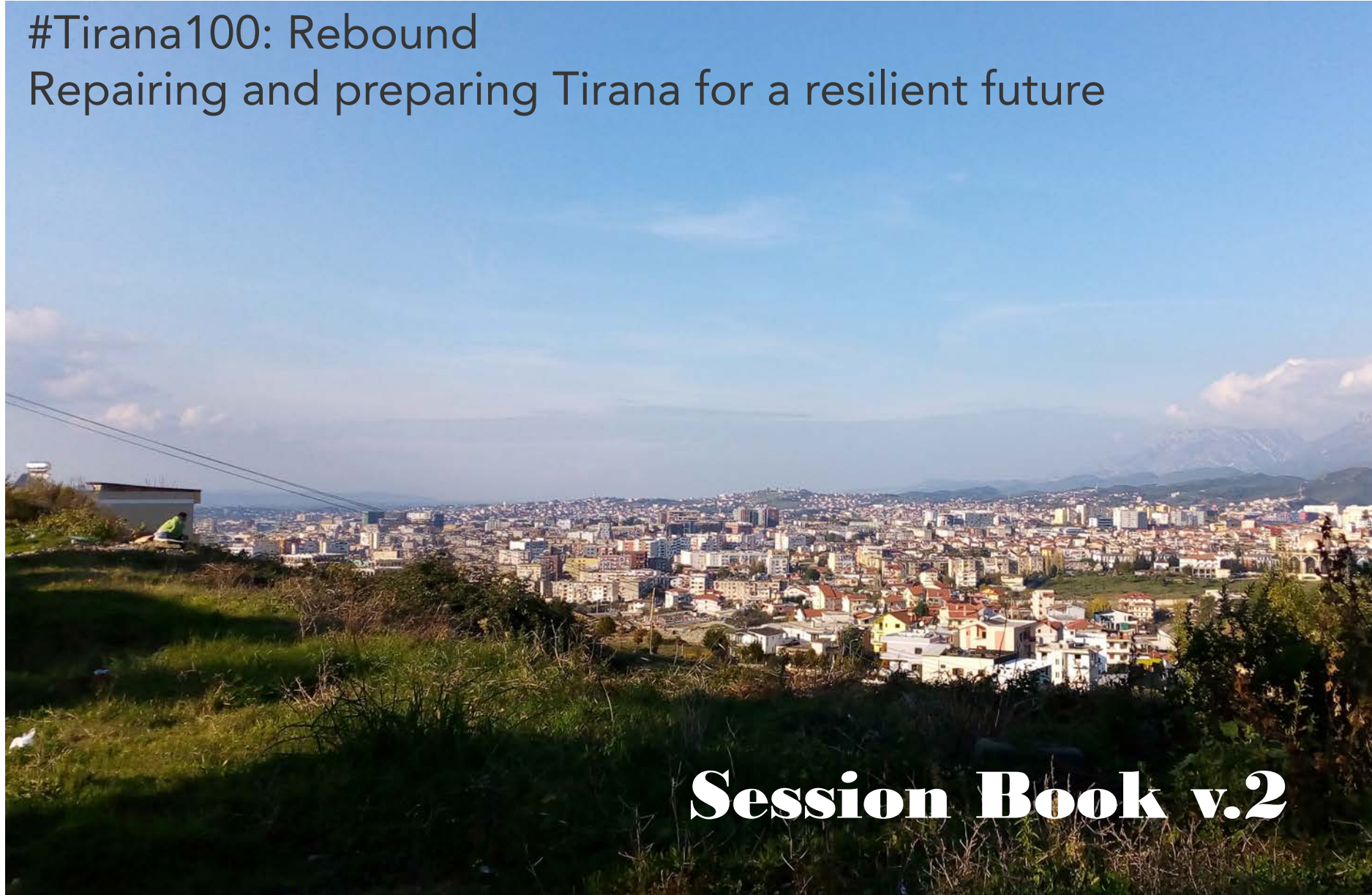




**les ateliers**  
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine

International Urban Planning Workshop in Tirana  
23 January 2021 - 02 February 2021

# #Tirana100: Rebound Repairing and preparing Tirana for a resilient future



**Session Book v.2**

Les Ateliers wish to thank all the partners of the workshop :

**les ateliers**  
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine

Tirana



...and the structural partners of Les Ateliers :

grandparis  
aménagement



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Les Ateliers de Cergy is a non-profit association created in 1982 at the behest of the urban planners involved in the creation of the New Town of Cergy-Pontoise. Today, it is an international network of professionals, academics and decision-makers tied to the field of urban planning. Focused on the practice of urban development, the association organizes workshops envisaged as spaces for collective design and creativity. In France and elsewhere, these workshops provide project managers with an international perspective and illustrated proposals highlighting territorial strategies and urban development projects. By bringing together different professions and cultures, they also offer the opportunity to exchange at the highest levels.

### Our convictions

Creating cities is by its very nature a collective process. As true as architecture enables an individual and identifiable creation of masterpieces, developing cities cannot be ascribed to a single person who would dominate all the aspects of urban creation: this process is collective in its essence.

Based on the logic of laboratory work, urban project management should encompass the various disciplines required to plan urban areas and their interfaces. Therefore, each atelier is a place of freedom of proposal, where the aspirations of collective and voluntary work enable the development of new ideas, innovative projects and proposals for the future of urban areas which are in perpetual transition.

# Foreword



*View of Tirana from the Dajti mountain*



*Workshop Team: Véronique Valenzuela, Simon Brochard, Erida Bendo, Andia Puka Tordeux, Ermal Kapedani and Reena Mahajan+youngest team member Atlas.  
Masks were removed only during the time of the picture*

Since 2019, the Municipality of Tirana in partnership with the non-profit organization Les Ateliers Internationaux de Maîtrise d’Oeuvre Urbaine and the support of the French Embassy in Tirana, the French Development Agency (AFD), and AVITEM (Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories), has started a collective reflection leading to the organization of the international urban planning workshop, taking place in Tirana from Saturday 23 January, 2021 until Tuesday 02 February, 2021.

The workshop is organized according to the original methodology of Les Ateliers de Cergy. For 10 days, 14 international and local professionals from different countries and fields of expertise will meet in the capital of Albania.

After a few days of discovering the territory and meeting key actors, they work together in multidisciplinary teams in order to propose strategies and project proposals for the territory.

These professionals are accompanied by a local committee of partners who will comment on and complete the proposals during various moments of exchange. At the end of the workshop, a jury chaired by local authorities highlights the best proposals from each team.

The workshop is a platform for non-commercial exchanges. All participants and persons involved in the process are volunteers and unpaid. There is no prize or contract to win. The objective is to participate in the collective construction of a vision for the future of the city of Tirana.

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# **1. Topic and Goals of the Workshop**

# A City in Transition



Tirana is the political and economic capital of Albania and a thriving city of 850 000 inhabitants. It is a complex and rapidly changing city of paradoxes. Its lively, chaotic urban fabric reflects its extraordinary history. Having experienced one of the harshest authoritarian regimes of the Cold War period, Albania entered a radical process of change in the 1990s. The last 30 years have been characterised by a transition towards pluralism, market economy and unchecked capitalism, and mass migration to urban areas and abroad. Consequently, Tirana has experienced an explosive population growth and continues to absorb a steady influx of newcomers from all over Albania. Accounting for a third of the country's total population, Tirana is unsurprisingly marked by an intense densification of existing neighbourhoods along with the creation of self built informal housing patterns in its previously rural periphery.

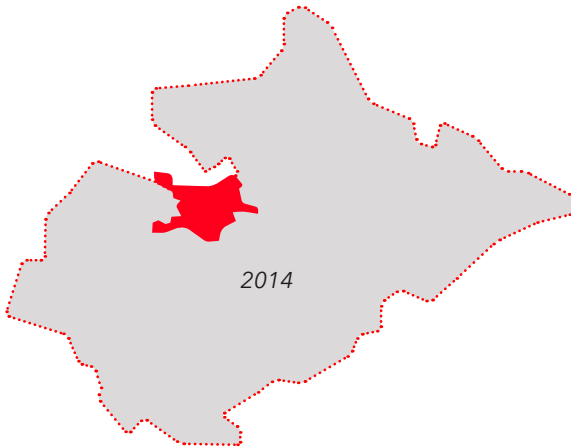
Administrative reforms in 2014 have increased the geographical area covered by the municipality of Tirana from 42km<sup>2</sup> to 1120km<sup>2</sup>, amalgamating with surrounding suburban and rural communities. Decision making has also been centralised allowing for urban planning at a much larger scale. The territorial scale within municipal borders now includes protected landscapes and mountainous villages in the east, agricultural lands in the south and south west, and an economic corridor along the highway to Durres and the airport in the north-west.

Although there is a lingering skepticism between Albanians about urban projects, and of central planning in general, the city is currently in a very active period of urban regeneration and transformation, leading Albania's efforts towards joining the European Union.

## Challenges

Despite these positive changes and aspirations, it is said that the mayor of Tirana is the mayor of every Albanian's plan B. Plan A is to emigrate abroad. There is some truth to this feeling as evidenced by the high rate population turnover - people coming into the city from the regions and emigrating abroad. The reasons behind it are complex. Despite, or because of, its phenomenal growth in the postcommunist years, recent progress in urban planning, and many eye-catching projects that could easily fit in a Western capital, Tirana still faces many pressing issues.

For over two decades there was a proliferation of informal buildings, mainly in the periphery, which are now in the process of legalisation but lack the formal urban services and infrastructure. Providing these services is not only a financial challenge, it is also hindered by a lack of unbuilt space and reticence from inhabitants. The rapid economic and demographic growth and the following construction boom has led to a shortage of affordable housing, lack of quality public spaces, heavily damaged water and green



Tirana administrative reform





Post communist informal housing



Traffic in Tirana-Durres highway

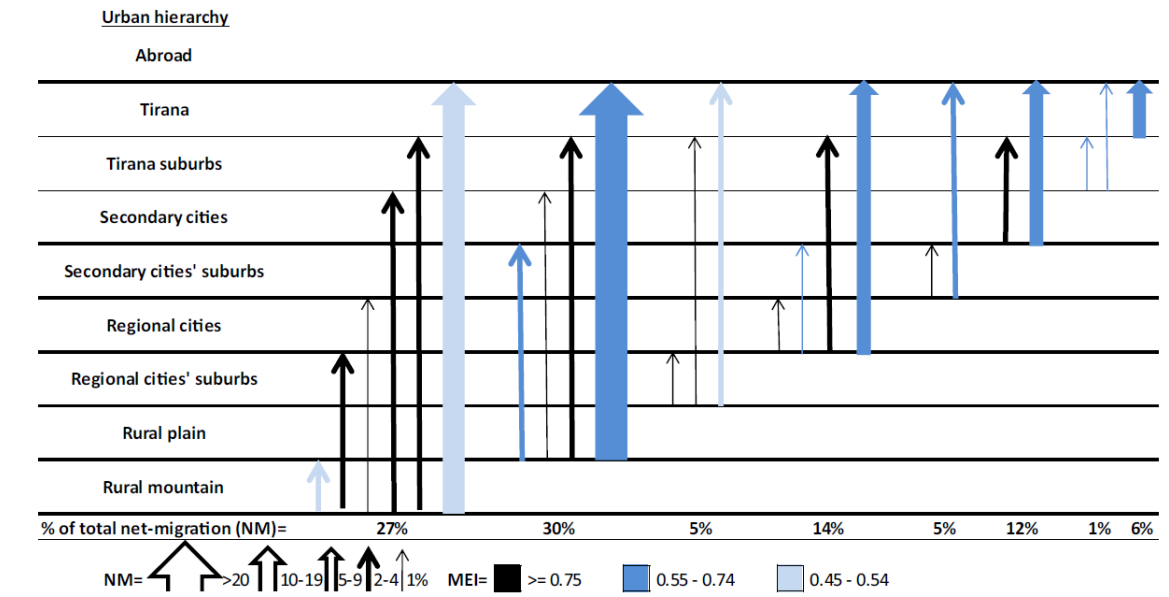
networks, and a generally neglected ecology. An inefficient transport system, coupled with an Albanian car culture that views the car as a status symbol, results in severe traffic gridlock which has economic, ecological and health-related consequences.

Although Tirana's economic conditions are better than in the provinces, there is still a relatively high rate of unemployment and especially high under-employment as young people from all over Albania flood into the city to study and then search for hard-to-find work. This young and dynamic workforce is also one of Tirana's key advantages, highlighted by its status as European Youth Capital in 2022.



Polluted waterways

Urban resilience researchers call these types of challenges *Chronic Stresses* — slow moving disasters which have a direct impact on the wellbeing of the city's inhabitants. These stresses become glaringly exposed when the city is hit by unpredictable shocks.



Migration flows across urban hierarchy and abroad (source: LSMS 2008)



## Between an earthquake and a pandemic

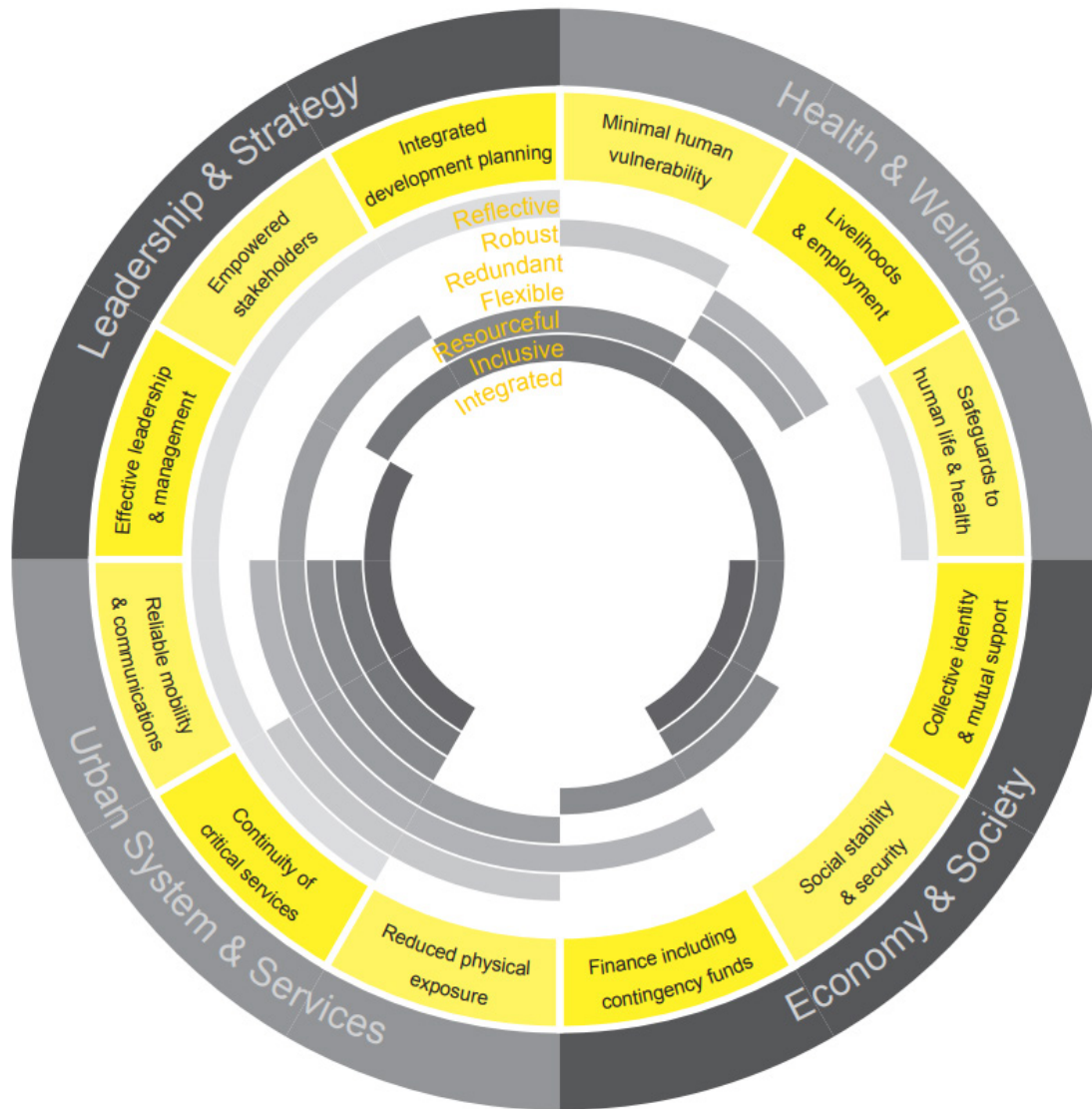
In the past year Tirana has suffered two such *acute shocks*. The earthquake of November 2019, whose epicentre was not far from the city, caused significant damage and has left about 2000 families homeless. The municipality responded quickly to move the victims into temporary housing. It was still in the process of examining the full extent of the damage and exploring reconstruction plans when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived also in Albania. The national government responded by imposing a very strict quarantine, shutting down businesses and the teeming cafes and public spaces. This is particularly traumatic for a city and culture where most business and social activity happens in public spaces, cafes, and bars. Its long term effects are still uncertain.

## Topic & Approach

### A resilient future

The preparation for this workshop began 2 months after the earthquake and continued during the pandemic, as the urban planning priorities of the municipality shifted repeatedly and dramatically in response to these extreme events. In defining the topic of the workshop, the acute shocks, which must be addressed urgently, are considered as an opportunity to also help alleviate the underlying chronic stresses in the city - a crisis as an opportunity.

It is an opportunity to imagine a resilient future for Tirana where individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within the city have built the capacity to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience. A socially, environmentally and economically resilient Tirana.



Resilient Cities Framework

This requires repairing the past and preparing for the future.

### Repair & Prepare - two-prong approach

**Repairing** the urban fabric and providing municipal services after years of informal building, internal migration, and recent natural disasters, while maintaining core qualities and identities.

**Preparing** so as to anticipate the provision of services for the expected growth in population, density, built areas, and economic activity.

Both “repair” and “prepare” have immediate/short term as well as long term dimensions. Actions must be taken now with a long term resilience strategy in mind. For these interventions to have a meaningful impact, they would have to operate at different scales: from block and neighbourhood level to city and territorial development.

Repairing and preparing are interlinked - the immediate repair work contributes to preparing Tirana for the future - for #Tirana150 or #Tirana200.

In this workshop that future will be seen through the lens of Urban Resilience. It is both a theoretical framework as described by the Global Resilient Cities network, and a goal.

The end goal remains turning Tirana from a stepping stone into a desirable destination.

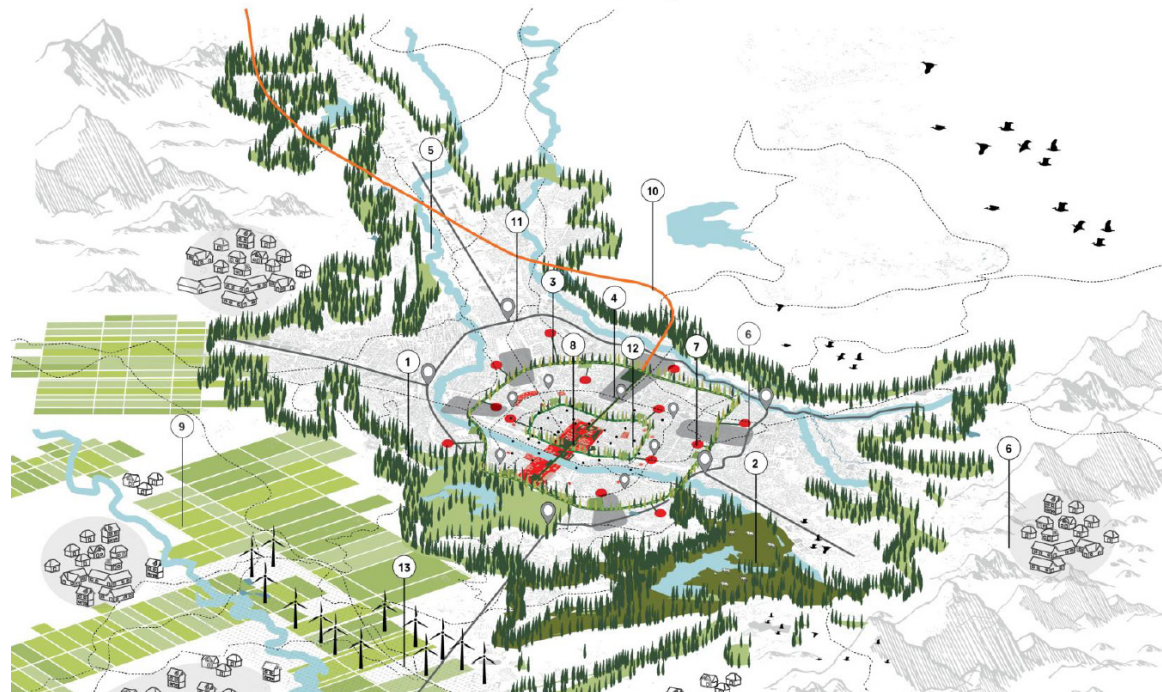
## Tirana's plans and ambitions

One of the first notable regeneration projects was in the early 2000s when the then mayor of Tirana mandated that communist-era apartment buildings which had become dilapidated, be painted in bright colours and patterns to enliven the city and create civic spirit. Since then, Tirana has seen a series of acclaimed urban and architecture projects designed by renowned international architects. Of particular note is the reimagining in 2017 of Skanderbeg square, an iconic space in Albanian consciousness, as a pedestrian public space.

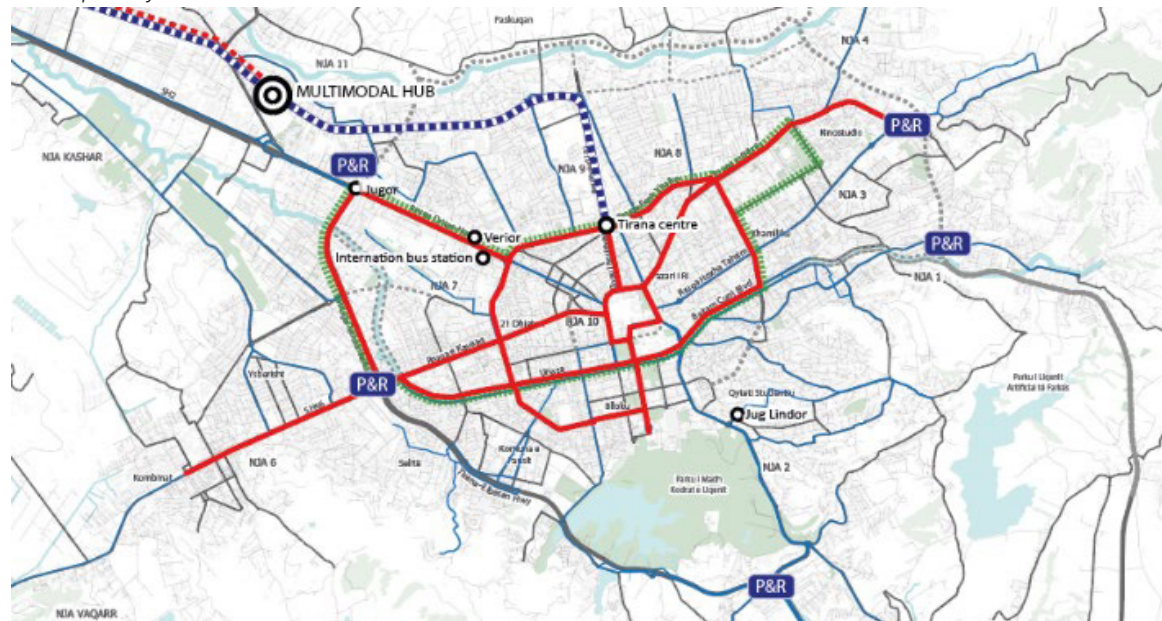
In 2018 Tirana adopted its first urban vision and masterplan since the administrative reforms: Tirana030, designed by Stefano Boeri. It covers not only the city centre but also what used to be independent towns and villages at the outskirts of the city, including rural mountainous areas in the periphery. It aims to transform Tirana into a green and inclusive city through the creation of a continuous orbital forest system around the city that would redefine its limits and act as a barrier to urban sprawl.

In addition, the Sustainability Urban Mobility Plan for the city of Tirana (SUMP, 2019) is a strategic plan designed to help Tirana transition from a car centric to people centric mobility.

Last but not the least, several post earthquake reconstruction projects are currently underway. The idea is to go beyond mere reconstruction and renovation and create new neighbourhoods in strategically earmarked sites. Once complete, these mixed-use cross-financed neighbourhoods would operate as vibrant urban centres that would encapsulate Tirana's vision of a polycentric and kaleidoscopic city.



