

VALORIZATION OF TOWNS, VILLAGES & RURAL SETTLEMENTS

A TOOL FOR TERRITORIAL REBALANCE, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT



PREMISES

THE REVIVAL OF MINOR TOWNS & RURAL VILLAGES IS A MOST RELEVANT TOPIC DISCUSSED SINCE SEVERAL YEARS IN MANY DIFFERENT FORUMS AND CONFERENCES, THAT PANDEMIC AND CLIMATE CHANGE NOW PUT INTO THE GENERAL ATTENTION. THEREFORE IS URGENT AND NECESSARY TO RISE A WIDER AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION TO SENSIBILIZE NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IN THE UE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY IS REPRESENTED BY THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE NEXT GENERATION PROGRAM.

Urban settlements have grown in harmony with the territory and the environment, with a substantial balance between urban and rural areas based on their specific characteristics. This pattern has been progressively modified with the different industrial revolutions and further unbalanced in recent decades by the global economic connections. Modern technologies now available can provide effective tools for the requalification of rural territories and towns through the adaptation of mobility infrastructures, logistic & communication networks, use of renewable energies.

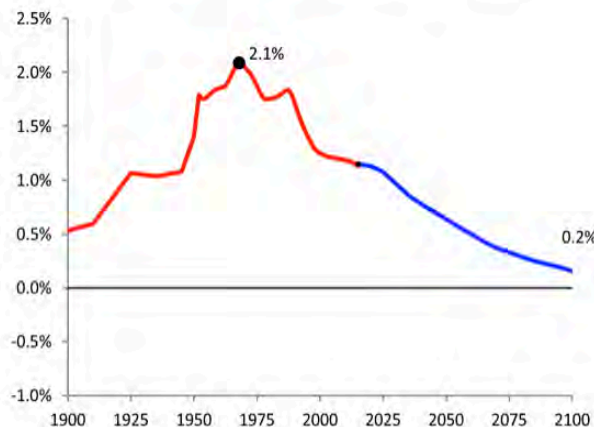


THE RISE OF ASIA 2019 - URBANISM - ARCHITECTURE - ECOLOGY
Paris, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, March 13, 2019
Le Havre, Université Le Havre Normandie, March 14-15, 2019

RIISING DANGERS OF UNRULED URBANIZATION



Figure 2. Annual growth rate of world population, 1900-2100



Source: Various sources before 1950. From 1950: UN World Population Prospects: 2015 revision

Population living in urban and rural areas, World, 1500 to 2016

Total estimated population living in rural and urban areas.

Our World
in Data

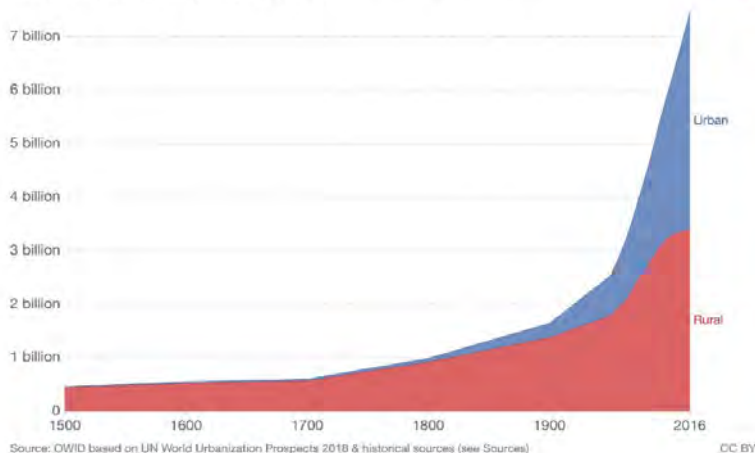


Figure 3: World Population Distribution, 1500–2016

DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION

ACTUAL TREND

Overall, from the peak of 2,19% by 1963, the growth rate of the Earth's population is steadily declining, but that growth remains high in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. The growth rate in the near future will not be homogeneous, but will vary from area to area of the world.

