



THE SUSTAINABLE CITY IX

Urban Regeneration
and Sustainability



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Preface

The International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability, now in its ninth edition has a long and distinguished history. It started in Rio de Janeiro in 2000 at the beginning of the Millennium, followed by a series of very successful meetings at Segovia (2002); Siena (2004); Tallinn (2006); Skiathos (2008); a Coruna (2010); Ancona (2012); and Kuala Lumpur (2013).

The Meeting organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, and the University of Siena is closely associated with the Prigogine Medal and the work of the Ecodynamics Group at the latter Institution. The work of the Group originated with the research of the eminent scientist Enzo Tiezzi who clearly highlighted that development is different from growth. Growth presupposes a continuous supply of mass and energy that cannot last forever. Growth based on limited resources is neither sustainable nor enduring. On the contrary, a dynamic development that maximizes efficiency, reduces or excludes wastefulness, and draws on sources of renewable supplies through advanced systems and innovative technologies, can feed a prosperous economy and guarantee wide-spread, long-lasting well-being.

The Sustainable City therefore is not a city full of new buildings, but rather the same city of the past, repaired, renovated, modified in order to be lived as fully today as it was then. When considering historical centers, and above all areas of urban expansion and suburbs, this process of adaptation is increasingly necessary and desirable, especially from the new prospect of having to limit our dependence on non-renewable energy sources and tackle climate change. In this sense, the search for more sustainable cities is the premise that should inspire research, policies and the building industry.

This line of reasoning has been expressed in the lands of Siena, where the commitment to the environment has long been a common shared goal. One prime example is the Siena Carbon Free project, promoted by the provincial administration, which has proven Siena's excellence as the first territory to reach an equal balance between emission and absorption, starting from 2011.

It was most appropriate to hold the 2014 Sustainable City Conference once again in Siena and during the meeting host the 2014 Prigogine Award Ceremony, details of which can be seen in the Prelims of this book.

This Volume contains most of the papers presented at the Conference. The editors are grateful to the authors for the quality of their work and to all members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee and others who helped select them.

The Editors
Siena, 2014

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