

OLD AND NEW ASSETS IN THE ISSUE OF URBANIZATION: THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN BETWEEN THE EU AND THE ARAB WORLD

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1. Introduction

During the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st century the populations of the Mediterranean Basin, whose spatial distribution will be thoroughly described in the following paragraph, were – to a lesser or greater extent – theatres of important transformation processes. Among various (demographic) development dynamics, the phenomena of urbanization and/or counter-urbanization¹ have assumed, in some sense, a key role.

The urbanization process of the industrially developed countries of the Mediterranean area has been completed with different modalities in comparison to what has, instead, occurred in less developed countries. In the 19th century, the emergence and affirmation of industrial city within the industrialization process has, undoubtedly, guided the urbanization development: large masses chose to transfer from rural to urban, favouring the growth of big urban centers as well as of medium and small sized centers. Hence, the spread of the urbanization process throughout the North Mediterranean Coast resulted, without any doubt, related to the industrialization, while on the South Coast it was linked to the tertiary sector progress provoking a pathological expansion of predominately parasitic centers. (Di Comite, Moretti, 2006; Federici, 1980).

Urbanization can be studied from two different points of view: as a transition and confrontation from rural to urban² (process indicated as “*inurbamento*”) or as a

¹The sign of differential population growth processes of large urban centers is linked mainly to the sign of (net) migration flows of such centers. Generally, when – thanks to the attractive force of these centers – migration inflows exceed systematically the outflows we are dealing with urbanization (or “*urbanesimo*”), to which subsequently is opposed a reversed phenomenon, denoted by many different terminology, once the attractive force of such centers vanishes their migration balances become almost systematically negative.

²Whenever comparing the urban and the rural (or, non urban) population of any country, it is expected to encounter the following:

- a) in developing countries, relevant differences between the two of them because the urban population shows much evolved demographic behavior, an element of attractiveness for less developed populations;

concentration of population in large and/or small urban agglomerates (Di Comite, Moretti, 1994).

In this matter, many definitions of “urban” have been given in different countries of the Mediterranean region making it, therefore, difficult to draw a clear distinction between the urban population and the rural population (or, rather, a non urban).

The most of them are quantitative definitions, i.e. based on a demographic dimension of the area: considering the entire rural population as non urban (Pace, 2005).

Putting off for another occasion a thorough study of the urbanization phenomenon, firstly we will analyze the evolution of the urban population and urbanization rates of different areas as well as countries that form the Mediterranean Basin considered in its broad sense, after which we will focus on different dominance capabilities that some cities exert more than others and, hence, on a different collocation by dimensional classes of the most dominant cities of only 25 countries of the Mediterranean Basin understood in the narrow sense of the term.

2. The Mediterranean Basin and its spatial diversities

Within its borders, the Mediterranean has always been articulating its space, divided yet interconnected, in a balance between unity and diversity.

“The Mediterranean imposes itself. Nowhere else, for a similar extension the unity of spaces, yet so different, is perceived with such an intensity” (Kaiser B., 1996).

Currently, many descriptions, more or less shared, have been given to trace the territorial borders of the Mediterranean depending on a point of view (demographic, political-historical, geographical, cultural and environmental) assumed for different study requirements.

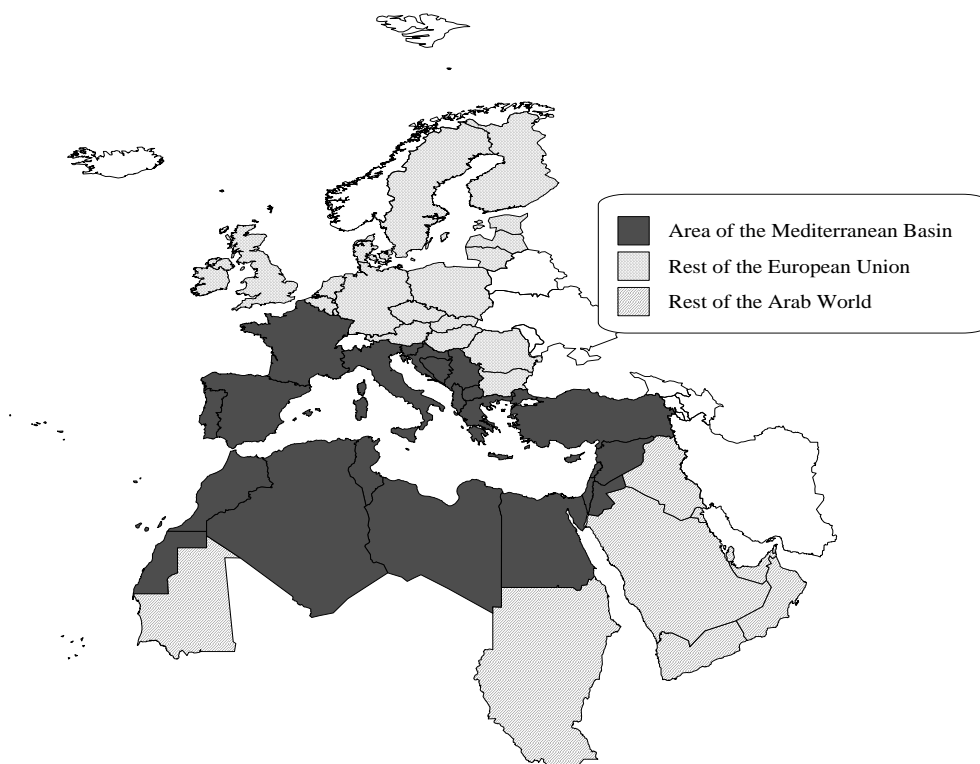
Thus, putting aside its many existing and possible territorial settings, in this occasion we will, firstly, adopt a broader framework including 53 countries divided in three macro areas – the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, the rest of the EU and the rest of the Arab World³ – (Figure 1), then we will use a more restricted vision, that of a Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense embracing an area of 25

b) In developed countries, irrelevant gaps and, in some cases, true phenomena of counter-urbanization, i.e. the spatial mobility from the cities to the countryside.