GLOBAL POPULATION

Currently, the world population growth has slowed from the high pace of the past it has seen continuous growth with the growth rate peaking at 2.19% per annum in 1964, but nearly halved in 2008. The population peak of 9.2 billion is expected in 2050 for then decline

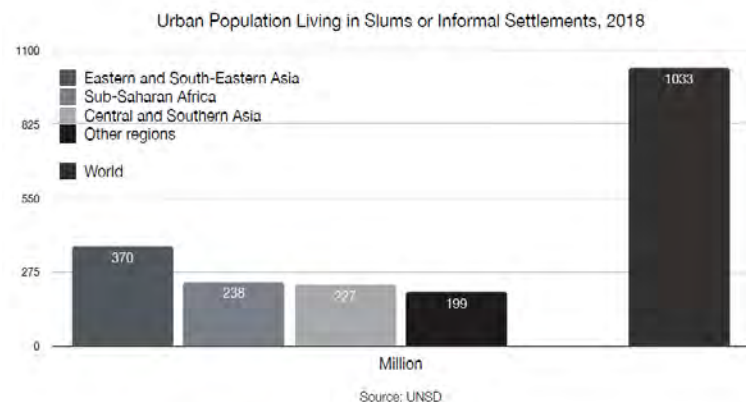
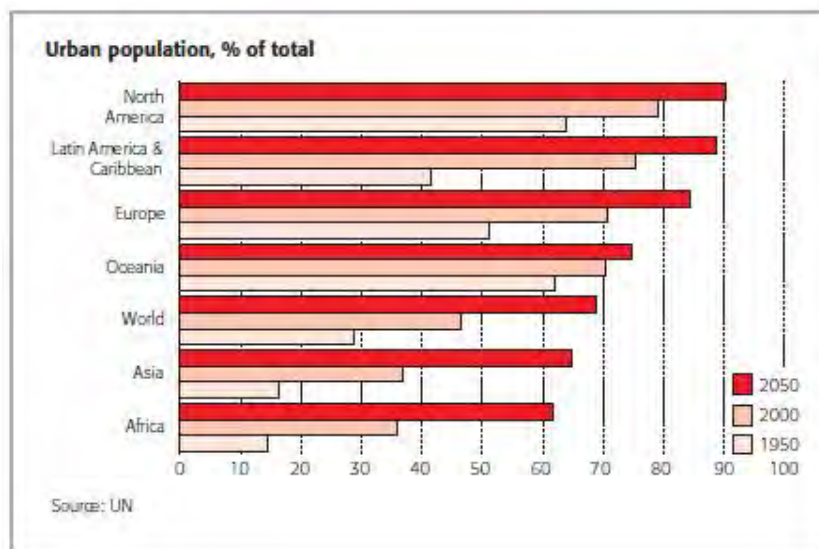


