R2C is interdependent in relation to all the human rights internationally recognized, integrally conceived, and includes all those already regulated by International Treaties of Human Rights.

A RIGHT TO HAVE NEW RIGHTS

WHICH ARE THE SOURCES? (1)

The origin of the R2C relays in a "bottom-up process" of incremental definition, which has gradually being correcting the direction...

For example, Henry Lefevre (since 1968) advocated the idea that the "urban question" is a pivotal element of the "social question", thus reactivating the European Urban studies after the II World War, to struggle against the descriptivism of the School of Chicago, through giving centrality to SYMBOLICAL, CULTURAL and even SENSORIAL ASPECTS. He himself evolves, gradually reembedding the central ROLE OF THE STATE, especially in his last collective book "Du contrat de citoyenneté" [on the contract of citizenship]".

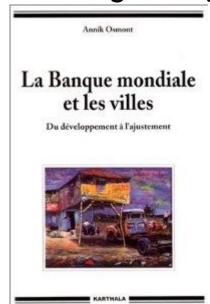






As part of those that Evelina Dagnino (2004) calls "the perverse confluences" (convergences among very diverse actors and very different projects of the world) in the early 1970s also the central institutions of the Washington Consensus discovered the "urban". The latter - until the Robert Mc Namara Report of the World Bank (1970) was not a focus of interest, but just a "negative externality" of country development.

And with the "twin approach" (rescuing informal settlements and providing infrastructure areas for future urban schemes) heavily influenced the world, within a vision of a "Minimal state" but affirming the right of people to remain intheir living places...

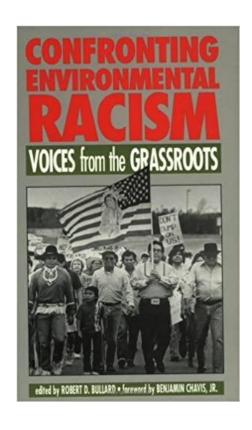


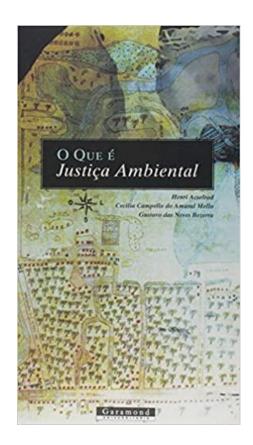


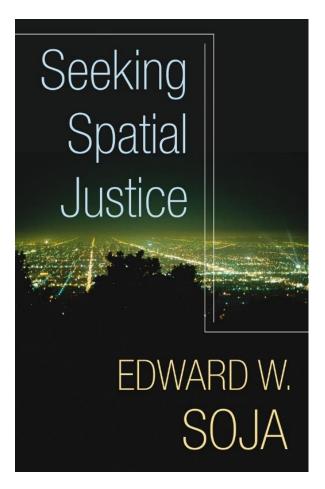


...the marriage between Spatial Justice and

Environmental Justice gave a high contribution to R2C in analysing "racialised geographies"







WHICH ARE THE SOURCES ? (3)

The transformations took place especially in the new millennium, thanks to the WORLD CHARTER of R2C (elaborated by social movements within the WSF) and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (Saint-Denis - France, 2000), signed by more than 350 European cities.



Other documents with a more restricted scope also contributed to enrich the thickness of the R2C, as:

- the Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of Montreal (Canada, 2006);
- the Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (Mexico, 2010);
- the Gwangju Human Rights Charter (South Korea, 2012).







European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City



The European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (Saint Denis, 2000) is the result of the preparatory work initiated in Barcelona in 1998 in the framework of the Conference "Cities for Human Rights", which was organised to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Hundreds of Mayors and political representatives participated in the event and united their voice to call for a stronger political acknowledgement as key actors in safeguarding human rights in a highly urbanised world.

Participating cities adopted the "Barcelona Engagement", consisting of a roadmap to draft a political document aimed at fostering the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights at local level.



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They reinforced the idea of the JOINT PRODUCTION OF SPACE as a socio-based concept, brought new "cosmogonies" into the R2C (as the concepts of UBUNTU, BUEN VIVIR) and the concept of the "right to a solidarity-based metropolis" would emerge afterwards intensively in the framework of the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) and is now being developed as an integral part of the R2C concept

WHICH ARE THE SOURCES ? (4)

So, gradually the R2C concept permeated UN-documents (especially after the WUF of Rio de Janeiro held in 2008) and was "adopted" in Quito "Habitat III" Summit (2015) as part of the Urban agenda, with the consequent risk of "diluting" its social strength and radicality.