³The so considered area comprises the extra-Mediterranean countries of the EU and the most of the Arab countries (the Maghreb ones as well as the Machrek ones) which, in a certain sense border with the Mediterranean.

countries, suitable for the kind of analysis that will be carried out in the second part of the work. -

Figure 1 – *Territorial diversities of the Mediterranean Basin*



Over the last decades, within this vast area of reference we have witnessed the formation of some mega-urban agglomerations as Istanbul and Cairo, on one hand, and a stagnation and/or contraction of a demographic dimension of large cities of the Mediterranean Europe⁴, on another. So, currently, in the Mediterranean Basin

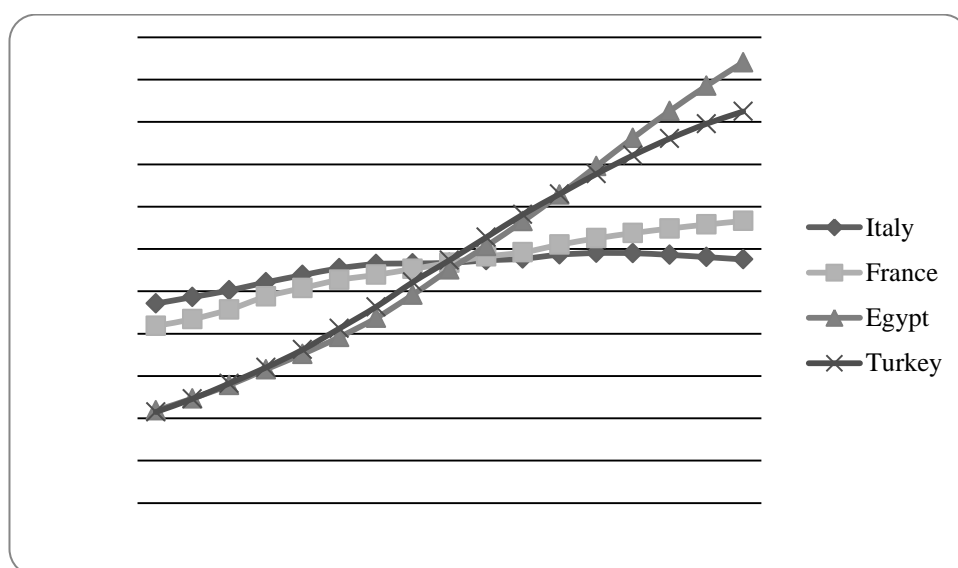
⁴Looking at the demographic evolution (from 1950 to 2030) of four countries with the highest amount of population (Italy and France, on one hand, and Turkey and Egypt, on another) it is important to point out an event that occurred during the Nineties: the «baton pass». As a matter of fact, until the late Eighties, Italy and France were the countries of major demographic dimension – ranking first and second respectively –, between 1990 and 1995 the «ranking of the biggest four» underwent radical transformations (Figure 1a).

coexist the urbanization processes, which occur mainly in the Asian and African zones of the reference area, with the counter-urbanization processes (or otherwise called “urban deconcentration” or “territorial urbanization spread) common to the Mediterranean and non Mediterranean countries of the European Union (Di Comite, Bonerba, Girone, 2008).

3. Urbanization processes over the 20 years of transformations

With an aim of tracing the evolution scenario in the issue of urbanization, that clearly illustrates the existing differences between the three areas of the Mediterranean Basin counting 53 countries, the urbanization rate has been used⁵.

Figure 1a – Demographic dimension of France and Italy, Egypt and Turkey, 1950-2030.



In 1990, Turkey became the first country of major demographic dimensions (on contrary to Egypt, which remained the fourth) while in 1995 the first two positions got occupied by Egypt and Turkey. Among them, from 2010 Egypt should become the «first» one and all that without compromising, at least up to now, the role of Italy and France as an immigration countries and that of Egypt and European Turkey as an emigration countries (Di Comite, Bonerba, Girone, 2008).

⁵Urbanization rate is calculated as a ratio of the considered urban population and the total population from which it derives. This ratio is expressed as a percentage: therefore, the complement of 100 constitutes, by difference, the rurality rate.

The Figure 2 shows the amount of urban population – considered as the population living in areas classified as urban by criteria applied by each country - over two decades, along with the urbanization rates respectively for three macro-areas forming the Mediterranean Basin in broad sense.

The analysis by broad areas shows how in only 20 years, from 1990 until 2010, the urban population has grown at a faster pace in the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, passing from 240,9 million to 324,9 million, less relevant in the rest of the Arab World, going from 41,2 million to 80,1 million, and fairly sustained in the rest of the EU where from 215,1 million it had barely reached 227,2 units.

Hence, by observing the urbanization rates for the same time period it is obvious that the most significant growth was one of the Rest of the Arab World, where the percentage of the urban population (in comparison to total population) increased by nearly 8 points, passing from 50,5 per cent in 1990 to 57,9 per cent in 2010, than it was in the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, where it passed from 60,2 per cent in 1990 to 64,7 per cent in 2010, recording an increase of just over 4 points, and in the Rest of the EU, where the increase was only of 2 points or so, going from 73,1 per cent to 74,9 per cent in 1990 and 2010 respectively (Figure 2.1, 2.2).

Looking, more specifically, at different countries that compose each macro-area (Table 1 in Appendix) it is clear that during the whole reference period (1990-2010) the EU countries have the highest rates even though, as it has already been showed, the growth pattern was more symptomatic for the countries of the Arab World (including Turkey), and – albeit to a lesser extent – for those of the Mediterranean Basin in a narrow sense⁶.

In any case, it can be affirmed, without any doubts, that in the 2010 almost every country of the Mediterranean Basin⁷ – in its broad meaning – the percentage of the urban population exceeded, in some cases way over, 50 per cent of the total population.

⁶In terms of urbanization rates, Belgium, with 97,4 per cent, is the EU country with the highest value, followed by the United Kingdom's 90,1 per cent; Kuwait, with 98,4 per cent, and Qatar, with 95,8 per cent, are the countries with the highest levels in the Arab area; Malta, with 94,7 per cent, and Israel, with 91,7 per cent, are the countries of the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense with the highest values.

