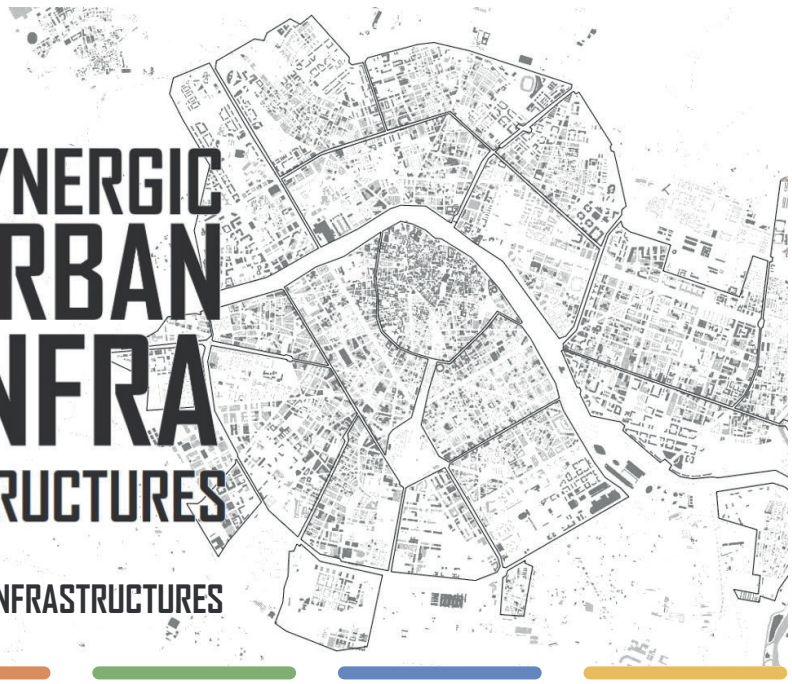
VLC SYNERGIC URBAN INFRA STRUCTURES



VALENCIA SUMMER SCHOOL ON SYNERGIC URBAN INFRASTRUCTURES

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4.2_TEAM 2. BYE LAZAROTE

Kinga Zinowiec-Cieplik | Assistant Professor, Warsaw University of Technology

The multi-thematic Team 2 was composed of five students from different European universities from the Enhance Alliance: Birsu Kambur (Politecnico di Milano), Aksel Teig Fosshagen (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Mariia Polyakova (RWTH Aachen University), Amina Zannouti Jarradi (Polytechnic University of Valencia), and Lea Fast (Technical University of Berlin). During the on-site phase of the VLC_Summer School their work was tutored by: Kinga Zinowiec-Cieplik (Assistant Professor at Warsaw University of Technology, Poland).

4.2.1. Bye 'Lazarote'

The title of the second team's work says a lot about the social commitment and approach to the strategy developed during the course for the undoubtedly conflict-prone area of Nazaret - El Grau - Moreras - La Punta in Valencia, which requires deep changes. This work is an attempt to restore this part of the city to its rightful place in the urban layout as a key district for rebuilding the connections of the former Turia delta with the sea, extending - completing the construction of the green Valencia spine - Turia Park, unblocking public seaside areas (blocked by the industrial harbor), revitalizing "forgotten" districts of the city such as Nazareth or La Punta and indicating the directions and scope of new housing development. All these improvements should be developed in the context of contemporary challenges and threats, while searching for synergy-based infrastructural strategies.

4.2.2. Methodology

In the first stage, following the method proposed within the VLC SUMMER SCHOOL on Synergic Urban Infrastructures, Team 2 focused on assessing the current situation based on the available information:

- materials collected and provided by the organizers (maps, history, legal acts, etc.)
- materials and toolboxes developed by thematic teams during the online phase of the course for specific infrastructures (Task 1)
- local vision.

The second stage involved developing guidelines, defining basic problems and directions for searching for their solutions, and in the last third stage - students presented their proposals for solving the previously diagnosed problems (see Figure 4.2.1).

