

# Preface

This book is a result of the application of the Fluid City Protocol to Sicily and Malta coastal areas regeneration in the project called “Water And Territorial policiEs for integRation oF multisectoRial develOpmeNT” (in acronym WATERFRONT), funded by the Italia-Malta Operative Programme 2007–2013.

The project (completed in 2013) aimed to define common guidelines, strategies and operational tools for planning coastal areas, based on cross-border exchange of experiences in Malta–Sicily for the dissemination of good practices in order to harmonize both the technical planning and political visions, thereby improving the conditions for the conservation, transformation, and development of the coastal tracts of the provinces of Trapani and Palermo and Malta. The strengthening of the infrastructural nodes and their functional, urban and social connection to the territories enhance the development of effective policies and programmes able to build a strategic platform that unifies the islands in the Mediterranean area.

The exchange of experiences and the dissemination of good practices among the partners involved (University of Malta, University of Palermo and Local Authorities) improved techniques of territorial planning and evaluation at national, regional and local levels and improved the ability to apply environmental policies and programmes for risk prevention.

The evaluation and interpretation of interventions already done and the analysis of risks and opportunities offered by dynamic transformations of the waterfront, already activated in Palermo, Trapani and the northern coast of Malta Island was the beginning of the project, representing itself as a model for all of the border of the Mediterranean. The result of the project contains three active scenarios for Malta, Trapani and Palermo, in which every site performs a specific approach to waterfront regeneration; however, every transborder experimental site is the representation of a specific reality about waterfront.

The first is the northern coast of the Malta Island in which urban development opportunities define a context of integration between early cities and new settlements. The second is the periurban coast of Trapani that contains high natural qualities, but the natural heritage is not put to correct use, in respect of nature and

history. The third is the south coast of Palermo from the historic centre until Termini Imerese. This reality produces a conflicting context among city, nature, infrastructures and metropolitan services. The Waterfront Project was an opportunity to exchange approaches between Sicily and Malta about this conflictual situation, producing some solutions able to transform the potential conflict in a real cooperation.

The book explains the methodological framework of Fluid City Paradigm, explains in what way the Waterfront Theorem becomes a working framework and analyses some case studies of urban transformations able to demonstrate the need for a paradigm shift. The last section is an atlas of European practices useful to create new tracks for creative and sustainable development of fluid cities after the metamorphosis.

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The Fluid City Paradigm

Waterfront Regeneration as an Urban Renewal Strategy

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