

INNOVATIVE PLANNING AS CATALYST FOR SUCCESS IN URBAN REINVENTION: A COMPARISON BETWEEN BILBAO AND BRISTOL

Research Master Thesis Presentation

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INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- FRAMEWORK, INNOVATION IN PLANNING & QUALITY OF LIFE:
- Globalization is determines the contemporary human experience
- Cities play a crucial node role in the world's globalization process
- The 1970s industrial decline lead to the appearance of desolating environmental, social and economic effects in industrial based European cities
- Nowadays, the principal concern of cities is to provide outstanding living spaces characterized by their quality of life
- Urban sustainable development emerges as the paradigmatic ground defining cities' planning strategies towards the attainment of the cited goal
- Cities characterized by a strong industrial past are forced to innovate in their planning strategies in order to release sustainable urban regeneration processes

Freedman et al. 2013; Päun 2010; Rotmans & Van Asselt 2000; Waibel & Schröder 2011; Younger 2011

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- TOPIC: The role of innovation within the planning strategies adopted for the transformation of the industrial cities in reconversion process
- OBJECTIVES: To investigate the relevance of innovation as a catalyst for the success of the planning strategies settled in the cities of Bilbao and Bristol to accomplish the pursued post-industrial transformation
- QUESTION: Does innovativeness define the outcomes of the planning strategies set up in industrial nature cities in order to shift their dynamic?
- HYPOTHESIS: Innovativeness in planning strategies leads to achieve successful results on the urban reinvention process of the cities defined by an industrial nature past
- JUSTIFICATION: Set up theoretical and methodological pillars for further research on the topic

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- DEFINING INNOVATION IN PLANNING:
 - Planning process, agenda and communication
- I) Participation and collaborative essence
- II) Importance of grass-root demands and conflicts to shift the planning approach
- III) Diversity and representativeness of involved stakeholders
- IV) Background diversity of planners and planning crews
- V) Auto-critical spirit & Auto-assessment methods
- VI) Inward feedback practices
- VII) Networking and outer learning expertise
- VIII) Incorporation of ICTs
- IX) Multi-scalar conception & Comprehensiveness
- X) Strategic approach

Abukhater 2009; Burby 2003; Healey 2006; Moulaert et al. 2007

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

DEFINING SUSTAINABLE URBAN REINVENTION:

Environmental sustainability & Climate change

- I) Climate change
- II) Accessibility, mobility & transports
- III) Land use & Compact city
- IV) Green infrastructures
- V) Ecology & Biodiversity
- VI) Pollution
- VII) Energy & Resource management

Social equity & innovation

- VIII) Demography
- IX) Culture
- X) Urban amenities
- XI) Education
- XII) Housing
- XIII) Welfare & Health
- XIV) Social insertion
- XV) ICTs & Access to information

Creative & knowledge economy

- XVI) Financial resources
- XVII) Research & Development
- XVIII) Networks & Clusters
- XIX) Knowledge transferability
- XX) Attractiveness, Creativity & Employment
- XXI) Entrepreneurship & Small business

Alpopi et al. 2011; AlQahtany 2013; Drewe et al. 2008; Eizaguirre 2011; Landry 2006; Begg 2002; Wolf 2009

METHODOLOGY

- STUDY CASES: BILBAO & BRISTOL
- Similar size in terms of population
- Industrial nature and post-industrialization challenges
- Geostrategic location as Atlantic gateways
- Shared geopolitical features as 2nd level administrative and political decision-making nodes
- Similar commitment to developing urban regeneration strategies



METHODOLOGY

- PROPOSAL, STRUCTURE & PROCEDURE:
- Comparative analysis entailing a dynamic time scope
 - Double matrix method
- Linking Innovation in planning vs. Sustainable performance of cities (columns), which should match for each study case (rows) (Dente & Coletti 2010)
 - Appraisal of cities' post-industrial and sustainable performance
- Combination of the 21 key parameters defining sustainable urban regeneration and the strategic axis or objectives collected into the analysed sample of planning documents
- Creation of a general single list of criteria gathering key parameters and strategic aims
- Establishment of indicators (qualitative & quantitative) to measure each of the disposed criteria
- Consistency ranking of criteria and cities performance based on Sandström's (2002) work, producing a value ranking *The claims are not put into practice; **The claims are partially carried out; ***The claims are fully accomplished

METHODOLOGY

- PROPOSAL, STRUCTURE & PROCEDURE:
 - Appraisal of cities' planning innovativeness
 - Consistency analysis for each of the parameters regarding the planning agenda
 - Based on Sandström's (2002) proposal, producing three-faced value ranking for each city concerning the comprehensiveness (consistency among plans and during time); the strategic approach; and discussion level of key topics
 - Questionnaire issued to 4 planning stakeholders of each case, ranking the 10 parameters regarding innovation in planning process, agenda and communication according to the three-vertex value method ***Significant; **Regular; *Scarce, entailing the current situation and the evolution from 1990s onwards
 - Inclusion of the 2 parameters regarding planning agenda to balance the reliability of the questionnaires
 - Ranking of criteria and cities planning innovation through the same score system *Scarce; **Regular; ***Significant
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- Analysis of main features of planning documents

