Resilience in spatial planning: a emerging process or an illusion?

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There is a growing debate about how to implement resilience approach on spatial planning procedures and the subsequent evaluation processes. While there is an emerging and diverse discussion between social agents about the need of new forms of adaptation to global changes, this process it seems to be adopted only in very few examples.

This paper reflects about resistances to change in spatial planning procedures to emerging concepts related with resilient approaches. Planning and assessment documents and stakeholder participation are analyzed in the periurban areas of ten European cities. Concrete actions programs are analyzed in terms of priority, coherence and budget. Then they are compared with theoretical and practical papers about resilience and socio-natural systems. Key issues are specifically analyzed: Urban sprawl, sustainable mobility, development of new infrastructures, CO2 reduction strategies, energy consumption and production, flood risk, water management, biodiversity in the city, cultural diversity, relationships with farm land around the cities and short chain markets are studied both from plan document and planning process point of view.
Conclusions about how emerging issues are taken into account during planning processes are obtained and if a resilient approach is adopted. Resistances to change and incoherence between policies discuss and concrete action measures are also discussed. Finally these conclusions are presented to the audience in order to promote debate on resilient approach in spatial planning processes.