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## Policies for the historic city

Valeria Lingua

The SP considers the ancient centre and its valleys as invariables, acknowledging their continuing role as the *central place of municipal identity*, representing the *ensemble of the activities and of the social identities* expressed by the local community. The high value of the historic centre in terms of culture and identity is determined by the presence of higher-level functions which make Siena a high-ranking city, inserted in a network of relations that go beyond the provincial level.

At local level the historic centre has been affected by outflows of population to the residential peripheral districts and the countryside and by a progressive expansion of the tertiary sector. The object to be reached thus appears to be that of a correct balance among the functions, both promoting the rehabilitation for dwelling purposes of various owned buildings, and targeting part of the contributions of the Special Laws for Siena on upgrading housing located within the walls. The results obtained have been further reinforced by the forecasts of the city master plans, and by the implementation plans that have involved the historic centre, in particular the measures for the management of mobility and the functions.

In 1995 the historic centre was inserted in the UNESCO sites and was therefore recognized as 'patrimony of humanity'. The Structural Plan, identifying the historic centre as an invariable, accepts these implications and sets a series of objectives and policies for the conservation, management and development of landscape and historic-artistic values, starting from

the statute of the city and of the settlements.

After verifying the repositing of certain dynamics typical of the walled city also in the adjacent settlements outside of the walls, the Structural Plan foresees the extension of the perimeter of the historic centre by means of including the 20th century additions. For the historic centre and its 'outliers', the objectives regarding the preservation of the integrity of the urban layout, the continuation of maintenance and restoration operations, increasing the diversification of the quality functions and economic activities in the historic fabric, and lastly the reorganizing of mobility, take on particular importance.

In outlining the distinctive elements of the strategic component, the forecasts in the SP for Utoe no. 1, defined as 'Unesco Site', the plan recognizes the necessity to maintain the role as the place representing the ensemble of the identities and functions expressed by the Sienese community. For this purpose, the strategy of the SP is aimed at preserving the integrity of the town-planning and architectural layout by means of the maintenance and restoration of the historic assets, maintaining the presence and the social role of the *Contrade* (districts), improving mobility by means of new traffic regulations and of the 'Ztl' times also in order to enhance the quality of public spaces.

Thanks to these policies and to the necessary extension of the perimeter of the historic centre, the assertion of commercial or directional monofunctionality can be hindered by fostering the diversification of quality economic activities and functions also within the historic fabric of the northern and southern outliers beyond the city

walls (Utoe 2 and 3), safeguarding shops and handicraft service activities of historic value and favouring housing. Regarding the role and the recognizability of the city in the supralocal circuit the SP foresees a number of important strategic actions, including, the development works on the former Ospedale Santa Maria della Scala, the broader-ranging project defined as the 'Urban Park' and the setting up of the Parco del Buongoverno intra moenia.