



Results of the round table "Impact of natural and man-made hazards on urban areas"

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On Thursday the 6th of November a round table was organised at the Centre of Architectural and Urban Studies of the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning on the topic of this session. It included a review of the previous editions, and an outlook to the edition this year. We shared publications, and a publication is in work from the round table itself. The series of round tables at the Centre of Architectural and Urban Studies is an initiative of Constantin Hostiu, the secretary general of the centre. This round table was organised by Maria Bostenaru Dan, and moderated by Cristina Olga Gociman, who currently runs a project on a related topic.

From the various ways to approach the effects of hazards, up to the disastrous ones, on urban areas, we consider the most suitable the approach to the impact. From the point of view of natural sciences and of the engineering ones this was approached a number of times, and newly social sciences are included as well. The role of planning and design for a better prevention, and even post-disaster intervention is ignored many times though. The goal of the round table was to bring together multidisciplinary approaches (architecture, urban planning, seismology, geography, structural engineering, ecology, communication sciences, art history) on a problem set from this point of view.

Discussed topics were:

1. Assessment and mapping methods of the impact of natural hazards on urban areas (preventive, postdisaster)
2. Visualisation and communication techniques of the assessed impact, including GIS, internet, 3D
3. Strategies for the reduction of the impact of natural hazards on urban areas
4. Suitable methods of urban design for the mitigation of the effects of disasters in multihazard case
5. Partnership models among the involved actors in the decision process for disaster mitigation
6. Urban planning instruments for risk management strategies (ex. master plan)
7. Lessons learned from the relationship between hazard, vulnerability and impact in recent events
8. Investigation of urban morphology for better estimation of urban vulnerability (interaction between neighbouring buildings, the influence of the position of a building in the historical centre, ...)
9. Investigation of urban morphology to assess postdisaster accessibility of strategic buildings, the role of the urban pattern for emergency vehicles
11. Quantifying models of vulnerability through questionnaires based on point numbers - the role of statistics
12. Interactions between the urban systems which can increase/decrease vulnerability
13. The approach difference in the impact on protected urban areas as compared on common urban areas.
14. Keeping the memory in reconstruction/reshape efforts after disasters, the role of heritage habitat.