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

• APPRAISAL OF INNOVATIVENESS IN PLANNING

	Bristol			Bilbao		
	Currently	Evolution 1990s onwards	Average Score	Currently	Evolution 1990s onwards	Average Score
I) Participation and collaborative essence	3	2.25	2.63	2.25	2.25	2.25
II) Importance of grass-root demands and conflicts to shift the planning approach	3	2.25	2.63	2	1.75	1.88
III) Diversity and representativeness of involved stakeholders	2.25	2	2.13	2.25	2.25	2.25
IV) Background diversity of planners and planning crews	2.25	2	2.13	2.25	2	2.13
V) Auto-critical spirit & Auto-assessment methods	1.75	2	1.88	1.75	1.75	1.75
VI) Inward feedback practices	2.25	2.75	2.5	2	2	2
VII) Networking and outer learning expertise	3	2.25	2.63	2.5	2.5	2.5
VIII) Incorporation of ICTs	3	2.25	2.63	2.5	2.75	2.63
IX) Multi-scalar conception & Comprehensiveness	2.75	2.25	2.5	2.25	2	2.13
X) Strategic approach	2.5	2.75	2.63	2.25	2.5	2.38
Innovativeness in planning strategy	2.55	2.3	2.43	2.2	2.18	2.19

- Bristol ranks higher than Bilbao
- None of them exhibits outstanding levels of innovation
- Limited evolution in the incorporation of innovation
- Community's engagement and inclusion of social demands as major differences
- Reduced auto-critical spirit
- Differences regarding the planning agenda

Source: Self-made

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

- APPRAISAL OF CITIES' SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE

	Bristol	Bilbao
Development and engagement of local community	2.75	2
Compact urban development and mixture of uses	2	2.5
Improvement of accessibility patterns and transportation systems	2.08	2.17
Disposal of open and green infrastructure	2.33	2.25
Amelioration of waste and resources management's sustainability	2.5	2.2
Reduction of urban pollution	2	2.25
Dive into the process of urban regeneration	2	2
Upgrade and enlarge housing opportunities	2.19	1.75
Enhance welfare and healthcare provision	2.31	2.67
Boost education provision and high-quality education standards	2.25	2.08
Promote an integrative and cohesive society	2.63	2
Increase the cultural and leisure supply	2.5	2.5
Rise city's attractiveness	2.35	2.05
Generation of jobs and employment	2.5	1.83
Foster entrepreneurship and SMEs and proximity businesses	2.5	2
Intensify expertise in creativity, knowledge, R+D+I and ICTs	2.38	2.38
Strengthen networking and international visibility	2.25	2.5
Average score of cities post-industrial performance	2.32	2.18

- Bristol ranks higher than Bilbao (lower than the prior dimension)
- Both cities below their optimal expectations
- Bristol scores accurately regarding social and mainly economic vectors (consequence of the holistic approach)
- Bilbao constraints its best records to the aspects conceived as strategic (consequence of the lack of consistency between plans and topics)

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Source: Self-made

- DOUBLE MATRIX

	Innovativeness in planning	Sustainable performance
Bristol	2.43	2.32
Bilbao	2.19	2.18

- Bristol shows a greater planning innovation and success in sustainable regeneration
- Both cities are moving forward but without excellent success rates
- Excessive reliance on the *New Urban Politics* urban development model
 - Neoliberal market-oriented vision (Prevalence of economic vector over the rest)
 - Social drawbacks as consequence (housing shortages, elites vs. popular classes...)
- Bristol: comprehensive strategy and dynamic planning (adaptability & resilience)
 - Social parameters as priority challenges to tackle
 - Bet on citizens' entrepreneurship and creative initiatives as strategy
- Bilbao: misconnected planning vision and chaotic practice
 - Undue reliance on physical amelioration and the Guggenheim effect
 - Excessive focus on the economic prism
- Community's decision-making capability as main divergence between cases

Brenner & Theodore 2002; Harvey 2008; Krueger & Buckingham 2012

CONCLUSION

- It is crucial to acquire proactive attitudes in order to shift decadent urban dynamics
- Reinvention of cities is defined by their capacity to adopt sustainable development avenues, enhancing citizens' quality of life
- Success on sustainable urban regeneration is tightly connected to the capacity of cities to adopt innovative planning strategies
- Community's engagement as decision-making player is a transcendental matter
- The more innovatively cities plan the more resilient they are
- Disposal of a particular vision of urban sustainable development
- Provision of a simple, effective and replicable comparative method
- The study enables a strong basement for further research on the topic
- Enhancement of the scoring amplitude to increase legibility and representativeness
- Enlargement of the array of indicators to assess sustainable performance
- Increase of the sample and representativeness of questionnaires
- Adoption of an in-depth metropolitan scale research

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