*TR030 plan by Stefano Boeri*



*Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan*

## Kinostudio in a polycentric city

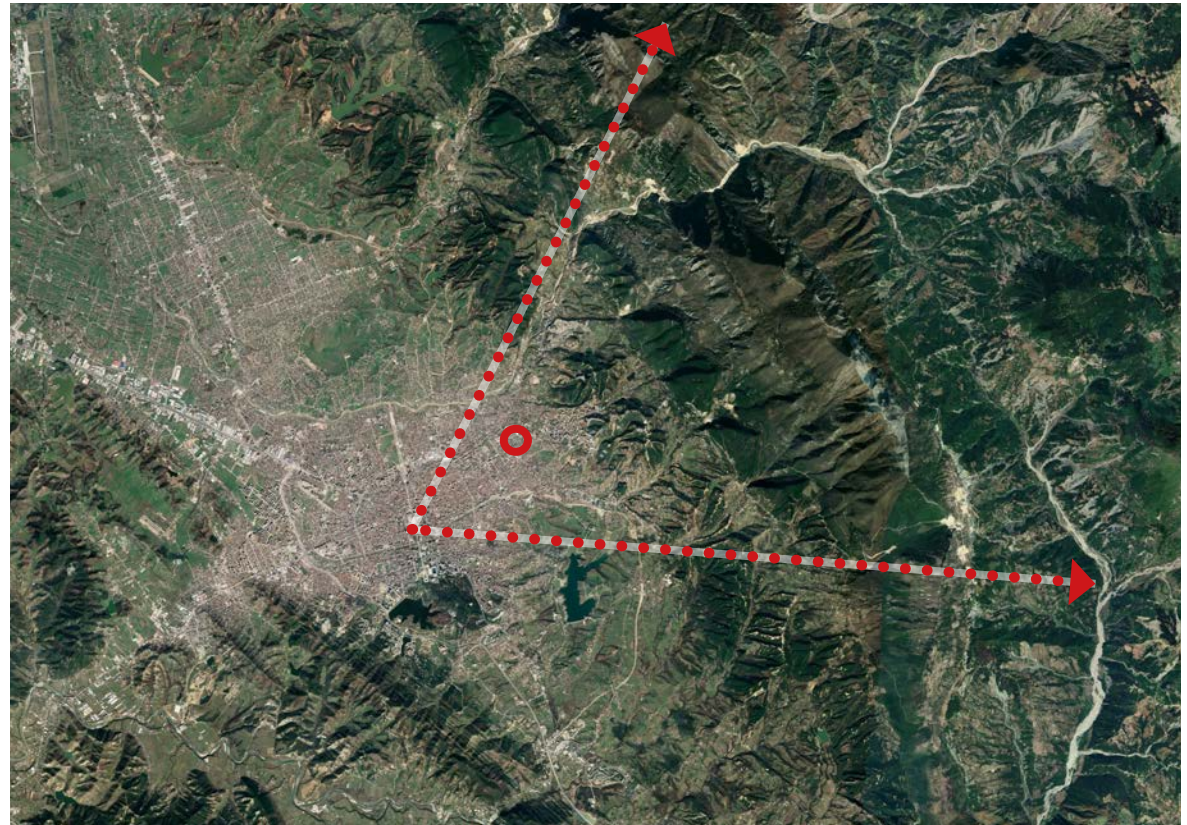
The Kinostudio area has an iconic place in the imaginium of Albanian culture. As the center of Albanian cinematographic production since the 1950s it has produced the images that have built, reflected and recorded the identity of the nation. It currently houses the Ministry of culture, The Marubi film school, the Albanian National film archive, and several TV studios and radio stations. In the 1950s this was the eastern edge of the city. But in the 1990s and 2000s informal housing was built in the available land around the area. Currently the Kinostudio is strategically placed with the potential to connect the urban core of Tirana to the protected natural areas of Dajti National Park and further afield.

## The workshop objectives

Because of its storied past and current program the area is seen as an important node with cultural dimensions in the polycentric Tirana vision of the TR030 plan. Although an international competition for a masterplan of the area is envisioned to take place some time in the near future, the vision is yet to be defined. For this reason, the Tirana municipality has suggested to focus on Kinostudio as a pole of a polycentric Tirana, where the workshop can provide a strategic vision that can be used as a premise for more specific urban design competitions.

With Kinostudio as a starting point, the scope of the workshop goes beyond it, incorporating broader strategies for the eastern slice of the city from the urban core, through Kinostudio, all the way to the Dajti National Park.

The workshop will explore actionable ideas and approaches on repairing the current cracks in the territory, while preparing to sustainably manage the rapid demographic and economic growth in Tirana.



*A slice of the city to the east*



*Kinostudio park*



## **2. Process of the workshop**

# A long-term process to prepare the workshop

## Exploratory mission

January 2020

Les Ateliers team met the Municipality of Tirana team in Tirana during a field mission in January 2020, to have first impressions of the challenges and development of the Albanian capital and discuss on the topic of the workshop.

Due to the peculiarity caused by the global sanitary crisis, the usual workshop process had to be adapted. We paved the way for other online tools that allowed us to bring together a large number of experts, researchers, local and international institutions.



Exploratory mission team

## 1st Round Table - Enabling Tirana's transition towards alternative and sustainable modes of mobility

29.09.2020 - 12:00 – 14:00

The infrastructure of the city of Tirana was mainly designed and built during the communism, when private ownership of the car was not allowed. In the 90s the cars began to own the roads and lead to a collapse of the public transports. Studies show that the status symbol of car possessing is carried on from one generation to the next and it is still very strongly present even at the actual youngest generations. From a social point of view using a car as a way of transportation positions the driver at a high point in society and owes him respect. Nowadays it has become obvious that in Albania the class society based on wealth is taking hold and in these types of stratified societies, symbolism becomes very important.

The debate brought together international experts and local institutions representatives: Dorina Pojani (Lecturer at the University of Queensland, Australia), Diana Sandoval (Architect, Urban planner and Mobility expert, Bogota, Colombia), Enton Punavija (Director Department of Transport at the Municipality of Tirana), Jean Grebert (Corporate Expert in Transportation & Mobility Systems at Renault Group) and Olivier Schneider (President of the FUB).

## 2nd Round Table - Matching municipal services to housing development in a rapid growth context

17.10.2020 – 12:00 to 14:00

The central «older» neighborhoods of Tirana were holistically planned to include all necessary elements: housing, schools & kindergartens, clinics, community centers, public spaces, and the underlying physical infrastructure of water, electricity, sewage, transport etc. These neighborhoods as well the newly built areas in the periphery have experienced both legal and informal densification over the past three decades while the services have failed to catch up to the growth. While the municipality is aggressively trying to catch up to the existing situation, the population growth and construction continues.

The participants of this round table were Frida Pashako (General Director of Urban Planning, Municipality of Tirana - Part time lecturer, Polytechnic University of Tirana), Rudina Toto (Head of Department Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning at Co-PLAN - Lecturer and senior researcher at POLIS University, Polis University) and Peter Clavelle (Former Mayor of Burlington, former Chief of Party of the PLGP in Albania -consultant with TetraTech ARD in Burlington)



### **3rd Round Table - Balancing urban - rural development for territorial resilience**

15.12.2020 – 12:00 to 14:00

The 2014 administrative reform transformed Tirana from a small capital city to a metropolitan region that absorbed its surrounding districts into one big entity: a small capital city of 40km<sup>2</sup> Tirana is now a metropolitan region of more than a 1000 km<sup>2</sup>. Yet most of these peripheral villages continue to see an exodus of young people and families due to a lack of jobs, infrastructure, services like schools and health, and of activities. This is not only detrimental to the safeguarding of the rich cultural heritage of these areas but also strains the city's resources owing to increased social, economic and environmental costs.

The invited speakers were Besmira Haskaj (Head of the Economic Rural Development at the Municipality of Tirana), Ledio Allkja (Urban Planner and Territorial Governance Expert at Co-Plan, Institute for Habitat Development. Part-time lecturer at POLIS University), Etleva Muça (Dashi) (Lecturer at the Agriculture University of Tirana [Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness - Department of Economy & Rural Development Policies]) and François Lerin (Social scientist, agro-ecologist, long time senior-researcher and professor from France.

### **Meet Up - Finding solutions to reshape Tirana as an attractive Mediterranean capital for Youth**

pm03.12.2020 – 18:00 to 19:30

In the project of Tirana as a Mediterranean capital, it seems essential to include youth. Youth refers to a particular fraction of the population between the ages of 15 and 30 which is an essential group for achieving development and the goals of a resilient city. The metropolitan meet-up tries to answer the challenges linked to increasing the attractiveness of Tirana for young Albanian people by doing a benchmark on other big cities in the Mediterranean basin.

Tirana being chosen European Youth Capital 2022, lets us think that the city possesses a large capital of attractiveness. Thanks to its geography, the richness of its history, it could reach the coveted position of Mediterranean capital. However, to slow down the population exodus and become an attractive city for young people, Tirana must solve specific problems.

The debate is animated by the students of the first year of master's degree International Relations Governance at the Science Po Toulouse Institute, with the participation of Babis Papaioannou (Head of Thessaloniki Office of the Youth Department in the Greece Ministry of Education, previously executive director of the Thessaloniki 2014 European Youth Capital) and Julien Dario (Researcher at the LPED (Laboratoire Population Environnement Développement) and member of the Graphite Project).

### **Partners Committee**

15 January 2021

The partners committee meeting held on 15th January 2021 per video conference was a forum for dialogue and consultation between local stakeholders, institutions, researchers, private stakeholders and representatives of civil society around the topic of the workshop.

The Partners committee was intended to get reactions, to enrich the topic through input, and to create a momentum for the process of the international workshop.

Partners and representatives of local, regional and national authorities were present to support



# International Urban Planning Workshop in Tirana

23.01.2021 - 02.02.2021

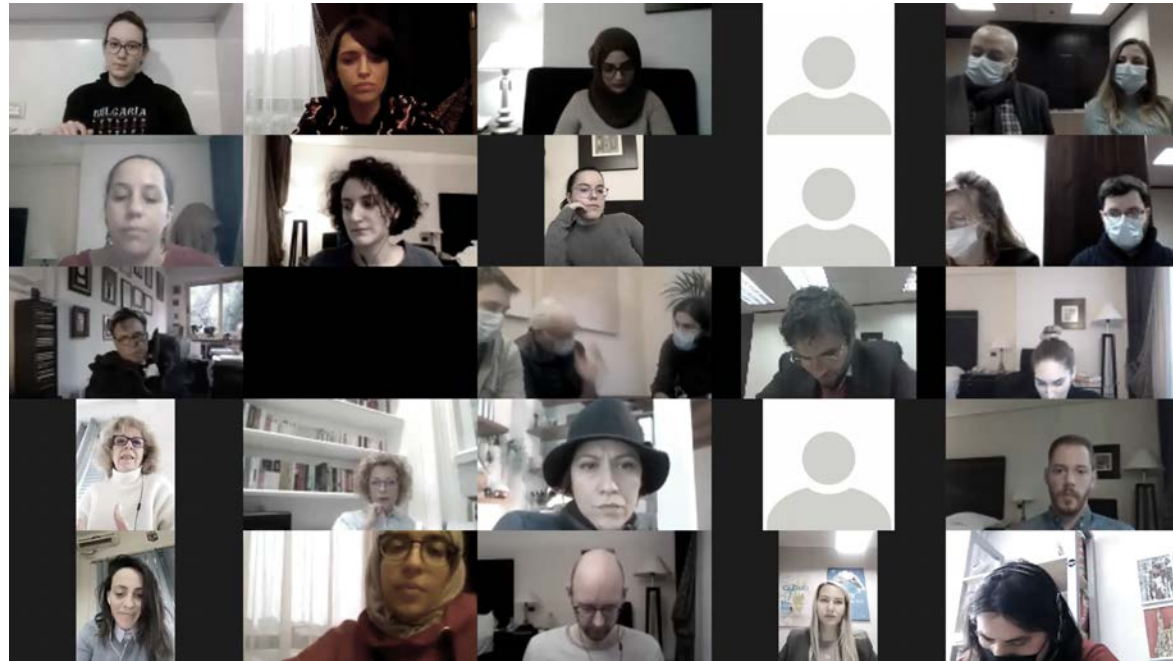
## Opening session

26 January 2021

The opening session that took place on 26th January 2021 and was an opportunity for all elected representative, partners and stakeholders of Tirana to present their challenges and expectations for the international workshop.

There was a presentation of the topic by the pilots of the workshop and the official unveiling of the participants. It aimed at involving local and national actors of Tirana in the workshop's productions as well as stimulating a debate and a constructive dialogue between those actors and the participants of the workshop. They talked

about possible developments of the Kinostudio area and the spaces around it. Kinostudio is one of the future polycentric centers of Tirana. The made discussions recall the potential magic the next development steps may bring to this part of the city by empowering through improving the economic situation, creating international media centers, etc.



*Moments from the opening ceremony*

## Among other participants

- Anuela Ristani, Deputy mayor of Tirana
- Frida Pashako
- Nevin Bilali
- Endrit Marku
- Iris Elezi

# Exchange Forum

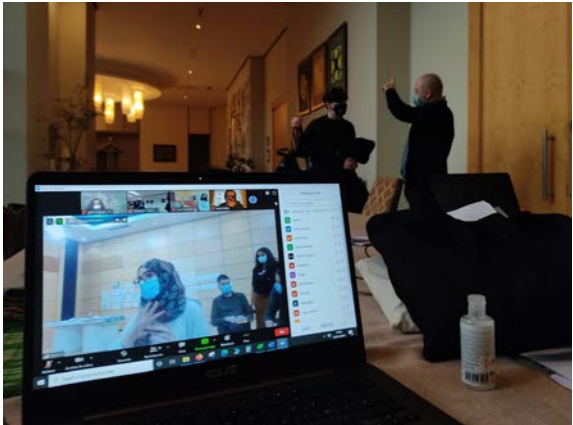
28 January 2021

The exchange forum is the heart of the method of collective production of Les Ateliers. Local partners, stakeholders, professors and guests joined per videoconference or onsite to follow the teams' progress and comment on their proposals. Each team presentation took place in 3 separate rooms in order to respect the sanitary rules and the maximum number of persons allowed in a closed space. It was followed by a debate and recommendations which contribute to enrich their proposals. The exchange forum held on 28th January 2021 enabled the discovery of diverse proposals with different approaches from the three teams.

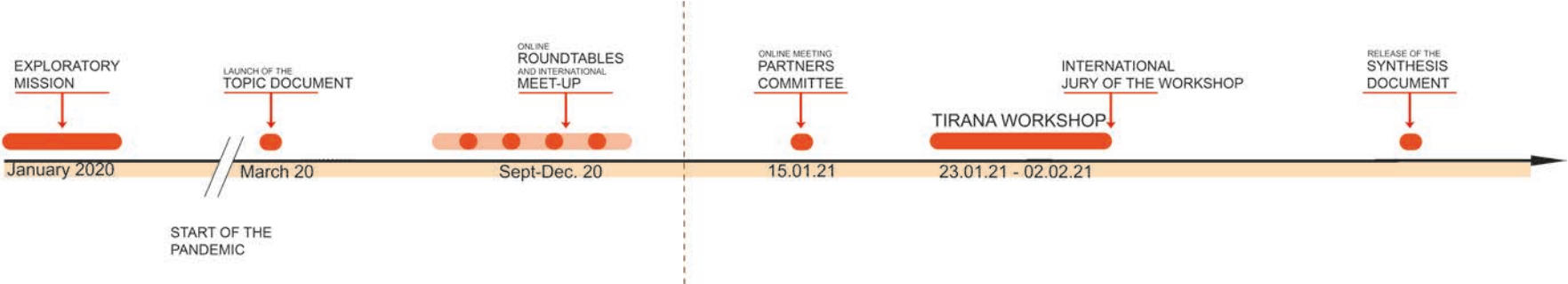
14 participants and Les Ateliers team were in Tirana.

Invited onsite:  
Besmira Haskaj, Doris Alimerko, Edlir Vokopola, Etleva Dashi, Arba Baxhaku, Iris Elezi.

Participants online  
Alain Kendirgi, Eljana Limaci, Rudina Toto, Ledio Allkja, Mirela Mata, Anne-Elisabeth Gautier, Francois Lerin, Florence Bougnoux, Kreshnik Bajraktari, Frederic Schroeder.



Moments from the exchange forum





View from Durrës Street

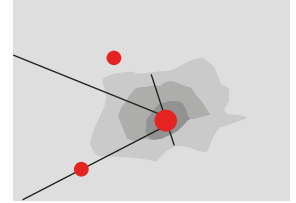
# Visits

Saturday 23th January 2021

## Heritage, rehabilitation and integration of informality

For the first day of visits we left the hotel to discover the city of Tirana starting from its main historical axis, the Martyrs of the Nation Boulevard. During this visit we were accompanied by the team of the Municipality of Tirana, Nevin Bilali, Arba Baxhaku, Mirela Kocollari, and Fiona Canaj, from Endrit Marku (Polis University), and from Eliana Limaçi and Skender Biba, representing the Tirana Cadastre. Walking through the Blloku area, we faced the evolution from the district of the communist elites to the trendy district nowadays. We followed our visit with a glimpse of the Pyramid and the Hotel Dajti, than by crossing the Lana river we reached the "central park" of Tirana. Afterwards we walked through the street of Kavaja and Durres observing the oldest villas of these area. Mirela and Arba introduced the participants to the Skanderbeg Square, where the oldest and main streets of the city converge.

In the afternoon we travelled by bus in direction of the Kombinati area where we met with Edian Mece from the Reconstruction Department at the Municipality of Tirana and we got a vision of a neighbourhood affected by the earthquake where a new neighbourhood of the poly-centric Tirana is planned. We then moved to one of the most characteristic neighbourhoods in terms of informal constructions, Bathore in the Kamza municipality. Alas the traffic of the capital, the rain and the setting sun did not allow us to visit each corner of the alleys.



*Start of the visit in Mother Teresa square, with Endrit Marku*



*In front of Skanderbeg Square*



*Bathore*



*Discovering the main axes of the city*



*Former textile factory, Kombinat*

# Visits

Sunday 24th January 2021

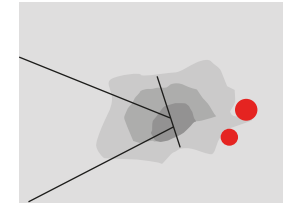
## Southeast: New places for poly-centrism in a growing city

The visits of the second day were focused on acquainting the participants with the eastern part of the city. Between the eastern and the western part of Tirana, exist social and economic differences, thus through visiting various developments, the participants had the chance to understand the special challenges this area faces.

The former industrial area of Shkoza was the first stop. A remote neighbourhood of the city, informally developed after communism, it is home to a fragile community with a majority of Roma population. Two key elements of the visit were the social housing complex and Uzina cultural space, a social initiative of a group of youngsters who seek to create a gathering place for the community.

In contrast to this informal area, the next stop was Mangalem 21, a private residential complex. Designed as a holistic complex offering public space and services to its inhabitants, it forms a 'island' in the southeastern periphery.

Farka lake, the second pole that was visited, had a different profile. Considered an important natural habitat in the TR030 plan, in close proximity to the proposed site of Agrohub, it is also home to some private low-rise developments, which makes the future of this area unclear.



*Uzina Cultural Space in the former Shkoza factory accompanied by Nevin Bilali and Uzina representatives*



*Visit at Mangalem 21 with architect Ardita Gusho*



*Social housing in Shkoza*



*Farka Lake surroundings*



*Farka Lake, invited experts-Etleva Dashi and Besmira Haskaj*



*Future Agrohub site*

# Visits

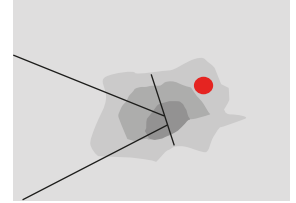
Monday 25th January 2021

## Kinostudio : the emergence of an open cultural campus

After understanding the broad picture of Tirana, the last day of visits was spent in the neighbourhood of Kinostudio. A former film production facility in communist times, the area still partially pertains this character, as it houses institutions such as the Ministry of Culture, The Film Archive, The Marubi Film, Multimedia Academy and some private TV broadcasters.

Several layers interlap with each other, as one can spot communist housing blocks, remains of the former Porcelani factory and informal low-rise developments. The visit started in the communist tissue of the area, observing the changes public space has underwent through the years. A big contrast between them and the more recent residential blocks could be seen, in terms of scale and use. The visit went on with meeting the representatives of the Ministry and other institutions who presented their needs and visions for the area. It was concluded in the informal part of the neighbourhood and the remains of the Porcelani factory.

Nowadays, Kinostudio is recognized as one of the "poles" of the polycentric city. It has nevertheless not received any masterplan, except the "Park of Art" under development.



*Kinostudio residential neighbourhoods, with Arba Baxhaku and Nevin Bilali*



*National Film Archive, with filmmaker Iris Elezi*



*Porcelani Park*



*Former Porcelani factory*



*Informal low-rise development*





### **3. Team proposals**

## Team The 5 Elements



Team The 5 Elements : Fatmir Meçe, Sarah Dobjani, Pierre Frustier, Bertrand Bes, Riwaa Saleh  
Masks were removed only during the time of the picture

## Positive Energy City



### **The Vision: 5 ways for a resilient future**

Tirana has developed in a rapid and uncontrolled way around the main urban center, while neglecting the surrounding rural areas. We propose a positive vision of the city by 2050. This vision is based on the threats linked to climate change and on the resilience towards certain factors such as the 2020 pandemic. To make these changes, Tirana needs a proactive attitude from the institutions' part, which must lead the actions in joint effort with the inhabitants and other partners. This must be achieved within the objective of a city with a neutrality carbon project.

Skëndi, an Albanian forty-something, will be our guide in this smart city of 2050. Skëndi was a student in the 2020's, when the Pyramid became an ITC formation center. As a young man, interested in art and culture, he was involved in the revitalisation process of some old factories. Now, he works and lives in Tirana. Let him show us his everyday life and his expectations for the future.

**1** Neglected Natural Resources

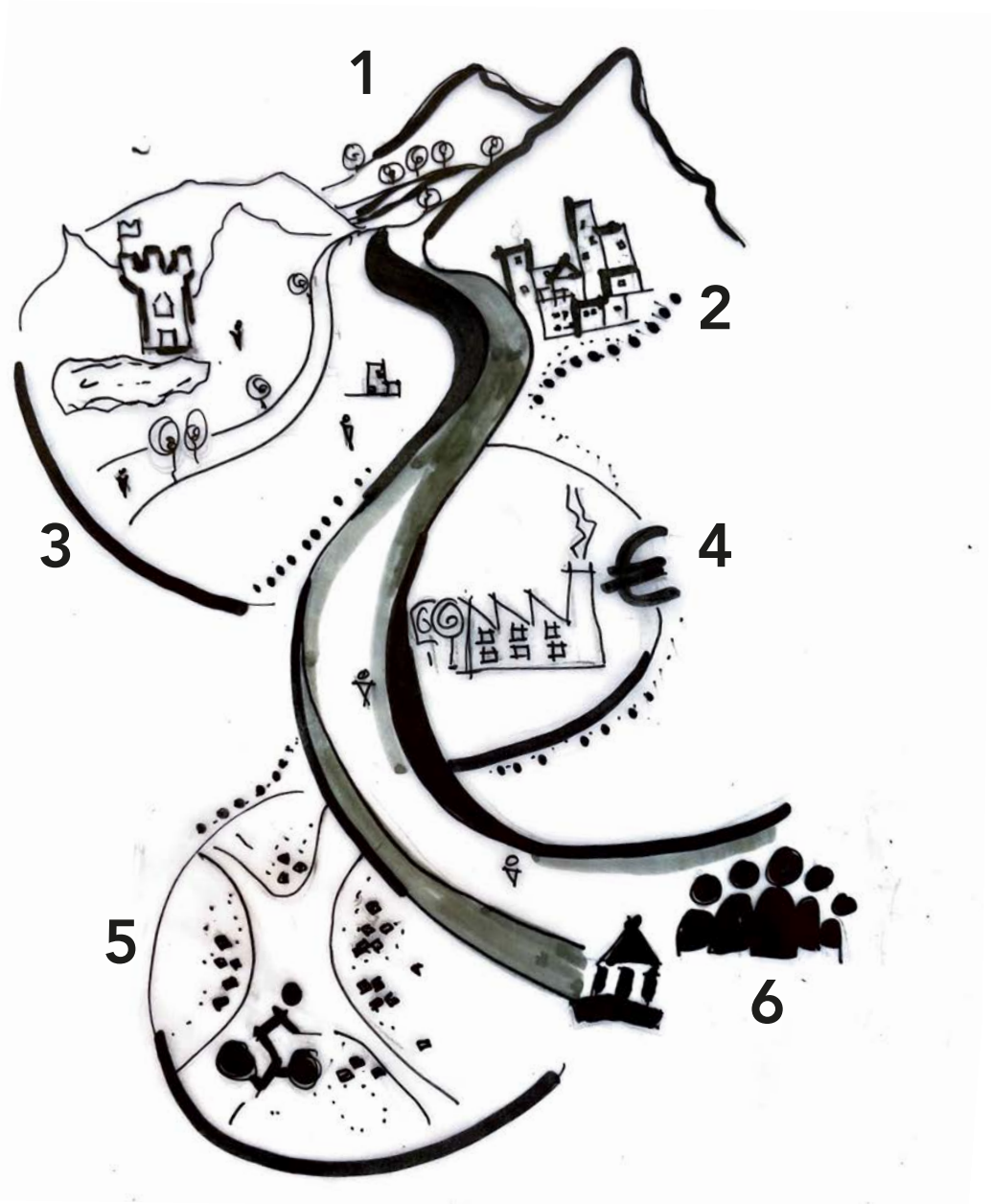
**2** Poorly Planned Residential  
Development

**3** Missing Touristic Trails  
& Facilities

**4** Lack of Economical  
Investments Outside the Core  
of the City

**5** Lack of Infrastructure

**6** Weakness in the Participatory  
Process



# Mobility

## Living in a smart city

It's a sunny spring day of 2050. Tirana wakes up, Skëndi has to go to work. He gets out of his apartment with his trash bag and puts it in the selective sorting bin of his building. Then, he takes his bike.