But social movements continue to meet and discuss around it, and there is a World Platform which try to incentivize it: http://www.righttothecityplatform.org.br



The main question here in OIDP is: what is the place of citizen participation in conquering AND consolidating the R2C for all?



https://www.cidob.org/es/publicaciones/serie_d e_publicacion/revista_cidob_d_afers_internacion als/municipalismo_internacional_y_derecho_a_la _ciudad_las_ciudades_en_la_era_de_la_globaliza

cio n

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY VISION OF THE RIGHT TO THE CITY, as a permanent effort of transformation of our territories in a human-centred direction

"We can rest content with the bureaucratic exercise of drawing up long lists of good proposals ...(to) answer to all provide an challenges. [...] Political economic activity is only effective when it is [...] guided by a perennial concept of justice and constantly conscious of the fact that [...] we are dealing with real men and women ..]who live, struggle and suffer, [...] deprived of all rights. To enable these real men and women escape from extreme poverty, we must allow them to be dignified agents of their own destiny"

(Speech of Pope Francis in the UN General Assembly on September 25th, 2015)

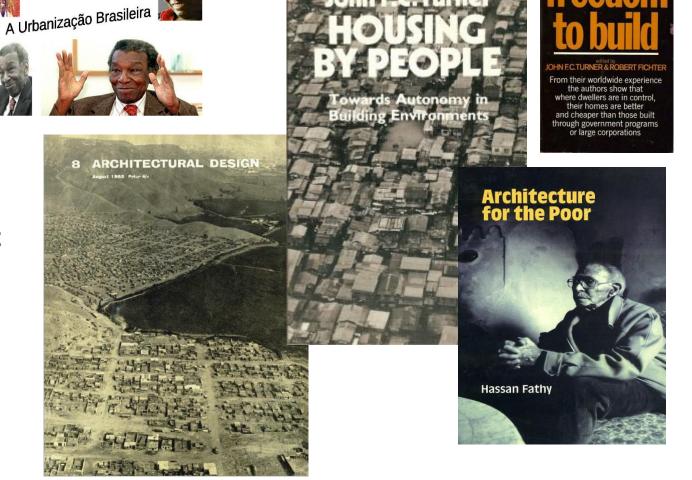
"The right to the city is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city. It is, moreover, a common rather than an individual right since this transformation inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization. The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is, I want to argue, one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights"

(David Harvey – "The Right to the City" - New Left Review 53, September-October 2008)

Many disciplines contributed to set the tight relation between participation and the R2C, and especially those of socio-and geo/spatial origin, interested in studying the DUAL model of GROWTH of the Southern World, polarisation and urban injustice.

injustice.

The contribution of John F. Turner in the famous issue of "Architectural **Design**" of August **1963 on Lima's** slum opened a large debate on "Self-help", but also Hassan Fathy, Milton Santos, and...



Not all participatory processes necessary contribute to create new solid rights for inhabitants. As Archon Fung (2011) states, there are DEONTOLOGICAL PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES only centred in valuing the multiplicity of voices as a principle of an effective democracy, and others (which he calls CONSEQUENTIALISTS) which target redistributive justice and the construction of new rights. The latter are measured/evaluated and evolve permanently in relation to these goals, in order to reach them more effectively



Let me tell you a small story about the urban effects of the Participatory Budgeting of Porto Alegre on the RIGHT OF THE POORS to THE URBAN CENTRE, which costed a lot of effort to the mayor





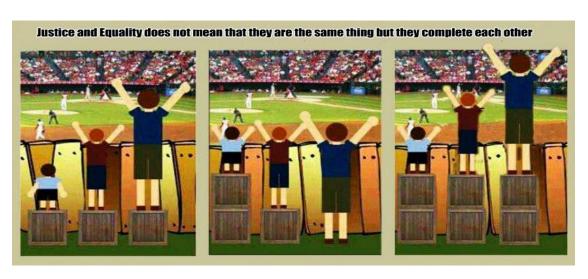






This example makes us reflect on how concrete participatory processes can (or cannot) contribute to the R2C, through combining RECOGNITION OF ACTORS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNTIL NOW MARGINAL in decision—making, and REDISTRIBUTION of resources towards them.





