



**18/05/13**

**FACOLTA' DI ARCHITETTURA, ROMA TRE - Largo Giovanni Battista Marzi, 10**

**AULA B3**

**UN-HABITAT: Public space practices and perspectives (english)**

**11.30-13.30**

coordinated by Laura Petrella, UN-Habitat

The definition and creation of public space is the first and key 'urbanistic' act. In many cities of the world, such action has lost its significance and importance. In many cities, planning interventions have not been extended to the whole city, leaving large areas to grow spontaneously and unplanned. Over one third of the urban population in developing countries lives today in areas where no provision for public space has been made – the slums of the world, which house about 1 billion people. In many other instances, planning has created public spaces that cannot be used and do not play their role – badly conceived, weakly connected and centered on the use of the car, the public space in the suburban and peripheral areas of cities cannot play its role.

UN-Habitat, the UN agency in charge of sustainable urban development globally, is working for the provision, preservation and improvement of public spaces as a key element of urban prosperity and sustainability. Its work stems from the realization that well-designed and managed public spaces are a key asset for a city and improve its quality of life. They are key to support dense urban patterns and to support the social interactions and economic vibrancy of neighbourhoods. The street pattern is also the most lasting structure of a city.

In order to 'promote' adequate public spaces, which are real engines of community development, local identity and economic vibrancy, different types and scales of urban interventions are needed. The quality of the individual space is important and determines local impact; the overall system of public space is crucial to ensure accessibility of services and opportunities, for the exchange of goods and ideas. Interventions in the areas of design, regulation and city-wide planning are all relevant and require different approaches and tools. Adequate 'standards' of public space also need to be defined as part of new developments and city extensions, given the dynamics of urban growth expected in the near future. Building the capacities of local government departments and communities is the key to sustainability.

In view of all the above, a broad partnership is required, with national and local governments, with expert organizations both professional and non-profit, and with communities and users. Along these lines UN-Habitat is working to develop a 'global' toolkit for sustainable public space.

The workshop presents some current projects in diverse geographical contexts. Working with specialized partners, these experiences are aimed at developing local capacities and global knowledge that can be shared. The objective of the workshop is to share these experiences through the voices of key stakeholders, and to discuss how to create further alliances and opportunities for learning and exchanging, particularly across regions.

The event will comprise presentations and an open discussion.

The session will present the work done by UN-Habitat and its key partners, including INU, and the overall approach to partnership and alliances which is being promoted. Feedback from the audience on the key themes presented and on partnership is sought, in order to deepen the discussion and to explore how to make available globally more practices and experiences and opportunities for exchange.



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**Participants and presenters** (name, surname, affiliation, other...)

**Opening** (11:30-11:45)

**Thomas Melin**, Director, Office for External relations, UN-Habitat

**Pietro Garau**, Curator for International Relations, Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico

**Presentations** (11:45 – 12:50)

**Laura Petrella**, Leader, City Planning, Extension and Design Unit, UN-Habitat - UN-Habitat practices – overview on public space work (15)

**Luigi de Magistris**, Mayor of Napoli, Italy – A city perspective – addressing public space as an urban theme (20)\*

**Riccardo Marini**, Ghel Architects, Denmark – title to be defined - 20

**Thomas Melin**, Director, and Barbara Galassi, Officer, External Relations Office, UN-Habitat – Partnership approach and 'I am a City Changer' Campaign (10)

\*to be confirmed

**Discussion** 12:50-13:20

**Closing remarks** 13:20- 13:30

**Thomas Melin** and **Pietro Garau**