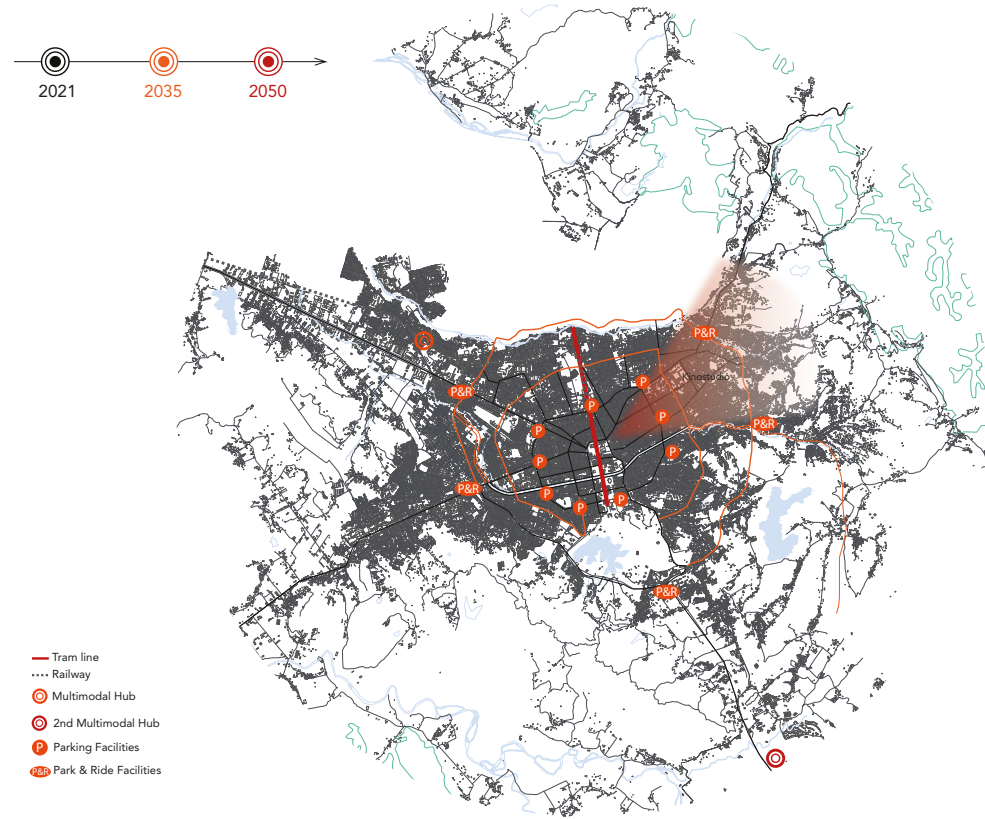
In the street, he breathes the scent of the flowers in the public garden and takes the cycle lane. Now, electric buses have a reserved lane. Skëndi feels safe.

He remembers the 2020s with the smelly garbage bins littering the road. From now on, a regular collection of bins has been set up several times a week. Waste collection is selective. After 2021, treatment stations were updated to recycle most of the waste. There, you can even buy compost to grow some vegetables, either in your garden or on the green roofs of buildings.

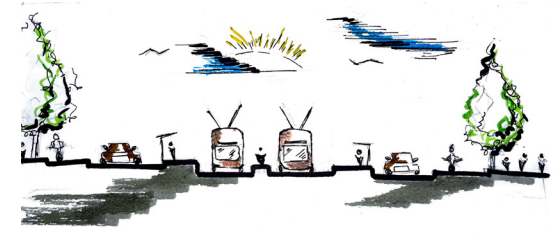
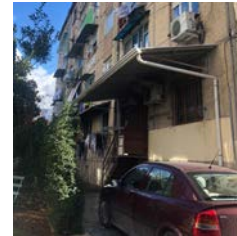
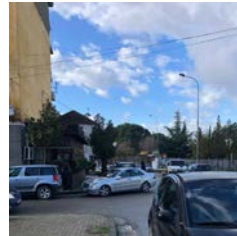
The major operation of underground network supplies is now complete while building separated lanes for buses. There are no more unsightly wires that littered the horizon of the 2020s.

In 2020, cars parked anywhere making the bike ride dangerous. Skëndi remembers when the municipality planned to reserve some streets for bus and bike transportation. This proactive attitude was not received well by the citizens but, now, many streets are only for pedestrians and the cycle lanes are well separated.

Skëndi remembers that to get from his technological school in the Pyramid, to the Kinostudio, where he enjoys watching movies or concerts in the Marubi courtyard, there was only a bike path halfway and then, a slalom between cars in narrow streets. Now he can get to work safely and if it rains, he takes the bus, which is now free.



Flashbacks from 2021



Implementation of trams

**Mobility: The ability to display full range of motion around a joint, without control.**

# Community Governance

## A participative city

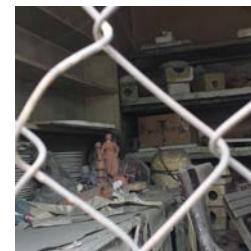
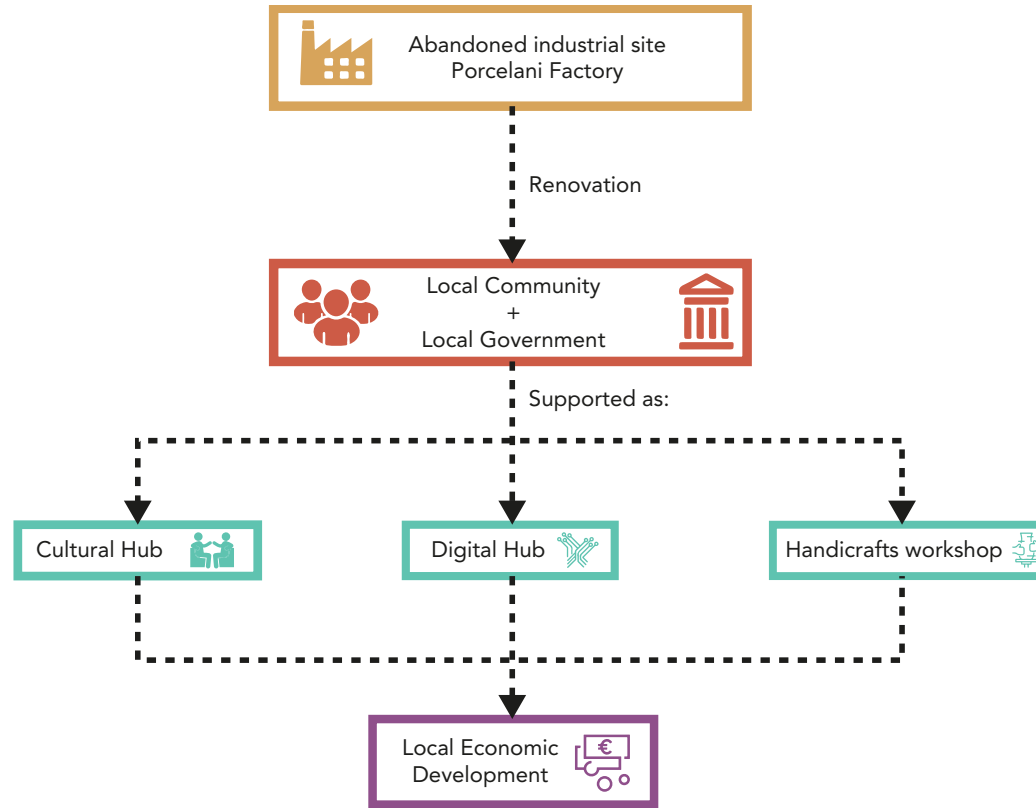
Skëndi now works at Porcelani. It is a place of technological creation that has long been an industrial ruin. In 2020, there was little participation of residents in institutional projects.

By opening up to bottom-up governance, the municipality has been able to encourage the participation of residents.

In Porcelani, a renovation was undertaken. Firstly, it was used by many professional schools as an experimental workshop. Then, local businesses were approached: television and radio studios provided equipment, the film school gave advice to young geeks, who wanted to get into digital and audio-visual. The Film Archives proposed a subject of work for the young Geeks: to interview the former workers of Porcelani in order to create a digital archive.

This initiative was appreciated by the former workers, as well as the community.

Skëndi enjoyed this creative process while studying and meeting other young geeks of the neighborhood. The locals have become accustomed to frequenting the place which, thanks to the proactive support of the municipality, has enabled the inhabitants to create an animation around what is now a workshop center.



Flashbacks from 2021

**Do more than belong:  
participate...**

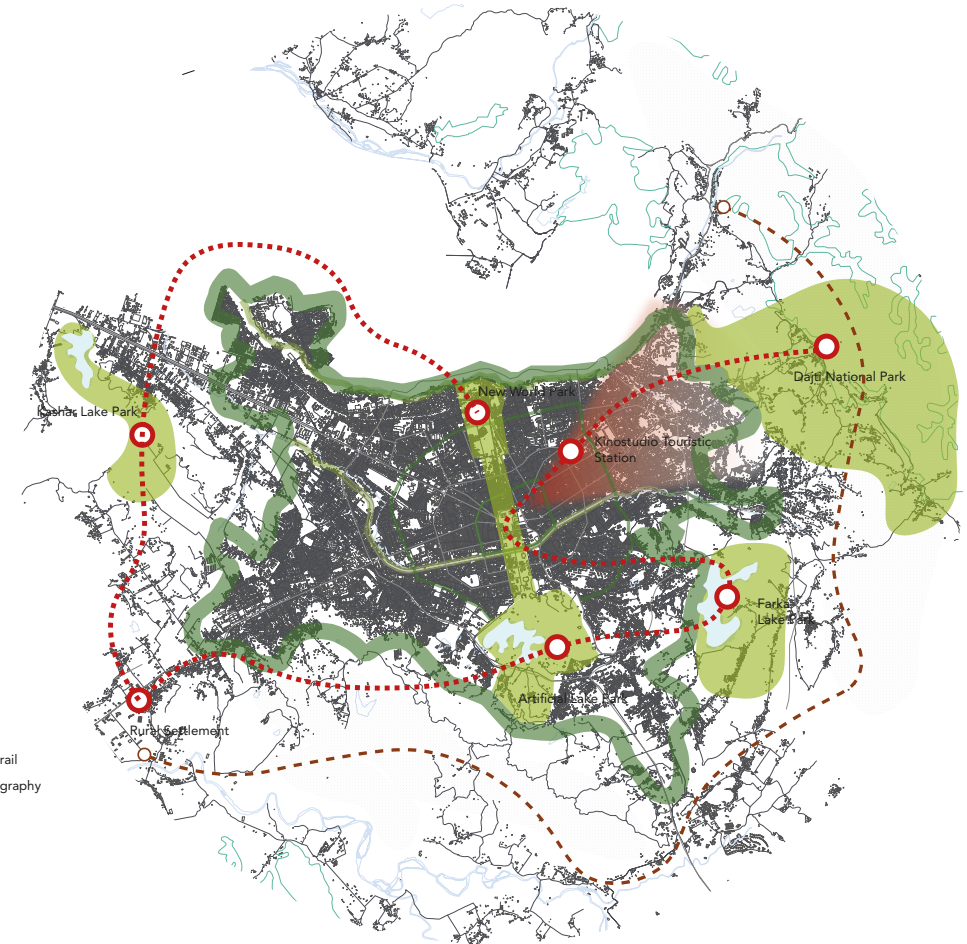
## Positive Environmental Profile

### The taste of Tirana

For lunch, Skëndi usually goes to farmers' markets, that have been developed in the city. The organization of short circuits, have brought new financial ease to farmers once isolated in the countryside.

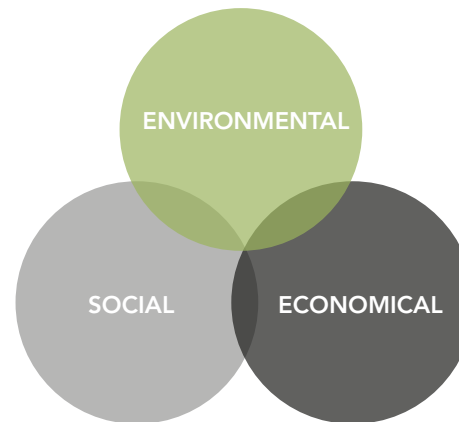
Within the perspective of « Neutral Carbon City », Tirana implemented a «0 Chemicals» policy. Municipal services have inspired the movement, in 2025, by stopping the treatment of green spaces with toxic products. Then, there was a ban on their usage by individuals, around 2030. Finally, in 2035, their ban in agriculture made Tirana a completely organic production territory. On the other hand, the establishment of the label of geographical origin, initiated by the FAO in 2021, provides a guarantee of quality to all consumers.

A great promotional campaign has been done to encourage restaurants and hotels to promote local products. Nowadays, the best restaurants always have a traditional albanian menu.



- Proposed natural trail
- Landscape & Topography Features
- Metrobosco
- Natural Park
- Touristic stations

**Plant a tree even if it's your last deed.**



## Rural Integration

### Bringing the rural area closer to the city

During the afternoon, Skëndi has a business meeting with his colleague Arti. Arti is a teleworker. After the 2020 pandemic, many middle and upper class people no longer wanted to stay into small apartments in tall buildings. They wanted a little more space, more greenery, but the Albanian countryside did not yet offer them the infrastructure to make this possible.

During the 20's, the municipality has been proactive in setting up the Tirana-Durres and Rinas link project. While waiting for the financial means, it was first necessary to reserve the land in cooperation with the other municipalities concerned. It was then necessary to set up country buses to reach the villages and the stations in order to permit everyone to reach the capital in less time possible.

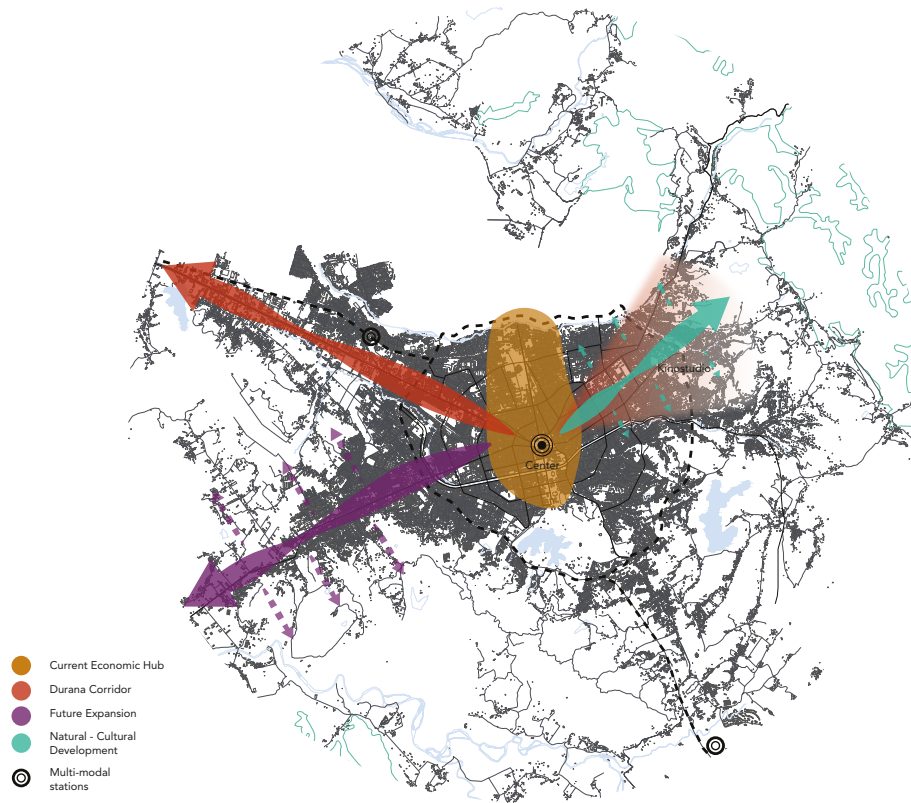
In 2050, Arti lives with his family in a single house in Vorë, with a garden, where they grow their own vegetables. Instead of spending at least an hour on the way there and an hour on the way back in the traffic jams of Tirana, he made the trip by train and then by bus in 30 minutes. When the weather is nice, he can even put his bike on the train.

He works at home on his computer thanks to the optical fiber which is now installed in the villages and comes to Tirana from time to time, for meetings with his colleagues.

His wife is very happy to have found a job near their house and it's very easy for her to go shopping in the capital whenever she wishes.

Children love to go hiking with their friends in the nearby countryside.

Flashbacks from 2021





## Tirana, as a Cultural Hub

### Make Tirana cultural again

After a productive day at work, Skëndi and Arti shut down their computers and start commuting to Kinostudio. It's so nice to be able to walk in the fresh air on such a lovely afternoon. The streets are litter-free, trees are blooming and beautiful graffiti artwork graces the buildings and walls that corner the street, which used to be so gloomy and dark.

As they arrive near Kinostudio, their eyes are met with what seemed as only a dream back in 2020. Slowly, but steadily these areas have been transformed as an oasis of peace and cultural entertainment and also as a favourite place for Arti. It's so nice to see the clean and well-organised bike lanes, the many picnic areas and so many spaces for recreation, which give everyone the freedom to express their art and inner thoughts. As they go further, they are met with the enthusiasm of many teens, young adults and parents, as they wait for the start of the new film festival, which will take place this afternoon. The students of the top 10 high schools of Tirana have prepared for months for this day. With the help of their drama teachers and the old masters that used to produce masterpieces in the halls of the National Film archive and Marubi Film Academy, they have prepared their own short movies that everyone is so excited to watch. Although they are all filmed with their new smartphones, they have meticulously studied the old ways in which movies were made, making sure that tradition is honoured, and have even created a short documentary. At the end of the day only three of these high schools will be honoured with the top prizes, that have for the past 10 years spurred intense competition between the schools. Many young talents are discovered and they are tutored towards the world of art and cinema. Nowadays, every spring, all the students look forward to this festival.



*Kinostudio block*



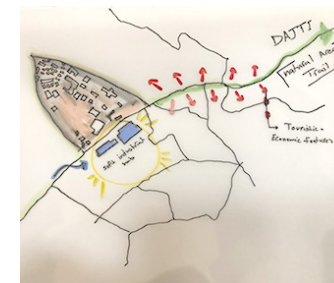
*Kinostudio, Cultural Hub*



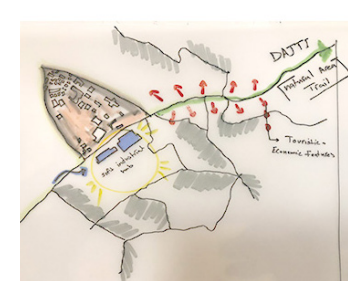
*Renovated industrial site as a economical unit*



*Natural trail to Dajti*



*Economic & public facilities alongside the natural trail*



*Urban management for informal areas*



*Marubi Film Academy*



*Film Archive*



*Uzina Community Center*

# Urban Development

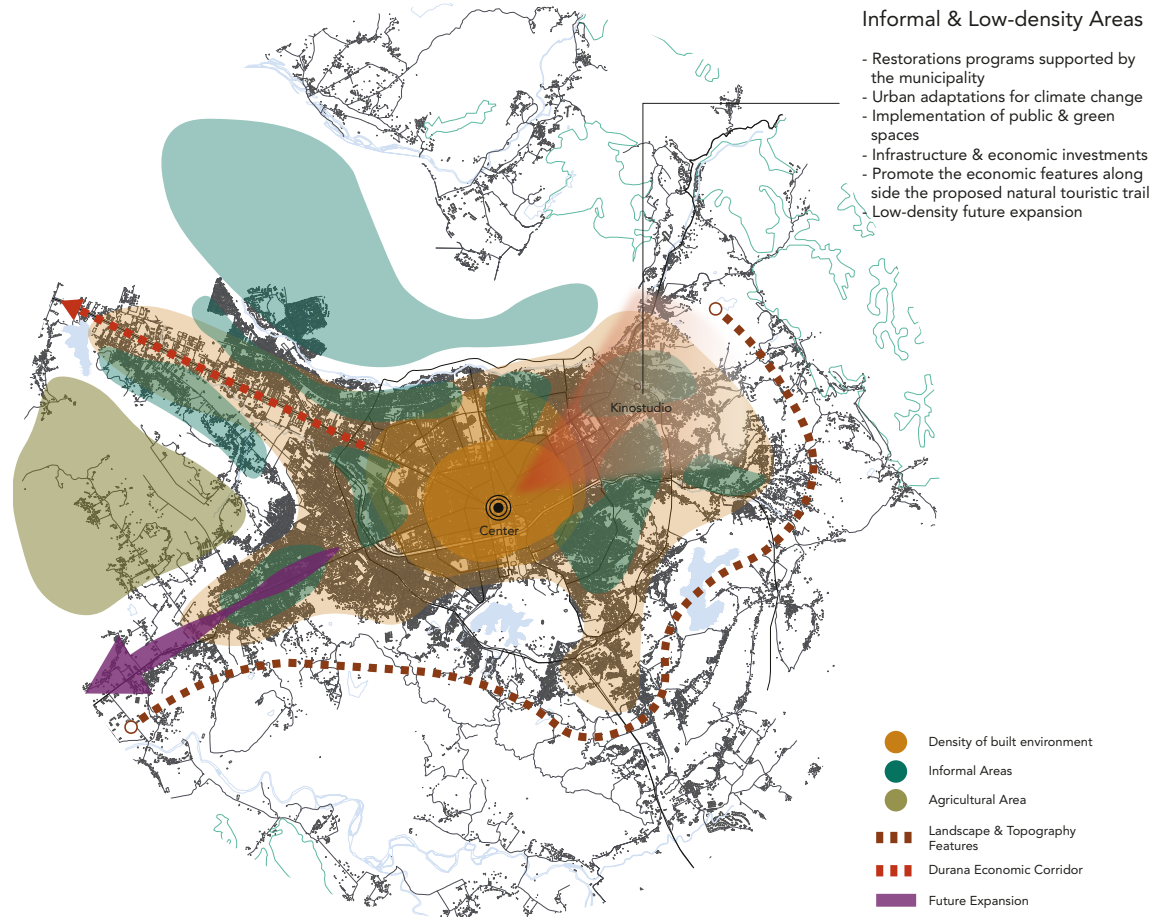
## A city at human scale

Skëndi came back to his home, on the Kombinat side, in the buildings rebuilt after the strong earthquake of 2019. But they are still a little bit small for Skëndi to start a family.

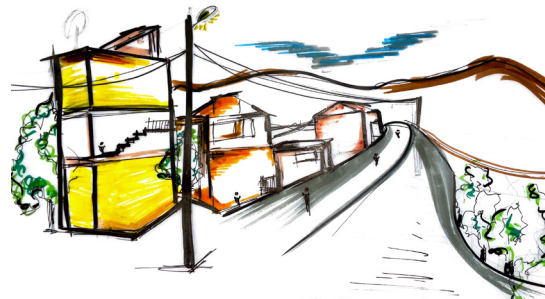
City center is still the place of financial and commercial buildings. Skyscrapers give to the city an image of modernity but, in other parts of the city, the density of the built-up area is lower, because with remote work and easy transportation to the countryside, the demand has slowly decreased. Most of the old industrial sites have been renovated into animation centers now and have created dynamism in every part of the town.

In a resilient attitude towards climate change, lots of roofs are equipped with solar panels to be self-sufficient. You also can see gardens and trees on the roofs to prevent high temperatures. Streets have been enlarged as soon as it was possible and some of them are pedestrian for some days or some hours a day.

