Urban Regeneration Strategies in Historical City Center of Beyşehir-Konya/Türkiye

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Regeneration of urban areas prevents the decline of processes of economic, environmental, social and cultural that bring with them accompanying decay of the physical built environment (Roberts 1999, Roberts & Sykes 2000). Generally in the resolution of urban problems is used to comprehensive and integrated visions and actions in the European Cities. Besides used the other regeneration strategies are sustainability and making best use of resources. The all of strategies firstly need to detailed analysis of the urban fabric and simultaneous adaptation of physical, social, economic & environmental realms.

This paper is focused on regeneration policies at/ the historical city center of Beyşehir (Konya) in the future vision. Although Beyşehir is one of the oldest settlements of Anatolia with physical, cultural and human richness, the original function and socio cultural values of the settlement are being lost at the entire city scale with urbanization process. Beyşehir, chronologically hosted several numbers of governments, is located in the southern east of the Lake Beyşehir. Urban history is dated to Hittites (Fasillar, Eflatun Spring, Hittite Monuments). It has 62 pieces of monumental architectures which are the subjects of foundation-certificate charter, according to the Beyşehir Foundations of Fatih Period (Savran, 1991). Almost most of cultural heritage concentrated in the historical city center. Some of them have been disappeared today. In this paper, all the monumental assets of İçeri Şehir (inner-city) district specified in foundation-certificate charter, and surviving civil and monumental architectures of early republic period will be assessed together in the first stage; historical urban toponomy will be revealed. In the second stage, urban regeneration policies for urban texture based on the visual urban texture and toponomic analysis will be recommended in İçeri Şehir (inner-city) protected area. Urban macroform consists of two different city centers. However historical city centre- focus of the study- has fell in esteem through the time for the new city center’s existence. Integrated and Comprehensive Regeneration Strategies are needed to revitalization of historical city centre. In this regeneration process all of the stakeholders should be taken into account. Urban regeneration projects should contain physical, social, economical and environmental dimensions. However, the social dimension is generally neglected in these projects. SWOT analysis will be done according to spatial and social analysis. In this framework a field survey will be applied by using a questionnaire and deep interview techniques in order to determine social characteristics of local people. The final part focus on developing the comprehensive urban regeneration policies and strategies in historical city center. In this context, proposed conservation and regeneration policies will guide to existing Urban Conservation Plan regarding revitalizing historical center.

KEY WORDS: Beyşehir, içeri şehir (inner-city), historic city center, integrated and comprehensive regeneration.