



Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen
de Développement Régional (FEDER)

Project cofinanced by the European Regional
Development Fund (ERDF)

POLYCENTRIC URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Although polycentric urbanism does not curtain a new conceptual tool, it opens new directions of readdressing particularly urgent questions for the latest economic context. It has been employed sufficiently in order to establish its flexible potential to accommodate the current modifications of social and economic flows. At the same time, perhaps by proving its limitations, it demands new confrontations with political, economic and social situations and debates.

Institut de la Méditerranée with Inflowence's Project Partners will organize a conference in Marseille on the 12th of November 2012, on "Policy and urban governance to the test of financial crisis - *Which impact of the crisis on urban systems governance in the Mediterranean area?*"

We welcome contribution from members of the European institutions: European Commission (DG Region), European Parliament, Committee of Regions, structural funds managing authorities, local policy-makers, planning and infrastructure agencies, research institutes and universities.

We ask you a contribution to the conference that may cover a wide range of issues addressing newest ways of urban intervention.

Contribution Papers should be submitted in English until 15th September 2012 following the procedure described. Paper acceptance will be notified to authors by September 30th 2012.

Participants who would like to present a paper are requested to submit a full paper (max **5000 words**). Papers should address aspects of polycentric or inter-urban collaboration within a



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regional context and have a clear relevance for the wider goals of the In.FLOW.ence project. The paper, in addition, should be aimed at generating discussion during the conference on one or more of the questions stated below.

These may look at collective participation and civic engagement in urban renewal as well as existent economic policy and their employment in recent projects. The conference aims to engage with a general concern regarding the need to rethink the framework of collective participation in order to accommodate the overview of private initiatives.

By such an approach, the organizers hope to investigate the nature of the role of government and state in the context of proliferating individual or collective initiations.

- Are we actually participating in a reconsideration of social practices on more complex urban scale?
- If so, is polycentrism actually becoming an obsolete concept at territorial level?
- What are the ways by which cities face the economic crisis (branding, creative industries etc)?
- How do collaborative urban initiatives improve strategies of sustainability?
- Do bottom-up initiatives change values of ownership in the city?
- Is environmental priority threatened by the current recession?

The financial crisis asks extensive revision of theory and practice from European political actors, policy makers and the research community. The new challenges posed in this short span of three years exhibited a wide range of problems but also the wide range of already present solutions.

While the financial crisis has exposed possible blindspots of local and regional policy in facing the fast developing risks of financial upheaval, it has also emphasized that intensive flows of people, communication, goods and capital can represent the complex solution needed at territorial level.



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The consequent policy developments at regional level may also show that new types of organizations have the potential to overpass the institutional framework and show how territories benefit from individual initiatives. Since the metropolitan environment represents the first locality in emerging types of regional development, the financial and economic crisis has impacted the fragile balance between several levels of decision-making in cities. It brought new institutional or organisational restructuring programs. At the same time it might prove very well to hinder macro decision-making by its closer engagement with innovative and structuring projects. New patterns of urban development question the connection between new localities of power in the urban environment and the role state actors play in the political landscape. Are just some of the starting questions the organizers aim at developing.

Please send the full paper before the deadline to the address:

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