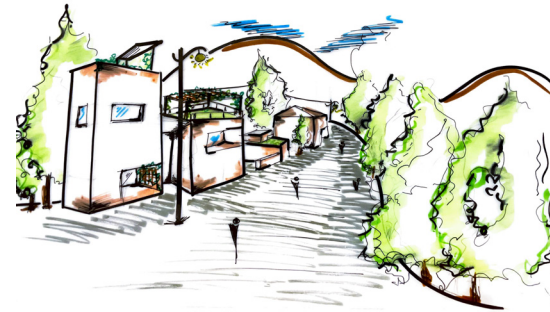
In every area, green spaces have been added, to give freshness to the city and its inhabitants. Some of them have created collective gardens to grow their own vegetables.



Urban Development Map



Informal area in 2021



"Informal" area in 2050

**25 years ago, people could be excused for not knowing much about climate change. Today we have no excuse.**

# Positive Energy City



Thematic PILARS

STRATEGIC policies

Actionable ideas

## Team Go East



*Team GO EAST! : Mustafa Gönen, Valbona Fejza, Dritan Kapo, Natalya Yankovska, Martin Alite  
Masks were removed only during the time of the picture*

## Cloud City



### Vision

Our concept, the Cloud City is an innovative approach that seeks to reverse the historic patterns of urban movement in Albania, using both new forms of social organization and existing cultural capital to empower citizens in the selected area, improve economic opportunities and transform the communities of the 21st century for a resilient future.

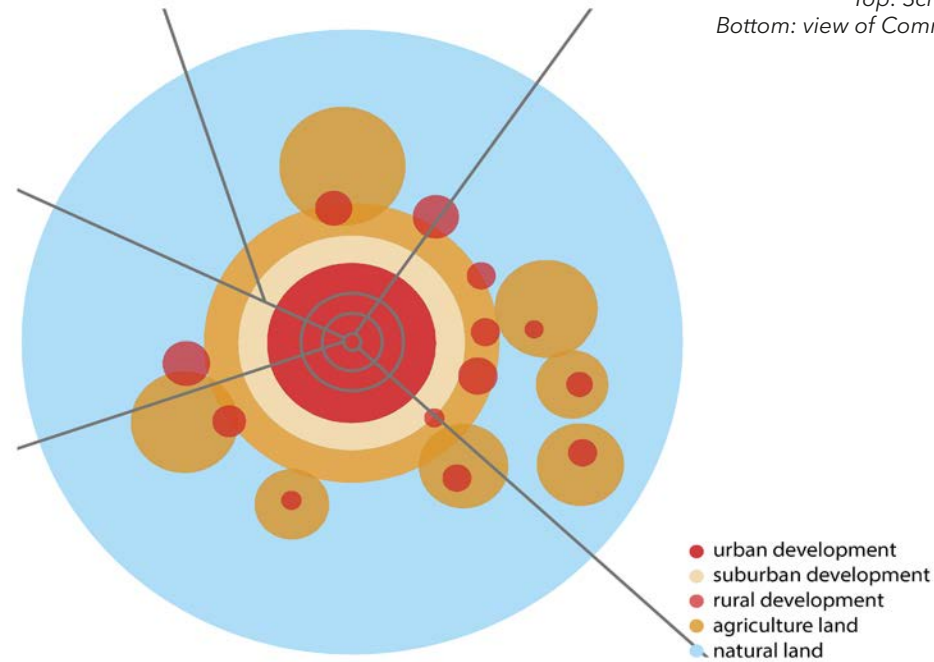
## Current situation

Tirana has experienced a unique development trajectory characterized by large movements of people; rapidly building on their own initiative, both for personal use and profit; expanding both the limits of the city and densifying existing urban fabrics. Simultaneously, the legacy of communism can be felt in the state-built Soviet-style residential quarters, which have fallen into disrepair. What remains is a tense balance between the city center, the focal point of economic and urban development and the suburban or rural-urban outskirts, developed through informal and not always systematic building practices.

In between these two areas lie the new potentials of old urban spaces. The Communist housing blocks exhibit both decline and resilience. Decline is felt in their physical forms and urban spaces as a result of time and exploitative development, while resilience manifests in their ability to still provide a place for community and engagement.

While Tirana's development has proceeded from periphery to core, our proposal for one of these areas (the Kinostudio-Porcelani area) seeks to unlock this chain and allow flows of information, resources and people to travel freely also from the core to the periphery and in all possible variations in between.

This increased and improved urban rhythm seeks to revitalize and regenerate the fabric of the neighborhood, creating a stronger sense of belonging, a more resilient community and empowering its citizens both financially and culturally.



## Identity and Heritage

The cultural heritage of Tirana comes as a result of continuous transformation, from the Ottoman period to all the various regimes of the 20th century. Since Tirana took an increasingly important role as the country's capital in the twentieth century, it became both the playground and battleground where ideas manifested most powerfully.

## Urban Challenges to Resilience

Tirana has been subject to various stresses that have tested the resilience of the city. Other than the 2019 Earthquake and the Covid-19 Pandemic, Tirana is also highly sensitive to climate change, and various forms of environmental degradation (pollution, air quality, water quality etc.)



## Corridor description

The area selected for urban regeneration is a corridor of Tirana, starting from the North-East side of Skanderbeg Square and terminating just shy of the foothill of Dajti Mountain. This corridor includes the following neighborhoods and areas in Tirana: Kinostudio, Porcelani, Fresku etc.

This was an important neighborhood during Communism as the center of the Albanian film industry (which doubled as a propaganda industry) as well as an industrial hub for the production of porcelain tiles. The area has important connections to the Dajti Mountain as well as to the Northeast borders of the City through the national highway (Rruga e Arbrit), linking the capital and the region of Dibra e Madhe (in North Macedonia).

From a land use perspective, the corridor is characterized by somewhat delineated belts going from urban to agricultural to natural as one moves away from the city center, with additional pockets of natural land scattered throughout the agricultural belt.

The corridor is a tapestry of old and new buildings, at various densities but typically, increasing as one moves away from the center of the corridor towards Skanderbeg Square and the informal housing on the other side. In the center, one finds a prevalence of Communist-era housing. After the fall of communism, these dwellings were subjected to a process of continuous adaptation and many of them are now mixed use buildings rather than purely residential. The center of the corridor is where the industrial spaces are located, many of which are no longer in use and have become brownfields.



Top: Schematic Bird's Eye View of the Corridor

## Potentials

The zone has several unique characteristics and resources that can assist in the goal of urban regeneration.

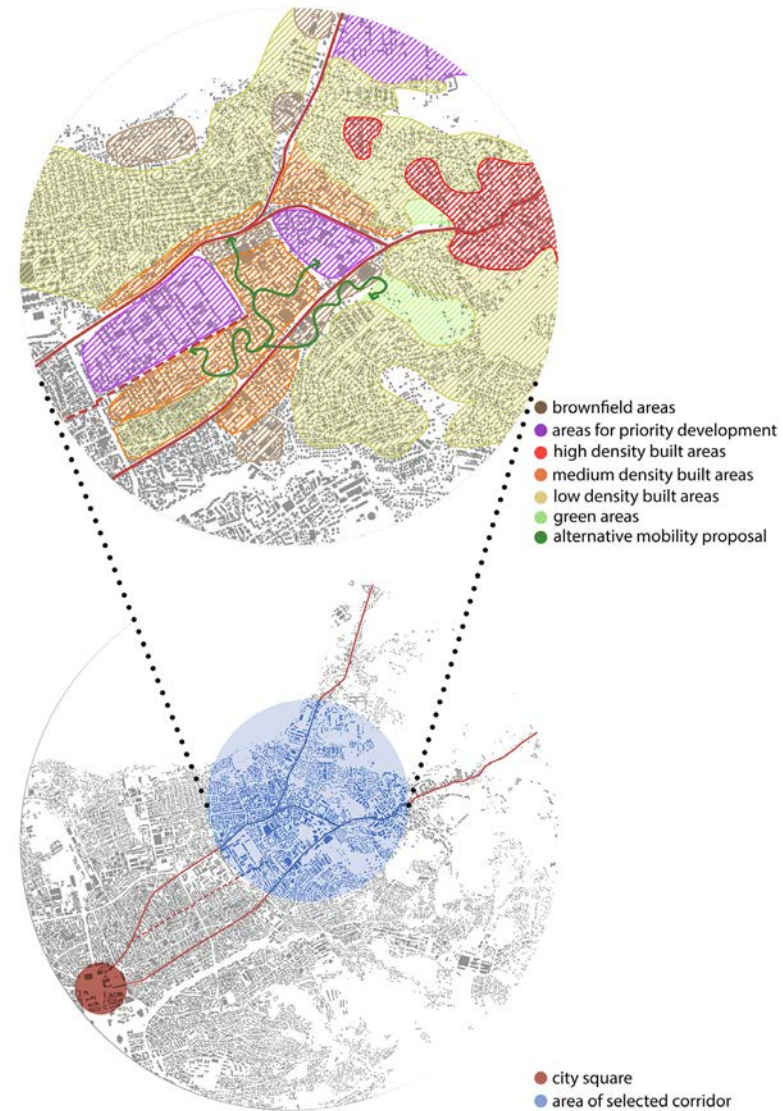
**Natural Landscape**\_There are ample natural areas around the corridor and proximity to Dajti, which can be used for natural and sport tourism.

**Agriculture**\_Heading east, there is ample agricultural land and agricultural production. Technological improvement and agricultural collaboration could improve products, yields, open markets and increase profits.

**Strong Capital Legacy**\_The area is known for Kinostudio Shqipëria e Re and the Marubi Film Academy, historical and cultural landmarks.

**Human Capital**\_Albanian youth are highly educated and undervalued, in comparison to their peers.

**Hospitality**\_Abandoned or semi abandoned assets in the countryside and rural dwellings, could be restored and reused as hospitality structures, in order to preserve and recover local heritage. These facilities could be used as alternative and temporary working and living spaces next to nature, tradition and agricultural products.



Top: Building Density Scheme and Housing Typologies  
Left: Areas of Interest for Urban Regeneration



● opportunity 1  
● opportunity 2  
● opportunity 3  
● opportunity 4  
● alternative mobility

**Knowledge and Culture**\_The Art Park, in Kinostudio is an ongoing project that improves and consolidates the Cloud City vision. However other training facilities should be taken into consideration, such as those for craftsmen, agricultural and natural resources.



## The concept

While the area has a strong sense of local identity and a multitude of inclusive and accessible public spaces, it has fallen out of favor. The new concept seeks to utilize the readily available potentials of the area to reinvigorate and regenerate the area, economically, socially and environmentally, while bolstering resilience for the future.

Cloud City's approach aims to identify the different typologies in "the in-between areas", to repair and prepare spaces that improve the quality of life. These typologies, depending on the case, could improve mobility, housing, hospitality, agriculture, social aggregation, knowledge, employment and entrepreneurship.

We seek to do this by developing a new cluster around the area of Kinostudio-Kombinat, focusing on creative and service economies, and improving linkages both outside and within the neighborhood to the agricultural and natural tourism potentials of the Tirana Metropolitan Area.

The 2019 Earthquake and the Covid-19 global pandemic have provided valuable lessons on both the limitations of our existing economic model but also the possibilities afforded by technology. As professionals adapted to the new "cloud" workplace, business leaders understood that there were many benefits to be gained (improved remote collaboration, lower cost for brick-and-mortar infrastructure, reduced losses due to traffic related delays etc.).

We propose to valorise both traditional economies and the new "covid-resilient" economies, creating a hybrid economy for both remote knowledge workers and location specific workers (agriculture, tourism and production). In order to facilitate this, the infrastructure



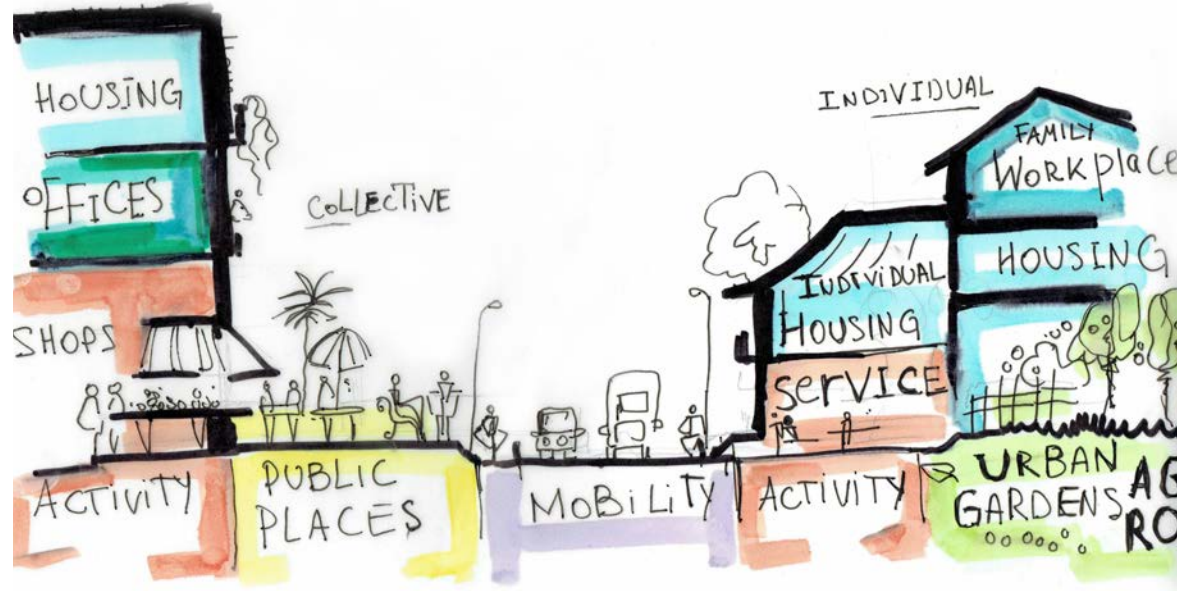
must be first built, then supported by increased connectivity (both digital and physical). We use the term connectivity to generally describe the ability to exchange information, goods, services but also human capital, narratives and social cohesion. Resilience is thus conceived as a function of connectivity, which will help to both meet and sustain the needs of a more "permeable" society.



Top: Schematic of the Concept Public Space  
Right: Integration of Rural, Agriculture and Building

## Mobility

In order to realize its vision, Cloud City will require a transition to new forms of mobility. The goal is not merely to improve accessibility and inclusivity, but provide more mobility options. Tirana is a city with a deep-rooted car dependence. Therefore, we do not propose to remove the car but to complement it with other forms of transport. By repurposing and utilizing the existing paths traversing neighborhoods to provide bicycle and walking paths, people are presented with active mobility options and may choose to leave their car at home. The location of services should incentivize the usage of these new routes, increasing circulation through these inner neighborhoods and revitalizing the untapped public space in between buildings. As these spaces are used more, they become more attractive and increase demand for the conversion of the ground floor into both public and commercial space, which could offer an increased variety of products and services to passersby.



Top: Corridor Sample Section  
Left: Mixed Use Typology

## Housing

Resilient housing will be required if this corridor is to grow as a result of economic expansion. This means that housing will need to be designed with diversity of usages in mind, with the potential for work, play and individual production available to every citizen. Working, communicating and training spaces should be considered alongside private or semi-public areas. Moreover, housing should be designed with public space in mind. Places for people to congregate, relax and play are not only essential to the psychological and physical wellbeing of people -they also serve as forums for building community and participation.

Local technologies and materials should be used to minimize costs and stimulate the local economy where possible. In addition, the buildings should be built with notions of environmental sustainability and resilience in mind. Where necessary, this may require retrofitting old buildings for better physical performance. This could be financed through a neighborhood tax, once economic revitalization at the neighborhood level is underway.



## Employment, services and entrepreneurship

The Cloud City unveils new modes of work and opens up opportunities for the increased mobilization and productivity of existing employment. By empowering and connecting the creative cluster, professionals will be able to offer their services and products to a wider variety of clients and markets.

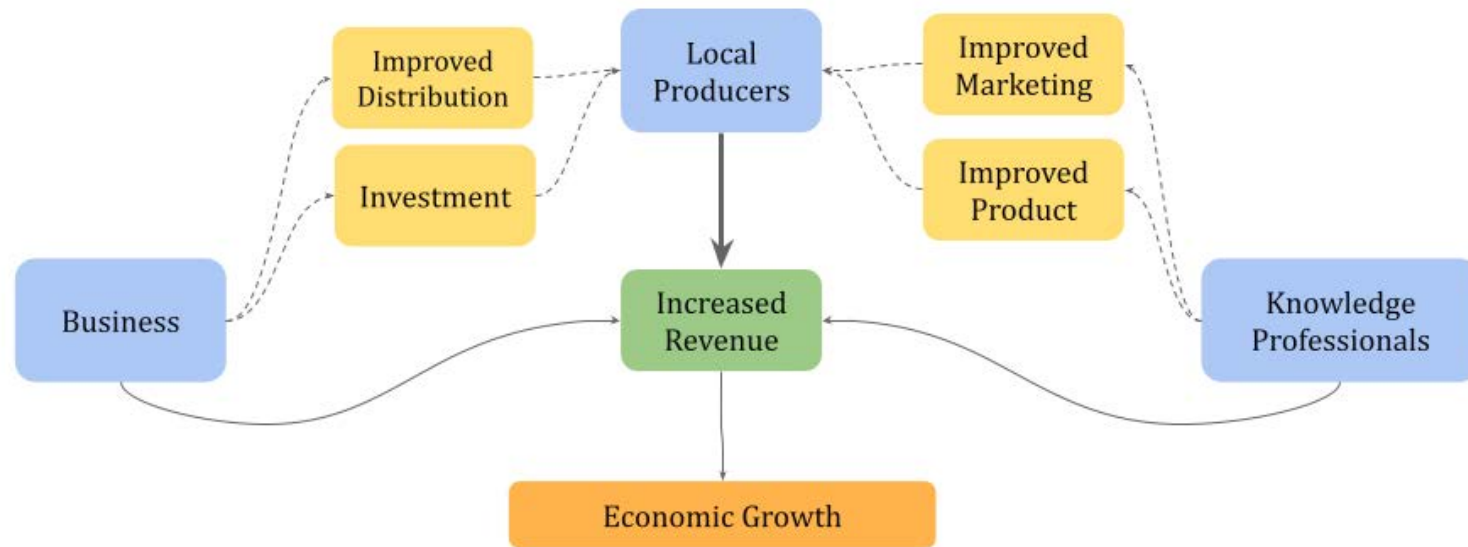
1. Knowledge professionals will be engaged both within the community, collaborating to facilitate improved products and marketing for goods, as well as outside, through remote work and collaboration based upon an improved reputation and knowledge base.

2. Large businesses will benefit from the cultivation of a skilled workforce and contribute to building the economic, social and urban potential of the community, which provide dividends to their own success.

3. Meanwhile agricultural producers, artisans and craftsmen will benefit from entry into new markets and thanks to the improvement of products, will sell more and to more people. Alongside the development of human capital, the Cloud City will be marketed as a talent and innovation hub, attracting foreign investment and new talent, creating a virtuous cycle of growth and further contributing to resilience.

## Economic sustainability

In order for this Proposal to function beyond the lifespan of any discrete urban interventions, it must provide for the community's basic needs in such a way as to be seen as indispensable. Fundamentally, this can be achieved if the livelihoods of people are improved, through sustainable income opportunities. If these opportunities are inclusive of as many members of the community as possible, this will maximize the probability of widespread adoption and ensure that people become active and involved participants in this new way of life. In order to realize this, the project seeks to improve the integration between traditional, place-specific economies and the new, increasingly digital creative classes, through partnerships, knowledge transfer and increased physical and informational connectivity.



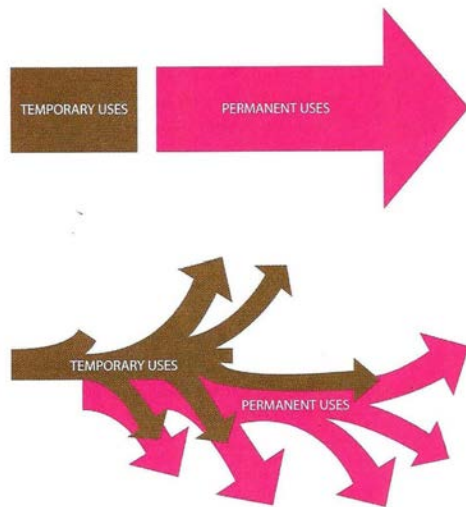
Above: Possible Collaboration Framework

## Phasing of the project

Successful urban regeneration, like economic growth, takes time and careful planning. In order to achieve this, it is proposed that interventions would at first be derived from the toolkit of temporary or pop-up urbanism, providing quick, low-cost and high engagement activities that would revitalize urban space and increase connectivity and engagement for the community.

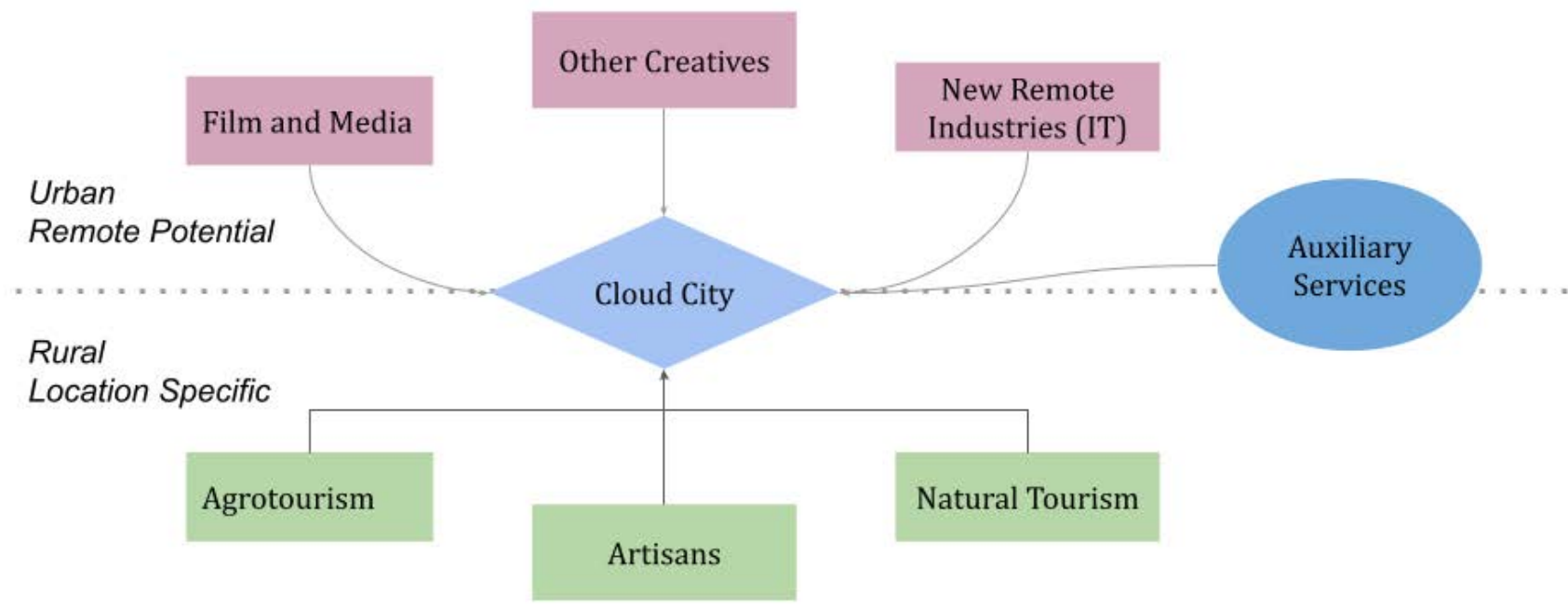
Once these practices can demonstrate increased interest and community engagement and attract the attention of investors, more permanent interventions and improvements of the urban fabric can take place. The first phase of "temporary" interventions can begin immediately but the second of permanent intervention will take longer. This approach would maximize the probability of long-term success while controlling costs.

