



ABSTRACT

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Abstract: (*maximum 300 words-one page*)

Starting from the evolution of the concept of cultural heritage and the processes of “patrimonialization”, the research aims to analyse historical and cultural values of territorial heritage in the inner areas.

Today, interest in and support for cultural heritage is evolving. The debate on the role of cultural heritage for sustaining liveability, job creation and local development have been relevantly increased over the last few decades. The concept of cultural value refers to the value that a cultural good or service has, cultural values are divided into social, symbolic, aesthetic, spiritual, historical and authenticity values (Throsby, 2001).

Starting from these innovative approaches and the evolution of global strategies, the research intends to explore the definition of heritage categories based on the scientific literature and the evolution of cultural and landscape heritage in international institutions (UNESCO and non-governmental organizations, Council of Europe, etc.).

The current investigation involved sampling and analysing cultural projects for local development. The projects were selected from Piedmont and Liguria regions to European inner areas, in order to define a system of values attributed by local communities, financial providers and policy makers to different categories of cultural heritage. The deepening of some cases through an historical-cultural analysis, which highlights the association between cultural heritage and value systems shared by the local communities, obtains a critical evaluation of the design strategies adopted in relation to territorial development.

The research could improve: 1) the systems of contemporary values attributed to the cultural and landscape heritage on which local development policies in the inner areas are based; 2) identify which heritage is able to generate local development processes in inner areas and identify the conditions of the context necessary for the strategies to be effective, inclusive and sustainable.