Figure 4: Slums, 2018

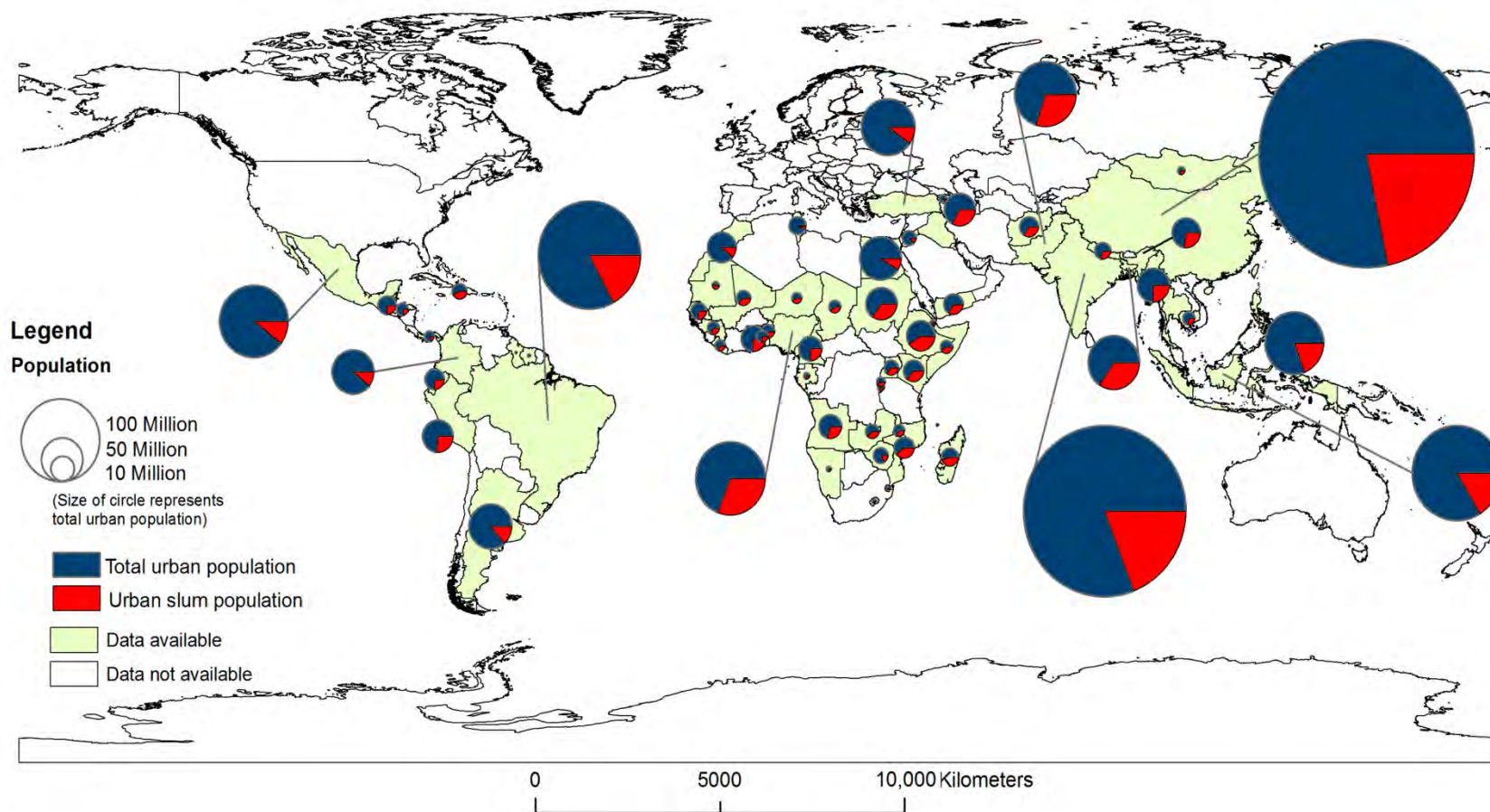
THE URBANIZATION TRENDS

Urban areas are now the hubs of development and innovation, with larger cities concentrating regional and local economies and other global initiatives.

Currently, 757 millions live in the 101 largest cities; these cities are home to 11% of the world's population. Most of these agglomeration are located in the emerging countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, projected to increase in number from 33 in 2018 to 43 in 2030.

UN-HABITAT forecasts, elaborated in last decade, relative to 2050 consider 70% of humanity urbanized, and some independent ones now update this percentage to over 80%

URBAN INEQUALITIES - SLUMS POPULATION



PANDEMIC IMPACTS

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown just how vulnerable the huge and dense metropolitan areas are to contagion. To rebalance the urban – rural relationship, this global emergency represents an unique opportunity to reduce existing territorial inequalities, especially in emerging countries, taking in account the close interrelation between the human settlements and natural environment. A new general approach and vision is therefore necessary to face the challenges that are now emerging and the rising demand to resettle out of big cities stress.



PANDEMIC IMPACTS

The COVID 19 pandemic highlight the advantages of living in smaller towns & settlements, not only for just health impacts, but for the fast and continuous response of local communities in reciprocal aid and support, helping the elders and disfavoured categories, facing difficult circumstances much better than in urban societies. Modern agriculture and sustainable tourism can play a relevant role in improving local economies and enterprises, attracting new permanent residents.