Top: Sample Timeline of Urban Interventions  
 Bottom Right: Intervention Strategies by Housing Type  
 Bottom Left: Relationship between Temporary and Permanent Urbanism



TIMELINE	TEMPORARY URBANISM	PERMANENT URBANISM
3 mo-1y	Identify Best Pop-Up Practices (e.g. guerilla gardening, events, opening up streets, installations, performances etc)	Urban Regeneration Studies (Social, Economic, Environmental and Urban Dimension) to understand the status quo, define stakeholders, agendas and existing development trajectories
6 mo-1y	Execute (using Public and Private funds and engaging local expertise)  Use Low-Cost Marketing and Grassroots engagement ( users become creators)	
6mo-1y	Monitoring and Feedback	Define Guidelines and Business Model for Different Typologies (Developers, Private, etc.)
1-2y	Maintenance and Repeat Implementation as Needed (ongoing)	Facilitate Pilot Projects
6mo-1y		Feedback and Calibration
Ongoing		Wider Implementation

HOUSING TYPES	BUILDING DENSITY	MOBILITY CONNECTION	URBAN SPACE	AGRICULTURE
Communist era housing blocks	Medium	Designate low speed zones to facilitate active mobility	Potential for urban space on ground floor, participation, improved connectivity	Potential for <i>community</i> agriculture
New apartments	Medium -high	Exploit FAR to create bike lanes and walkability	Potential for designing urban space, participation, improved connectivity through ground floor	Potential for <i>community</i> agriculture
New houses (suburban)	High	Poor due to informal building practices, narrow streets, steep grade	Limited potential for public space	Potential for <i>personal</i> agriculture
New houses (rural)	Low	Poor road infrastructure but enough space to upgrade	Wide open spaces and low density provide the high potential for improved connectivity	Potential for <i>commercial</i> agriculture



Top: Cloud City Professional Sectors  
 Bottom: Potential Urban Interventions in Brownfields, Urban Areas and Green Spaces

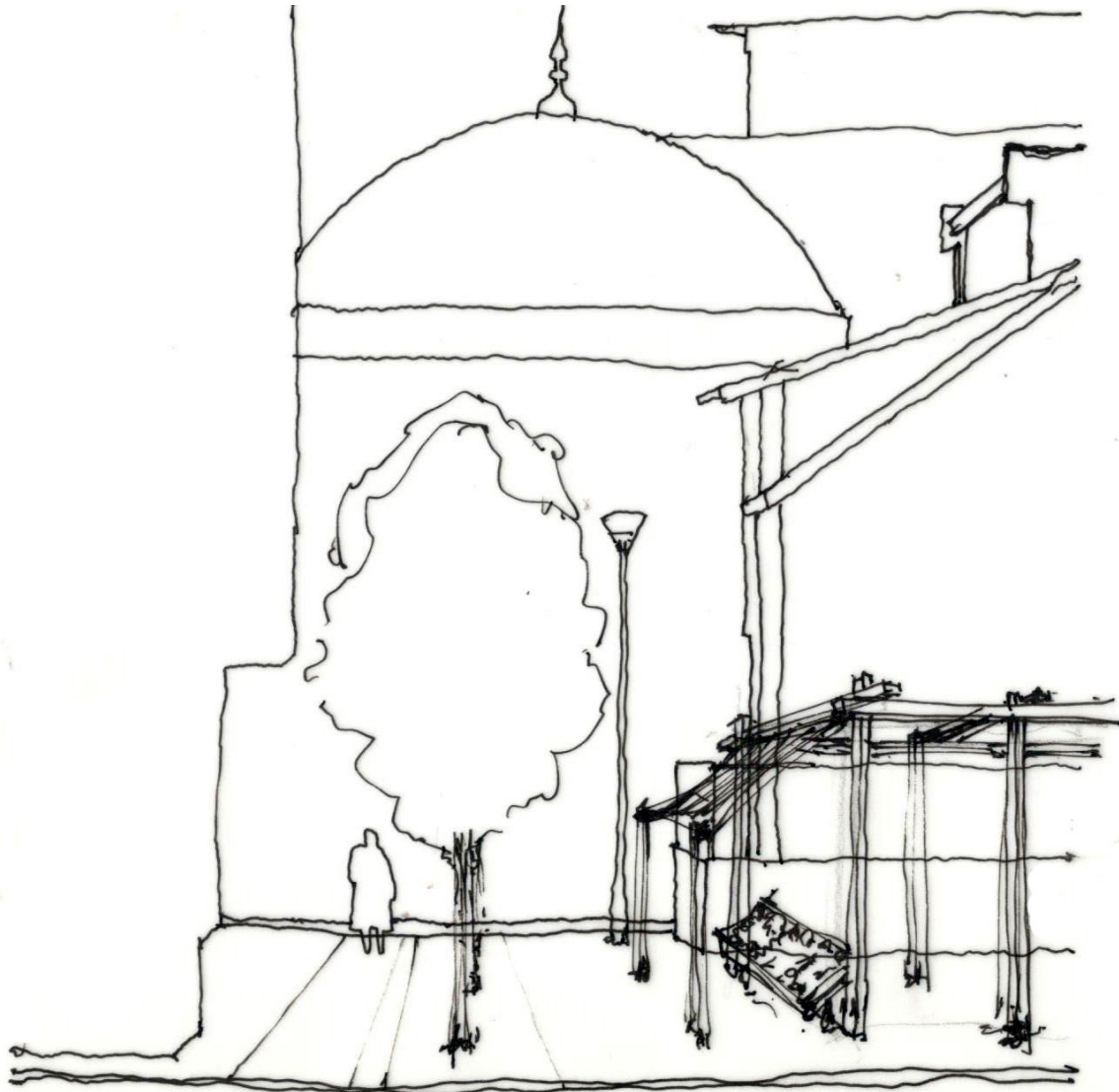


## Team Less is More



*Team Less is More: Ruben Smits, Aida Hammad, Rovena Plaku, Adrien Cremer  
Masks were removed only during the time of the picture*

## A multifunctional web for a resilient Tirana



### Let's have a walk

Tirana is developing quickly and has ambitious plans for the future with the TR030 plan as the leading vision. The proposed plan is looking at Tirana from a general perspective and proposing ideas to several key areas of it. The urban web for a resilient Tirana proposed here is a means of connecting all the different aspects of the TR030 plan through a strategy that starts at the neighbourhood level and organically grows to city and even metropolitan level. It's a strategy not limited to a certain neighbourhood and could be started in different neighbourhoods at the same time, eventually connecting to each other by growing organically. The strategy is to increase the public space available for slow modes of transport and community activities by closing some streets for cars and programming activities in the existing (public) spaces. In this way a network of carfree spaces will emerge that offer safe routes for pedestrians and bikers to get from one place to another eventually covering large areas.

# Tirana, a city shaped by a history full of potential

Tirana is a city which was first very planned with various influences during Zog reign, Italian occupation and then the communist regime. Those plans gave Tirana its main streets, squares, parks, institutional buildings, stadiums and many building blocks which are still in use today. After the fall of communism the transition period was marked by informal settlements spreading around the city due to immigration from other Albanian provinces and lack of space. This has created high density developments in the city, reducing available public space and green areas (Fig. 1) as well as a lack of social cohesion between citizens due to this rapid urbanisation. This whole context is putting pressure on the environment, generating pollution (water, air, soil, noise), congestion with a limited soft mobility network and increasing the development gap between areas of the city (Fig. 2). Moreover, Tirana is very fragmented in between urban, peri-urban and

rural territories which are all part of the same municipality (Fig. 3). In addition, we observe the emergence of various isolated poles throughout the city that lack interaction between them (Fig. 4). The General Local Plan of Tirana 2030 is aimed at designing a resilient and sustainable

polycentric capital city connected to its rural surroundings. We are therefore faced with a city with multiple weaknesses and challenges that we would like to turn into opportunities and make effective use of its strengths by making concrete proposals to consolidate the TR030 plan.

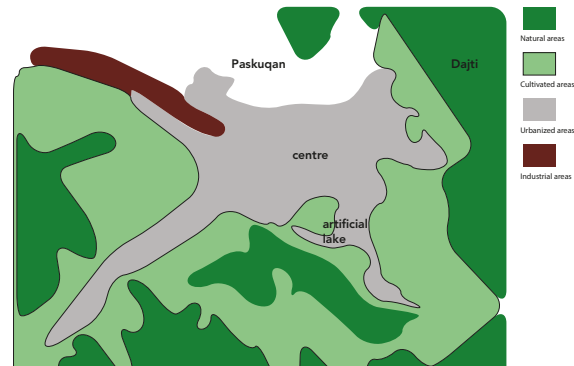


Figure 3 - Land fragmentation

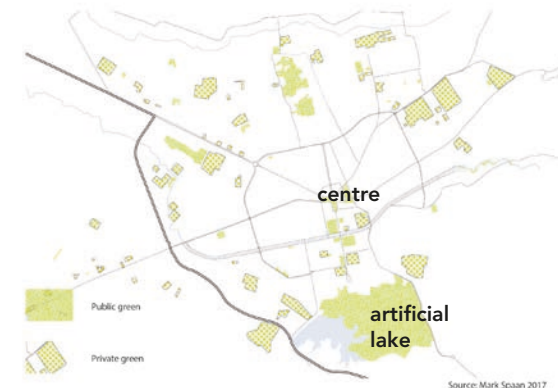


Figure 1 - Map of green space of Tirana

Source: Mark Spaan 2017

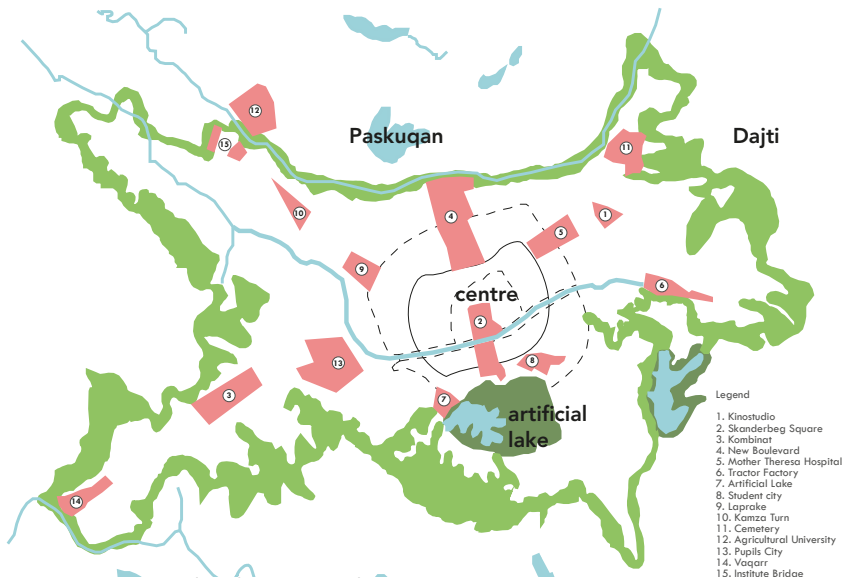


Figure 4 - Existing development poles

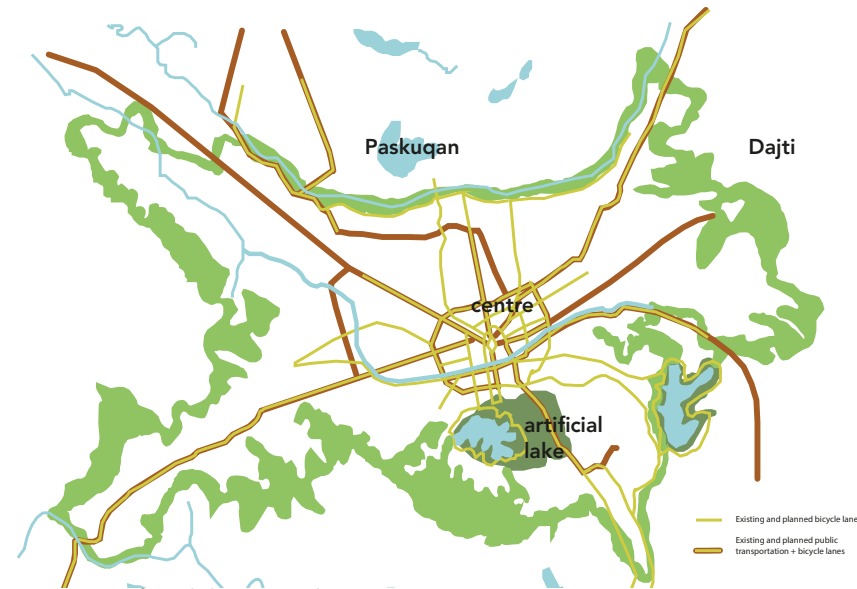


Figure 2 - Soft mobility network



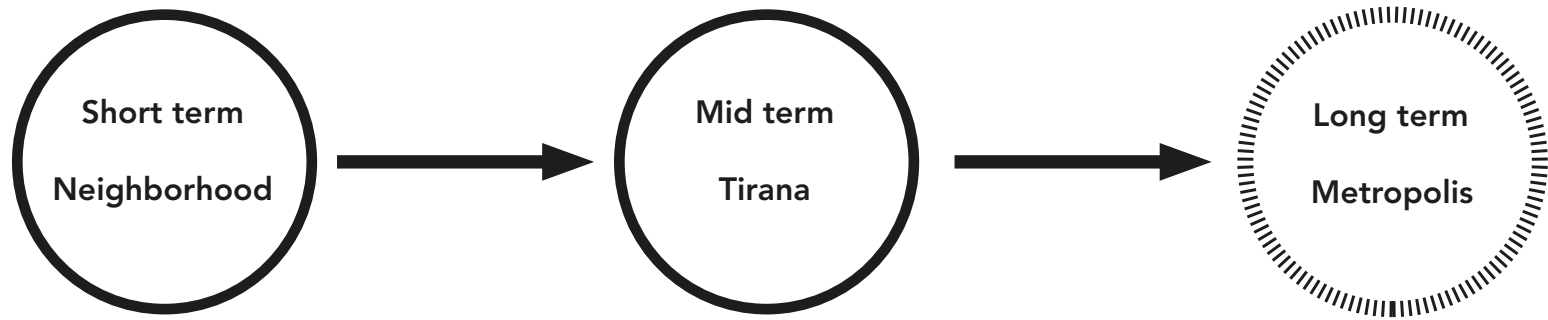


Figure 5

Dense network of soft integrated mobility and public spaces in neighborhoods, connecting them with services and centres of activity.

Dense network of soft integrated mobility and public spaces linking poles as well as urban, peri-urban and rural areas of Tirana's municipality with one another.

Dense network of soft integrated mobility and public spaces between different cities and villages in the Durana metropolis creating poles of activity connected with each other in the whole region.

### Definitions



The term **pole** has to be understood as a priority development area driven by the implementation of the multifunctional public spaces, clusters of services and infrastructure.



**Public spaces** are seen as spaces that are open for the public, not meaning that they have to be publicly owned.



**Sustainable development** is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

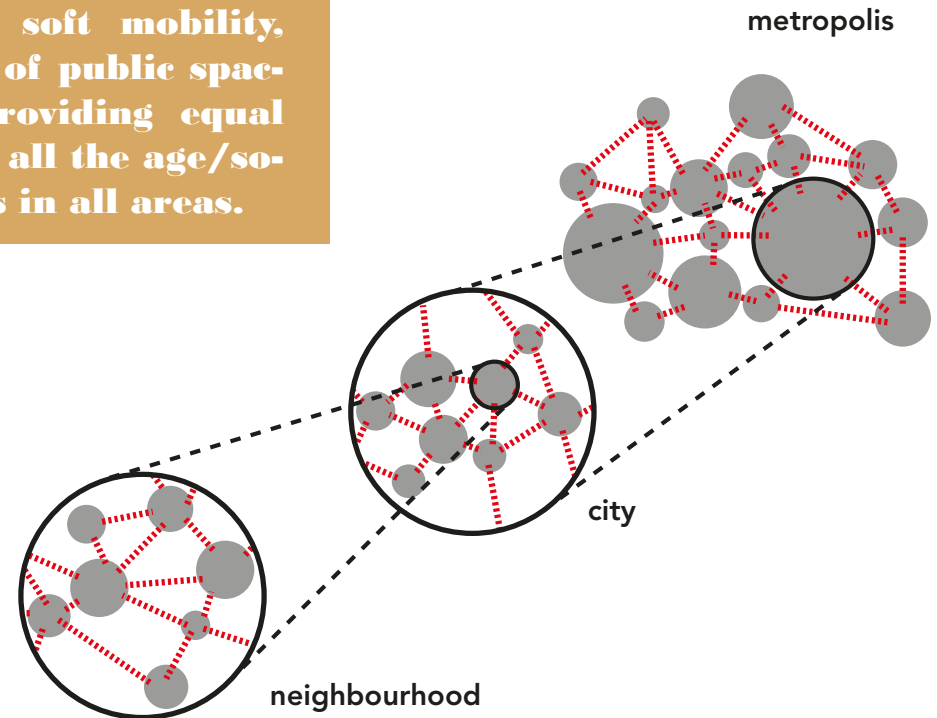


**Urban resilience** aims to create a multidisciplinary structure of the city that allows urban systems to be more adaptable and resistant to ecological, climatic, physical crises.



**Integrated soft mobility** is a network of soft mobility (cycling lanes / routes, side walks, hiking routes, electric bus lines) integrated and connected to the regional public transportation network.

**A sustainable and resilient metropolis through integrated soft mobility, better use of public spaces, and providing equal services to all the age/social groups in all areas.**



## Reactivating public spaces as community places on a neighborhood scale

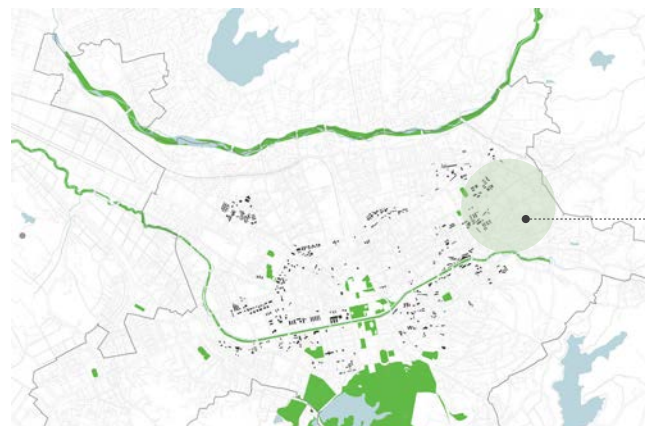
The requirements of people in high density neighborhoods cannot be met. While there is no hierarchy (mostly in the center of the city) with the other existing public spaces in the city, they cannot be linked to build a functional system to overcome the absence of small parks. In addition, the interaction with existing parks, as a network of green corridors, sidewalks, street trees and waterways, is absent. Besides these issues, the notion of pocket parks appears to be a decisive factor for better living quality.

Although they are not publicly owned, the city of Tirana is full of open public spaces, but they are often abandoned or used (legally/ illegally) as parking lots. The opportunities we see for public space activation are based on the TR030 Plan where they propose micro public spaces that are currently not being used. (Fig. 6) The reorganization of the space could be done by closing roads for cars, more efficiently organizing parking and involving residents in activities in these newly freed spaces. Opening up space that is not currently used can also be applied to abandoned industrial buildings that could provide much needed space as well as community engagement by being opened to the public until new public space is made available

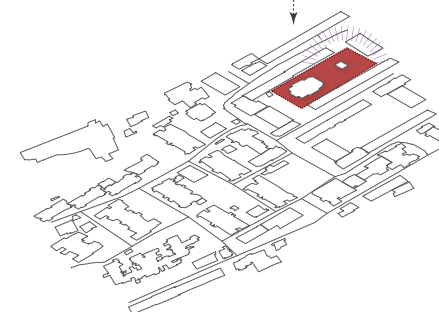
through the already existing urban development policy. Not the owners, but also the temporary tenants of the space, can become the users of the factory. In this way, if that is beneficial in the long run, the space will remain open for development. Such places, however, also give the neighborhood a unique character and a connection to its history that distinguishes them from other neighborhoods.

We propose that some streets should be temporarily closed to cars (a few hours a day) and some permanently, in order to free up public space (Fig 7). This public space is intended to provide urban community gardens, event spaces, as well as soft mobility corridors in the neighborhoods with more green areas

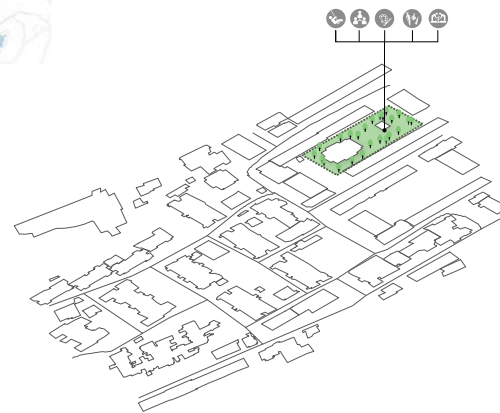
### PROPOSED MICROSPACES - TR030 PLAN



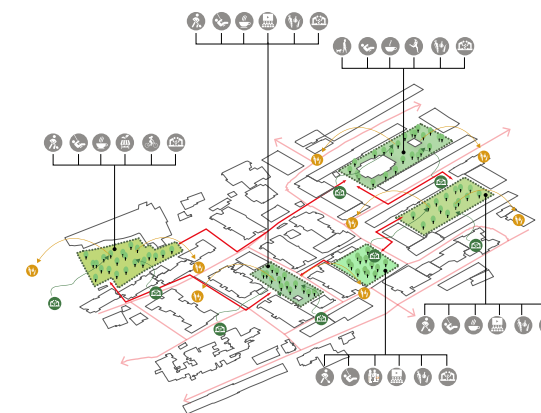
Focus Area



**1** Pilot Microspace: Claiming an empty pocket space between the blocks.



**2** Adding recreational, cultural spaces and natural activities to the transformation of the empty pocket into an active space.



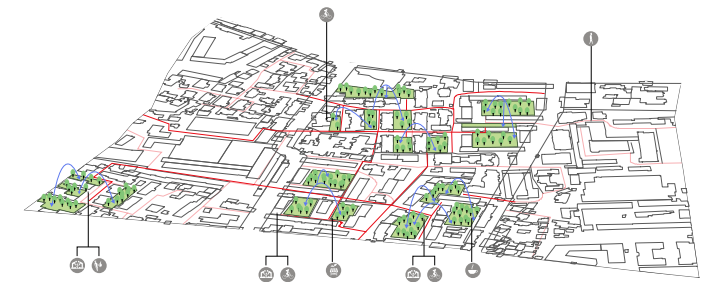
**3** Bringing people together for recreation, artistic, production facilities and community involvement. Food production in these spaces flows back to the local producers.

Figure 6

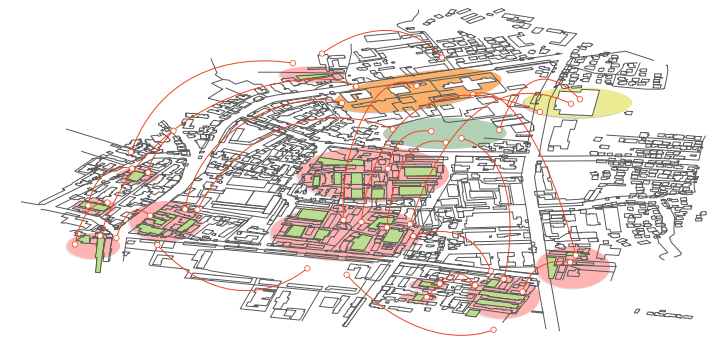
Public spaces are viewed as places of transition between work and leisure, where neither the municipalities nor the inhabitants claim ownership, because of the deprivation of individual property for years during the Communist era. Therefore, they are totally neglected (lack of greenery, sitting, lighting, socialization and limited mobility), even though they are places with great potential for creating inclusive spaces that bring different groups together in society.

(Fig. 8). The function of these public spaces is to be linked to the identity of the area, to the function of the nearby poles, as well as to the population's local needs (Fig. 9). A top-down approach should be used to develop the main planning policies and framework, but more participatory planning for small neighborhood projects should be implemented in order to adapt the function and design of public spaces to the needs of the population, enabling the transformation of neglected public spaces into attractive areas that reflect the needs of the population. It could also create space for small economic activities or gains for individuals, such as urban farming harvests or small neighborhood markets where individuals can sell homemade products. In this way, individuals will feel connected to and accountable for the public space, helping to maintain it.

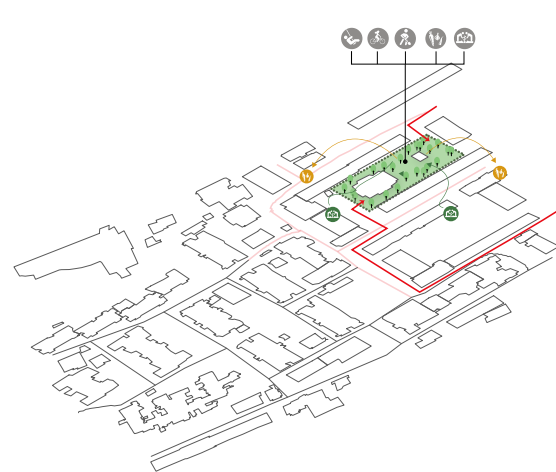
There is a need to empower the community in the processes of city development, for example through participatory activism as suggested by Co-PLAN and POLIS University, which have jointly launched «Urban-Provo-actions», and which proposes a tested and successful methodology (Fig. 10). Once the community has acknowledged its responsibility, change for the collectivity becomes possible, even with limited resources and without always waiting for action from the competent authorities. It is important that these different pro-actions are filmed, documented and shared on social networks in order to promote this kind of good practice elsewhere and thus multiply the process. In a context where urbanisation has been rapid and cohesion has not followed, art and cultural events (festivals, theatres, ... ) are means to go beyond the differences of others and to bring people together. "Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody" (City for Citizens, Citizens for City, 2014). In order to have inclusive neighbourhoods, and even cities, the integration of participatory processes is essential because it allows the needs of the population to be clearly identified and solved. In this way, a space by and for the



**5** Activate the residents' bottom-up approach to develop micro-spaces with funds generated from the products cultivated, with the support of public and private entities.



