Special Issue Reprint

Urban Regeneration and Local Development

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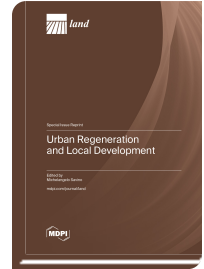
In recent years, we have witnessed an increasing number of strategic urban regeneration interventions. Contemporary architectures, new solutions for urban organization, new models of intervention, support for innovative activities within regenerated neighbourhoods, and the formation of new public–private and non-profit partnerships are common features of most recurring regeneration programs. However, the most innovative aspect of recent regeneration processes is the goal of social integration, citizenship involvement, and social capacity building—objectives that call for new innovative approaches.

It is time for a preliminary assessment of these processes to understand how they really affect local development: Do they really impact local communities? In the midterm, can we recognize real improvements in the quality of life in these regenerated neighbourhoods? Are gentrification, real estate market trends, and eviction dynamics really under control? What about social relations: Have they truly improved towards better cohesion? Have they triggered the growth of insurgent economies? Behind the glass facades, glittering promenades, and attractive public spaces, can we find a more integrated community and a more just urban organization?

This Special Issue aims to explore and assess regeneration attempts around the world, analyze current trends, and propose recommendations for reshaping regeneration approaches to achieve a deeper social and economic impact, far beyond the restoration of built-up and declining parts of the city.

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