⁷Except Egypt (42,8 per cent), Yemen (31,8 per cent), Mauritania (41,4 per cent) and Sudan (45,2 per cent).

Figure 2.1 – Urban population (in a.v.) by macro-areas of the Mediterranean Basin, 1990-2010

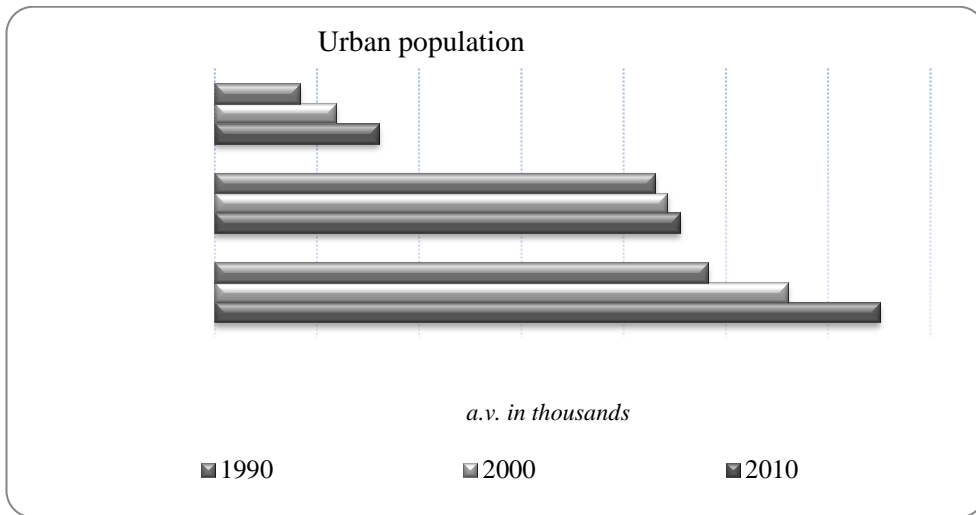


Figure 2.2 – Urbanization rate (in per cent) by macro-areas of the Mediterranean Basin, 1990-2010

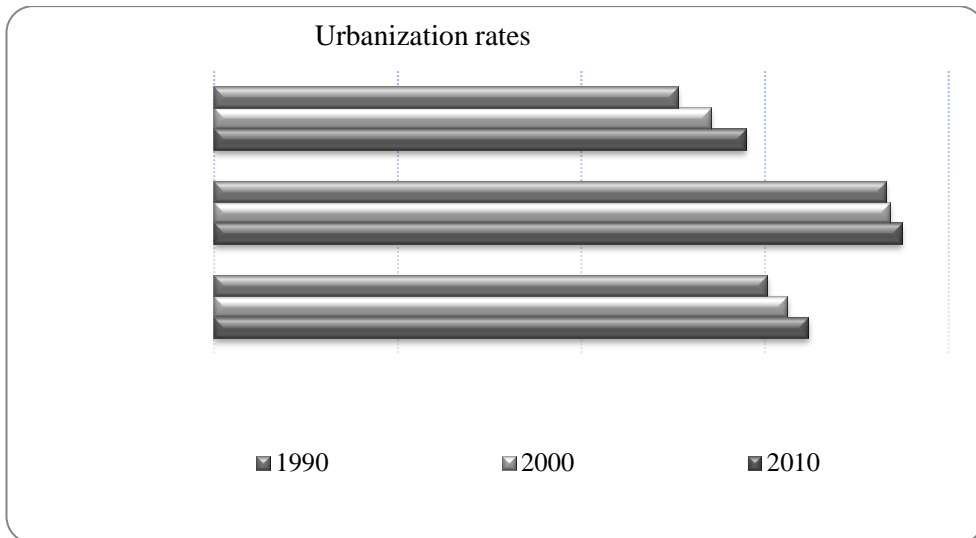


Table 1 – *Urban agglomerates of the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense. Demographic weight and hierarchical order, 1950-2020*

Urban agglomerates	Demographic weight (in thousands)						Hierarchical order					
	1950	1970	1990	2000	2010	2020*	1950	1970	1990	2000	2010	2020*
Paris	6.522	8.350	9.330	9.692	9.958	10.031	1	1	1	2	3	3
Cairo	2.494	5.585	9.061	10.534	12.503	14.451	2	2	2	1	1	1
Rome	1.884	3.135	3.450	3.385	3.333	3.330	3	5	6	7	9	12
Milan	1.883	3.017	3.063	2.985	2.940	2.938	4	6	8	10	13	16
Barcelona	1.809	3.482	4.101	4.560	5.057	5.182	5	4	5	5	5	6
Madrid	1.700	3.521	4.414	5.045	5.764	5.934	6	3	4	4	4	4
Naples	1.498	2.000	2.208	2.232	2.253	2.254	7	8	12	14	18	18
Lisbon	1.304	1.817	2.537	2.672	2.890	3.058	8	10	11	13	14	15
Alexandria	1.037	1.987	3.064	3.600	4.421	5.210	9	9	7	6	6	5
Istanbul	967	2.772	6.552	8.744	10.530	11.695	10	7	3	3	2	2
Casablanca	625	1.505	2.682	3.043	3.267	3.716	11	11	9	9	10	9
Alger	516	1.254	1.908	2.754	3.574	4.235	12	13	14	11	8	8
Tel Aviv-Jaffa	418	1.029	2.026	2.752	3.256	3.600	13	14	13	12	11	11
Damascus	367	914	1.691	2.044	2.675	3.293	14	16	16	17	16	13
Beirut	322	923	1.293	1.487	1.941	2.119	15	15	19	20	19	19
Aleppo	319	721	1.554	2.222	2.968	3.649	16	18	17	15	12	10
Ankara	281	1.341	2.561	3.179	3.908	4.403	17	12	10	8	7	7
Izmir	224	876	1.741	2.216	2.724	3.085	18	17	15	16	15	14
Rabat	145	494	1.174	1.507	1.793	2.083	19	19	20	19	20	20
Tripoli	106	398	1.500	1.877	2.322	2.713	20	20	18	18	17	17

Notes: *Estimates

Source: Own elaboration on UN data (Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/unup>).