**6** Creating and linking larger pocket poles with each other as well as with the nearby bigger park, the multifunctional pole of Porcelani and the Kinostudio's Cultural one with the purpose of shifting their activities in these public micro space poles.



**4** Developing and connecting other public micro-spaces with various production and recreation activities through pedestrian, bicycle and integrated access lines by densifying the public network and connecting more houses to the public space network.



**7** Connecting the transformed poles through the new public and integrated network with the larger structures of Tirana, the Tirana river, the 4th new green ring, Dajti Mountain and the Metrobosco, seeing them also as large recreational parks of public production.

responsible inhabitants would be obtained. Not only should the community space be opened to communicate plans to the population, but also to involve them in the design and function of public spaces in their neighborhood.

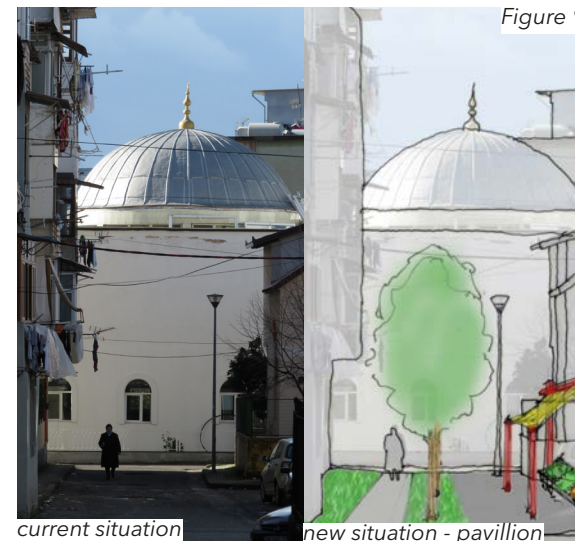
A new connection between the municipality and the residents can be created by offering activities in the community centers to every social / age group. In addition to these activities, informative sessions on municipal policy, assistance with different administrative procedures can raise awareness of the plans and increase transparency among individuals.

Finally, for some selected it is possible to ask the people of a certain area to vote to determine the function of a small public space, or a small design element, to help restore people's trust in their institutions.

We can envision that the municipality could identify spaces that are not used in urban spaces and list them on a platform. If they propose a plan which is approved by the municipality, people could then apply for funding from private investors. In Tirana's urban planning, this will be the achievement of the bottom-up approach and will also fix the issues of financing.



Figure 10



## A concrete example: Porcelani factory

A polycentric city and the creation of specialized poles in the city is something mentioned a lot in the Tirana 2030 project. We think the best use of former industrial areas is not always new developments or specialized poles, but this is the opportunity to create multi functional (temporary or permanent) hubspoles in the peri-urban neighborhoods connected to the character of the neighbourhood in order to link city with nature, youth with elderly, institutions with people, past and future, as well as small businesses and social activities.

We can imagine those big buildings being divided into several zones, each of them with a specific theme / function (Fig. 11).

Porcelani in its case could host a handicrafts and food markets, urban agriculture facilities, social activities and a cultural venue (Fig. 12).

Those multi functional spaces have a very sustainable impact as they help the development of their areas in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts (Fig. 13).

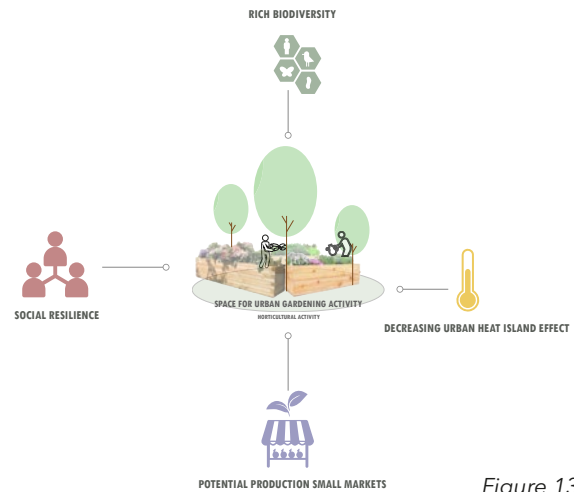


Figure 13



current situation



new situation

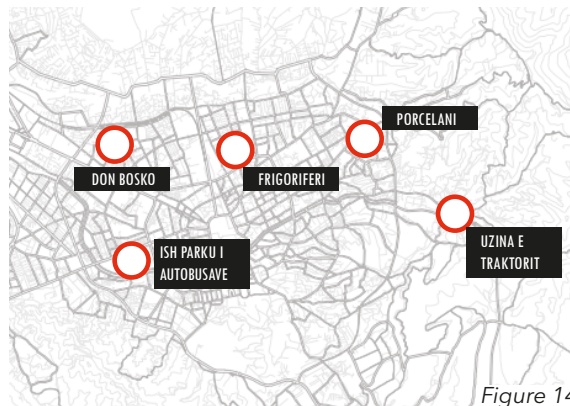


Figure 14

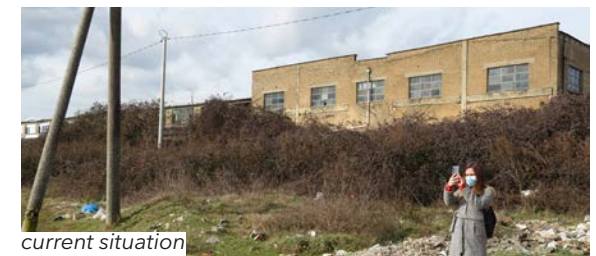
We identified potential former industrial areas which are abandoned or not used at their full potential at the moment where this concept could be put into practice (Fig. 14).



current situation



new situation



current situation



new situation

Figure 11

## A multiplying concept on the city and metropolis scale

### City scale

At the city scale in addition to the 2nd and 4th green ring we propose to use the orbital forest as a 6th green ring, connecting the city with nature, the urban areas with the rural and natural surroundings (Fig. 15).

Soft mobility should be prioritized along the orbital forest through cycling routes, walking areas, and green public transport in order to create a dense network of soft integrated mobility, in this way being the extension of the web that started on a neighbourhood scale. Various activities can be realized on the way such as sport activities, parks, rivers, agrotourism, cultural activities, multifunctional public spaces, various squares and green spaces.

In addition to this 6th ring we advise to densify in general the soft mobility network in the city in order to integrate it with the public transportation system and connect not only the urbanised center with its surroundings but also

the peri-urban areas with one another as well as the city with the rural areas (Fig. 16)

### Transformation strategy

Identifying problems by linking them together creates potential solutions (Fig. 17). As an example, transforming these empty plots into active spaces, would increase the production, accessibility and the community engagement of the neighborhoods. Not only linking the issues together but also looking at the potentials of these pockets can lead to solutions for example: there is available space and it only needs to be claimed, high self-organizing power, rich tradition to use outside space, rich tradition of foods and drinks etc. By applying these potentials to the described issues an integral and feasible approach will be created in order to regenerate resilience neighborhoods and help it reach its full potential.

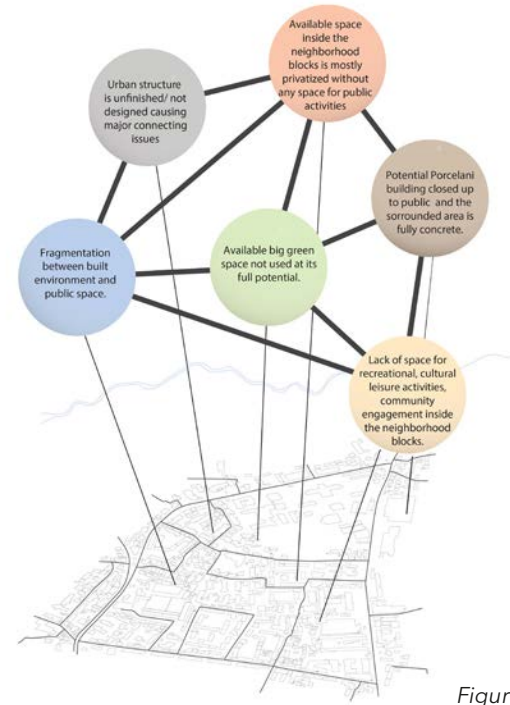


Figure 17

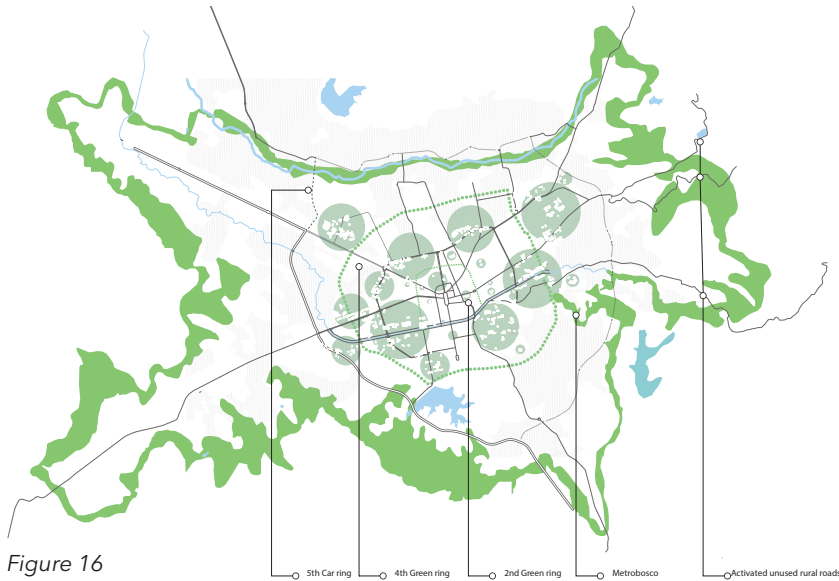


Figure 16

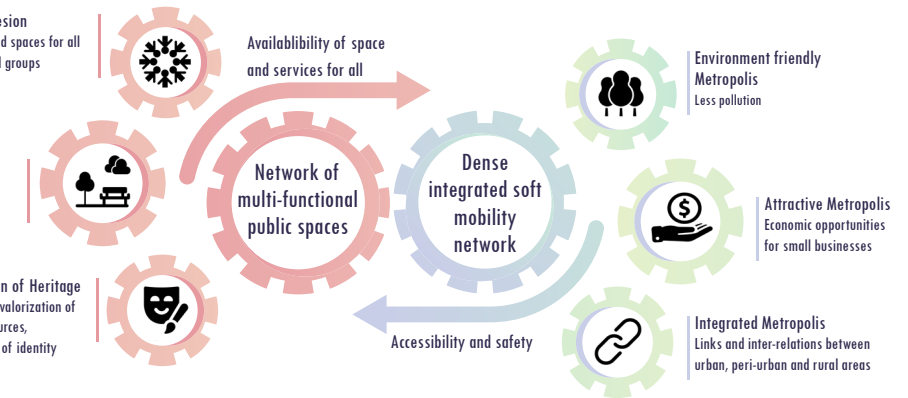
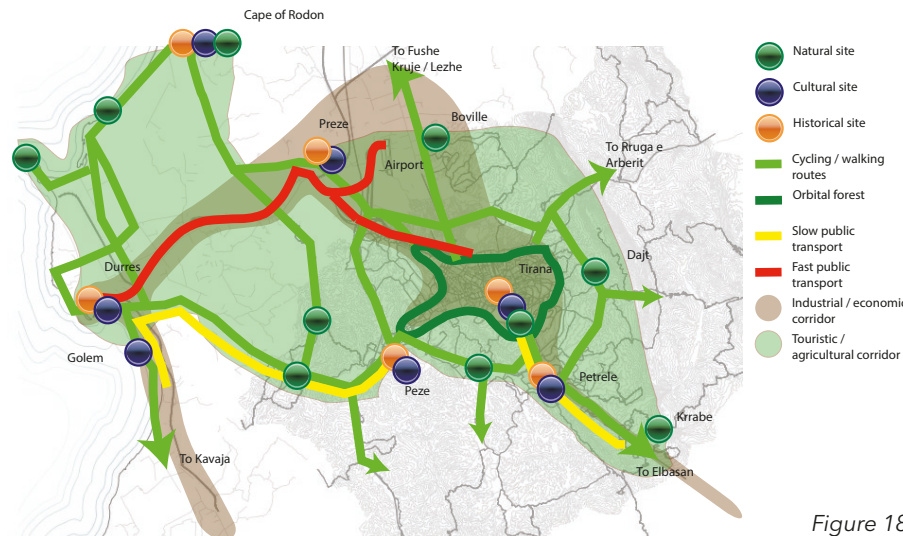


Figure 15

## Metropolis scale

At the metropolis scale our strategy is to grow the web past the borders of the city and in this way create soft integrated mobility corridors focused on tourism, nature and cultural activities which will drive local economic development and in some way diversify the economy by adding value apart from the existing fast mobility and industrial corridors along bigger infrastructures such as the Tirana - Durrës highway (Fig. 18 & 19). We aim to valorize existing natural areas, cultural sites, historical monuments and connect all of them with each other to create an attractive sustainable polycentric metropolis.

This concept aims to revitalize the Tirana - Durrës Metropolis, make it attractive to its population, prepare it for its resilient future through sustainable development. This model can be used in other Albanian regions as well such as Shkoder - Lezhe, Korca - Pogradec, Vlora - Fier, Lushnje - Berat, Tepelene - Gjirokaster, Elbasan - Librazhd (Fig. 20).



## Sustainable, attractive and resilient Metropolis

Figure 21

## Conclusion

By creating a dense network of interconnected public spaces through integrated soft mobility, we believe that increased green areas will help improve environmental conditions in the cities by reducing the impact of urban heat islands, flooding risks, and all types of pollutant emissions. In forgotten spaces, the newly generated economic corridors will

drive economic development and make them attractive to both their citizens and tourists. The social impact is also expected to be significant as the provision of services and accessibility is intended to be distributed equally on the territory of the metropolis to all municipalities, regardless of social groups, ages, genders, communities.

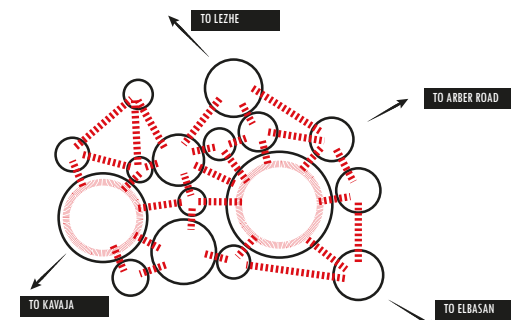


Figure 18

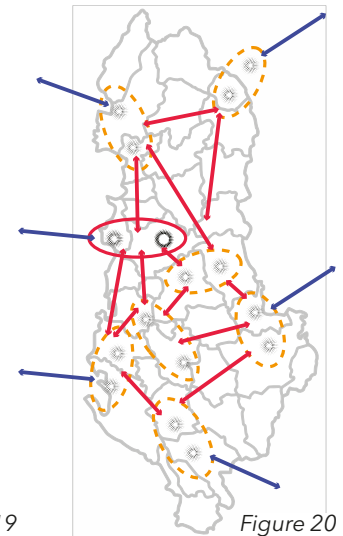


Figure 19

Figure 20





## **4. Jury**

# International Jury of the Tirana International Urban Planning Workshop

2 February 2021

## The role of the Jury

The jury aims at involving local and national actors of Tirana in the workshop's productions, as well as stimulating a constructive dialogue between those actors and other national and international members of the Jury. The jury is also ensuring that the momentum will continue beyond the workshop by seizing the participants' productions and by debating about them.

The jury does not award a specific team. The jury's objective is to lead a debate in order to identify the most relevant, appropriate and innovative strategies and proposals, and to consider how these proposals could open visions and perspectives for Tirana, and be implemented, or strengthened.

The jury thus becomes the fourth team of the workshop and participates in the collective production of the jury session.

## Composition

The jury is composed by foreign city and international partner representatives, expert foreign and researchers, and by local authorities and local actors, local institution representatives, specialists ...

Due to the sensitive sanitary security context linked with the COVID-19 pandemic, Les Ateliers and the partners of the workshop had to organize this important event mostly online.

The presentations took place in 3 different meeting spaces in the Hotel Plaza in Tirana with the participation of the Deputy Mayor of Tirana and Co-President of the Jury Mr. Arbian Mazniku, and the Ambassador of France Mrs. Elisabeth Barsacq.

A meeting took place simultaneously in Paris to bring together the Chairman of Les Ateliers and Co-President of the Jury Mr Pierre André Périssol and a team of French experts.

This specific organization allowed us to gather international experts from all over the world, from the USA, Greece, or Canada.

*Moments from the presentations*



# International Jury of the Tirana International Urban Planning Workshop List

2 February 2021

## Co-presidents of the jury

### **Arbjan Mazniku**

Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Tirana, Albania

### **Pierre-André Périssol**

Mayor of Moulins, Les Ateliers de Cergy President, Former French Minister, France

## Municipality of Tirana

Frida Pashako

Head of Urban Planning Department, Municipality of Tirana, Albania

Genci Kojdheli

Head of Economic Development Department, Municipality of Tirana Albania

## Ministries and national institutions

Iris Elezi

Director, Albanian National Film Archive, Albania

## International Partners

### **Elisabeth Barsacq**

Ambassador, Embassy of France in Albania, France

### **Bernard Valéro**

Ambassador Director of AVITEM- Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories

France

### **Dominique Hautbergue**

Regional Manager, AFD – French Agency of Development Western Balkans, France

Djamila Ioualalen Colleu

Sustainable cities Project Manager, international mission “Housing and urbanism” Ministry of ecological and social transition, France

## Local experts from universities and civil society

Eled Fagu

Professor, Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania

Zana Vokopola

Director, Urban Research Institute, Albania

Ledio Allkja

Researcher, Co-Plan / Polis, Albania

## International experts and institutions

Alain Kendirgi

Former director, associated expert of the workshop SHEMA, (public organization for territory development of the Normandy Region), France

Babis Papaioannou

General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth, Ministry of Education, Greece

Florence Bougnoux

Head of the agency, SEURA architecture, urban planning, landscape, France

Corine Diserens

Director, National school of Art Paris-Cergy, France

Jean Grébert

Expert in new innovative mobility, Renault Nissan, France

Philip Enquist

Director Partner, SOM agency, USA

Drew Wensley

MT Planners CEO, Canada

François Lerin

Economist and agro-ecologist, International Association for the Development of Agroenvironment, (AIDA), France

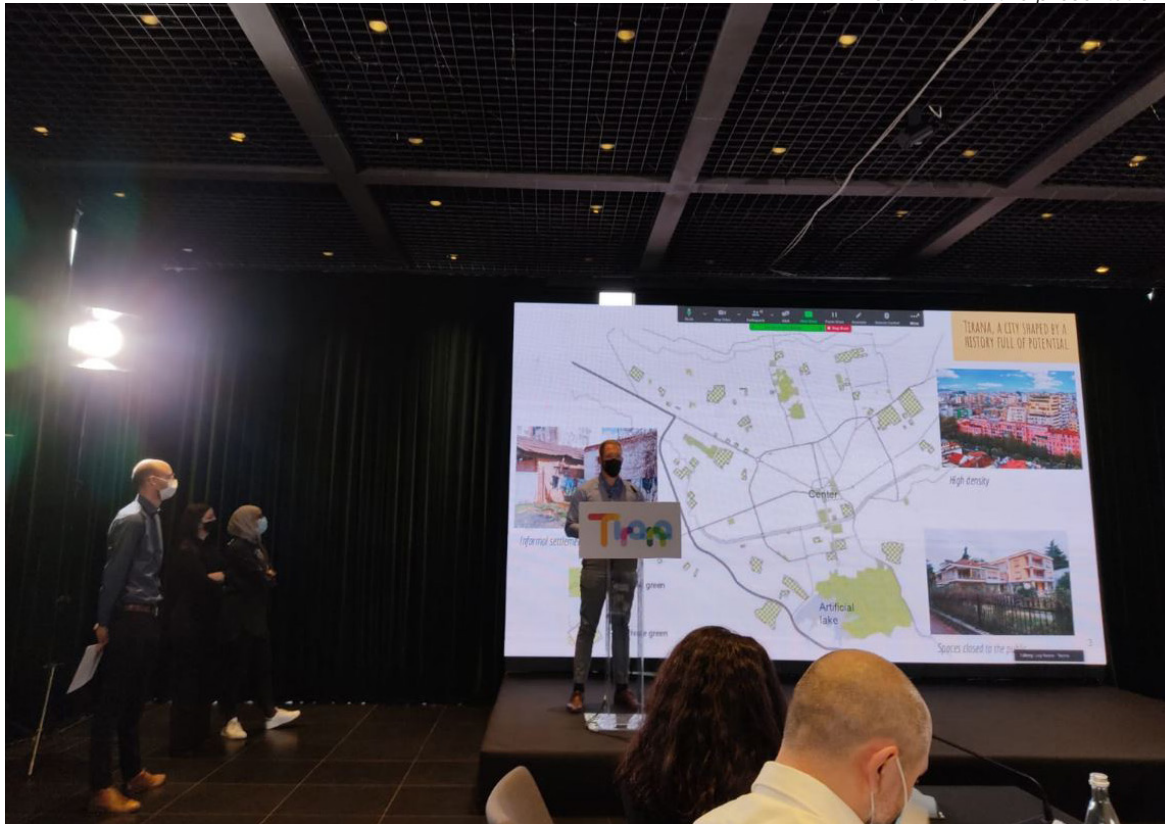
# Presentation day

2 February 2021

The presentation of the 3 different proposals to the jury panel composed of important stakeholders and actors was a crucial moment of exchange. Establishing this communication channel especially with the Municipality of Tirana, creates room for optimism that these ideas will be translated into actionable plans as soon as possible.

The three teams succeeded in tackling the challenges of Tirana's future from different angles, thus forming a complete and complementary picture that answered different key issues and problematics and raised several remarks and suggestions from the jury. In a condensed form, their response can be summarized along the following points:

*Moment from the presentations*



## Polycentrism in the city of Tirana

The idea of polycentrism has circulated in the discussions about the future development of Tirana for quite a while and after the administrative reform this notion includes rural development as well. The generated proposals seek to give a general overview of the city, while focusing on the pole of Kinostudio. This pole naturally creates links with other poles in the city and standing in the foothills of the Dajti mountain it can behave as a mediator for the development of the surrounding villages as well. In achieving this, the teams predicted various scenarios by impacting different factors such as mobility, public space, community building and economic hubs.