So, a process as Participatory Budsgeting (which is MYULTITASKING) dcan be described differently according to its capacity of being fed by solid goals of valuing demodiversity (Santos & Mendes, 2020), equality, equity, justice and soloidarity – instead of being just oriented by COMPETITION AMONG GROUPS and THE RULES OF MAJORITY vs MINORITY DECISIOn (which is partially its soul and attractive feature)

I would like to briefly exemplify some important components of the possible spaces that participation has in building the R2C through real stories of existing processes...





FIRST: is important that ALL FORMS of PARTICIPATION (also those that Ibarra, 2006, called «by irruption») are respected, considering that participation is a CONFLICTERD FIELD in itself, and hiding conflicts does not pays back soon or later. CONFLICT is a RESOURCE,

but also social movements could improve their form of engagement making them faire...







Expanding "advocacy processes" for vulnerated groups, avoiding to create other new forms of exclusion.

Youngsters as multipliers...

Working on the R2C requires a territorial approach and affirmative actions for those more marginal (The Reunión Island or Venice small islands)



R2C and recognition of the most marginal (The "Ideas on the Run" PB in the prison of Bollate, and NYC PB)



Incentivising the use of ART as na element for attracting/mirroring communities' dilemmas



Changing languages and philosophy for the most marginalised: the case of BOGOTA Policy on "Street Dwellers" (not called as homeless)





EL ENFOQUE DE DERECHOS A TRAVÉS DEL PLAN DE DESARROLLO BOGOTÁ HUMANA: HACIA UNA NUEVA CONSTRUCCIÓNDE LO PÚBLICO

Estudio de monitoreo de la políticas de inclusión social de

ESTUDIO DIRIGIDO POR LA COMISIÓN DE INCLUSIÓN SOCIAL, DEMOCRACIA PARTICIPATIVA Y DERECHOS HUMANOS DE CGUL EN COLABORACIÓN CON EL CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS SOCIALES DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE COIMBRA Y EL

HOMELESS

CHARTER FRIGHTS



EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. THESE ARE YOUR RIGHTS.



You have the right to:

Be treated the same as any other person by government and public services like hospitals, income support & AISH offices, schools and police

Be treated fairly in the legal system. This includes how you are treated by police, other peace officers, lawyers, and judges.

Not lose or miss out on services you need just because you do not have identification.

Medical treatment/care. You should not to be turned down or get less care because you are experiencing homelessness.

Not be searched. a legal reason. Thi

See the rules of an right to have these you.

Make a complaint

- · Shelter/agency :
- Police
- · Health care
- Government wo

Bring a support pe complaint against

BOGOTÁ HUMANA SOCIAL LE CUMPLE A LA CIUDADANÍA EN LA REALIZACIÓN DE DERECHOS

> Visite www.integracionsocial.gov.co Siquenos @integracionbta





R2C implies the construction of spaces for depositing the collective memory of sufferance and pride for resistance (the slum of Bela Vista in POA, and the Museum of Slums in Maré, Rio de Janeiro)



R2C needs outreach in places where people lives (San Luis - Dominican Republic; traditional places in Senegal and Zimbabwe) and infornmation which can help to "unpack complexity"

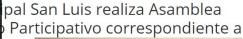














R2C requires the State to be a guarantor that in direct involvement of citizens the "Law of the Jungle" does not rewar

only the strongest actors...

 The negative case of proposition 22 in California wn by Uber which spent 200 million U\$



The positive cases of Citizens
Initiative Reviews in Massachussets &
Oregon, which provide fair and
understandable 2minimum
information"

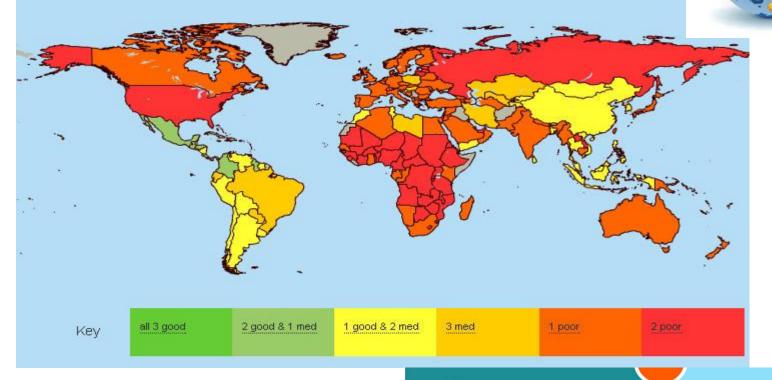




The right to a permanent incremental improvement of public services in the domain of solid waste collection: the case of Mozambique



Measuring differently... World Happiness Index







Community reforestation in Luhwindja (RDC)



Picture 20. Reforesting PB project in Luhwindja, RDC with participation of young students and communities © Espérance Mwamikazi Baharanyi

R2C means for participation to go beyond "conceded spaces", and making people part of the "co-design" (the case of Wuppertal in Germany – which changed the German model of PB and even co-decided the limits of the use of technologies). CO-DESIGN RULES is central for generating TRUST in participants.







