



Movimento Umanità Nuova



CO-GOVERNANCE mutual responsibility IN CITIES TODAY

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CONCEPT

The growing urbanization (in 2050, 7 out of 10 citizens will live in cities) in an irreversibly global context and simultaneously shaken by regressive and sovereign reactions, increases **the importance of studying the cities** and their future.

United Nation Habitat, the "City of Tomorrow", European Union Thematic Issue Paper, eminent scholars - such as Saskia Sassen, Parag Khanna, Daniel A Bell and Avner de-Shalit, just to mention some, research centers such as the Globalization and World Cities Research Network and many others, investigate the growing role of cities, such as: housing choice; node of commercial and financial networks; place of new problems of inequalities, insecurity and pollution....But also as **a place to solve these problems**, through good public policies (better if implemented in the network with other cities) and as **a place of particular identity** based on the common interest in improving coexistence and quality of life in the territory of residence.

As a result, the city is gaining increasing economic and political importance **not only locally but also globally**. It has to face enormous problems with less and less resources, but it proves more and more, due to the propensity to learn and cooperate between cities and to include diversity - capable of solving problems that national and international levels face with scarce results.

This requires those who make the choice of giving a genuine service for the public and common good, **more skills, cooperative capacity, resilience to corruption, a vision** of the identity of his own city and on the general role of cities today, with a wide gaze at the international scenario.

The first challenge is to understand which is the way to govern the cities of today. We should ask ourselves: would decision-making skills, efficient "city-managers" or increasingly complex planning be sufficient? Or should we **consider mutual responsibility as a more determining factor today? This is where the need to learn how to "co-govern" the cities comes in.**

The "polis" in ancient Greece was the place where the citizens went out from their homes to make decisions together. As well as in many ancient civilizations like Andean, Africa, etc. Politics was born in this way. **The city, therefore, was and is the main place for politics.** Today, it is going through a phase of crisis. What possibility does a city have to restore itself?

In the conference **we will investigate whether or not the relationships establish the political life of the city.** Certainly, the everyday, interactions, but in particular public and collective ones between those who govern the city and those who build it in all kinds of

activities. Not only the city relations with which each one builds the political life of the city, but also from which each one and the whole city is, in turn, continually re-built.

We will ask, therefore, **if the participation** is only the “maquillage” of a declining democracy or, on the contrary, if it **is intrinsic to the very concept of politics**. Along the days of the conference, in short, we will elaborate together dense thought and practices of “co-governance”, in which “widespread knowledge” and “expert knowledge” become an only one engine of the city. During the concluding session, a guiding document would be made from the concept of co-governance that emerged from the conference.

We'll try to **'enter' from the 'urban' door**. Not only because of the importance of the use of territory, the livability, the development of the suburbs, but to move from a normative urban planning to a “full city planning”, a full-scale scanning of the cities of today, capable of re-orienting and renewing all public policies with unitary strategies.

An approach that cannot be closed in municipal offices, but rather takes place in front of the entire city, to take a mutual responsibility, which becomes in fact a participatory and deliberative practice. Here is, therefore, a step to **the "co-governance" of the city**: with clear roles, transparent relations, paths built, monitored and improved together by different players.

A further session will start from the wounds of the cities: wars, degradation, inequality and marginality. The cities - which instinctively engage in exchanges, learn from each other and create networks - can search for and offer solutions that are not yet experienced enough. The panel will then deepen the policies of decentralized cooperation between cities with the intention of verifying whether they can effectively constitute an incisive response to even extreme suffering that creates inhumane suburbs or force them to migrate.

Two panels will be dedicated to the clear and transparent relationship that must exist between the political role and the technical role, the prevention and resilience mechanisms to the corruption traps. And also to the theme of cities, pollution and climate change, with an update on the COP24 that was just held in Katowice.

On May 2018, a light participatory process was launched worldwide, between the promoters of the conference, to indicate the expectations, the critical points and the resources of their cities. Moreover, to give an order of importance to the following **transversal approaches to municipal policies: complexity** (in analysis, planning and implementations); resilience (to corruption, to crises, to instability); **connections** (between social classes, locals & new citizens, center & periphery, generations and public policies); **reciprocity also transitive** (I can reciprocate what I receive not only towards the donor, but also towards others, triggering a virtuous circular process, useful in welfare, educational and labor policies); **co-responsibility** (between elected & voters, government & reality of the city, and levels of government).

Every issue will be carried out with a participatory method and with a perspective of continuity in everyone's own region and, on some issues, with the proposal of an online community.

Organized by “New Humanity Movement”, “Movement for politics&policy for unity” and “Associazione Città per la fraternità” - with other possible cooperation - it is aimed to **those who have the tasks of service for the common good**: mayors, council members, councilors, officials, leaders of cooperatives or service providers, consultants; activists, representatives of organizations that are at the service of the city, young leaders, experts on the city, and for those who are preparing for these tasks.