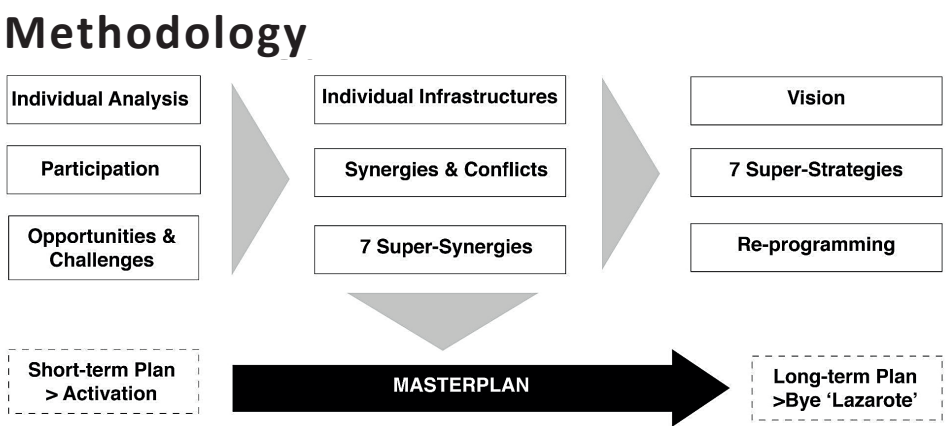

Figure 4.2.1. Work methodology (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023)

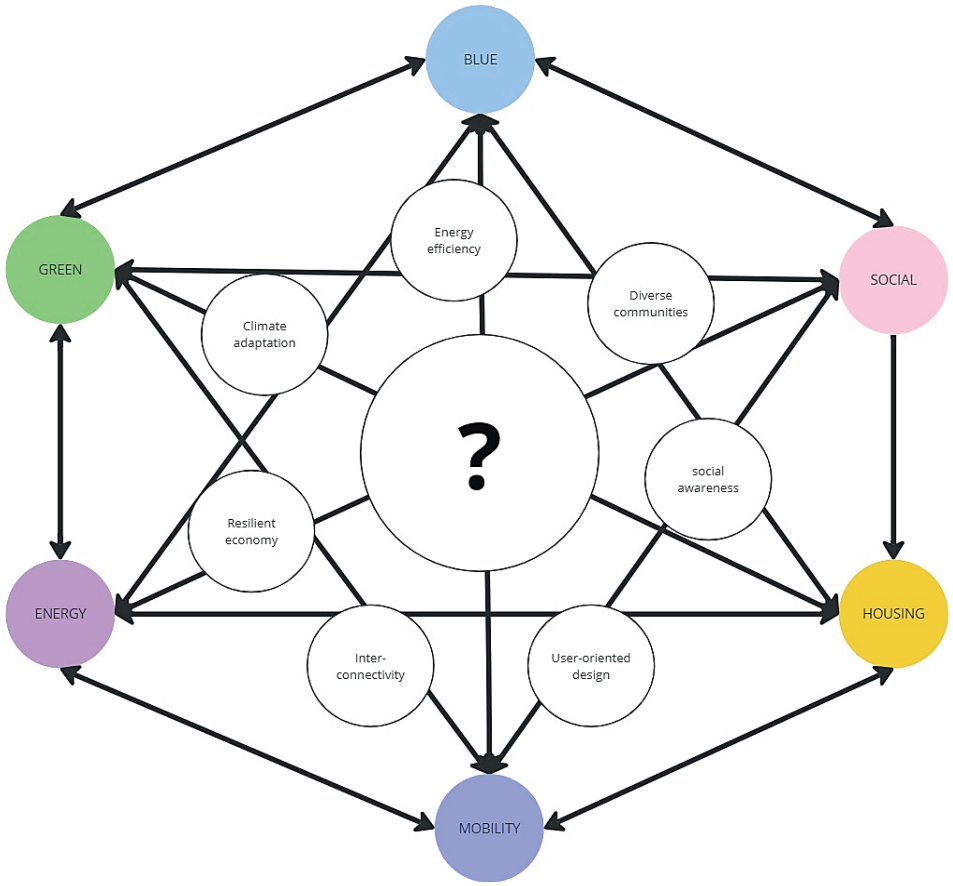

Figure 4.2.2. The basis of the proposed strategy - the 7 super synergies (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023)

4.2.3. Proposal

The students decided to emphasize and address social issues through their synergistic infrastructural solutions. The significant title "Bye Lazaret" of the team's work indicates the main goal of their central strategy: the 'Revitalization and Liveability' of the forgotten and neglected Nazaret district. The way to develop the strategy was the definition of the following 7 "super synergies": interconnectivity, climate adaptation, energy efficiency, diverse communities, user-centric approach, and economic resilience (see Figure 4.2.2). And it was the creation of connectivity, the removal of barriers, and the strengthening of connections at the level of each infrastructure and between them that allowed to build a coherent solution.

