

Title of the project: PLOTEG2

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Summary:

The economic crisis that began in 2007 has led to an increase in vulnerability and social exclusion, especially important in cities. Lack of economic resources in some social groups, along with migration flows, expansion and collapse of the housing market and other factors have emphasized polarization, social inequality and spatial segregation. In general, same vulnerable areas existing before the crisis have spread and new forms of segregation have appeared (e.g. ethnic, origin, training, cultural level, consumption patterns). As a result of these processes many Spanish urban areas are suffering devitalization phenomena, focused on some popular neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are characterized by building obsolescence, aging of local population, and concentration of disadvantaged social strata. Besides, the housing boom has created new spaces, far from the consolidated city, which do not have the same opportunities in services, activities, transportation, etc.

In this context, responses to effects of political and economic decisions are needed. Therefore, sectorial actions and spatial interventions should focus on the most vulnerable social groups, seeking strategies to facilitate their access to services and public facilities (e.g. health, welfare, educational, cultural, mobility). Right location, accessibility and provision of these services would contribute to an equitable and efficient delivery. The main objective of this research project is to analyze, from a transversal and multidimensional perspective, residential, sociodemographic and functional inequalities in urban space. To this end we will examine the new socioeconomic realities, characteristics, particularities, and problems in urban areas resulting from the Great Recession.

At different scales (e.g. building-section urban, block-street, section, and district) socioeconomic, housing, services and quality of life indicators will be analyzed. The selected indicators allow the assessment of population and residential fabric in the Spanish urban areas. Mapping tools will be used to display models for helping urban planning, governance processes, and diffusion. In particular the study will be focused in Zaragoza and its surroundings. This city is an urban example in Spain, and a laboratory for the study of many socio-economic activities. The availability of disaggregated data will serve to implement new models and techniques with detailed records and Big Data. Considering the urban scales already explained we will model a geographic information system and a multiscale thematic mapping portal to assess the socio-economic and residential vulnerability.