- Budget based (150.000 €+) instead of consultative model
- Combination of face-to-face and online (multichannel)
- Feedback loops by municipal staff integrated in the process





The case of the "Parks of Generations" (Skatepark) in Cascais

Fascilitating Monitoring of changes decides through Participation



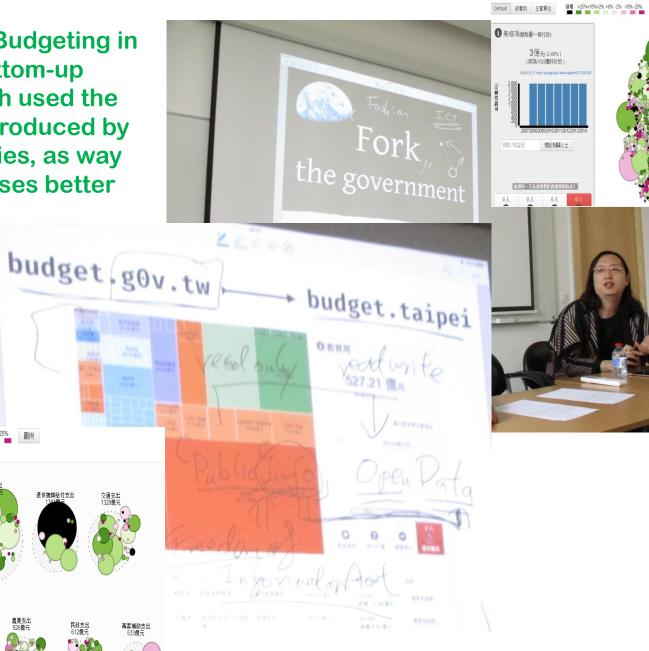






Participatory Budgeting in Taipei as a bottom-up creation, which used the **OPEN DATA** produced by the State entities, as way to make promises better fulfilled...

新增 +25%+10%+2% +0% -2% -10% -25%



3億元(-2.40%)

If the R2C is "changing ourselves why we change the city" an important component refers to the discovery and defend of COMMONS. A network of 234 cities in Italy (since 2014) is working on LOCAL PACTS for co-IMPLEMENTATION of Urban Policies



REGOLAMENTO SULLA COLLABORAZIONE TRA CITTADINI B AMMINISTRAZIONE ER LA CURA E LA RIGENERAZIONE



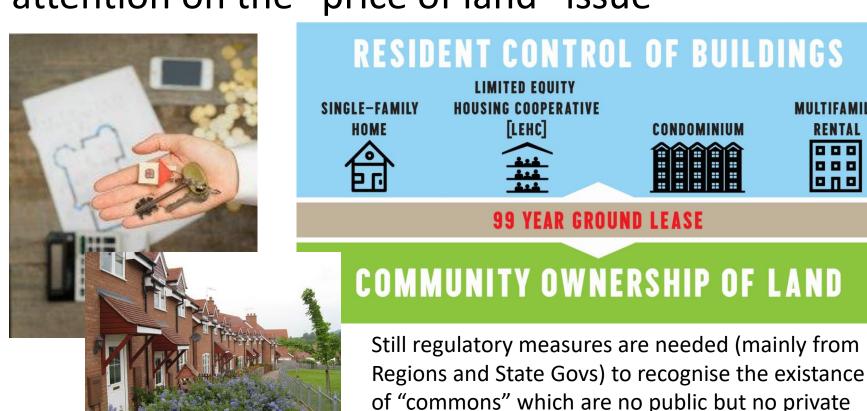
DEI BENI COMUNI URBANI





OBC

Community land TRUST (CLT or OFS - Organismes Fonciers Solidaires) are today a very important tools for alternative housing schemes that male cooperative approaches dialogue with a strong attention on the "price of land" issue



Can local authorities induce changes in markets? The case of MODEL-FAIRs in Brazil



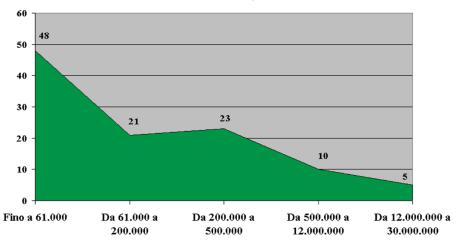
Local administration can also guide processes for reducing the "land speculation" and favour immediate use of empty lands.