Working in the context of the need to create synergies between various urban infrastructures, students focused on the problem of generating new connections between neighboring, yet separated and isolated zones: Nazaret, El Grau, Moreras, La Punta and Harbor. The students' work focused on searching for links between them in the context of close proximity, as well as in the context of the city's main urban axis, which is the river Turia Park, at the level of interpenetrating infrastructures:

- green infrastructure: by creating and supplementing green corridors, including connecting/extending the river Turia Park to the seafront;
- blue infrastructure: by consciously expanding the retention system in the former Turia riverbed with its connection to the sea, as well as with full respect for the tradition of Valencia's irrigation canals;
- transport infrastructure: by leveling or softening strong edges, for instance by burying the railway line, or by building new streets, pedestrian and bicycle paths or bridges/footbridges over the former riverbed of the Turia river;
- housing infrastructure: by creating residential development systems that respect the green and blue infrastructure, while ensuring strong transport links with the city and neighboring districts;

• energy infrastructure: by incorporating renewable energy resources into public spaces;
• social infrastructure: by providing local communities with communication, mobility and contact in the immediate vicinity and in the context of the entire city.

The proposal of Team 2 includes short-term interventions in the key area of Nazaret, referring to the principles of urban acupuncture allowing for quick actions that give a sense of change, as well as being a catalyst for the reconstruction/ construction in the long run of the urban tissue (see Figure 4.2.3).

In the longer term, the team has prepared 4 proposals for connections. These 4 proposals were all assessed according to their positive impact in the 7 super strategies (spyder webs in Figures 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 2.4.6 and 2.4.7). These 4 proposals were also fully aligned with the main goal of Team 2: the 'Revitalization and Liveability' of the pilot site.

Figure 4.2.3. Urban acupuncture as a catalyst for changes (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023)

RIVER - SEA CONNECTION – directions for creating connections between the former Turia riverbed and the sea;

