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Federico Oliva The new plan

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**The experience of the
Municipal structural plan
of Bologna***Nuno Portas**

The Municipal structural plan provides an important contribution in the long process of adjusting the planning system to deal with the urban explosion of the last half century.

In addition to changes in technology and production, in the growth of the Gdp pro capita and the middle classes, in the acceleration of mobility, there is a decisive factor, which is that of the uncertainty of processes (in terms of participants and resources), which relates not just to the private sector, but also to the role of the public sector. Thus, a substantial part of activities and of regulation procedures, which were originally based upon prevision, is transposed 'live' to implementation processes, by way of interpretation, alteration, substitution, seeking unplanned opportunities. The Municipal structural plan's approach of including within the concept of the plan the logic of strategy (consistency of intermodal supports, relationships between the parties involved, ecology) and regulation (of uses and spaces in urban centres and external areas) is a courageous move, which is perhaps reminiscent of the 'structure plans' of the 1960s but also of the more recent experiences of urban projects - even if this has arisen within a context of greater unforeseeability and territorial dispersion.

The text highlights benefits and opportunities arising from the Municipal structural plan's methodological aim but also certain potential risks, due to the difficulties in bringing together timescales and interdisciplinary intentions in relation to structures (phenomena of 'splintering')

as well as the ability of administrations to ensure interaction and collateral benefits for programmes in relation to construction works and facilities that are often lengthy.

Finally, the text raises a question as to the possible advantages of specifically linking the Municipal structural plan of the Seven Cities with the previous Provincial territorial coordination plan (drawn up at that time without the participation of the Bologna city authority), in other words of highlighting the true extent of the explosion, and the spatial relationships with the expansions established by the Municipal structural plan.

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