



CITIES SAVE THE WORLD. LET'S REINVENT PLANNING.  
19/10/2015 – 23/10/2015

**BRUSSELS - CAPITAL REGION**  
MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLARISATION  
IN CITIES AROUND THE GLOBE

**HOW TO RECONCILE LOCAL EXPECTATION  
WITH STRONG INTERNATIONAL  
CHALLENGES WHEN RENEWING A CITY?**

Nataša Pichler-Milanovic | Dirk Van de Putte | Alfredo Corbalan

**SUMMARY**

The Brussels' workshop is a co-production process between Brussels' region and local authorities, urban planner associations and universities. Illustrated by examples taken in the Canal area of Brussels, the workshop studies the issues related to the necessity to act at different scales and to articulate local with European and global dimensions. The workshop focuses on new approaches examining the urban renovation policies, professional knowledge and knows how, the roles of actors and stakeholders, new planning methods and urban design solutions. The workshop runs for two days combining presentations with case study visits of different projects and sites in the Canal area, and deals with global challenge impacting most cities such as international city competition, spatial and socio-economic polarisation, multilevel governance, neighbourhood development and scarcity (austerity) of resources. With professionals from around the world joining the workshop in Brussels we re-interpret, re-categorise, re-connect, re-use and re-invent the city.

19/10/2015 - 20/10/2015

**THE BRUSSELS' WORKSHOP  
WAS ABOUT COLLABORATIVE PLANNING,  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY  
BUILDING FOCUSING ON FINDING WAYS OF  
“HOW TO RECONCILE LOCAL EXPECTATIONS  
WITH INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES”  
WHILE ORGANIZING, FINANCING  
AND MANAGING CITIES**



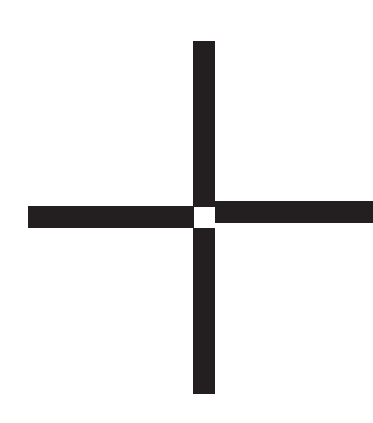
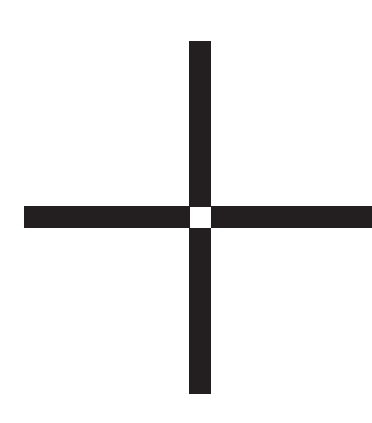


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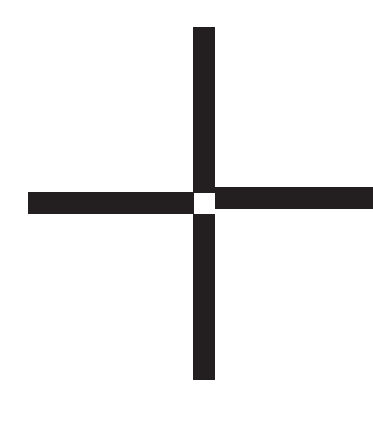
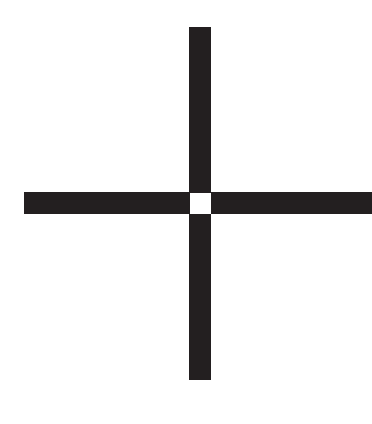
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**THE TOPIC OF THE BRUSSELS' WORKSHOP  
ATTRACTED 32 ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS  
WITH 20 FULL PAPERS FROM EUROPE, ASIA,  
AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA**

