

## INSTRUCTIONS: ABSTRACT FOR FOCUS DISCUSSIONS AND/ OR POSTER

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### ABSTRACT (max 600 words):

The objective of the study is to highlight the crucial points of the discussion that involves the concepts of sustainability and resilience at urban scale in this urban transition towards the degrowth.

Now it is widely debated the presence of unsustainable urban development. A model that we can oppose to this contemporary of *neoeosistemi* is that of a «self-contained system that was fairly homogenous and in which climatic fluctuations are reasonably small.» (Holling, 1973), in sum a complex adaptive and highly resilient system. In ecology resilience is defined as «the ability of a given ecosystem to react and regroup after a trauma, while maintaining the same function, identity and feedback» (Hopkins, 2010).

Three aspects of the discussion will be under analysis: the characteristics of both concepts in relation with their definition and their actual application, their objectives related to the urban and territorial planning and, finally, the assessment tools for the respective quantitative evaluation.

First it seems that the concept of resilience goes one step further: it evaluates the available resources, the cycle of the *neoeosistema* and therefore the metabolism, just as sustainability, but highlighting the individual and his specific relationship with the territory. Is because of this that we can ask: are they antithetic or complementary concepts?

The second aspect is so related to the planing of improvement strategies. When we speak of sustainability we have middle and long term plans that are developed by municipal administrations or international entities with the support of planning offices or specialized counseling in this area (Urban Ecology Agency of Barcelona and Cooperativa di Architetti e Ingegneri di Reggio Emilia). The concept of resilience introduces a change of perspective that reinforces the organizations of a small scale and overall the individuals that form part of a determinate urban reality. This is why we found initiatives that are born from below, from local government or resident associations and solidarity networks. We found here a second important question: do they have comparable objectives or the objectives of the first one can be seen as objectives of the second one?

In short, we will face the problem of the quantitative assessment of sustainability and resilience of a *neoeosistema*. The instruments for the sustainability provide a clear methodology and a specific and precise declaration of objectives related to the improvement of the environmental and social sustainability. In the other hand the “good practices” are linked to the assessment of the resilience and the objectives are less explicit and more linked to the initiative and the activities proposed by the community.

The parameters of quantitative evaluation of urban quality related to a specific context and specific areas of evaluation are identified. The results are shown in the case study of Barcelona. We have analyzed four tissues that are significant respect the mixed character of the city: the Born is the Roman expansion, Gracia the annexation of an agricultural settlement in the city's fabric and finally the Eixample and St. Martí which represent the spread of Cerdà.