Workshop: Re-building Territorial strategies for future European societies

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Workshop Lead: LAND | LAND Research Lab - Drees&Sommer | Integrated Urban Solutions

LAND stands for Future Landscapes as a disruptive innovation in design and planning with a global portfolio of awarded projects in urban regeneration and nature-based recovery. D&S IUS offers strategies, development, and consultancy for smart, sustainable and people-centric urban environments with the expertise to manage and safely implement complex projects with diverse stakeholders.

Workshop context:

Cities have become the focal points of sustainability issues as major consumers and distributors of goods and services - having an ecological impact much beyond their geographic locations. Current urban planning, design and management are part of this problem: in most cases, they do not consider the connections of ecological systems to urban landscape. At the same time, the border between urban and rural areas is slowly disappearing, the country is ‚entering' the city so the urban environments could be flexible for an introduction of country' features - inform of locally produced goods like food, water and energy. Nevertheless, urban landscape as a system of complex relations is very often neglected in the debate regarding innovative and sustainable urban design. Its ecosystem services (ES) are often conceived from a human-centered perspective, i.e. how green enhances aesthetic value of open spaces and buildings, and safeguards people's health; however their benefits contribute also to broader processes, such as circular use of resources and enhancement of ecosystem connectivity, and safety. ES-based planning approaches foster climate adaptation and social inclusion, therefore must be encouraged to boost-public participation and catalyzation of socio-economic growth.

Scenario Problem statement:

Pressures and factors leading to ecosystem degradation, conversion of agricultural and forest land into construction, abandonment of traditional land use, landscape fragmentation with large infrastructural projects, etc. The cumulative effect of the listed factors leads to a decrease in the functionality and stability of the ecosystem, loss of biological diversity, endangerment of habitats with rare endemic species, and loss of the basis for resilient areas. If planned in an integrated

manner they can form integrated green infrastructures (GI), as glue between the social, economic and ecologic strata. GIs need to include aesthetic values, but they also require an investment in turning them into performative landscapes - to increase the productivity and self-sufficiency of cities as an important instrument to foster climate mitigation and adaptation.

From the socio-economic point of view, interventions that respond to certain everyday needs of people in their public spaces, can have multiple catalyzing benefits for urban communities. Besides the tangible improvement of the environment, social design innovation practices in public spaces strengthen community cohesion, awareness of the common good and interest, and finally motivation for further engagement in urban transformation processes This discovers a need for a multi-scalar, poly-functional and inter-disciplinary approach for designing and planning future territories that will be the focus of this Workshop.

Workshop Goals:

The participants will learn how to activate underutilized potential and envision include larger scale interventions including green corridors, circular regions, urban green belts, etc. through instruments for climate adaptation, social cohesion, and value generation. This approach can be used for 'forgotten' places, such as brownfields, environmentally polluted areas, land use conversion areas, post-industrial spaces, etc. This approach holds potential for making a difference in the public realm and activating inclusive urban transformation. The inclusive process of the small-scale interventions', including design and implementation on the ground can serve as an "eye-catcher" for the public and media, reducing the heat island effect, enhancing the land value sensibly and improving general life quality and wellbeing.