

**10<sup>th</sup>**

INTERNATIONAL LOCAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Tbilisi  
**LED**  
Local Economic Development  
Cities of Tomorrow



# Urban Resilience

## Towards an integrated approach

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"Progressive Cities"

Tbilisi, Georgia

# I Urban Resilience Network (URNet)



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## THE FALLACY OF THE UNPOSSIBLE

Guest authors: Thomas P. Seager, Lucien Hollins, and Marcus Snell In the popular US cartoon television series The Simpsons, there is a brief scene in which one of the child characters is placed on academic probation. His response is, "Me, fail English? That's impossible!" As viewers, it strikes us as ridiculous to witness a character →

VIEWPOINTS



## THE PILLARS OF DISASTER RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Guest author: Prof. Edward Blakely On April the 6th, 2017 Prof. Edward Blakely, the Former Recovery Director Post-Katrina floods in New Orleans, has been invited to deliver a keynote speech held at the Gran Sasso Science Institute, on the occasion of the 8th Anniversary of the earthquake which almost destroyed L'Aquila, one of the biggest →

VIEWPOINTS

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- **URNet** is an international research community with interest in understanding, exploring and broadening multidisciplinary perspectives on Urban Resilience.
- **URNET** was founded in 2012 from a pluridisciplinary network addressing the challenge of understanding how resilience thinking could be applied to cities.
- The aim of the network is to bridge research and practices, contributing to a better implementation of urban resilience.
- **URNet** is integrated by 200+ members from 30+ countries.

## II Learning to share 1: Defining Urban Resilience



- After 5 years of international research collaborations, evidences from field studies have made clear that resilience has mainly been understood as the **capacity to react to disasters, shocks and stresses**.
- This capacity (set of capacities) to react, recover etc, was justified as the need of **adapt** to a changing environment, and climate, but also as a need to **act** since sustainability discourses and practices were failing to address challenges and unavoidable consequences of our unsustainable patterns of development.
- This is how and why resilience has been slowly **replacing sustainability** in policy reports.

### III Learning to share 2: "The Resilience Gap" Resilience VS Sustainability



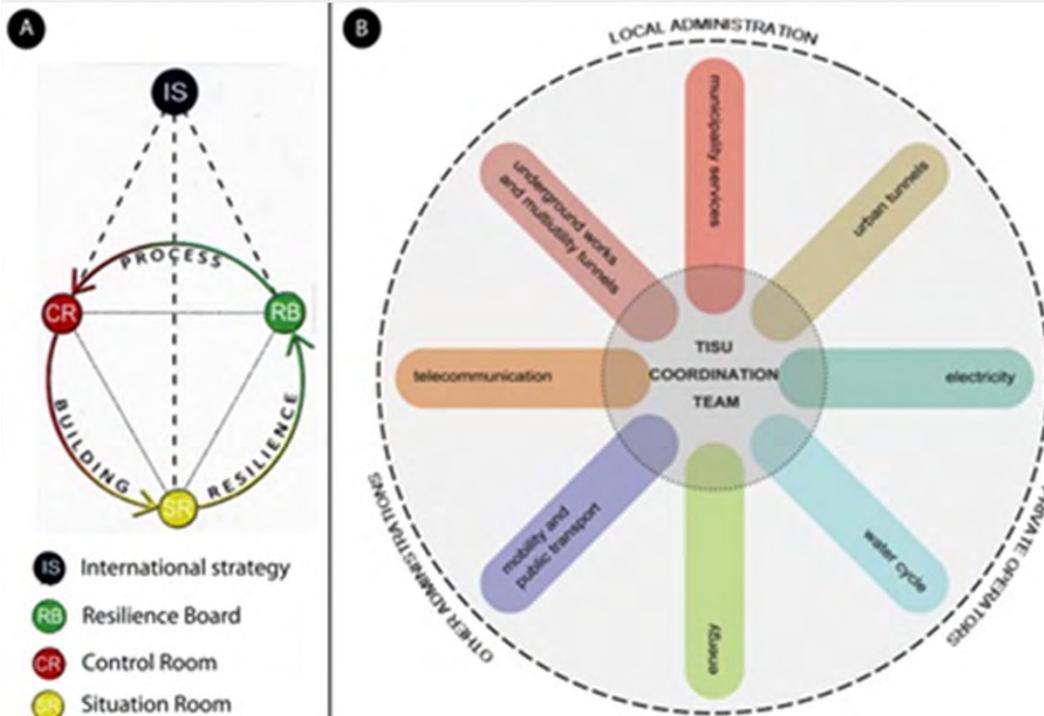
- The need of adapting threats puts emphasis on responsive capacities, which in turn have been prioritizing (short-term) "**effectiveness**" and "**efficiency**" of projects, rather than their **long-term performances**.
- Most recovery and risk reduction strategies neglect development traps and lock-in patterns.
- Resilience has been introduced as an overlapping and synergistic concept in line with sustainability discourses. However, **resilience and sustainability differ**, and if we keep on promoting resilience strategies without aligning them to overall sustainability goals our development trajectory is going to fail.

## IV How to fill the gap in theory?



- In order to align resilience with sustainability we need a paradigm shift in the way we build and organize a **governance framework** needed in order to manage specific resilience in time and space.
- Since cities are exposed to different simultaneous stresses and threats, it is worth performing an **integrated vulnerability assessment**.
- Addressing the most pressing issues, locating synergies among specific resilience solutions, and framing those in line with longer-term transformations is needed to avoid lock-ins.

## V Mainstreaming integration to build resilience: Towards an integrated approach



- **1) Coordination.** Integrating strategies, maximizing synergies among projects and trying to avoid trade-offs among specific resiliences.
- **2) Maximization of city resilience features.** Building more resilient structures and systems per se to prevent treats. Sociotechnological features can be integrated within specific resilience projects, which is a good way of aligning long-term sustainability to short-term adaptability of the detected threats.

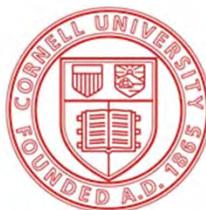
Barcelona Resilience Strategy (A), TISU Resilience Boards (B) and the related actions proposed by the 3Ss report (C)  
 Source: Lorenzo Chelleri, upcoming.

## VI Mainstreaming international applied research: Urban Resilience Institute (URI)



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[www.cityresilience.org](http://www.cityresilience.org)

- Through an extended network of partner universities, **URI** will induce a paradigm shift in the manner in which cities will develop over the next century begins with training new professionals to think and act differently.
- **URI** will become a major advocacy platform for this transformative process, supporting the paradigm shift in planning and urban development according to the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda 2030.
- **URI** opens the possibility for additional university partnerships and participation in the institute's program.

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Thank you



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