

Session 2: New Perspectives on Resilience: Paper Presentations & Discussion

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Methods to Integrate Considerations on Culture, Ethical Aspects and Citizen Acceptance into Resilience-Enhancing Urban Infrastructure Planning and Increased Societal Security

Abstract:

This paper presents selected relevant research results from the EU FP7 project VITRUV ("Vulnerability Identification Tools for Resilience Enhancements of Urban Environments", <http://www.vitruv-project.eu>), relating to methods to integrate consideration on culture, ethical aspects and citizen acceptance into conceptual planning urban planning.

While security aspects do not always figure prominently in urban planning, much of that planning has effects on citizens' security. By putting one focus on "soft", such as cultural, aspects in urban planning, VITRUV will help urban planners identify how their planning decisions may directly or indirectly affect societal security. In this context, security means a high level of safeguard for the infrastructure, the supply of goods and services, and for the commonly acquired values of a community. By identifying and validating practical methods to integrate social and cultural aspects in urban planning tool, project results will facilitate the consideration of the multiple dimensions of threats and vulnerabilities in their context of urban planning.

It is a question if urban planning should be placed under the overarching objective of providing security to citizens. Regardless of how this question is answered, security aspects obviously have an influence on how built environment is changed and developed. Conversely, the way in which built environment is changed and developed influences the security of infrastructures, and of society as a whole, both in manifest and in latent ways. VITRUV among other things seeks to assist planners in understanding and identifying those latent aspects, fostering the use and further development of public participation methods to integrate cultural, ethics and citizen acceptance aspects into the addressing of security issues in the strategic planning of public spaces.

The paper will address the following aspects:

- Review of available methods to integrate security-related culture, ethics and citizen acceptance aspects;
- Definition of related urban planning missions and assignment of specific methods to support them;
- Security culture: Subjective assessment of criticality of infrastructure by citizens, with identified indicators for assessment of subjective protection requirements of critical infrastructure;

- Citizen demands and ethics aspects such as acceptability and acceptance of security-related urban planning decisions, including possible forms of participation in an urban planning process to prevent ethics cleavages (such as designing out parts of the population or creating uneven distribution of security), and addressing of gender perspectives;
- Resilience as an evolving concept in security research and how urban planning can contribute to increasing community resilience;
- Matrix of urban planning missions, their security implications in cultural and social terms, and methods to address them, with results of a just concluded expert survey to validate that matrix.

The results of this expert survey show the high relevance that urban planning attributes to missions that address infrastructural issues, such as designing out crime, matching of built environment with cultural patterns, sustainability and citizens' perception of criticality of (urban) infrastructure. Acceptability and legitimacy of planning decisions also rank high. Terrorism and natural disasters are risk that the responding experts only assigned medium relevance in security conscious urban planning. Implementation of gender related aspects was rated of low relevance. This expert assessment shows the importance of security research that assists planners develop increased awareness for gender necessities in security-related aspects of the urban planning process.