

Abstract

From Rehabilitation to Social Inclusion – A Contemporary Approach to Urban Renewal Processes. Urban renewal is defined as a process aimed to ensure sustainability and lasting effects of transformations while eliminating some existing adverse phenomena. The approach to the urban renewal process as advocated in the monograph work is of interdisciplinary nature and combines the spatial and socio-economic dimensions. The analyses contained in the work demonstrate that, for example, by implementing new laws and tools available to public authorities (including municipal redevelopment programmes), the implementers strive to make renewal initiatives comprehensive and integrated. At the same time, the literature on the subject and the analysis of practical applications provide evidence that present-day urban regeneration is becoming a deeply socialized process that aims to take advantage of local resources (both tangible and intangible) confined to a specific territory. Its success is hinged not only on a well-designed renewal programme but, primarily, on the capacity to include various social groups, the ability to create out-of-the-box solutions, and the use of innovative renewal policy implementation tools.

The purpose of the work is to picture the evolutionary and complex nature of renewal processes, and its chapters address the following specific issues:

- a historical analysis of approaches to urban renewal processes and their definition;
- a presentation of attributes, dimensions and components of a renewal process;
- the role of participation in renewal processes, including methods and tools employed for involving stakeholders; the options of capitalising on the contemporary ideas and concepts of urban development to the benefit of renewal design processes;
- the planning of renewal processes, with special attention attached to the integrated approach.

The analyses carried out for and contained in the work indicate that urban renewal should serve the development of a city that would be attractive to its residents and business as well as being well-managed, compact, internally balanced and, at the

same time, offering good vibes. Based on such an approach, urban renewal emerges as a long-term process of economic, spatial and social transition that responds to the alarming condition of the urban area. It is worth noting that urban renewal is a process coordinated and managed by the public sector while, at the same time, relying upon the active cooperation between social entities and the administration.

The subject-matter analyses put the author in a position to propose the following changes to the approach to this process:

- the shifting of emphasis across the particular levels of renewal processes: from a strong focus on architectural and technical issues toward greater importance of the social dimension in urban renewal while reducing the significance of the economic sphere;
- modification of the function of local authorities in renewal processes: from that of the initiator and main implementer to that of the coordinator;
- change to the subject-matter and spatial scope of pursued activities: from isolated and single-dimension initiatives to a territorially-oriented approach focused on the comprehensive addressing of interrelated and mutually dependent socio-economic and spatial issues;
- revisiting the goal of renewal processes: from an approach focused on problem solving and eradication of crisis phenomena to an approach focused on unlocking dormant resources and potentials of the renewed area and their support for the sake of development of the entire city;
- shifting the time horizon in thinking about the effects of renewal processes: from short-term (over a term of office) initiatives to action focused on the sustainability of implemented changes while highlighting a long-term significance of the renewal processes as such;
- change of methods and tools used for shaping changes in renewed areas: from the traditional methods and tools typically associated with the public sector to modern, often innovative methods based on the untapping of people's creativity and innovation or the unique nature of the resources available in the renewed area;
- change in role and function of communities in renewal processes: from a passive attitude to being an active participant, co-deciding at the design stage and co-responsible for the implementation of projects and renewal initiatives;
- change in the approach to heritage whose conservation can be seen not only as an end in itself but also as a pivotal component of the renewal process.

Keywords: Instruments, interdisciplinary nature of renewal processes, renewal, renewal programme, renewal stakeholders, urban renewal.