

EURA 2022 Conference

# Defrag-Europe: fragility/antifragility at play in contemporary Europe

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## **EURA 2022 Conference**

# **Defrag-Europe: fragility/antifragility at play in contemporary Europe**

This Book of abstracts has been edited by **Mina Akhavan, Abdallah Jreij, Dafni Riga, Sajjad Zolfigol, Valeria Fedeli**

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### **With the support of our PhD candidates and Master Students**

Abdallah Jreij, Alberto Bortolotti, Antonio Jose Salvador, Elia Vettorato, Francesco Pasta, Dafni Riga, Jaime Sierra Muñoz, Margherita Gori Nocentini, Sajjad Zolfigol  
Politecnico di Milano Urban Planning, Design and Policy; PHD Programme

<https://www.dottorato.polimi.it/corsi-di-dottorato/architettura/urban-planning-design-and-policy>

Céline Yiran Duan, Dilip Pareek, Sweatha Ramesh

Politecnico di Milano; Master Programme UPDP Urban Planning and Policy Design

<http://www.uppd.polimi.it/>

### **In collaboration with:**

Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Marianna Stori and Francesco Grandi

# Table of contents

Track 1	● Marginalized territories of Europe	04
Track 2	● Mobilities, accessibility and proximity	25
Track 3	● Regenerating urbanity	57
Track 4	● Institutions politics and policies between crisis and transitions	97
Track 5	● Governance of transition	125
Track 6	● Sustainability as a challenge, within an integrated perspective	149
Track 7	● Material welfare, inequalities and territorial fragilization	173
Track 8	● Fragile heritage sites in a globalizing world	195
Track 9	● University, urban research and public engagement	229
Track 10	● Economies and territories at risk	263
Track 11	● Recovery and next generation EU observatory	281
	Author Index	290

## **URBAN REGENERATION IN PORTO: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE EU URBAN POLICIES IN BAIRRO DA SE**

### **Keywords:**

integrated urban regeneration, local development, Porto

European cities have been threatened by many challenges, including socioeconomic crisis, environmental hazards and the phenomenon of climate change, that affect both the territory and the people that inhabit it. At the same time the European Commission underlines the major impact of local urban settings on the sustainable development of Europe, while cities hold the capacity to steer their futures. Since the 1990s that the European Union, together with the Portuguese urban policies, have been influencing the processes of spatial development within the city of Porto by deploying direct and indirect urban regeneration strategies. Among these strategies are integrated urban regeneration interventions which one might wonder if have led to a fruitful local development? This case study reflected upon different programmatic and financial instruments promoted by and with the support of the European Union that sought to positively shape local spatial transformations. However, the urban regeneration process has seen irregular trajectories and different authors emphasise that past and existing problems haven't been effectively solved. Among some of the reasons for such an event might be the political turn towards more neoliberal urban policies, the need for tailored-made, long-term regeneration strategies, or the numerous adjustments made over the years to accommodate the succession of key players and stakeholders. Focusing on the development patterns that have been taking place in the historic Bairro da Sé, we describe the urban regeneration trajectories in this area of the historic centre of Porto and try to analytically highlight the relation between both EU and national urban regeneration strategies, and local regeneration processes.

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