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Promoting innovations
Michele Talia

The weak tie between town planning and urban research seems to fall apart. Draft of an event long attended and feared, prepared from the progressive decline of research founding system and from the increase of didactic obligations which burden on the university staff. Such a phenomenon is not only Italian, and nearly everywhere the emphasis on applied research has monopolized financial and human resources that in the past were devoted to deeper investigations. In the attempt to speed up a reflection that moves in countertendency, encouraging cognitive investments in the areas where the scientific work is risky but potentially more productive, INU has launched in 2006 a 'Prize for doctorate thesis and bachelor dissertations'. In its first edition, it has concurred to signal the six contributions illustrated to you. It testify the wide range of the issues faced in the final phase of the university curriculum, which sweep from strategic landscaping to the use of city art in citizens participation, and from the city borders reshaping to the methodological problems more closely associates to the evaluation processes. Until now the INU project has not been able to go beyond a plain look on what is going on in the Italian university, even if a new step in ahead can be completed.
Beginning from more tightened relationship with cultural institutions, it will be possible to promote the convergence of a wider number of young researchers on some fundamental issues, in order to improve the understanding of the urban changes, and to address

the public policies to their control.