

## PREFACE

The UTN project (Urban Technology Network), in order to promote the use of new "technologies for the cities" on part of the local administrations through international co-operation, has so far privileged the field of environmental technologies (sewage, waste and energy management) and of the recovery of historical centres.

Just in the absolute importance of these subjects, the choice practiced by Tecnopolis (implementing actor at regional level of the UTN project) together with Region Puglia and the Commune of Bari has been to start, through this workshop, the debate on the technologies for the security in the cities.

If the subject of the safe city represents, as a matter of fact, a priority for the administrations of Puglia, both for historical endogenous situations and in relation to the new condition of border region, it has by now a wider valence and is more and more assimilated like one of the critical factors for the local government: it is not a mystery that some local electoral competitions have been centred and resolved on the topic of the safe city. And the security of the cities constitutes, also, an important instrument of territorial marketing whereas an element of the entrepreneurial choices of localization of new productive systems is just in the levels of "security" that the territory in examination can offer.

The topic of the safe cities is enduring a meaningful evolution though.

The old idea of safe city, as a matter of fact, brings everything to a problem of personal safety in relation to criminal phenomena: this type of security, relative to public order in its aspect of "police", makes reference to both repressive and preventive approaches, but it is typically afferent to the competences only of police forces.

On the other hand, the request for security from the citizens is assuming a wider meaning, reported to the good living, to the freedom of moving, working and to have use of the private and public spaces of the city with serenity, in a situation of civil cohabitation among different ethnic groups, cultures and generations: the topic is therefore that one of the contrast to social outcasting, management of the immigratory impact, protection of environment and of cultural resources, local development, protection of the places at risk, diffusion of legality and of culture of the rules. It is obvious that this other dimension of security (denominated "city security" to distinguish it from the previous aspect of "public security") is referred to the improvement of the quality of life in the cities; in this sense, it passes over the role of the police forces in order to acquire a more active and interactive dimension where all the various subjects involved assume importance, not only the public institutions but also the organizations of the society, the associations, the economic tissue, the organs of information.

It is just in the perspective of setting this new vision of the security in the cities that the workshop has dedicated its first session to a moment of "institutional reflection" on the topic, where the multiplicity of the points of view offered by the different public actors, as well as experts of the field, has allowed to catch the most meaningful trends.

The second session of the workshop has been therefore dedicated to the role that new technologies carry out regarding the topics of the security.

It is obvious, in fact, that the technological innovation represents a fundamental necessity for the Police Forces, from the interconnection of operating headquarters until including new and sophisticated technologies of control. To such purpose, the Operating Programme "Security for the Development of Southern Italy" 2000- 2006 (the so-called PON Security) represents the fundamental instrument in order to financially and programmatically support this process of technological, cultural and organizational innovation inside the Police Forces.

But the technological innovation is assuming an important place also for the Local Administrations, just in virtue of the new role that they are called to carry out regarding the topics of the security in the cities.

Certainly the thought immediately goes to the video-surveillance systems that begin to have much spread also in our cities: initially functional to the single prevention and repression of the crimes, these systems of visual monitoring are increasing their own circuit of application (monitoring and management of the traffic; access to historical centres and zones of restricted traffic; control of refuse disposal sites; control on board of public transports; security at the job places). Other technologies of this category are those linked to the geographic localization systems (e.g.: localization systems of public transports for security purposes) until considering the use of the earth observation satellites, that, with the current levels of detailing and the ability to detect in a synoptic way modifications of the territory, can contribute to face environmental crimes, administrative illegality, etc.

In other words, many technological resources for the "command and control", of military origin, are now potentially at the local governments disposal for a better control of the city as a system.

Another fundamental ambit for the use of new technologies for city security purposes is the one linked to the knowledge and the diagnosis of the territory situation.

The definition of an effective policy for the city security, in key of prevention as well as, more in general, of support to the quality of life, must pass in fact through a deep and updated territory knowledge, in all its physical aspects and of social and economic dynamics. The information systems technologies, and in particular of the territorial information systems, based on the technology of the GIS (Geographical Information System) represent, therefore, a fundamental instrument in order to analyse and to comprehend on territorial base the degradation phenomena, micro-crime, etc. and, therefore, to update at best the prevention devices on the territory itself. The expectable evolutions are, however, strongly tied to the ability to pursue, also in this ambit, the policy of applicative co-operation and exchange which the developments of the RUPA (Unitary Network of Public Administration) are based on, as already applied, for example, in the Cadastre-Communes context.

Finally, the telecommunication technologies. It is obvious that the Information Society, allowing in specific a more effective and continuous concrete contact between citizen and institutions, positively concurs to determine a better perception of security from the citizens themselves. The framework of technologies and applications is, obviously, in an evolutionary phase, but the road systems for interaction citizen-police forces as well as the systems of video-care for old people can be considered emblematic cases of the opportunities offered by this technological ambit for security purposes.

Also on these topics the workshop, just collecting the contribution of very heterogeneous subjects, has allowed to better delineate the framework of the opportunities, also catching some possible negative implications (let us consider the problems of privacy connected to the

increasing use of the video-surveillance or the *digital divide* problem, that is the risk to introduce further social outcasting forms in the society as a consequence of the distinction between who approaches and who does not approach the "network") that must be, therefore, object of a careful appraisal during the project phase.

In conclusion, the hope is to have contributed to widen the understanding of a particularly difficult topic, in the perspective to stimulate a new and innovative projecting ability for safe cities, in particular in our own regional ambit, as the result of an effort of co-operation among all the different subjects, public and private, that aim to the economic and civil increase of our territory.