If we limit, now, only to observe the 25 proper Mediterranean countries (of which 13 belonging to the North Coast and 12 to the South one) we could carefully examine the different aspects and features of the urbanization with the help of the Table 1 enlisting the top 20 urban agglomerates⁸ of most significant demographic dimensions in 2010, on the basis of their demographic weight and hierarchical order from 1950 until 2010 and prospectively to 2020.

⁸Urban agglomerate includes, generally, the population de facto contained within the perimeter of a contiguous and inhabited at urban density rates territory regardless of administrative boundaries. Thus, the agglomeration is an urban area that emerges around a city of greater importance than others: the dependency is not only a demographic one, but on services as well. Around one agglomeration, a metropolitan area can emerge including also the peripheral area not strictly linked to the urban one, but related to it for some aspects like trade or a commuters percentage.

At the beginning of the considered period – excluding Cairo which already occupied the second position in 1950 – the North Coast metropolis (with Paris at the top) were one to occupy the first places of the ranking.

Over the sixty years, large South Coast metropolis climbed up the ranking: as a matter of fact, in 2010 Paris lost 2 positions in favor of Cairo which earned the first position and Istanbul which passed from the tenth place occupied in 1950 and is, currently, a follow up of the Egyptian capital, ranking as the second Mediterranean city with the largest demographic dimension.

In the following years, the Arab urban centers – in particular Alexandria, Ankara and Alger which should conquer the fifth, seventh and eighth position respectively in 2020 – will be assuming a more and more significant demographic weight within the Mediterranean area (Table 1).

4. Emergence of large urban agglomerates: a study through the dominance index

“The history of the Mediterranean is a history of cities, and for Mediterranean populations the city is and has always been a *magnet*, an almost irresistible appeal, at the point that its urban tradition is like no other in the world” (Leontidou, 1990).

After the urbanization rates analysis, we retained interesting and useful to define the kind of urban agglomerations in which the Mediterranean populations have been living during the two decades of reference. To do so, a demographic size has been considered distinguishing urban settlements by their dimensions in:

- a) *megalopolis*, whose population exceeds 10 million;
- b) *metropolis*, with population between 5 and 10 million;
- c) *large urban agglomerations*, with population between 1 and 5 million;
- d) *medium cities*, with population between 500.000 and 1 million;
- e) *small cities*, with population less than 500.000.

To analyze, more in specific, the composition of different urban agglomerates in each country, we have computed a table (Table 2 in Appendix), taking as a reference 25 countries of Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, by which it is possible to estimate which part of the national population is concentrated in capital cities and which one in other – sometimes more other times less – dominant cities⁹

⁹In some countries, the population is conveyed in one sole city – that stands out as “dominant city” and which in most cases corresponds to the capital city – and in other countries in two or more cities. Often, in countries of small dimension the population is concentrated in the capital, while in large dimensioned countries the population tends to flows in several cities: if, on one hand, it is true that capitals are usually the dominant cities, on other hand, the dominant cities are not always capitals (Pace, 2005)

other than capitals and, in last instance, in urban settlements of 5 different dimensional classes (Table 3 in Appendix).

With a reference to the first of the two mentioned aspects, there are two instruments by which it is possible to measure the degree of dominance of a city and/or an urban center:

Dominance Indexes

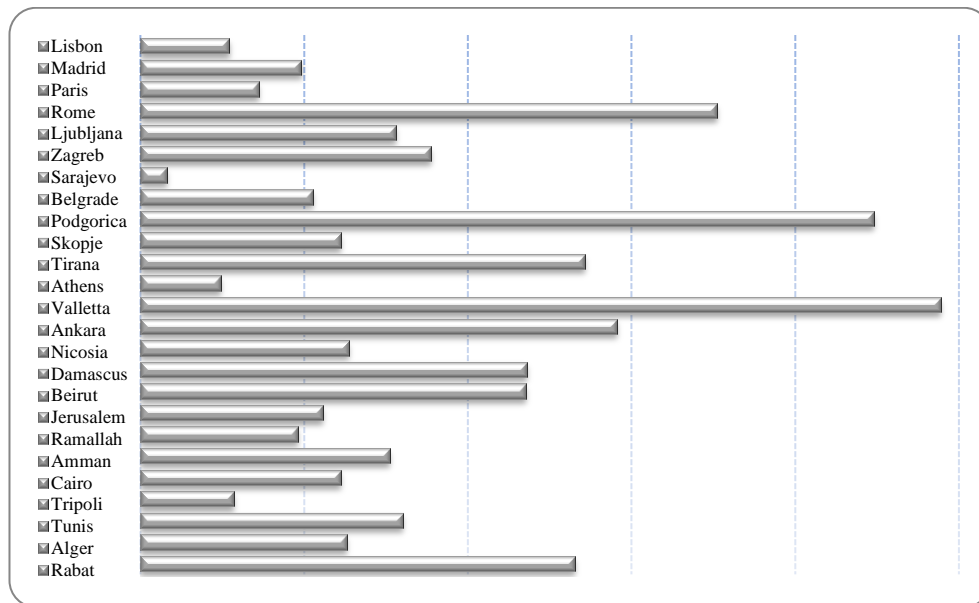
$$Id_1 = \frac{P_{au}}{P_n} * 100 \quad (1)$$

$$Id_2 = \frac{P_{au}}{P_{ur}} * 100 \quad (2)$$

The first one is calculated by dividing the total population present in the urban agglomerate (P_{au}) of the country under consideration with the total national population (P_n), the second as a ratio of the same P_{au} of the reference country and the national urban population (P_{ur}): both indexes are expressed as percentages.

