

I GLOBAL VISION

A PROSPECTIVE APPROACH FOR CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION

**Visions of the Leipzig Charter
in the light of the Covid19 experience**

Presentation of paper at CORP 2021 by Judith Ryser & Teresa Franchini

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ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UN – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Recognition of sustainability Rio de Janeiro (1992) - Climate change Tokyo (1997) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – 17 **SDGs** (2015) - Convention on Climate Change Paris (2016)

EU – PRODUCTIVE – GREEN – JUST CITY

EU Urban Agenda (2016) - EU New Green Deal (2019) - EU Territorial Agenda 2030 (2020) - EU **Leipzig Charter**: The Power of Transformation of Cities for the Common Good (2017-2020)

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COVID 19

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COVID RESEARCH ISSUES

- **Covid highlights inherent socio-spatial inequalities**
- **Historically, pandemics bring about new developments**
- **How to harness positive and negative impacts of Covid for better planning?**
- **Covid impacts on Leipzig Charter: just, green and productive city?**
- **Beyond Covid: what scenarios for the future?**

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IMPACTS OF COVID ON 3 LEIPZIG CHARTER PILLARS: PRODUCTIVE – GREEN – JUST CITY

Productive City:

- **Economic decline**
- **Increase of digitalisation**

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IMPACTS OF COVID ON 3 LEIPZIG CHARTER PILLARS: PRODUCTIVE – GREEN – JUST CITY

Green City:

- **Displacement of climate change objectives and actions**
- **Inadequacy of built space and public realm**

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IMPACTS OF COVID ON 3 LEIPZIG CHARTER PILLARS: PRODUCTIVE - GREEN – JUST CITY

Just City:

- **Persistent and more visible socio—cultural inequalities**
- **Ineffectiveness of government and legislation to manage emergency**

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EMERGING CONTRADICTIONS

Re the pandemic:

- **Economy vs public health**
- **Individualism vs social solidarity**
- **Urbanity vs isolation**

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EMERGING CONTRADICTIONS

Re Leipzig Charter three pillar approach:

- **Inequality of pillars: unfettered economic growth dominates ecology and societal needs**
- **Lack of integrated structure between pillars**

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EMERGING CONTRADICTIONS

Lack of fourth pillar: politics

- **Democratic principle is key factor of sustainable urban development**
- **The political-administrative system plays a key role in the tensions between the 3 pillars**

II COVID AND THE FUTURE

Four Post-Covid or With-Covid Scenarios

*A Prospective Approach for Cities in Transformation,
Visions of the Leipzig Charter in the light of Covid-19*

Judith Ryser & Teresa Franchini

II COVID AND THE FUTURE

Existing innovative trends as basis for future post-Covid scenarios

Just City: from abstract promises to equal rights

- opportunities and cultural justice
- attributing value to cooperation, public participation and volunteering

Green City: new planning and design principles

- ecological planning, design and development principles
- restoration of ecosystem: biodiversity, resilient buildings, active mobility

Productive City: diversified economy in innovative business environments

- circular economy, B Corp movement, fair trade, producers, consumers & users assoc.
- new metrics: Better Life Index, Happy Planet Index, Gross National Happiness Index

II COVID AND THE FUTURE

Scenario 1: Back to “Old Normal” - a return to past trends

- ***Society:*** keep social-cultural-ethnic-spatial segregation and polarisation between rich and poor
- ***Environment:*** keep unfettered consumption, depletion of non-renewable resources, rising pollution
- ***Economy:*** keep neo-liberal economic model encouraged by digitalisation, maximisation of personal productivity and control of information
- ***Politics:*** keep conflict between factions, democratic deficit, authoritarian controls, loss of trust
- ***Cities:*** keep segregation between traditional neighbourhoods and self-sufficient and safe neighbourhoods

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SCENARIO 2: Truly Sustainable - inspirational but improbable

- ***Society:*** access to services for all, active citizen engagement, intergenerational and spatial equity
- ***Environment:*** active approved collective and individual climate change adaptation and mitigation
- ***Economy:*** recovery with greater redistribution of resources and fairer tax burden
- ***Politics:*** integrated governance, deliberative democracy, participatory decision-making
- ***Cities:*** compact and mixed-use neighbourhoods, with accessible green spaces and an adequate mobility circulation network favouring public transport

II COVID AND THE FUTURE

SCENARIO 3: “Build Forward Better” - towards a new social contract

- ***Society:*** new models and habits for lifestyle, work, shopping, mobility, education, leisure
- ***Environment:*** environmental protection and resource preservation included in all urban activities
- ***Economy:*** public resources and financial support for the restoration of damaged productive sectors; new frameworks for reorienting the neo-liberal economy effects
- ***Politics:*** proactive local government with public participation in more inclusive planning
- ***Cities:*** new requirements regarding social distancing, hygienic measures, flexibility in buildings, planning regulations and building codes

II COVID AND THE FUTURE

SCENARIO 4: Pragmatic-Realistic - feasible proposals to change current urban state in social, environmental, economic and political dimensions

- ***Revision of land use and residential urban densities:*** more open, green space and transient uses
- ***Using benefits of digital communication:*** less commuting, new forms of non-vehicular mobility, less pollution, more equitable sharing of public realm
- ***Restructuring of space in homes and workplaces:*** to favour flexible and changeable uses when needed
- ***Recycling of vacant urban spaces and empty buildings:*** innovative, alternative experimental local solutions for the reconversion of urban functions

III COVID AND THE FUTURE

CONCLUSIONS

- **Reality is multi-faceted and uncertain: any of the four scenarios may only be partial and disappointing, given human behaviour and resistant socio-economic structures**
- ***But some lessons learnt during the pandemic may persist...***

III COVID AND THE FUTURE

SUCH AS:

- *Strengthening of scientific production in all fields*
- *Reduction of burnout syndrome inflicted by maximising productive performance*
- *Changing lifestyles towards slow modes with higher quality of life*
- *Shifting from a protective to a proactive state giving priority to human needs and assistance to firms generating employment*
- *Changing political attitude refraining from centralised micro-management of the economy, more genuine devolution of power*
- *Recognising micro-economy as key provider of social and environmental benefits*