**A strong need for participatory planning, bottom-up approaches.**

All proposals had a strong participatory approach, that of including inhabitants in the decision-making processes through establishing foremost a sense of place-attachment and communities, followed by creating a closer link with institutions and people that represent them. Team 5 elements sees participation in creating places that foster cultural and economic exchange, for team Go East it is a network of economic relations, while Team Less is more inclined to enforce these bottom-up approaches through the reactivating of public space. The

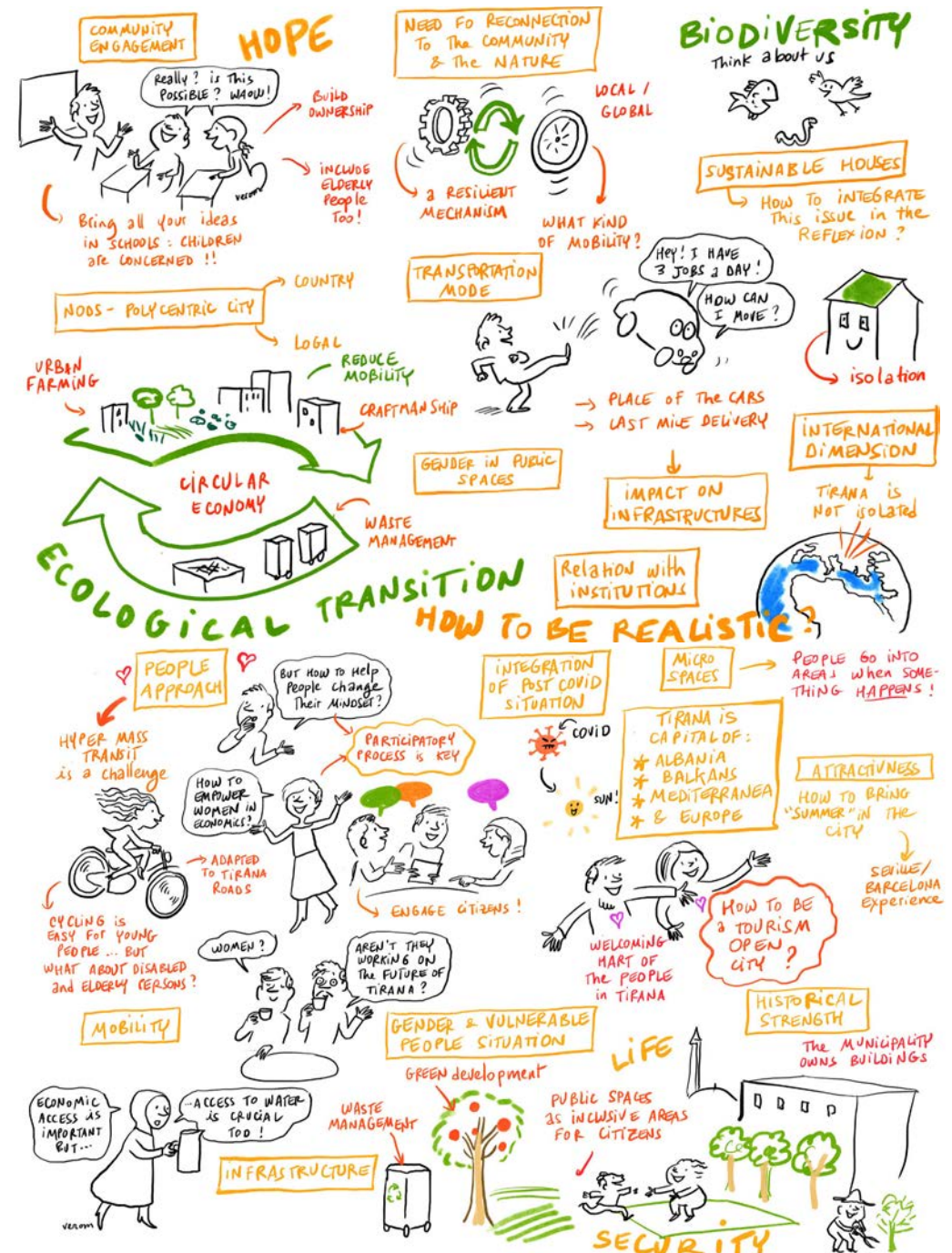
majority of the jury members acknowledged participation as a key issue when talking about resilient urban development that also applies in the case of Tirana. However, addressing the problematics of cohesion in the community is not easy. Coming forth with clear proposals about how you can bring together people is yet a challenge. Particular remarks about including vulnerable layers of communities such as minorities, elderly people or women in development strategies were also expressed.

## Mobility

Tirana is a car oriented city, but not planned as such. All the teams saw mobility as a major factor in establishing and ensuring the proposed development poles. Soft mobility was mentioned as the way of linking these urban and rural knots. 5 Elements stressed the need for links between the urban core and its rural surroundings through public transport. Less is more proposed a sixth ring along the orbital forest as a soft mobility corridor. Go East sought to introduce bicycle and walking lanes in neighbourhoods, giving residents the possibility to leave their car at home.

## Environment and climate change

Last but not least, sustainable development comes as a response to the current exacerbated state of the environment and the increasing impact climate change will have in our lives. Tirana faces strong challenges related to pollution, waste, infrastructure and climate change. The teams fairly acknowledged the importance of proposing strategies with the environment at heart. 5 Elements offered a optimistic prediction of 2050 where through waste management and circulatory processes, pollution can be diminished, creating healthy cities and regions. Go East put an emphasis on sustainable housing, which can be able to influence a healthier lifestyle, which in turn also impacts the environment. Less is more offered a more traditional approach, proposing a web of green areas that would improve the ecological state of the city and reduce the urban heat effect, flooding and other natural risks the city currently faces. Other strategies expressed in the previous points, such as soft mobility also influence positively in reducing pollution and creating healthy places.



Jury conclusions as seen by Véronique Olivier Martin, graphic facilitator



# **Annexes**

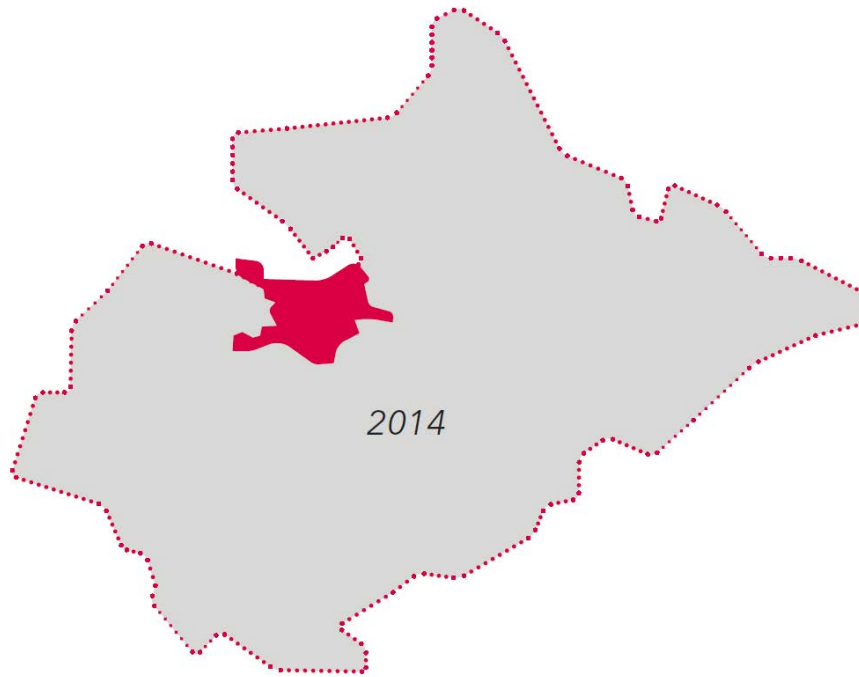
# Le sujet en français

## Origines

L'atelier international d'urbanisme de Tirana a pour origine la visite du président des Ateliers, maire de Moulins et ancien ministre français, Pierre André Périssol, à Tirana en mai 2018, durant laquelle ce dernier a rencontré l'ambassadrice de France en Albanie et le maire de Tirana. Des représentants de l'Agence française de développement (AFD) se sont également impliqués, et quelques mois plus tard, en décembre 2018, la directrice des Ateliers Christine Lepoittevin a participé au séminaire AVITEM Metropolis, organisé à Tirana. Alors que la capitale albanaise a été touchée par un important tremblement de terre fin 2019, l'organisation de l'atelier, confirmé suite à la mission exploratoire en Janvier 2020, a également été impactée par la crise pandémique déferlant en Europe au printemps 2020.

L'équipe de l'atelier fait le choix de prendre cette double crise comme une opportunité pour la ville de se projeter dans un nouveau siècle de résilience urbaine, et poursuit son travail en organisant trois table-rondes et une rencontre internationale en ligne explorant les dimensions de la résilience à Tirana.

L'atelier est finalement organisé sur site entre le 23 Janvier 2021 et le 02 Février 2021 et réunit 14 professionnels internationaux et locaux, experts en urbanisme, architecture, communication, économie et patrimoine.



*La réforme territoriale de 2014 a signifié un changement d'échelle d'importance.*



*Les émigrations des zones rurales sont à l'origine des quartiers informels depuis les années 90 (ici à Paskuqan).*





13 actions majeures constituent le coeur du plan local TR030 travers de quartiers construits de manière informelle et d'extensions des bâtiments existants. Cette situation a demandé au pouvoir d'enclencher des processus de légalisation des nouvelles installations, et pose aujourd'hui d'importantes questions en termes d'offre de services et d'infrastructures : la ville tend à se développer avant que les services et l'aménagement ne suivent.

## Le sujet de l'atelier

Tirana est la capitale politique et économique de l'Albanie, et une ville florissante de 850 000 habitants. C'est une ville complexe et en mutation rapide, son tissu urbain vivant et chaotique reflétant son extraordinaire histoire. Ayant connu l'un des régimes autoritaires les plus durs de la guerre froide, l'Albanie est entrée dans un processus radical de changement dans les années 90 vers la démocratie et l'économie de marché, impliquant une migration urbaine massive.

Tirana, ville à l'origine très structurée, s'est alors développée dans des dimensions nouvelles, au

En 2016, la ville s'est dotée d'un plan local ambitieux appelé TR030, qui projette Tirana comme ville polycentrique et qui met l'accent sur l'environnement par le développement de corridors verts et bleus, de mobilités douces et d'espaces protégés. Le tremblement de terre et les besoins de relogement qui ont suivi ont conduit à accélérer les transformations enclenchées par le plan

local. Dans le même temps, la réforme administrative de 2014 a profondément transformé Tirana : d'une capitale de 40 km<sup>2</sup>, Tirana est passé à une région métropolitaine de plus de 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>, comprenant de larges zones rurales et le parc national de Dajti, montagnes imposantes à l'est de la ville. Les liens entre ces campagnes délaissées et isolées et le centre urbain demeurant faibles, et les problématiques rencontrées dans ces espaces sont différentes. Les questions de représentation dans un tel territoire et de participation, déjà peu encouragée institutionnellement et peu favorisée par une histoire auto-ritaire, se posent ainsi de façon ardue.

## L'approche de l'atelier est double:

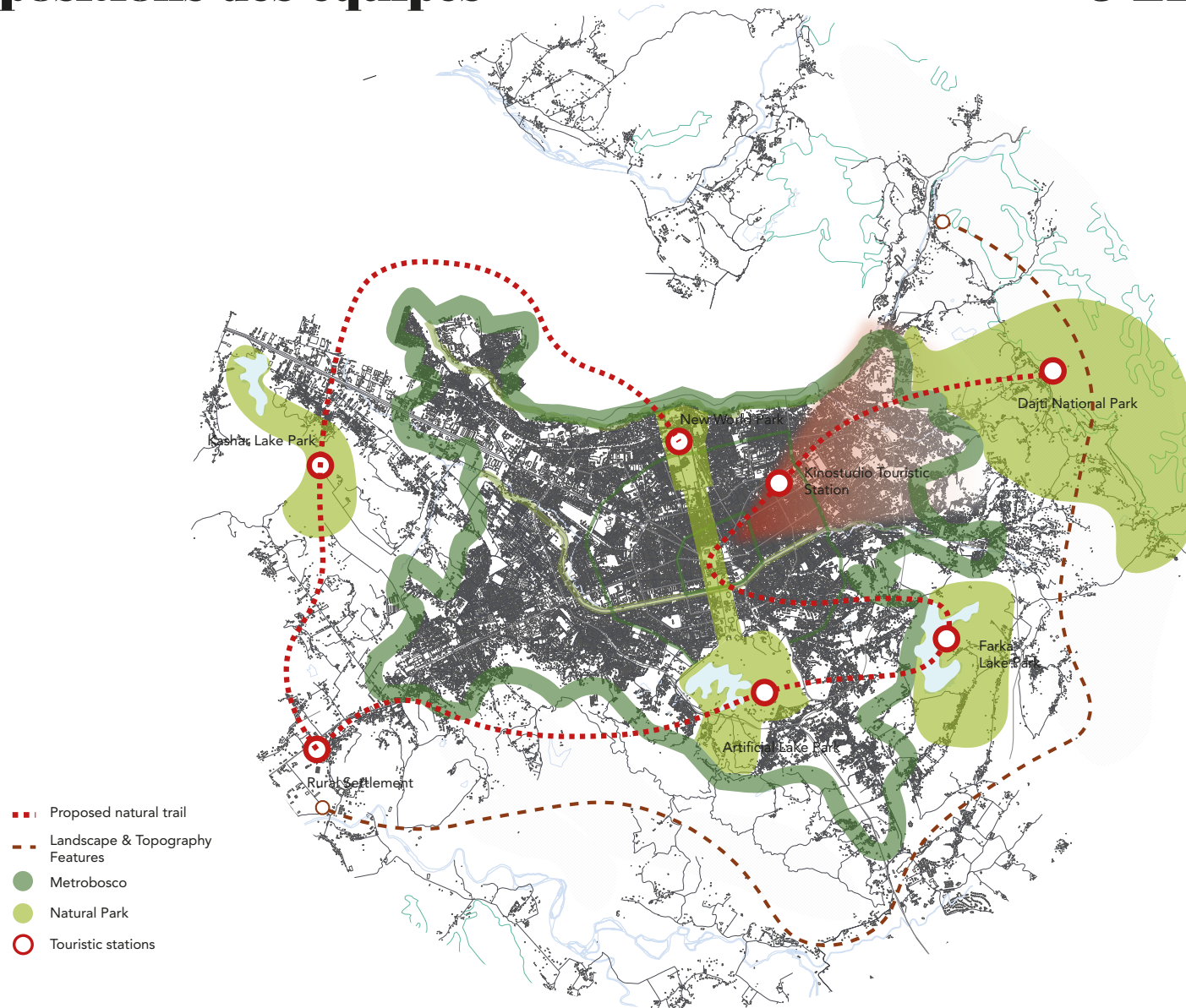
**Réparer** le tissu urbain et apporter des services après des années de construction informelle, en intégrant les migrations et les catastrophes naturelles récentes.

**Se préparer** pour anticiper la croissance attendue de la population, de la densité, et de l'activité économique.

L'atelier s'intéresse notamment à Kinostudio, quartier anciennement périphérique construit à l'époque communiste (1952) pour que l'industrie cinématographique nationale s'y développe, aujourd'hui désigné comme un pôle culturel de la métropole, accueillant notamment le Ministère de la Culture et d'autres institutions publiques et privées mais ne bénéficiant pas d'un plan stratégique particulier autre que l'aménagement d'un "parc des arts" mettant en valeur le patrimoine du ministère. Kinostudio est situé à l'est de la ville, au pied du Mont Dajti, zone moins développée et attractive que l'ouest tournée vers Durrës, deuxième ville du pays, et l'aéroport.

# Propositions des équipes

# 5 ELEMENTS



## Positive Energy City

Tirana s'est développée de manière rapide et incontrôlée autour du centre urbain, tout en négligeant les zones rurales environnantes. Positive Energy City propose une vision positive de la ville en 2050, fondée sur les menaces liées au changement climatique et sur la résilience nécessaire face notamment à la pandémie de covid19.

Pour mener à bien ces transformations, Tirana en 2050 a bénéficié d'une attitude proactive de la part des institutions, qui conduit des actions en concertation avec les habitants et les autres partenaires, en poursuivant l'objectif d'une neutralité carbone.

Skëndi, un albanais quadragénaire, est notre guide dans cette ville intelligente de 2050. Skëndi était étudiant dans les années 2020, lorsque la Pyramide, vestige du communisme, est devenue un centre de formation des technologies de l'information et de la communication. Jeune homme intéressé par l'art et la culture, il était impliqué dans le processus de revitalisation de certaines anciennes usines. Maintenant, il travaille et vit à Tirana. Il nous partage son quotidien et les politiques ayant permis de transformer la ville:

- les mobilités douces ont essaimé en ville, en s'appuyant sur les plans existants mais aussi avec l'implantation d'un tram le long de l'axe principal

- la participation est encouragée pour des activités créatives dans les anciennes usines

- le télé-travail et l'amélioration de la mobilité ont rendu les zones rurales plus attractives. L'agriculture est devenue biologique.

Kinostudio est devenu le centre culturel et créatif de la ville, et le point de départ pour les excursions touristiques et naturelles à Dajti.



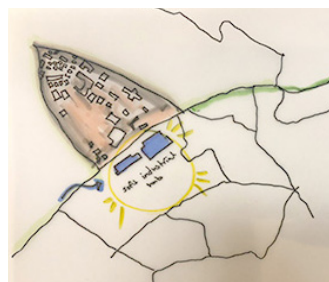
Le quartier Kinostudio



Kinostudio, hub culturel



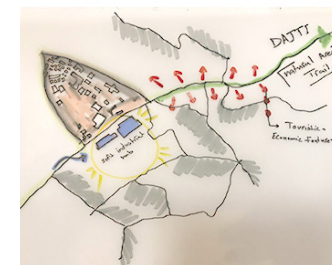
Site industriel rénové pour un usage économique



Chemin de randonnée vers Dajti



Des équipements publics et économiques le long du chemin



Management urbain pour les zones informelles



L'école de cinéma Marubi



Les archives nationales du cinéma albanais



Le centre social et culturel Uzina

# Propositions des équipes

# GO EAST



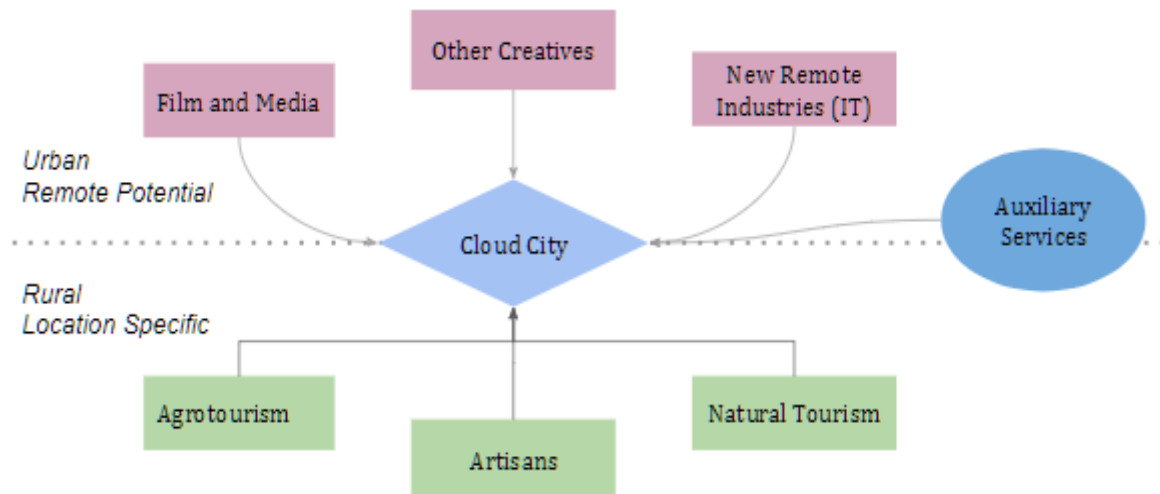
L'intensification et l'adaptation de l'existant aux dynamiques contemporaines

## Cloud City

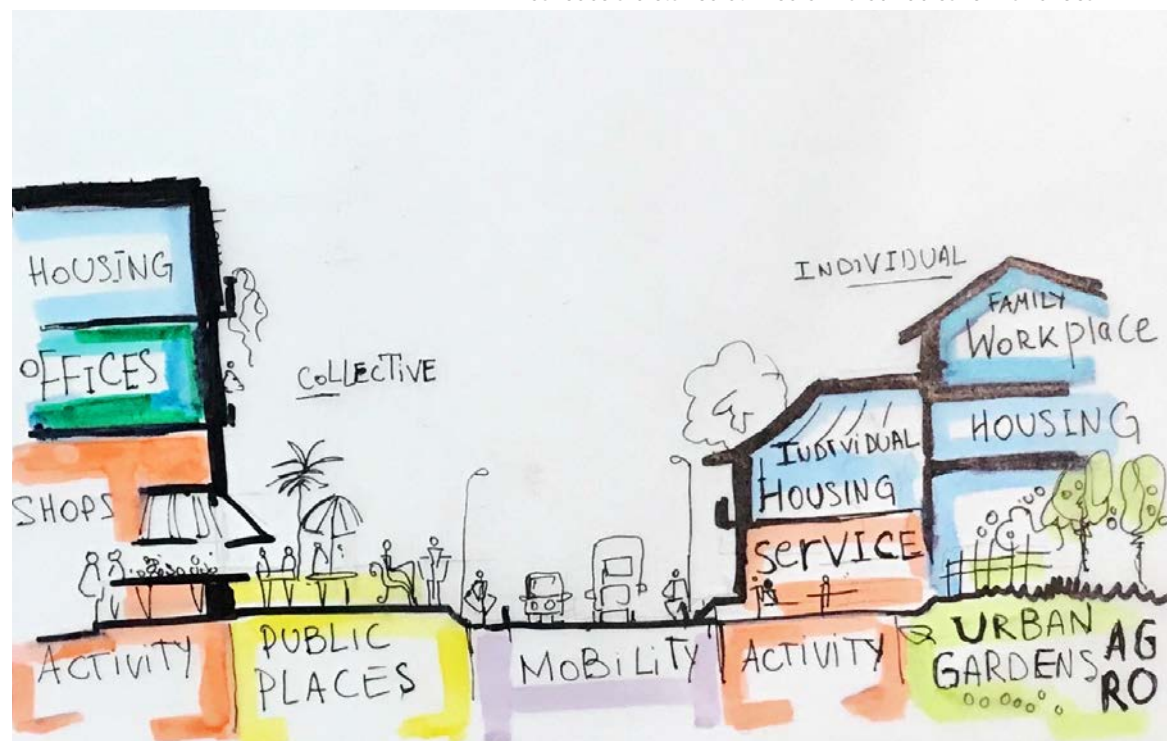
La Cloud City se définit comme une approche qui cherche à inverser les modèles historiques urbains historiques en Albanie, en s'appuyant sur les transformations en cours d'organisation sociale pour redynamiser des espaces délaissés. Le projet de la Cloud City prend source dans le contexte, cherchant les opportunités qu'offrent les lieux et leur histoire, et souhaite accompagner les communautés du 21ème siècle en recherche d'un avenir plus résilient.

Cloud City identifie dans le territoire Est de Tirana un couloir reliant Kinostudio, Porcelani et Frescu jusqu'aux montages de Dajti. Cette proximité avec la nature et l'agriculture est vue comme un atout, tout comme la présence d'éléments culturels et historiques (Kinostudio, Marubi...) et la l'existence de structures abandonnées ou semi-abandonnées.

C'est l'occasion de transformer le quartier originellement peu dynamique pour le tourner vers l'économie des services et créative, en l'adaptant à la société post-covid: télétravail, vie de quartier et consommation locale sont au centre du projet, et se déploient principalement dans les "espaces d'entre-deux". L'urbanisme temporaire et stratégique permet de revitaliser ces espaces en même temps que des projets pérennes se préparent. La mise en réseau est aussi un aspect essentiel de la réussite de la Cloud City, permettant de valoriser les producteurs locaux et de créer des débouchés pour la jeunesse diplômée albanaise.