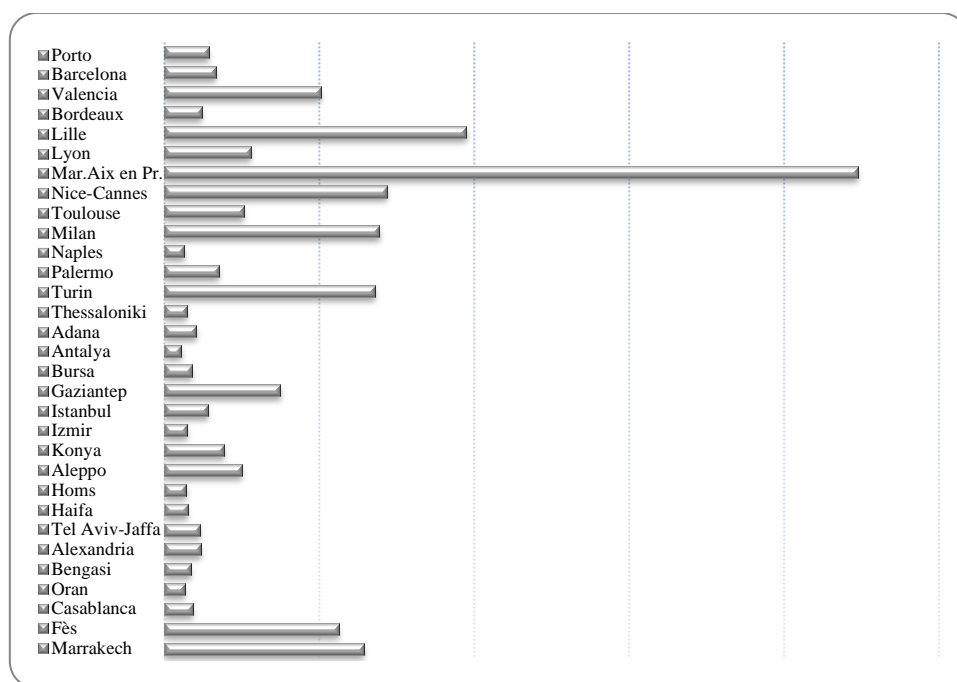
For space reasons, it has been decided to use only the first one out of two indexes – reserving for another occasion the use of both of them – which allowed us to affirm that, in 2010, among Mediterranean capitals, the Maltese one shows the highest level of Id_1 (Figure 3): in fact 48,9 per cent of national population pours into Valetta; not so far away is the Lebanese capital (Beirut) where 44,8 per cent of country population is concentrated. Among countries with lower levels of dominance index there are Palestine with Ramallah ($Id_1=1,6$ per cent) and, among those properly European, Italy with Rome ($Id_1=5,7$ per cent).

Figure 3 – *Dominance Index (Id_1) of Capital cities in the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, 2010*



Looking at the amount of population of other important cities of the proper European area which equally – or almost – as the capital cities feature important demographic dimensions, it has been possible to determine that in 2010 (Figure 4): in Portugal the city of Porto harbors 1,3 million of inhabitants with an Id_1 equal to 12,9 per cent; in Spain, Barcelona and Valencia stand out counting together a population of 5,8 million and, amongst the two of them, Barcelona has a major Id_1 (equal to 11,2 per cent) almost as high as the capital of Madrid ($Id_1=12,6$ per cent); in France, Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille-Aix en Provence, Nice-Cannes, Toulouse distinguish themselves with a total population of 6,5 million and an Id_1 distant, in six French cities, from the Paris one ($Id_1=16,0$ per cent); in Italy, Milan, Naples, Palermo and Turin stand out with a global population of 7,7 million and between the four cities Milan, with an $Id_1=5,0$ per cent, approaches the one of Rome ($Id_1=5,7$ per cent).

Figure 4 – Dominance Index (Id_1) of other dominant cities of the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, 2010



If we move to the South of the Mediterranean, we find Turkey where Adana, Antalya, Bursa, Gaziantep, Istanbul (the largest cities in terms of demographic dimension), Izmir and Konya, with a total population of 19,1 million, appear to be the most populous cities together with Ankara which on its own harbors 3,7 million of inhabitants. In Turkey the city of Istanbul has an $Id_1=13,6$ per cent, significantly higher than one of the capital ($Id_1=4,9$ per cent); in Syria where Aleppo and Homs have in total 4,0 million inhabitants: between two cities Aleppo, which presents an $Id_1=13,9$ per cent, exceeds – albeit slightly – the capital Damascus ($Id_1=12,2$ per cent); Israel with Haifa and Tel Aviv-Jaffa that has a population of 4,2 million and present dominance indexes, in correspondence of two cities, (Haifa with $Id_1=14,3$ per cent and Tel Aviv-Jaffa with $Id_1=44,8$ per cent) in both cases higher than one of the capital Jerusalem ($Id_1=10,5$ per cent); Egypt where Alexandria has 4,4 million of citizens with a dominance index ($Id_1=5,6$ per cent) lower than one of the capital Cairo ($Id_1=15,6$ per cent); Libya with Bengasi receives a population of 1,2 million, with an $Id_1=19,5$ per cent in comparison to 35,2 per cent of Tripoli; Algeria with Oran is a home to 852 thousand of individuals, with an $Id_1=2,4$ per cent against 9,8

per cent of Alger; and finally Morocco where Casablanca, Fes and Marrakech together have a population of 5,2 million, with a much more significant dominance index for Casablanca ($Id_1=10,1$ per cent) then for the capital Rabat ($Id_1=5,4$ per cent).

This index allows us to identify three models to which the Mediterranean countries under consideration relate to (Figure 1 in Appendix):

1. the first model comprises countries with a single dominant city (Slovenia: Ljubljana; Croatia: Zagreb; Bosnia and Herzegovina: Sarajevo; Serbia: Belgrade; Montenegro: Podgorica; Macedonia: Skopje; Albania: Tirana; Malta: Valletta; Cyprus: Nicosia; Lebanon: Beirut; Palestine: Ramallah; Jordan: Amman; Tunisia: Tunis);
2. the second one includes countries of more than one dominant city, with one more than others (Portugal: Lisbon; France: Paris; Greece: Athens; Turkey: Istanbul; Israel: Tel Aviv-Jaffa; Egypt: Cairo; Libya: Tripoli; Algeria: Alger; Morocco: Casablanca);
3. the third one comprehends countries with more cities of similar dominance (Spain: Madrid and Barcelona; Italy: Rome and Milan; Syria: Damascus and Aleppo).