The case of Brazilian Urban Areas of Priority Occupation (AUOPS) -

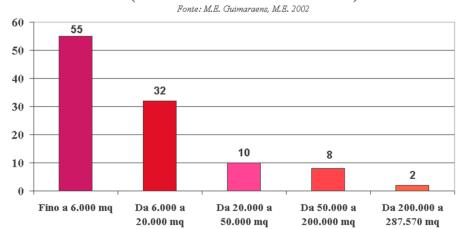


Ipotesi sul numero di beni immobili da notificare all'interno delle AUOPs (in funzione del valore delle aree, in R\$, al 1/7/2002)

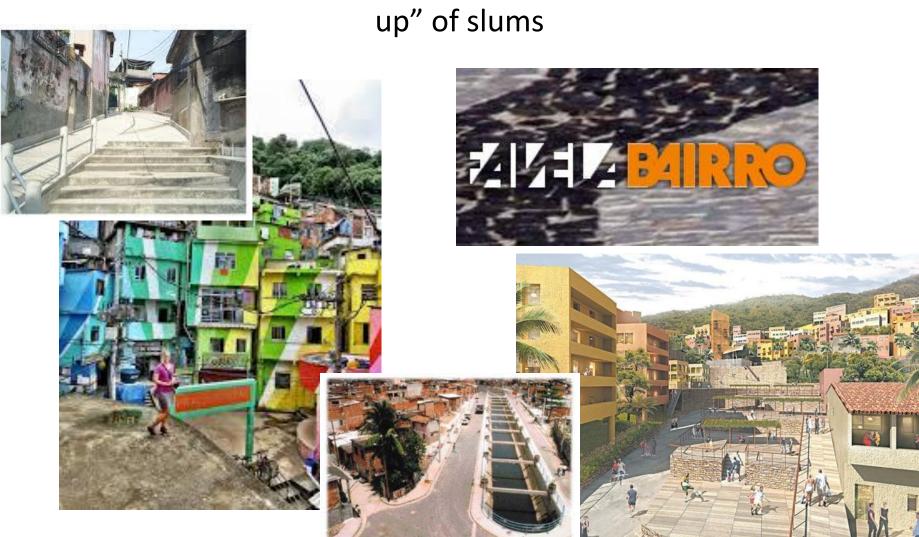
Fonte: M.E. Guimaraens, M.E. 2002



Ipotesi sul numero di beni immobili da notificare all'interno delle AUOPs (in funzione delle dimensioni delle aree)



SECURITY OF TENURE in recognising and reinserting the informal settlements inside the CITY of RIGHTS is a fundamental element of R2C. Its attention to the formalised rights of inhabitants is the opposite of the mere "urban make-up" of slums



Municipalities beside movements are fundamental in opposing market distortions related to housing and mobility (see observatories of CISDP-DH of UCLG)



Citizen participation Community
Development Employment
Environment Food sovereignty
Gender Human Rights
Participatory Democracy Poverty

reduction Social Inclusion Urban

agriculture Urban planning



Events

Publications

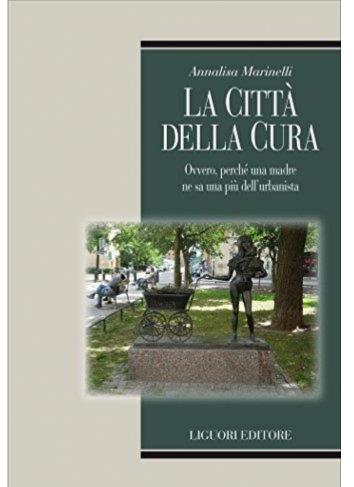




ANTENA SUR - CERO DESALOJOS



But local authorities are also fundamental in adopting new models of urban development, as the bottom-up "feminist perspectives" related to the city of care and reproduction









During COVID 19, local authority networks had not only an important role in discussing MODELS OF PARTICIPATION less dependent from the "institutional formalisation", but also in REFLECTING on HOW their model of participation are able to face certain dilemmas.