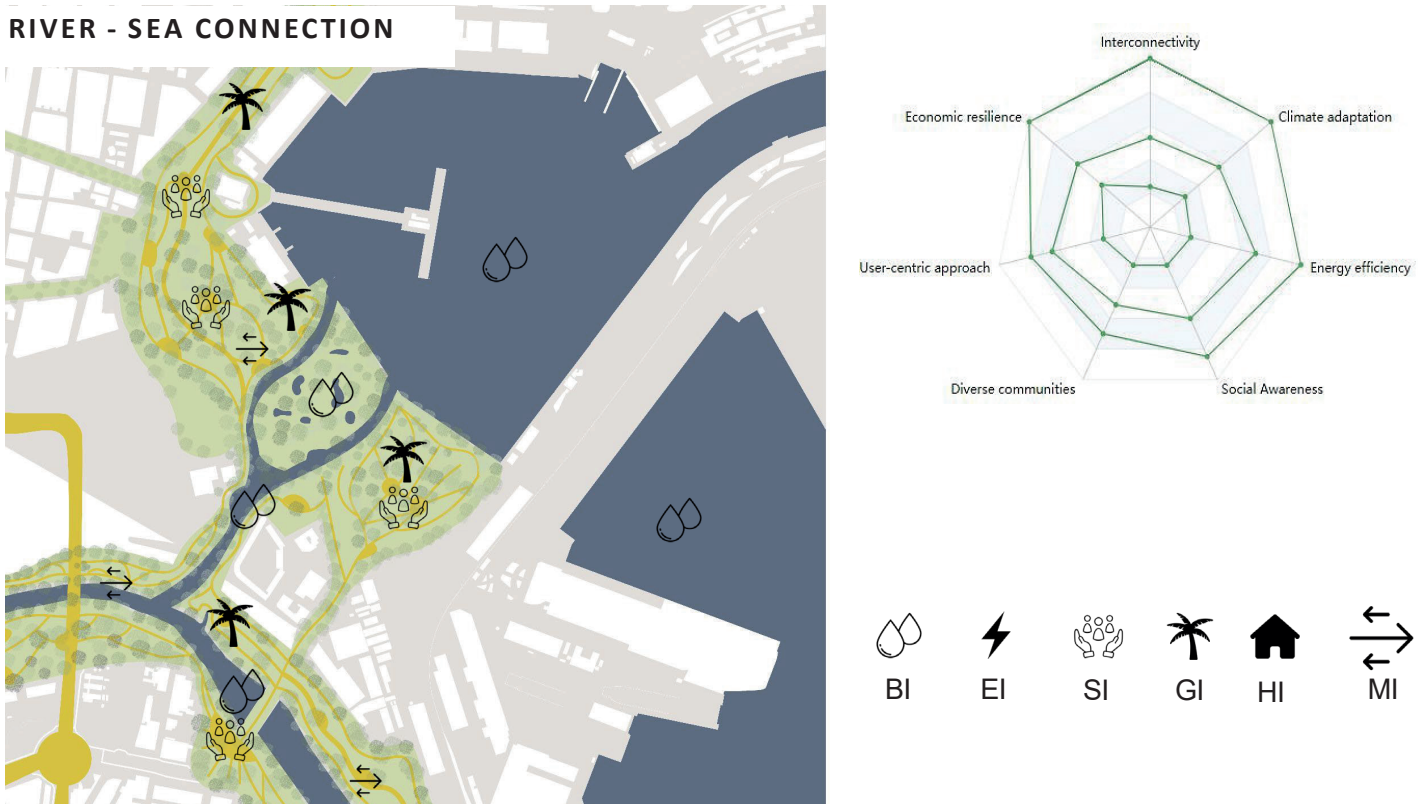

Figure 4.2.4. River and Sea connection (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023)

HARBOR-NAZARET CONNECTION – directions for creating connections between Nazaret and the harbor area by developing the continuity of the seaside public space in the local context and in the entire city;

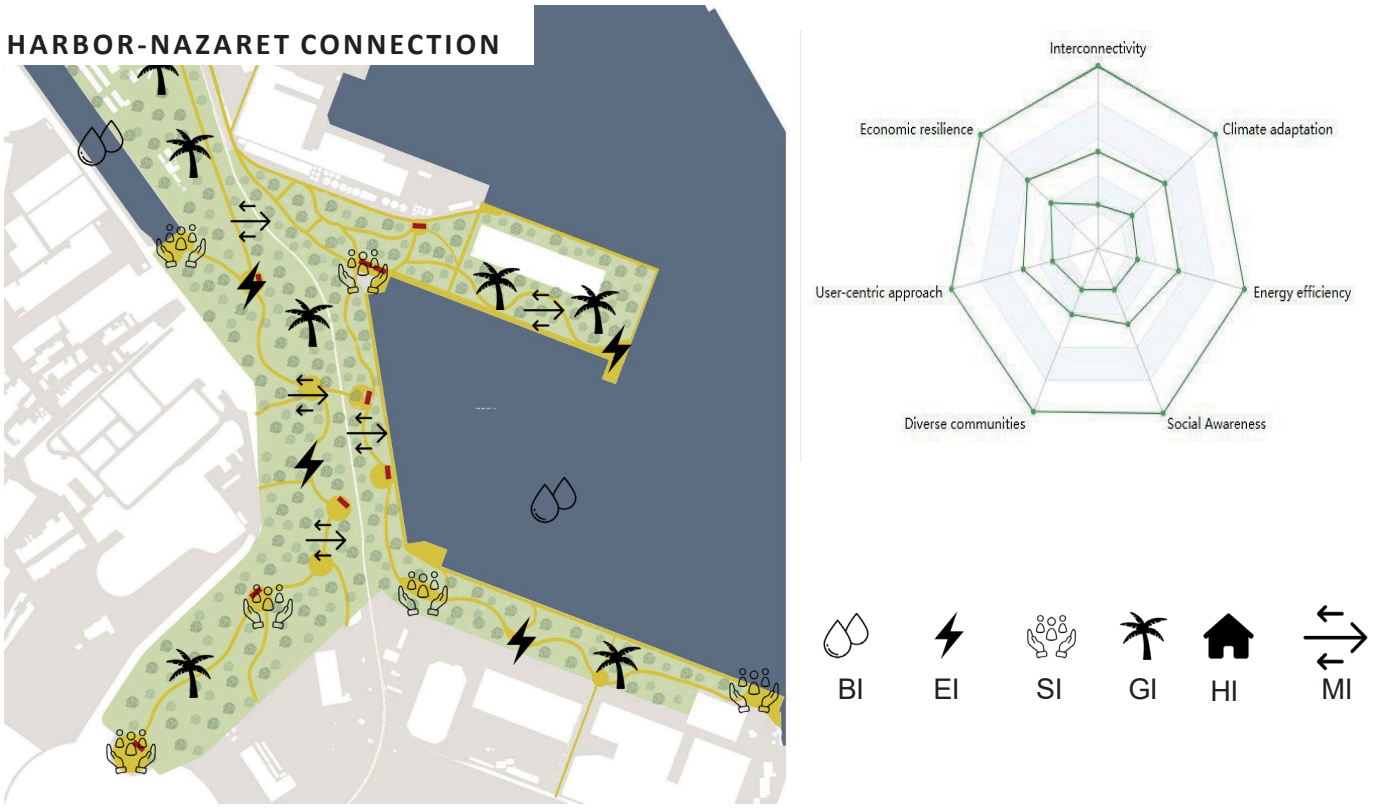

Figure 2.4.5. Harbor and Nazaret connection (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023)