By simplifying the classification we come to 2 schemes out of three:

- I. The one including countries where the entire national community moves, mainly, around one large center, not always represented by a capital city (a monocentric model);
- II. The one comprising the countries whose national community tends to move around two or more centers, some of medium others of large dimensions (a policentric model).

The large part of the considered countries belong to the monocentric model, while, on contrary, in a policentric one we can find only Spain, Italy and Syria..

Proceeding and ending with an analysis by dimensional classes (> 10 million, 5-10 million, 1-5 million, 500.000 - 1 million, < 500.000), carried out with the latest available UN data, of 25 considered countries of the Mediterranean Basin in the narrow sense, at the current state we can observe the following (Table 3 in Appendix):

- A. only 2 obtained the status of “megalopolis” (with more than 10 million of individuals), that is Turkey with Istanbul which has a population of 10,5 million and Egypt with Cairo presenting a population of 12,5 million;
- B. while the “metropolis” class (5-10 million) includes Spain with Madrid and Barcelona with a total of 10,8 million and France with Paris and it's 9,9 million;

- C. with a reference to the class from 1 to 5 million some 14 countries present at least one “urban agglomeration”, in particular Turkey and Italy with 5 and 4 urban agglomerations respectively stand out as countries mostly provided of this kind of class;
- D. in the adjacent class (500.000-1 million) the countries with at least one “medium city” result to be 13, out of which Italy with 12 medium cities (for a total population of 7,7 million) is a country with the highest number of medium cities according to its reference class;
- E. in the class of “small cities” (less than 500.000) are, obviously, included all the considered countries, neither one excluded.

The current dimensional collocation, in not so far future, will tend to modify: urban agglomerates – some small and others of large dimensions – will, in fact, tend to become more numerous and their population will tend to grow occupying more and more the urban space. Therefore, the Mediterranean will not cease to urbanize itself (Véron, 2006).

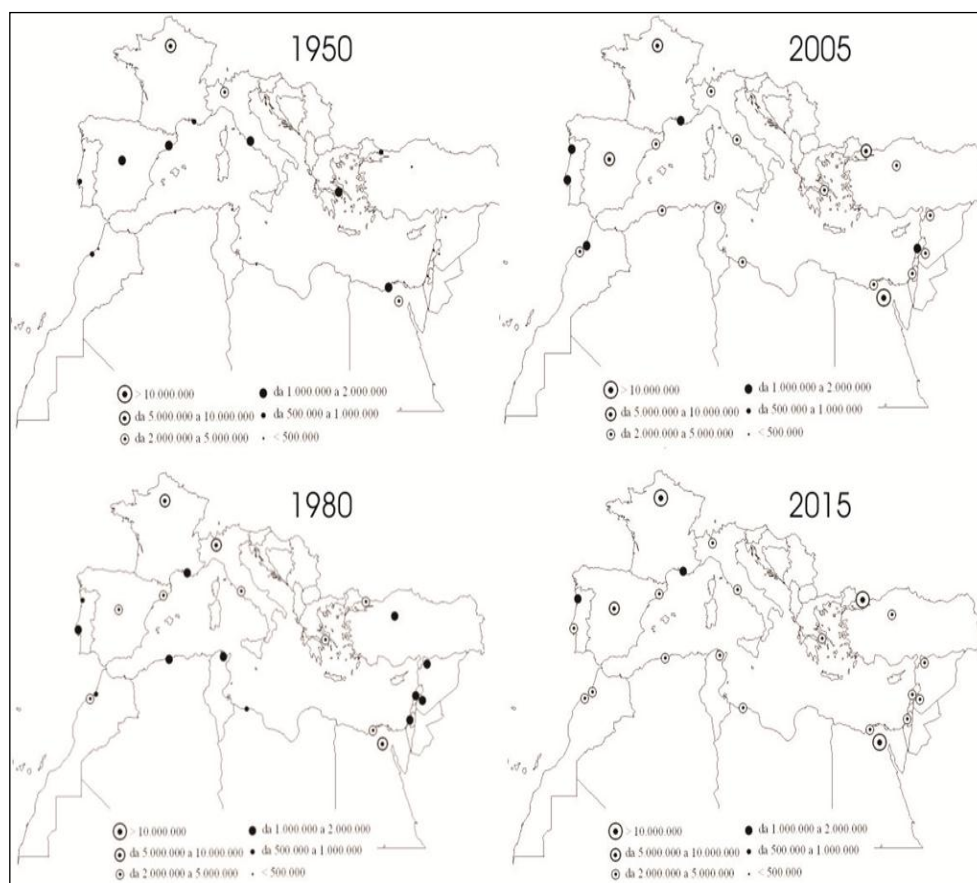
5. Conclusions

As a conclusion of this work we wanted to describe briefly, as a prosecution—and, thus in a certain sense as a completion – the analysis carried out in the last part of the previous paragraph, the evolution over the sixty years (1950-2015) of urban agglomerates divided according to several dimensional classes.

However, contrary to the dimensional subdivision adopted in the paragraph 4, it has been retained as useful, in virtue of the great number of included countries, to fraction the C class (1-5 million) in two parts: the first one with the scaling from 1 to 2 million, the second one from 2 to 5 million. In this way, there are six dimensional classes instead of five previously used.

Figure 6 shows that, from the Fifties up to the Eighties of the last century, the population grown significantly in the urban centers of the European area of the Mediterranean, contrary to urban centers of the Afro-Asian coast – which for more than sixty years appeared to be (with an exception of the Egyptian capital) few and of scarce demographic dimensions – increased systematically and gradually, changing its demo-economic and socio-politic assets in the meantime.

This trend is being confirmed today, and will in the imminent future: while a remarkable population growth is being observed for large agglomerates on the African and Asian Coast, the urban areas of the North coast are experimenting a limited and, in some cases, absent growth.

