A watercolor illustration of a Venetian lagoon scene. The sky is a mix of pale yellow, orange, and blue washes. In the distance, the silhouette of the Venetian skyline is visible, including a prominent church spire. The water in the foreground is rendered with soft, brownish and blue washes, suggesting reflections and the texture of the water.

**WaRe – Waterfront Regeneration**  
*Learning from European best practices for a sustainable urban life*  
***The Lido island and the lagoon system***  
Venice, January 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

**The International Centre Cities on Water:  
aims and activities**

**Marta Moretti**  
*Deputy Director*  
*International Centre Cities on Water*  
*Venice*

# 1. Presentation of Cities on Water

Non-profit association, established in Venice, Italy,  
in March **1989**

*Founders:*

- **Municipality of Venice**
- **Ca' Foscari University of Venice**
- **Venice University Institute of Architecture (luav)**
- **Consorzio Venezia Nuova**

## Aims of the Centre

- develops research and promotes activities on the multiple aspects of the relationship between cities and water.
- acts as an interface with the cities on water all over the world involved in restoring a *positive relationship between water and the city*.
- presents Venice, city on water *par excellence*, as a reference point for everyone involved in this field.



***Venice as permanent Laboratory for studies and researches on the relationship between cities and water***

- **1996, November 4th: dramatic flooding**
- **1973 Special Law for Venice (n. 171): Venice become a “problem of national interest”**

## *Water as an element of Urban Quality*

To give significance to the water element in all its different forms within the urban context, the Centre focuses on the following research areas:

- a. Waterfront regeneration**
- b. City-Port Relationship**
- c. Industrial Heritage**
- d. Urban Waterborne Transportation**
- e. Aquapolises**

## *a. Waterfront regeneration*

Regeneration and revitalization of urban waterfront areas is one of the most interesting phenomena of urban renewal since the 1980s.

After more than 30 years of positive results all over the world in this field, the comparison of cases can provide a list of **key factors** common to their success.



## **10 Principles for a Sustainable Development of Urban Waterfront Areas**

Presented and approved in the context of the Global Conference on the *Urban Future (URBAN 21)* held in Berlin, and of the EXPO 2000 World Exhibition

- 1 - Secure the quality of water and the environment.
- 2 - Waterfronts are part of the existing urban fabric.
- 3 - The historic identity gives character.
- 4 - Mixed use is a priority.
- 5 - Public access is a prerequisite.
- 6 - Planning in public private partnerships speeds the process.
- 7 - Public participation is an element of sustainability.
- 8 - Waterfronts are long term projects.
- 9 - Re-vitalization is an ongoing process.
- 10 - Waterfronts profit from international networking.



***b. City-Port***

***Relationship***

a balanced development of the port function within the spaces of the city and the surrounding territory.



## ***c. Industrial Heritage***

re-use of abandoned industrial buildings in the proximity of the water



## ***d. Urban Waterborne Transportation***

development of waterborne transportation systems integrated with other public and private transport modes.





## ***e. Aquapolises***

Rediscovery and exploitation of water culture in cities: to identify a common culture coming from the presence of water and to activate processes of valorisation of water in the urban context.



*to inform, to illustrate, to exchange experiences, to create networks...*

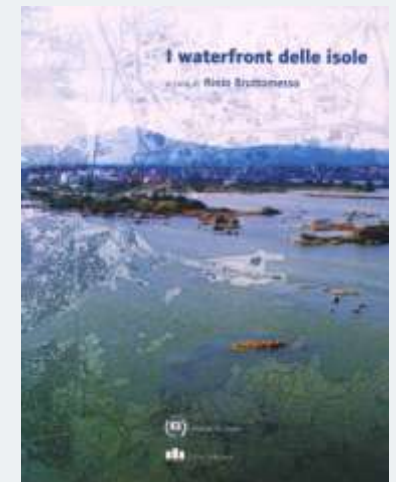
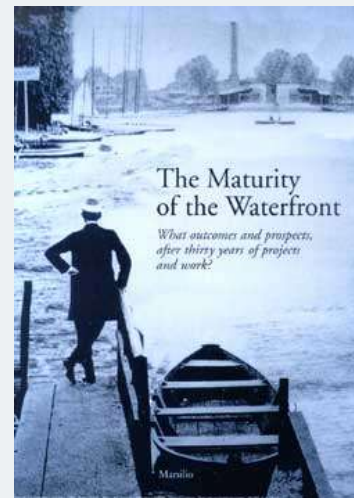
### **3. Activities**

- a. international meetings and thematic seminars;
- b. partnership with other cities;
- c. co-operation with other organisations;
- d. European projects;
- e. Networking;
- f. organisation of thematic exhibitions;
- g. publications (books, magazines, newsletter, web sites).





## *Books, magazines, newsletter, web sites*





**Thank you for the attention!**

**[citiesonwater@iuav.it](mailto:citiesonwater@iuav.it)**

**[www.citiesonwater.com](http://www.citiesonwater.com)**