For example the RAP Network in Portugal promoted a research and some webinars on HOW THEY INVOLVE UNDER_REPRESENTED groups in participatory processes, and they discover that they do not value inclusion for the contribution to DIVERSITY, and WEBSITES do not try to mirror the complexity of their society

R2C is having "regulatory frameworks" that avoid participation is just a voluntary policy, and can be granted beyond political changes, especially helping the poorest environments (Solecki Fund Law in Poland)

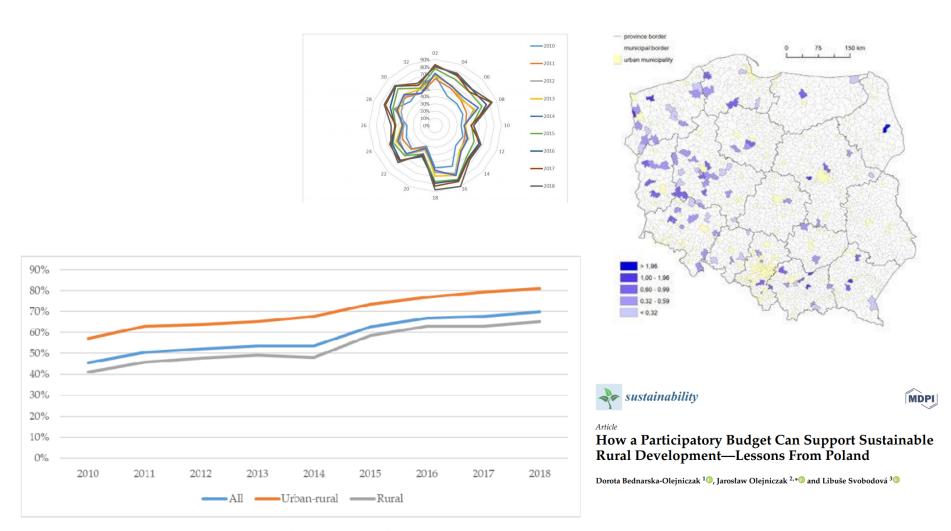


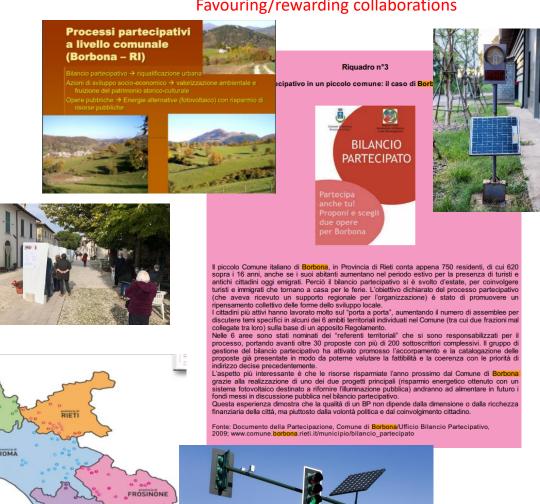
Figure 1. Municipalities with Solecki fund.

In Italy there are five regional LAWS (Tuscany, Emilia Romagna, Puglia, Lazio and Sicily) - which provide FUNDS for processes (and also for the implementation of codecided) priorities, and even helped to fund debates on strategic issues that politicians did not want to be participated (airport of Florence).

Favouring/rewarding collaborations

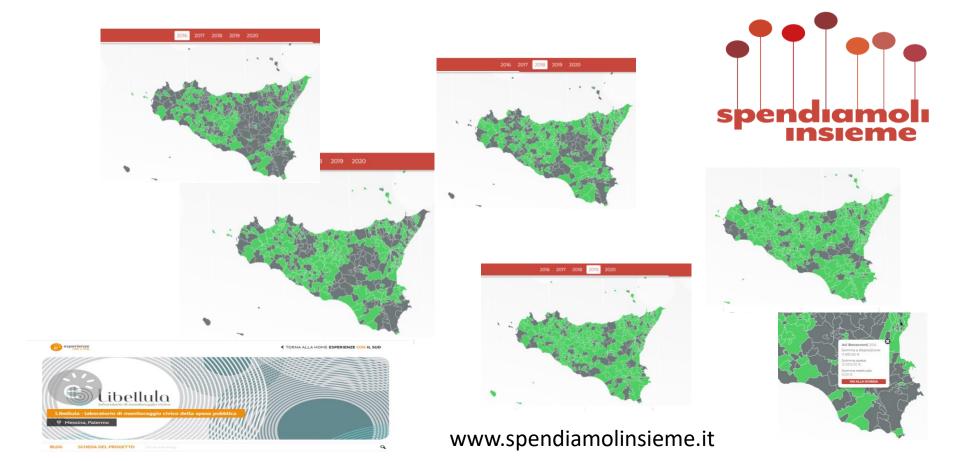


They often have a common limit: they fund continuous innovations, but do not invest in consolidation of already enrooted processes...



