

Increasing Urban Resilience of Athens'Historic Center

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SUMMARY

Through the last decades there was a change in cities as far as concerning the aspect of protection from serious natural, social and financial issues. The concept of “resilient city” arose in order for the cities to be more flexible in facing crises, protecting lives and properties and promoting economic development.

In Greece the concept of resilience city is not so rife. Athens which is the most important metropolitan area of the country has recently turned a corner in its planning methodology mainly because of the several economic challenges across the country that have resulted to significant unemployment rates in the Athenian centre. Moreover, the refugee movements are expected to create social problems in the near future while the large number of old buildings results in low safety levels for the residents as Greece is in a zone of high seismicity. As a result, a large scale urban intervention should be implemented in order for the city to be more resilient as its new form will act as a long-term risk management plan.

In this paper, the reasons why Athens should be more resilient are presented in detail. Our interest focuses in mobility terms and its importance on the level of quality of life. After assessing them, an urban regeneration plan focusing on sustainable mobility and public means of transport is proposed. Finally, predictions about land values and urbanization trends will be formulated. For that reason, a literature review in the concept of resilient city is undertaken. The principles are related to resilient urban planning should also be studied. In the beginning, a short analysis of the Athenian center should be undertaken by collecting secondary data through existing studies. After assessing the existing situation, some proposals are going to be presented. SWOT analysis and mapping are important methodologies that should be used.