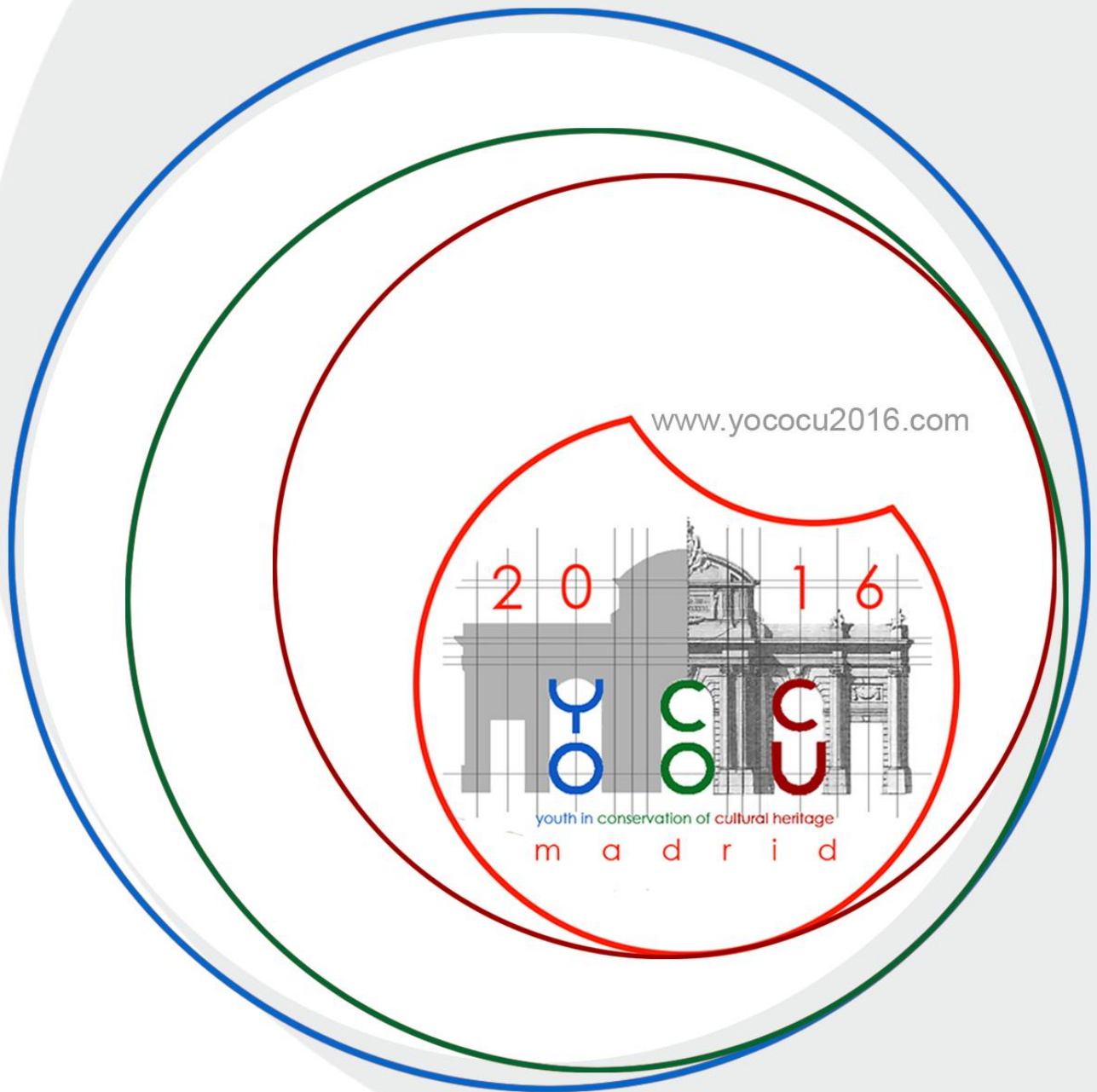


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**CROSS PHENOMENA - THE NATURE\_CITY MATERA (ITALY):  
FROM NATIONAL DISGRACE TO EUROPEAN CULTURE CAPITAL 2019**

**Macaione, I.; Sichenze, A.; Anello, E.\*; Ippolito, A.**

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“Nature\_City” is a vision through which the city of Matera is currently comparing itself to many other cities in the world. The recognition of Matera as Capital of Culture 2019 is mainly based on the appreciation by the European Commissioners for a complete paradigm of a city that in Matera is articulated through five kinds of settlement forms, achieved in nine thousand years of history, and now lived in different ways very close to each other due to the small size of the city. The latest studies show that the best known urban regeneration has taken place in the quarters called “Sassi”. During which it has moved from their being denounced by De Gasperi, in the fifties, as the “shame of humanity”, to their becoming the most famous Italian recovery of an ancient city, joining as well the list of Unesco’s World Heritage Sites. Starting from the earliest settlements to the most recent, five kinds of cities have been enucleated that all together represent a “capital” of experiences whose richness gives rise to a living bio-diversity which now is the biggest asset that allows Matera to perform a cultural role worldwide. The Nature-City\_LAB | Dicem, forms part of a programme of City workshops entitled Make way to Matera that is a design process that takes place in that part of the city once called periphery, particularly defined in the thirteen so-called modern “historical districts, located beyond the famous Sassi.