Figure 6 – The evolution of big urban agglomerates of the Mediterranean Basin 1950-2015

Source: Di Comite, Bonerba, Girone, 2009

These different conducts between the Mediterranean areas are to be searched in different modalities and times by which the processes of demographic transition occurred (Salvini, 1990): in fact, the urbanization can accelerate transitional courses, since the changes, generally, are faster in urban zones (Di Comite, Bonerba, Girone 2008).

Appendix

Table 1 – Urban population (in a.v.) and Urbanization rates (in per cent) of the Mediterranean Basin, 1990-2010

Country	Urban population (in thousands up to 1 st July)			Urbanization rates		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
Portugal	4.784	5.564	6.510	47,9	54,4	60,7
Spain	29.275	30.680	34.912	75,4	76,3	77,4
France	42.016	44.838	48.616	74,1	75,8	77,8
Italy	37.847	38.782	40.354	66,7	67,2	68,4
Slovenia	971	1.007	959	50,4	50,8	48
Croatia	2.441	2.505	2.618	54	55,6	57,8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.691	1.637	1.916	39,2	43,2	48,6
Serbia	4.822	5.179	5.199	50,3	51,6	52,8
Montenegro	282	392	357	48	58,5	59,5
Macedonia	1.103	1.264	1.386	57,8	62,9	67,9
Albania	1.198	1.286	1.556	36,4	41,7	48
Greece	5.979	6.556	6.888	58,8	59,7	61,4
Malta	325	359	389	90,4	92,4	94,7
<i>Europe</i>	<i>132.734</i>	<i>140.049</i>	<i>151.660</i>	<i>66,7</i>	<i>68,4</i>	<i>70,4</i>
Turkey	33.949	44.126	54.119	59,2	64,7	69,6
Cyprus	454	540	620	66,8	68,6	70,3
Syria	6.224	8.524	11.754	48,9	51,6	54,9
Lebanon	2.472	3.244	3.688	83,1	86	87,2
Israel	4.079	5.563	6.670	90,4	91,4	91,7
Palestine	1.462	2.251	3.177	67,9	71,5	72,1
Jordan	2.350	3.755	5.067	72,2	78,3	78,5
<i>Asia</i>	<i>50.990</i>	<i>68.003</i>	<i>85.095</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>65,9</i>	<i>69,5</i>
Egypt	23.972	28.364	34.041	43,5	42,6	42,8
Libya	3.304	4.082	5.086	75,7	76,4	77,9
Tunisia	4.762	6.066	7.175	57,9	63,4	67,3
Algeria	13.168	18.246	23.555	52,1	59,8	66,5
Marocco	12.005	15.375	18.374	48,4	53,3	56,7
<i>Africa</i>	<i>57.211</i>	<i>72.133</i>	<i>88.231</i>	<i>48,6</i>	<i>51,2</i>	<i>53,6</i>
<i>Total area</i>	<i>240.935</i>	<i>280.185</i>	<i>324.986</i>	<i>60,2</i>	<i>62,4</i>	<i>64,7</i>

Table 1 (continue) – Urban population (in a.v.) and Urbanization rates (in per cent) of the Mediterranean Basin, 1990-2010

Country	Urban population (in thousands up to 1 st July)			Urbanization rates			
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010	
Rest of the European Union	Austria	5.083	5.337	5.703	65,8	65,8	67,6
	Belgium	9.573	9.899	10.252	96,4	97,1	97,4
	Bulgaria	5.854	5.510	5.356	66,4	68,9	71,7
	Denmark	4.361	4.540	4.772	84,8	85,1	87,2
	Eire	2.000	2.250	2.804	56,9	59,1	61,9
	Estonia	1.114	951	918	71,1	69,4	69,5
	Finland	3.063	3.164	3.402	61,4	61,1	63,9
	Germany	58.080	60.141	60.826	73,1	73,1	73,8
	Latvia	1.844	1.619	1.529	69,3	68,1	68,2
	Lithuania	2.499	2.346	2.240	67,6	67	67,2
	Luxemburg	309	366	397	80,9	83,8	82,2
	Netherlands	10.269	12.229	13.674	68,7	76,8	82,9
	Poland	23.351	23.719	23.177	61,3	61,7	61,2
	United Kingdom	50.765	52.600	55.451	88,7	89,4	90,1
	Czech Republic	7.750	7.562	7.483	75,2	74	73,5
	Romania	12.350	11.842	11.556	53,2	53,5	54,6
	Slovakia	2.969	3.031	3.064	56,5	56,3	56,8
	Sweden	7.112	7.451	7.826	83,1	84	84,7
	Hungary	6.824	6.596	6.790	65,8	64,6	68,3
<i>Total area</i>	<i>215.170</i>	<i>221.153</i>	<i>227.220</i>	<i>73,1</i>	<i>73,6</i>	<i>74,9</i>	
Rest of the Arab World	Saudi Arabia	12.449	16.614	21.681	76,6	79,8	82,1
	Bahrain	434	574	702	88,1	88,4	88,6
	United Arab Emirates	1.476	2.527	3.693	79,1	77,8	78
	Iraq	12.906	16.993	20.375	69,7	67,8	66,4
	Kuwait	2.100	2.188	3.001	98	98,2	98,4
	Oman	1.218	1.719	1.984	66,1	71,6	71,7
	Qatar	431	586	848	92,2	94,9	95,8
	Yemen	2.577	4.776	7.784	20,9	26,3	31,8
	<i>Asia</i>	<i>33.591</i>	<i>45.977</i>	<i>60.068</i>	<i>62,3</i>	<i>62,8</i>	<i>64,0</i>
	Mauritania	772	1.026	1.393	39,7	40	41,4
	Sudan	6.903	12.034	18.646	26,6	36,1	45,2
	<i>Africa</i>	<i>7.675</i>	<i>13.060</i>	<i>20.039</i>	<i>27,5</i>	<i>36,4</i>	<i>44,9</i>
	<i>Total area</i>	<i>215.170</i>	<i>221.153</i>	<i>227.220</i>	<i>73,1</i>	<i>73,6</i>	<i>74,9</i>
<i>Global Total</i>	<i>497.371</i>	<i>560.375</i>	<i>632.313</i>	<i>64,1</i>	<i>65,3</i>	<i>67,0</i>	

Source: own elaboration of UN data (Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*, <http://esa.un.org/unup>).