URBAN MODEL EVOLUTION

Modern technologies now available can provide effective tools for the requalification of the rural territory through the adaptation of mobility infrastructures, efficient ITC networks, large use of renewable energies.

The fourth industrial revolution offers further instruments that facilitate work everywhere, access to global knowledge and information, to any educational and health service, thus reducing the need for frequent mobility, which is a major problem in most metropolises.

efficient networks of mobility systems, adequate services spread over rural areas will allow to retain residents in their settlements, recovering the original spirit of social cohesion and sense of belonging to the community.



HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT

Smaller towns and rural villages

Represent each place peculiarities

“GENIUS LOCI” trough:

- ***Tangible patrimony rehabilitation***
- ***Safeguard of intangible traditions***
- ***Vernacular typologies & materials***
- ***Original urban/rural landscapes***
- ***Preserve intangible patrimony***
- ***Community valuable assets***



HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT

Smaller towns and rural villages revival allow:

- Mitigate Rising Urbanization***
- Land Permanent Maintenance***
- Prevent Waste of Resources***
- Reduction of Natural Disasters***
- Reuse of Marginal Territories***
- Develop Modern Agriculture***
- Favor green-economy transition***



ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RISKS PROTECTION

the revival of the smaller settlements will help reach AGENDA 2030 Objectives



MAIN SDG'S INVOLVED

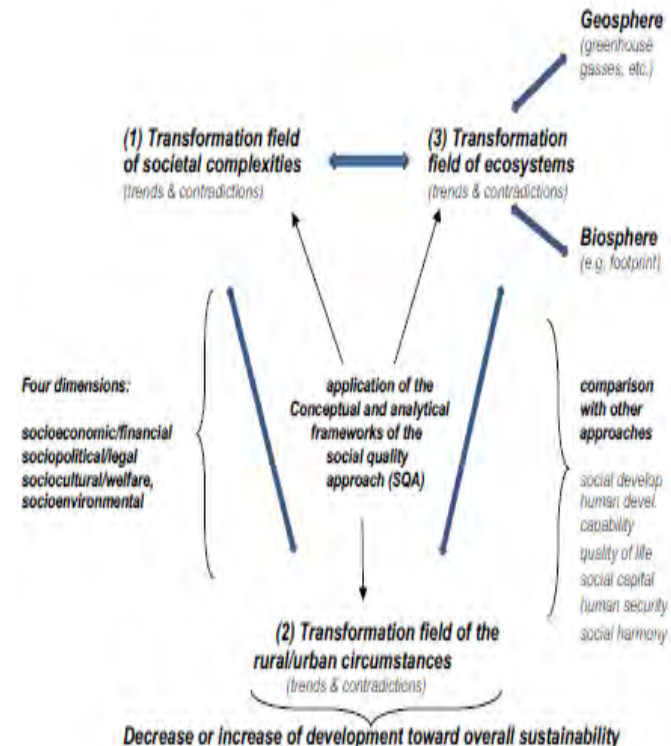
- ***Environment Protection***
- ***Mitigate Migration Trend***
- ***Heritage Preservation***
- ***Patrimony Enhancement***
- ***Save Unique Peculiarities***
- ***Act as human presidium***



SQA - A NEW APPROACH FOCUSED ON SOCIETAL QUALITY AND COHESION

- *Reinforce Social Cohesion*
- *Give Sense of Community*
- *Bottom up Participation*
- *Reduce Urban/Rural Imbalance*
- *Develop Better Quality of Life*
- *Allow Sustainable Development*
- *Focus on overall wellness*

Figure 3 Focus on Three Fields and Their Interrelationships:
Point of Departure for (Especially) the Procedural Framework ¹⁰⁹



RECOMMENDATIONS

After more than ten years and a deeply changed global context is now necessary to revise the Valletta Principles, taking in account new paradigms on the evolution of the entire urban development sector, with a greater attention to also to the heritage of minor historic patrimony and rural landscape. To this aim must be implemented substantial actions for the revitalization of smaller towns, villages and rural settlements,, following the VALLETTA PRINCIPLES.



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION

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