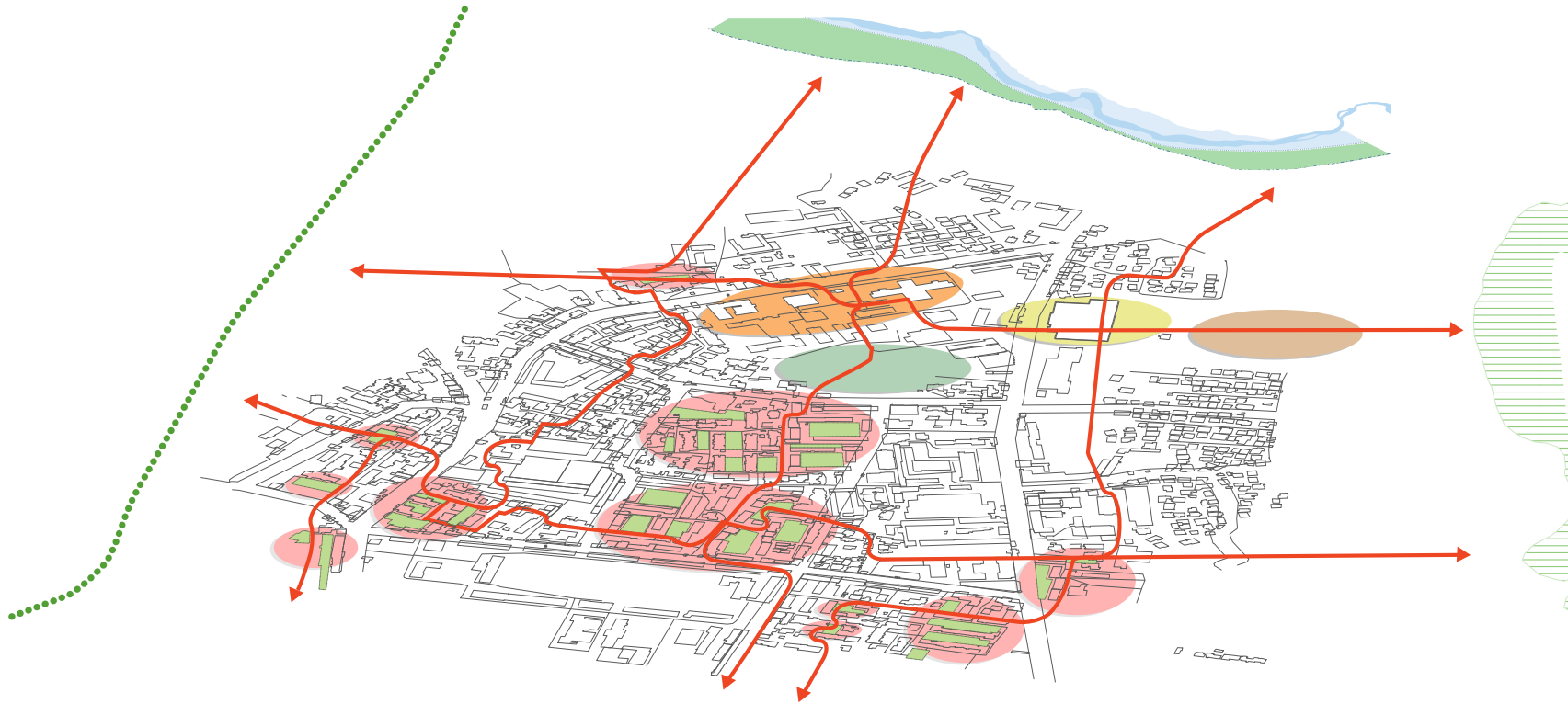
*Un réseau se crée dans le quartier de Kinostudio, entre activités réalisées à distance et mise en valeur du savoir-faire local*



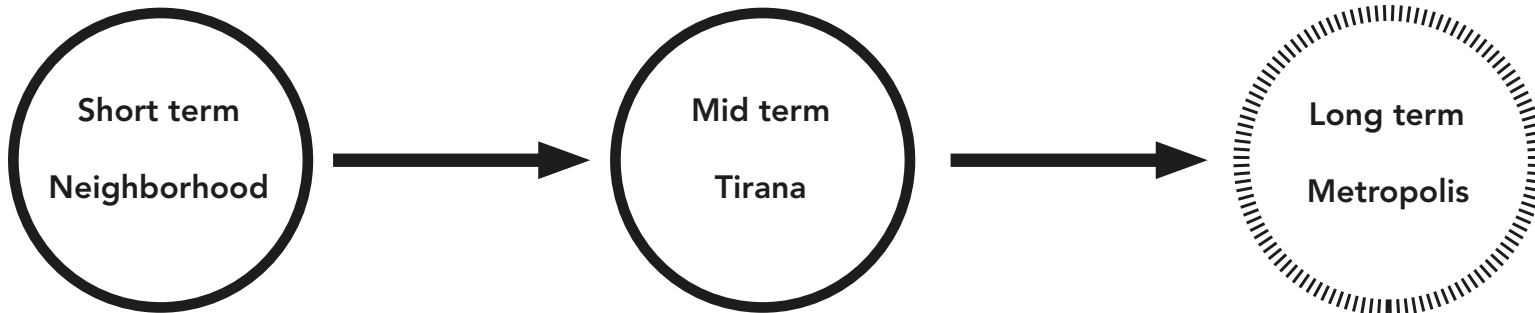
*La mixité fonctionnelle est source de dynamisme*

# Propositions des équipes

# LESS IS MORE



Un réseau de mobilités douces entre espaces publics pacifiés dans l'est de la ville



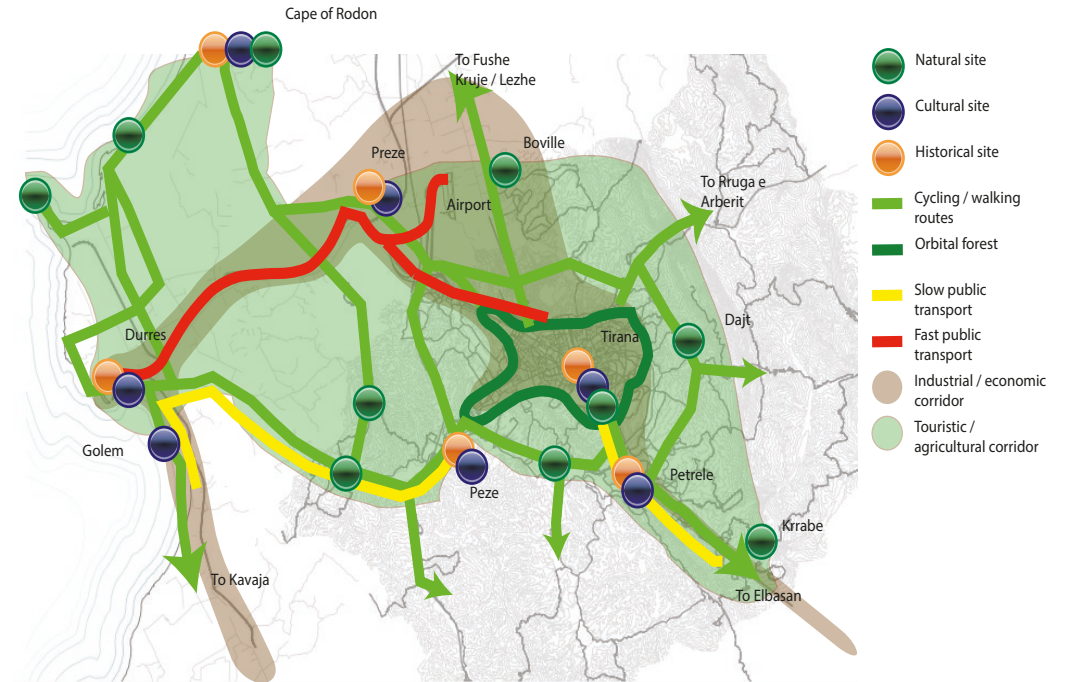
## A multifunctional web for a resilient Tirana

L'équipe Less is more s'appuie sur la vision du plan local général TR030 pour proposer des actions complémentaires, dans un premier temps dans les espaces publics à l'échelle des quartiers, et ensuite qui se lient dans un réseau métropolitain.

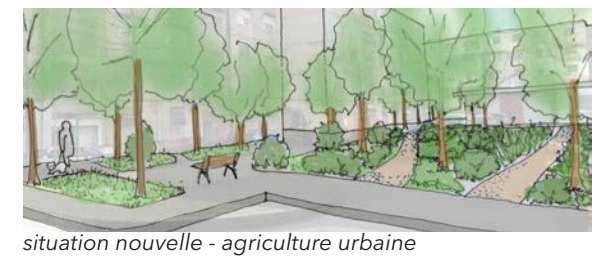
La stratégie est profondément participative : après avoir identifié des espaces ouverts et d'anciens bâtiments industriels, la municipalité encourage les citoyens à proposer des projets sur la base de leurs propres besoins dans ces lieux (agriculture urbaine, espaces verts, activités culturelles...) qui s'installent de manière temporaire ou permanente. Cette co-production est permise par une méthodologie qui associe les habitants à toutes les étapes, qui tisse un lien plus étroit avec les citoyens et encourage une transparence accrue.

L'ancienne usine Porcelani dans les environs de Kinostudio est prise comme un exemple de réinvestissement de la ville de ces lieux délaissés : s'y déploie de multiples fonctions telles que l'artisanat, l'agriculture ou un espace culturel.

L'espace public est ainsi intensifié autant que possible avec une programmation sociale et culturelle, et étendu en limitant les places de parking, en fermant certaines aux voitures pendant quelques heures de la journée. Les mobilités douces s'installent dans ces espaces réaménagés. Un réseau sans voiture émerge et offre des itinéraires sûrs aux piétons et aux cyclistes d'un quartier à un autre. En complétant le réseau déjà croissant et proposé dans TR030, il devient possible de traverser la ville entière et de rejoindre jusqu'à Durrës et les autres villes environnantes. Ces micro-centralités et le verdissement de la ville, connecté aux initiatives du plan local, sont aussi des façons de préparer la ville



Les interventions à grande échelle, jusque Durrës et la côte



L'espace public est reconquis et naturalisé

# TEAM THE 5 ELEMENTS

# Participants of the workshop

## BES Bertrand

FRANCE- Landscape architect and master in urban planning\_ - Expert operative head of public space planning service at District #3 of Metropolis of Greater Paris-[bertrand.bes@orange.fr](mailto:bertrand.bes@orange.fr)



Creative and curious by nature, I am always on the lookout for new projects that allow me to use my skills acquired through my experiences, trips and various activities. From strategy to delivery of projects, whatever the scale, I like to pay attention to details and what makes sense. The success of the project and the support of the greatest number are for me at this price. Passionate, I see my work as an extension of my tastes that I like to share and confront as a team with a common goal. Let's work together!

## FRUSTIER Pierre

FRANCE- PhD Communication – Consultant [pierre@frustier.com](mailto:pierre@frustier.com)



I worked as a tourism journalist for 20 years then, Doctor in communication, I became lecturer in communication dedicated to tourism (Nantes university). My university work focuses on the image of heritage as a vector of identity for territories (EIREST team, University of Paris 1 Sorbonne). My main work is on «tourist communication of the territories». During the last ten years, I have been an expert on the cultural routes of the Council of Europe. My first trip to Albania was in 1979 ! And have been there many times since 2000 for conferences or seminars, especially at the University of Tirana over the past two years. This project would be an opportunity to participate in the development of this country which is dear to me.

## DOBJANI Sarah

ALBANIA -Master of Science in Architecture - Consultant at the Tourism Component - Sustainable Rural Development Programme implemented by GIZ Albania - [sarahdobjani@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdobjani@gmail.com)



Passionate young architect with extensive experience in participating and tutoring workshops in Albania and abroad. Motivated and cooperative proven through successful organization of three local fests in different regions of Albania. Eager to work in multicultural environments by taking part in workshops in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and collaborating with students and young professionals from all over the world. Currently seeking to deepen my knowledge in urban-related projects and to broaden my experience in international workshop participation.



## TEAM THE 5 ELEMENTS

### MEÇE Fatmir

ALBANIA - Master degree in Urbanism-Freelance Architect  
[fatmirmece90@gmail.com](mailto:fatmirmece90@gmail.com)



My name is Fatmir and i am a 30 yo citizen living in Tirana. My major is Architecture and Urban planning. I spend my free time playing tennis, cycling through the city and meeting my friends, with whom i share a special bond. Though i enjoy a good debate with them, i am generally more attracted in being a very attentive listener. Though i enjoy the city, i am more and more attracted to nature and greenery. It is for that reason that i often find myself in want of a good climb in the mountains or even a stroll to the lake nearby.  
I like socializing with new people and getting to know them. This gives me great joy.

## Participants of the workshop

### SALEH Riwaa

PALESTINE- Master degree (MSc. Urban Systems Engineering), Bachelor degree (Architectural Engineering) [archriwaa.saleh.91@hotmail.com](mailto:archriwaa.saleh.91@hotmail.com)



Riwaa Saleh, Palestinian Architect, 29 years old. Currently, I am pursuing a Master degree (MSc. Urban systems Engineering) in Hungary, University of Debrecen. I had a five years of professional experience in the field of Urban Planning and urban rehabilitation, most of this experience was with Belgian Development Agency (ENABLE) based in Ministry of Local Government, as an urban planner and community developer, I was in charge of implementing an urban rehabilitation and urban planning project, as well I worked on urban planning projects targeting the Palestinian herding communities living inside restricted military zones.

# TEAM GO EAST

## ALITE Martin

ALBANIA -GERMANY - MSc Urban Management, Hon. BA. in Architecture- Freelance Urban Consultant- [martin.alite@gmail.com](mailto:martin.alite@gmail.com)



I am an architect and urban planner deeply fascinated about the use of design to facilitate better decision making in urban policy. After beginning to work an architect in Tirana, I had the chance to see architecture's impact on communities ( both good and bad) first hand. As a result, I decided to learn more about this and embarked on a Masters in Urban Management in Berlin, which allowed me to better articulate my various interests in sociology, economics, business with the more technical skill sets of a planner and architect.

# Participants of the workshop

## FEJZA Valbona

ALBANIA -Master of Architecture/ Architect at Puzzle [valbonaa.f@hotmail.com](mailto:valbonaa.f@hotmail.com)



I am a young architect from North Macedonia. I completed my master studies in 2018 at St. Cyril and Methodius, University of Skopje, where I was an associate for one year. After my graduation, I worked in different design studios in Skopje, and now am part of Puzzle – a collective of young architects practicing with a research-oriented approach. I was co-author of the Macedonian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2018 and am actively involved in international architectural competitions and workshops in order to further develop my skills and widen my professional horizons.

## TEAM GO EAST

### GÖNEN Mustafa

**TURKEY** - BSc Urban & Regional Planning MSc Urban Planning and MA Urban Management - Director in Global Heritage Fund  
- [mustafagonen@yahoo.com](mailto:mustafagonen@yahoo.com)



My background is urban and regional planning. After my graduation, I worked in an architecture office as an urban designer, and in an architecture faculty as a research and teaching assistant. Afterwards, I studied MSc Urban Planning in Ankara, and MA Urban Management in Rotterdam. Then, I have started to work in cultural heritage preservation. Through my career, I found the opportunity to work in different projects in different countries which allowed me to refresh my ideas, share my experiences and exchange knowledge in urbanism.

### YANKOVSKA Natalya

**FRANCE -UKRAINE** - Public Architecte-Urbaniste for city of Le Havre,  
[n.yankovska@outlook.com](mailto:n.yankovska@outlook.com)



My name is Natalya Yankovska, I am an architect-urban planner. Actually a consultant architect-urban planner in the town planning department of the City of Le Havre, I wish to combine my interest in transdisciplinary research on the issue of habitat and uses by calling on methods and concepts from the Human Sciences, in order to constitute tools for analysis and interpretation of current architectural and town planning practices. My different professional experiences through the multiple roles of the urban fabric have allowed me to address the question of habitat and uses through the postures of designer, mediator, assistant to project manager and public architect in community.

## Participants of the workshop

### KAPO Dritan

**ALBANIA**- Architect - [dritan.kapo@gmail.com](mailto:dritan.kapo@gmail.com)



Dritan KAPO is an architect, researcher, university lecturer, and entrepreneur. He is the founder of Punishte Arkitekture and the cofounder of Arka, focused on creating resilient spaces that improve the quality of everyday life. His professional interest and expertise include housing structures for the urban context and those of hospitality in the rural context, with particular emphasis on promoting identity aspects through renovation and adaptation of rural dwelling.

# TEAM LESS IS MORE

# Participants of the workshop

## CREMER Adrien

FRANCE - : Energetic Transition and Development Master Student + Tutor in Purchasing and Procurement - [adrien.cremer@gmail.com](mailto:adrien.cremer@gmail.com)



I am fascinated about sustainable development and its implementation in planning new cities or fixing developing cities issues. My double qualification in Logistics and Sustainable development gives me specific expertise and vision related to mobility issues in urban environments. I have lived in Tirana for many years, I have a special feeling with this city. I am very happy to be able to participate in a workshop which might make the city more attractive to its population, more connected to its identity, its nature, and better prepared for its future.

## HAMMAD Aïda

SWITZERLAND- Master degree in Urban Planning. Grants and Fundraising Assistant for Iraq & Syria. Freelance Urban Planning Studio [aida\\_hammad@hotmail.com](mailto:aida_hammad@hotmail.com)



Having a varied and diverse background in urban planning, international cooperation, photography and video making, I developed multiple skills and I am constantly looking for new opportunities and challenges. Currently, with a group of friends specialised in urban planning and architecture, we regularly participate in international urban competitions, such as rethinking the future public space, the rehabilitation of a health centre in Senegal, the construction of a school as well as an ecovillage in Chad, with the aim of founding our own office. This workshop will allow me to gain more experience in a new field and a new topic.

# TEAM LESS IS MORE

## SMITS Ruben

NETHERLANDS - architect at Kampman Architecten  
[stimsnebur@gmail.com](mailto:stimsnebur@gmail.com)



Architect with a broad interest in more or less related topics such as sustainable innovations, renewable energies and landscape design. I love being outdoors and observing nature and I think architecture and urban planning could play an important role in bringing more biodiversity in cities, both benefitting the urban climate and its inhabitants as well as helping to avert the crises of biodiversity and climate. I appreciate to work together to create something greater than the sum of its parts.

# Participants of the workshop

## PLAKU Rovena

ALBANIA - Master of Science «Urban Planning and Management »; Professional Master « LandscapeUrban Design » - guest researcher at ILS Dortmund [rovenaplaku1@gmail.com](mailto:rovenaplaku1@gmail.com)



My name is Rovena, I come from Albania and I am junior urban planner with progressive experience and expertise knowledge in social, environmental planning, landscape planning and principles of city/urban planning. I have already obtained two degrees, a Master of Science one in Urban Planning and City Management and a Professional one on Landscape Urban Design which is a Joint Degree with IHS Rotterdam and Polis University, Tirana, Albania. I find this workshop as an opportunity to network with other professional from the World, and also to familiarize with good practices as an added value for my personal development.

# LES ATELIERS TEAM

## KAPEDANI Ermal

ALBANIA-CANADA - PILOT - Sustainability Consultant at Bopro  
[ermal.kapedani@uhasselt.be](mailto:ermal.kapedani@uhasselt.be)



For the past 10 years Ermal has worked, studied, and researched on sustainability issues in the built environment. He has maintained a holistic and multidisciplinary approach as a source of innovation in various roles, bringing together perspectives from design, research, real estate economics, and policy. A human-centered built environment has been the starting point of his work towards more socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable buildings and cities which bring joy to their inhabitants. Currently he is combining architectural knowledge with behavioral economics and socio-technical approaches to understand renovation drivers and promote adoption of energy efficient and universally designed home renovations in Flanders.

## MAHAJAN Reena

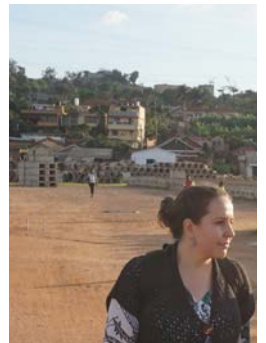
INDIA-FRANCE-URUGUAY - PILOT - Architect & Urban Planner,  
Founder - Studio Divercity - [reena.mahajan@gmail.com](mailto:reena.mahajan@gmail.com)



Architect, urban planner and multilingualist, Reena has a strong background in low impact, water sensitive and sustainable urban development. She has successfully conceived and coordinated urban restructuring and development projects — from building to block to territorial scale; from preliminary to design-development to operational stages — in close cooperation with an eclectic mix of professionals across an interdisciplinary landscape. She has more than 10 years experience as project lead in Paris based urban design firms. She has also participated in social projects and urban planning workshops in different parts of the world. Beyond the concerns of the urban form and its technical aspects, she believes that urban strategies must aim for inclusive, resource-efficient and resilient cities.

## VALENZUELA Veronique

CHILE - FRANCE - Director of projects, Geographer  
[veronique.valenzuela@ateliers.org](mailto:veronique.valenzuela@ateliers.org)



I have always been interested in the social and urban issues of large cities, first through the recovery of historical memory and the study of mechanisms of exclusion and socio-spatial segregation. My personal experience has allowed me to get to know the urban dynamics of Latin America, Africa and Europe. I work in public institutions and associations, and have been active in workshops since 2010 as an assistant manager, participant, and coordinator and project manager.

Since 2016, I am a Director of projects at Les Ateliers.

# LES ATELIERS TEAM

## **PUKA TORDEUX Andia**

ALBANIA-FRANCE ASSISTANT-COORDINATOR

Economist and Environmentalist

[andia.puka@ateliers.org](mailto:andia.puka@ateliers.org)



My career, atypical and in constant search for new skills, allowed me to go beyond its logical scheme. I have a master's degree in development economics and a research master on sustainable development and environmental studies.

My professional experience started in France with research activity on environmental issues and followed in Albania teaching at the Bachelor level in economics and statistics. Afterwards I chose to devote myself to my family and to improving my knowledge of foreign languages. The resumption of an active professional life was made with the assistance to the coordination of the Tirana Atelier, which represented a real revelation for my career, because of its wealth of human exchanges, the logistics of the organization and the success of a project that was significant for my hometown.

## **BROCHARD Simon**

FRANCE- ASSISTANT-PILOT , Historian - Geographer -

[simon.brochard@ateliers.org](mailto:simon.brochard@ateliers.org)



Historian and geographer, smiling and sociable, I like working in a team and trying to get to the bottom of things.

Passionate about current urban issues, I often prefer ambitious and imaginative solutions to technical debates. I hope that my capacity in compromise and discussion can be useful during the workshop.

## **BENDO Erida**

ALBANIA - ASSISTANT-PILOT- architect

[eridabendo@ymail.com](mailto:eridabendo@ymail.com)



Being a recent graduate of architecture, I am discovering different aspects that encompass the profession of an architect.

After experiences in architecture studios and the construction sector, Les Ateliers and the workshop form an important moment of exchange for me, in terms of getting in touch with local and international professionals, reaffirming and also discovering dynamics of urban developments. More than before, I believe that through studying the peculiar case of Tirana's fast development, it is possible to understand key issues of the way cities are formed and grow, as well as to offer real insights for Tirana's future.

# LOCAL TEAM

## BILALI Nevin

Architect- Municipality of Tirana  
[nevinbilali@gmail.com](mailto:nevinbilali@gmail.com)



Nevin Bilali is an architect, graduated in Architecture and Urban Design. Several years of experience in different architecture studios and projects.

Part of the municipality of Tirana for six years as an advisor and now as a director at the Urban Planning Department. Being able to contribute for the city she lives in everyday, makes this the most fulfilling position she has been in professionally.

## CANAJ Fiona

Architect- Municipality of Tirana  
[fionacanj24@gmail.com](mailto:fionacanj24@gmail.com)



My name is Fiona Canaj, I was born in Tirana, on 24 April 1995.

An architect currently working at the municipality of Tirana, as a Specialist in the architectural and urban design directory. As a new graduate student in Italy, at the "Gabriele D'Annunzio" University of Pescara, I find it so fulfilling and exciting to be able and apply the knowledge and European experience I gained abroad to my own birth-land!! I believe in architects building a better future for people, so I'm ready to do my part!

## BAXHAKU Arba

Architect, Lecturer- Municipality of Tirana, Polytechnic University of Tirana  
[ar.baxh@gmail.com](mailto:ar.baxh@gmail.com)



Arba Baxhaku completed her PhD dissertation at the University of Florence. Her thesis 'Suspended Identities - Interpretations on the transfiguration of the Architectural landscape of Tirana after the fall of the communist regime', presents a project for the recovery of housing built in series during the communist regime in Albania.

Arba's work is defined by a constant conversation between theoretical research and design practices: RE-WRITING or how to interpret the existing architecture as a dialogue between the past and modernity. Her projects have in common the path of re-building fragments of formal worlds that seem to link together, in an extraordinary affinity and surprising continuity over time, facts and experiences that were at first irreconcilable.

## BAJRAKTARI Kreshnik

Head of Urban Traffic Control Center- Municipality of Tirana  
[kreshnik.bajraktari@tirana.al](mailto:kreshnik.bajraktari@tirana.al)



Kreshnik Bajraktari has 10 years of working experience in municipal traffic engineering, transportation planning, road design, traffic system operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems. He has worked for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as Transportation Engineer/Planner in "The Project for Tirana Thematic Urban Planning".

Since March 2014 he is working as Head of Urban Traffic Control Center, at Transportation Directory in the Municipality of Tirana. His responsibilities include the road traffic management, transportation planning and Intelligent Transportation Systems in the city of Tirana.



## LOCAL TEAM

### **GAUTIER Anne Elisabeth**

Cooperation Attaché- French Embassy in Tirana  
[elisabeth.gautier@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:elisabeth.gautier@diplomatie.gouv.fr)



Cooperation Attaché at the French Embassy in Tirana since 2019, I cover the rule of law and sustainable development sectors with the aim of accompanying Albania in its road towards the EU accession. Passionate about International Cooperation and European affairs, I served as Director of Expertise France Representative office in Brussels, Deputy-Director of the French Institute of Turkey and Secretary General of the Bucharest Law College of European studies. I coordinated several actions on urban transitions and territorial development with a focus on public consultation and participatory mechanisms. I completed a PhD at the University Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne - Doctoral school for International and European Law, and a Master degree in International Economic Law and Development.

### **MATA Mirela**

Strategic and Operations Officer- French Development Agency  
[matam@afd.fr](mailto:matam@afd.fr)



Mirela Mata has 29 years of working experience. She has worked for the Economic and Commercial Sector of the French Embassy in Tirana, later as Correspondent for Regional Economic Service and Business France. She also served as Economic Attaché of France and since April 2020 she is appointed as the Strategic and Operations Officer for the French Development Agency (AFD group) covering Albania and Kosovo. Her responsibilities include identification and analysis of project opportunities in both countries for the AFD Group, coordination and follow up of the ongoing projects portfolio of the Agency.

Ms. Mata is also Foreign Correspondent for CCEF (French Foreign Trade Advisers) Network. Ms. Mata is a recipient of the "Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite", awarded by the President of France and of "Médaille d'honneur du travail" awarded by the French Labor Minister.

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## **Thank you**

Les Ateliers would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to their public and private partners, for giving them the opportunity to plan this international workshop and provide support during the process.

To the Tirana municipality and the technical committee, our deepest gratitude.

We also would like to thank the local and national institutions, civil society, and all the resource people met for their collaboration and participation.

**les ateliers**  

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**maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine**