Managing degrowth in tourist conurbations
The Valencian Model [Spain]

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

The first coastline of the Valencian region is one of the most transformed areas in the Mediterranean. The driving force behind this transformation for decades has been the tourist industry, and specifically the real estate business linked to the second residence (maps 1 and 2). One of each two limits urbanized at the beginning of the 21st century (map 3). Between 2004 and 2006, at the peak of the Spanish housing bubble, in this region were awarded licenses for 315 thousand new housing construction (graphic 1), as well as the ways of communication and tourist infrastructures linked to the phenomenon of urban expansion.

DIAGNOSIS OF THE TOURIST ST CONURBATION

The first coastline municipalities have had a more expensive dynamic (maps 3 and 4). According to Greenpeace (2007), the 50% of Valencian coast would be urbanized, but there are still many latent urban projects (Gaia, 2011) indicates that there are 49 128 hectares suitable for urban development in the region. In the coastal tourist conurbation, could develop still 15 287 hectares (map 5).

However, at the current situation it seems little probable and inexorable to continue with this latent development. According to the report of Calvo-Caballero (2012), on the residential sector in Spain, in the Valencian Community, there are 209 725 new homes in stock - more than 20% of all Spain.

But the worst worry is the amount of urban spaces that remain unfinished, and as part of these new abandoned landscapes of the brick (see pictures). They are areas that have been degraded, but due to its characteristics, they present new opportunities beyond the real estate.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Degrowth strategies are based on revaluation of our forms of habitat (Castelletto & Gaviria, 2010) and integration into the urban environment (Reyes, 2011), trying to rebuild the territorial resilience (Hopkins, 2006). The relocation of economic activities in the territory seems to be a basic premise. It is therefore very important that local administrations -as the competent bodies in the planning of the territory in Spain, are reasonable in their urban planning projects. However, this does not usually happen, and there are still many failures to overcome.

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-Blàzquez, M., 2006, Calmar, contenir i decrèixer. Polítiques de territori, habitat (Cattaneo & Gavalda, 2010) and integration into the urban environment (Reyes, 2011), trying to rebuild the territorial resilience (Hopkins, 2006). The relocation of economic activities in the territory seems to be a basic premise. It is therefore very important that local administrations -as the competent bodies in the planning of the territory in Spain, are reasonable in their urban planning projects. However, this does not usually happen, and there are still many failures to overcome.

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