**FROM 18 - 20 OCTOBER 2015 ABOUT  
40 INTERNATIONAL AND 30 LOCAL PARTICIPANTS  
ATTENDED THE WORKSHOP TOGETHER WITH  
MORE THAN 10 INVITED SPEAKERS FROM  
BELGIUM, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS  
AND GERMANY**







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# MESSAGES FROM BRUSSELS

THE INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND NEW PLANNING  
APPROACHES ARE BASED IN INTERACTIONS BETWEEN  
REGULATION, FISCAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES TOWARDS  
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, ADVOCACY AND  
INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES

URBAN RENOVATION POLICIES NEED A GLOBAL  
AND MULTILEVEL NETWORK OF GOVERNANCE  
WITH A PLACE-BASED APPROACH

PLANNERS NEED TO BE INTER-DISCIPLINARY ENGAGED  
WITH DECISION AND POLICY MAKERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES  
TO SECURE SCHEMES THAT ARE BOTH INTERNATIONALLY  
COMPETITIVE AND MEET LOCAL PEOPLE'S NEEDS

THE (RE)CONSTRUCTION OF A CITY HAS EVOLVED FROM  
DESIGNING BLUEPRINTS TO STRATEGIC PLANNING AS A  
PROCESS, WHICH INTRODUCES TERRITORIAL RISK AND  
CHANGE MANAGEMENT INCLUDING GOOD QUALITY URBAN  
DESIGN BASED ON CHANGING NEEDS AND DEMANDS

The Canal area was chosen as the case study for the Brussels workshop because the public authorities are now engaging in a new phase of its development that combine the renovation of the city neighbourhoods with a more metropolitan and international dimension.

**TOUR AND TAXIS STRATEGIC ZONE** was until the 18<sup>th</sup> century a pasture for the horses of the Imperial Postal Service by the Von Thurn und Taxis family. This former railway site is one of the last major empty land reserves in central Brussels. The participants were able to experience the reconversion in progress. The tour started with a visit of the largest passive buildings in Europe (the BEL) and the Royal Warehouse, a large, renovated industrial building. There was a stop at the Tivoli project, a new ecodistrict mixing housing, nurseries, parks and green economic activities. Finally the participants discovered recently created network of public parks and enjoyed a view of Brussels-North Business District.

**MOLENBEEK**, the municipality of the mill, was known in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century as the 'Little Manchester', due to the industrial activity there linked to the nearby Canal. The tour focused on the historic district of the municipality and allowed participants to explore different urban revitalisation initiatives, including housing, business centres, the 'Maison des Cultures' cultural centre, the restoration of parks and squares and urban gardens. A visit to the former Belle-Vue brewery, which has been converted into the first passive hotel complex overlooking the Canal, was also part of our visit.





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**INCLUSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH  
COOPERATIVE AND HUMAN APPROACH  
IS SLOWLY FINDING ITS PLACE IN CITY  
PLANNING STRATEGIES. THEY INCLUDE  
NEW FORMS OF SOCIABILITY, COLLECTIVE  
OWNERSHIP AND SELF-ORGANIZATION**



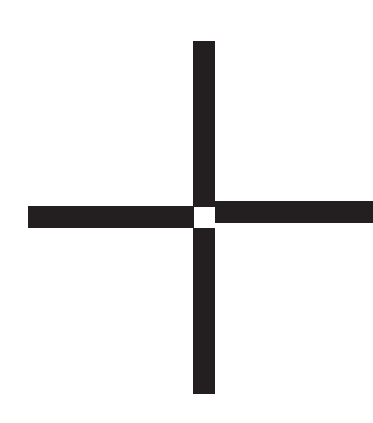
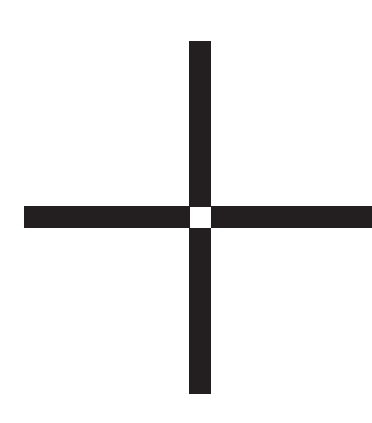


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**THESE NEW IDEAS, PROCESSES, CONCEPTS  
AND PROPOSALS HELP US TO DEMYSTIFY  
FORMAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SHOW  
A BROAD RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES WHILE  
APPROACHING GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

