



## AUTONOMOUS NEIGHBORHOODS

### ASSIGNMENT 1.0: YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAPPED

**Due: Friday 26.08**

**Pin-up: Monday 29.01**

During this semester we will be working with urban development on a neighborhood level. Why 'Neighborhood'? We live in buildings, but buildings only make sense as part of a collective, urban or rural social context. This context is composed of a large diversity of functions, spatial structures and infrastructures: an urban fabric. The fabric of cities and regions. In our everyday lives we do however primarily relate to our home, to our workplace, our school, café, bookstore, food store, gym, sportsclub, our family, friends, our neighbors - our neighborhood.

When we speak of 'urban quality', the quality we are referring to is present locally, and it frames our everyday lives locally. Therefore the neighborhood is a basic entity in human settlement, and this course will explore how it works and how to shape and how to develop it.

#### Assignment

The first assignment of this course is to map your own neighborhood. It does not matter if it is the place you were born and grew up, or somewhere you have moved to later. The important thing is that it is a context which is familiar to you, so you can describe it without having to spend too much time searching for information.

#### Neighborhood

A 'Neighborhood' can be in the countryside as well as in a city centre. It can be very small or surprisingly large. Is it geographically defined, or socially, or culturally? You are free to explore its extension and limits.

#### Levels

In order to give a direction and a structure to the investigation of your own neighborhood, you are asked to map it according to the following topics:

- a) Resources - the first level of your investigation should focus on the resources that exist in your neighborhood. We are obviously speaking of **natural resources**, but equally important are financial or **economical resources**, and **human resources** such as industrious people, high level of education, cultural wealth, social and cultural diversity etc.
- b) Value Chains - how are values created in your neighborhood? Fertile soil only provides value in combination with a skilled farmer and appropriate farming tools. Industrial towns on the west coast of Norway were industrialized because competent engineers combined the power of falling water with a turbine that produced electricity enough to power a metallurgical industry, next to a harbor.
- c) Agents - in order to turn a set of resources into a value chain, possibilities need to be seen, connections need to be established and work needs to be done. A situation full of potential needs to be infused with agency in order to trigger the potential and to produce value. The value can be financial, but it can also be cultural, or it can be natural. An agent is often a person, but it can also be a new insight, a new technology, a change of cultural diversity, or of natural diversity - like the introduction of a new virus.

Once the resource map is made, the value chains and the agents should be added to it as new layers of information. The map should be printed on A1, in color. All the maps will be pinned on the wall in studio. Based on your map you are asked to prepare a 4 minutes discussion of your own data. They will then be discussed in plenum and used as material for **Assignment 1.1 - Your Neighborhood Explained**.