Forbuilding a more solid "Right to a high-quality participation" citizens could self-organize, for granting civic oversight of public expenditure

THE CASE OF SICILY: 2,5 millions got back to the Region, as they were mis-used by municipalities. Now these 400 citizens are discussing "standards" and proposing a modification of the 2014 Law



The LAW 69/2007 of Tuscany — a long path written together



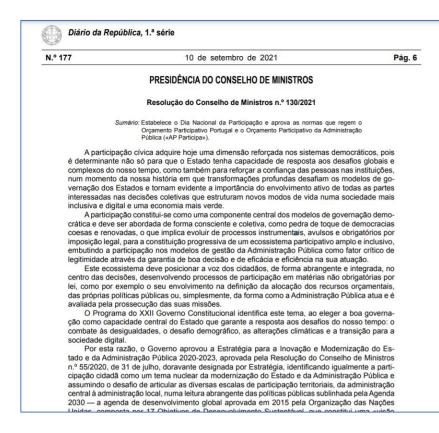


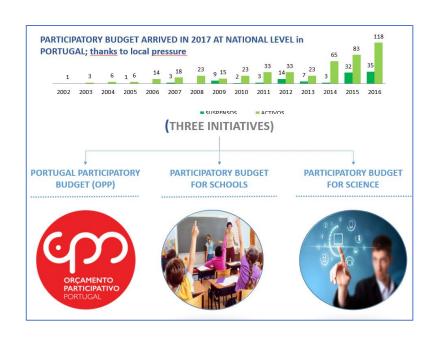
Two tracks:

Working at regional and local level to create a participatory culture

Within a framework of multilevel governance, the Right to the City also means "reducing the burden" on citizens for taking part to actions which can impact INDIRECTLY a territory trough the joint action of other administrative levels.

The Opportunity of Decree 130/2021in Portugal to create a multilevel governance of Participatory Budgets, regulating 2 National ones (OPP and OPA for civil servants) and opening the opportunity of management pacts with Regional, Local and schools PBs (in a country which has 1600 cases today, being 124 in local authorities, 2 in Regions and more than 1500 in schools)





R2C also implies making people be part of the rethinking of Constitutional VALUES (Ireland, Iceland, Romania...beyond mane cases of new constitutions in the African continent)



In this moment the EU is doing an energizing experimente on "The Future of Europe" (CoFoE), whose results are still at risk of high frustartion, as there is not committment on implementation...



There is an important role of public authorities in gradually reducing the "gatekeepers" the preside to processes of urban change



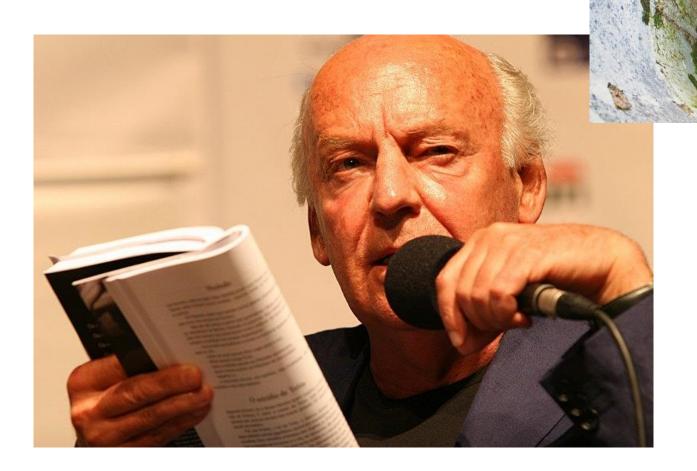








 As writer Eduardo Galeano said once "Nothing significant in this world is done top-down", except wells...







Thanks for your patience! Merci de votre patience!

Doubts and challenging questions are Welcome





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