Table 2 – Dominance indexes of capitals and other dominant cities of the 25 countries of the Mediterranean Basin considered in narrow sense

Country	Capital	Id _i	Other dominant cities	Id _i
Portugal	Lisbon	26,5	Porto	12,9
Spain	Madrid	12,6	Barcelona	11,2
			Valencia	1,8
France	Paris	16,0	Bordeaux	1,3
			Lille	1,7
			Lyon	2,3
			Mar. Aix en Pr.	2,3
			Nice-Cannes	1,5
Italy	Rome	5,7	Toulouse	1,4
			Milan	5,0
			Naples	3,8
			Palermo	1,5
			Turin	2,8
Slovenia	Ljubljana	12,2		
Croatia	Zagreb	15,2		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	9,6		
Serbia	Belgrade	11,1		
Montenegro	Podgorica	23,5		
Macedonia	Skopje	23,6		
Albania	Tirana	12,7		
Greece	Athens	29,1	Thessaloniki	7,5
Malta	Valletta	48,9		
Turkey	Ankara	4,9	Adana	1,8
			Antalya	1,1
			Bursa	2,0
			Gaziantep	1,4
			Istanbul	13,6
			Izmir	3,5
			Konya	1,3
Cyprus	Nicosia	27,1		
Syria	Damascus	12,2	Aleppo	13,9
			Homs	5,1
Lebanon	Beirut	44,8		
Israel	Jerusalem	10,5	Haifa	14,3
			Tel Aviv-Jaffa	44,8
Palestine	Ramallah	1,6		
Jordan	Amman	17,7		
Egypt	Cairo	15,6	Alexandria	5,6
Libya	Tripoli	35,2	Bengasi	19,5
Tunisia	Tunis	7,2		
Algeria	Alger	9,8	Oran	2,4
			Casablanca	10,1
Morocco	Rabat	5,4	Fes	3,3
			Marrakech	2,9

Source: See Table 2 in Appendix

Table 3 – Population amount (in a.v.) by capital/city and analysis of dimensional classed of the Mediterranean Basin in narrow sense, 2010

Country	Capital (population in thousands)		Population of other dominant cities (in thousands)		Megalopolis (> 10 million)		Metropolis (5-10 million)		Urban agglomer. (1-5 million)		Medium cities (500.000- 1 milione)		Small cities < 500.000
	Name	a.v.	Name	a.v.	N. megal.	a.v.	N. metrop.	a.v.	N. ur. ag.	a.v.	N. cities medium	a.v.	a.v.
Portugal	Lisbon	2.812	Porto	1.380					2	4.270			2.241
Spain	Madrid	5.567	Barcelona Valencia	5.057 816			2	10.821			4	2.753	21.338
France	Paris	9.904	Bordeaux Lille Lyon Mar. Aix en Pr. Nice-Cannes Toulouse	817 1.059 1.443 1.418 941 863			1	9.958	3	3.921	6	4.320	30.418
Italy	Rome	3.339	Milan Naples Palermo Turin	2.940 2.253 865 1.647					4	10.171	12	7.717	22.466
Slovenia	Ljubljana	244											959
Croatia	Zagreb	690									1	691	1.926
Bosnia-Her.	Sarajevo	376											1.916
Serbia	Belgrade	1.099							1	1.096			4.103
Montenegro	Podgorica	142											357
Macedonia	Skopje	480											1.386
Albania	Tirana	406											1.556
Greece	Athens	3.242	Thessaloniki	837					1	3.256	1	837	2.794
Malta	Valletta	199											389
Turkey	Ankara	3.716	Adana Antalya Bursa Gaziantep Istanbul Izmir Konya	1.362 839 1.589 1.109 10.530 2.724 978	1	10.530			5	10.692	6	4.378	28.519
Cyprus	Nicosia	233											620
Syria	Damascus	2.466	Aleppo Homs	2.968 1.095					3	6.738	2	1.125	3.892
Lebanon	Beirut	1.846							1	1.941			1.747
Israel	Jerusalem	736	Haifa Tel Aviv-Jaffa	1.043 3.256					2	4.298	2	774	1.597
Palestine	Ramallah	67									1	571	2.606
Jordan	Amman	1.060							1	1.106			3.962
Egypt	Cairo	11.893	Alexandria	4.421	1	12.503			1	4.421	2	1.174	15.943
Libya	Tripoli	2.189	Bengasi	1.271					2	3.593			1.492
Tunisia	Tunis	745									1	768	6.407
Algeria	Alger	3.354	Oran	852					1	3.574	2	1.408	18.573
Morocco	Rabat	1.705	Casablanca Fes Marrakech	3.267 1.060 923					3	6.120	4	3.083	9.172

Source: See Table 2 in Appendix

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SUMMARY

Old and new assets in the issue of urbanization: the Mediterranean Basin between the EU and the Arab World

Each time we want to discuss or write about internal migration, a special attention should be paid to the spatial movement of the population – and its residence transfers between different administrative areas – within the borders of the same country. Common, and strictly related, phenomena of internal migration are those properly indicated as urbanization (or rural depopulation as well, i.e. the population transfer from suburbs and countryside to the cities, which can be quantified as a percentage of population living in the urban area) and counter-urbanization (or urban deconcentration as well).

Taking the Mediterranean Basin – understood in a broad sense – as a reference area and computing, firstly, the amount of the urban population and, subsequently, the respective urbanization rates it is possible to affirm that nowadays, within its borders, coexist urbanization processes, which appear mainly in the Asian and African area of the Mediterranean, with counter-urbanization processes common to Mediterranean and non Mediterranean countries of the European Union.

Moreover, among the countries forming the Mediterranean Basin – considered in the narrow sense of the term – the use of the dominance index (given as a ratio between the urban agglomerate's present population and national population) – allowed us to assess different attractive capabilities which some cities exert more than others.

The work is completed with the analysis of the collocation heterogeneity by dimensional classes of the most dominant cities of only 25 strictly Mediterranean countries.