LA PUNTA-NAZARET CONNECTION – directions for creating connections between La Punta and Nazaret while maintaining their distinctiveness and, at the same time, allowing for the building of stronger social and urban bonds;

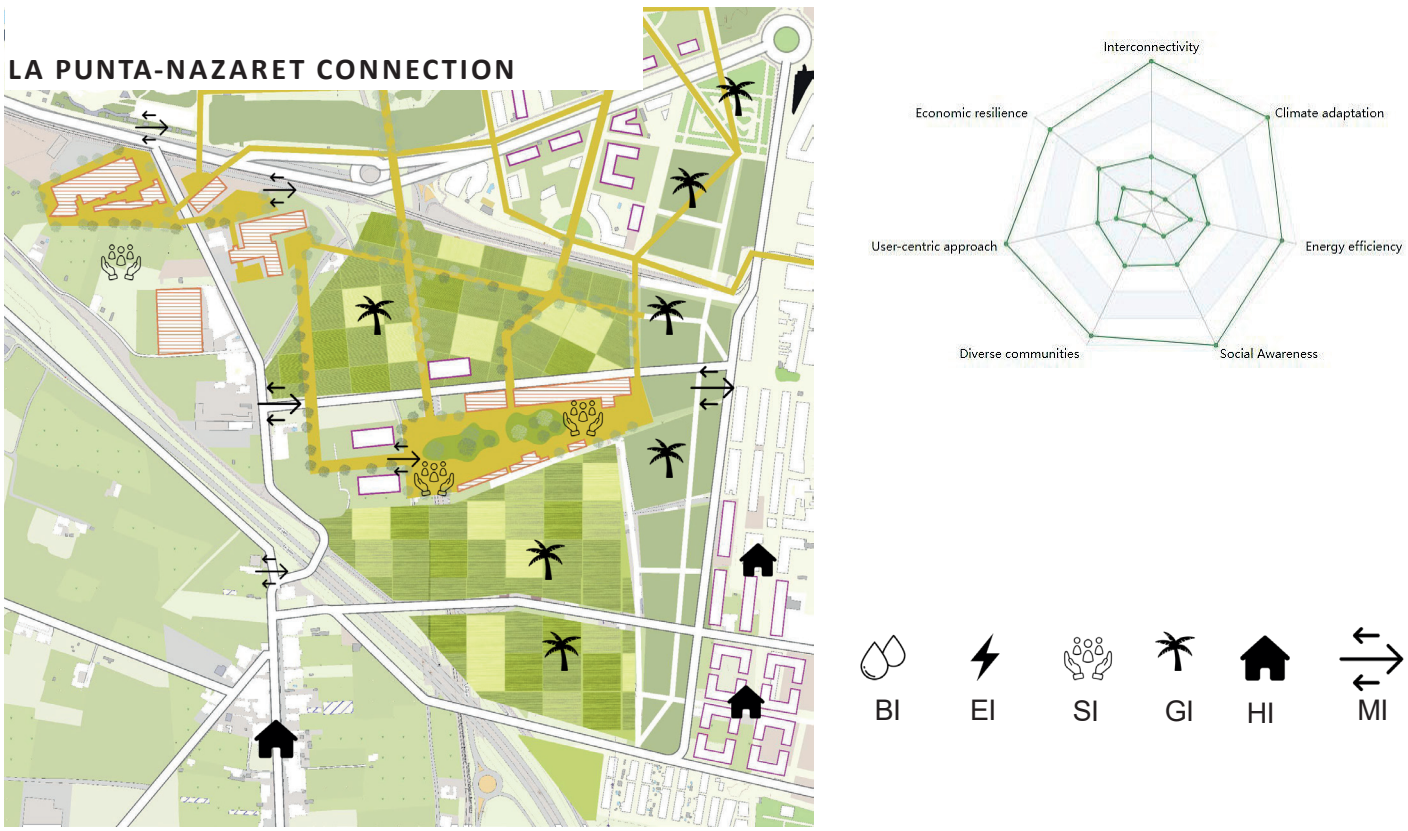

Figure 2.4.6. La Punta and Nazaret connection (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023)

MORERAS – GRAU CONNECTION – directions for creating connections between Moreras and Grau, offering proposals for the development or intensification of housing development while respecting the city's environmental resources (blue and green infrastructure).

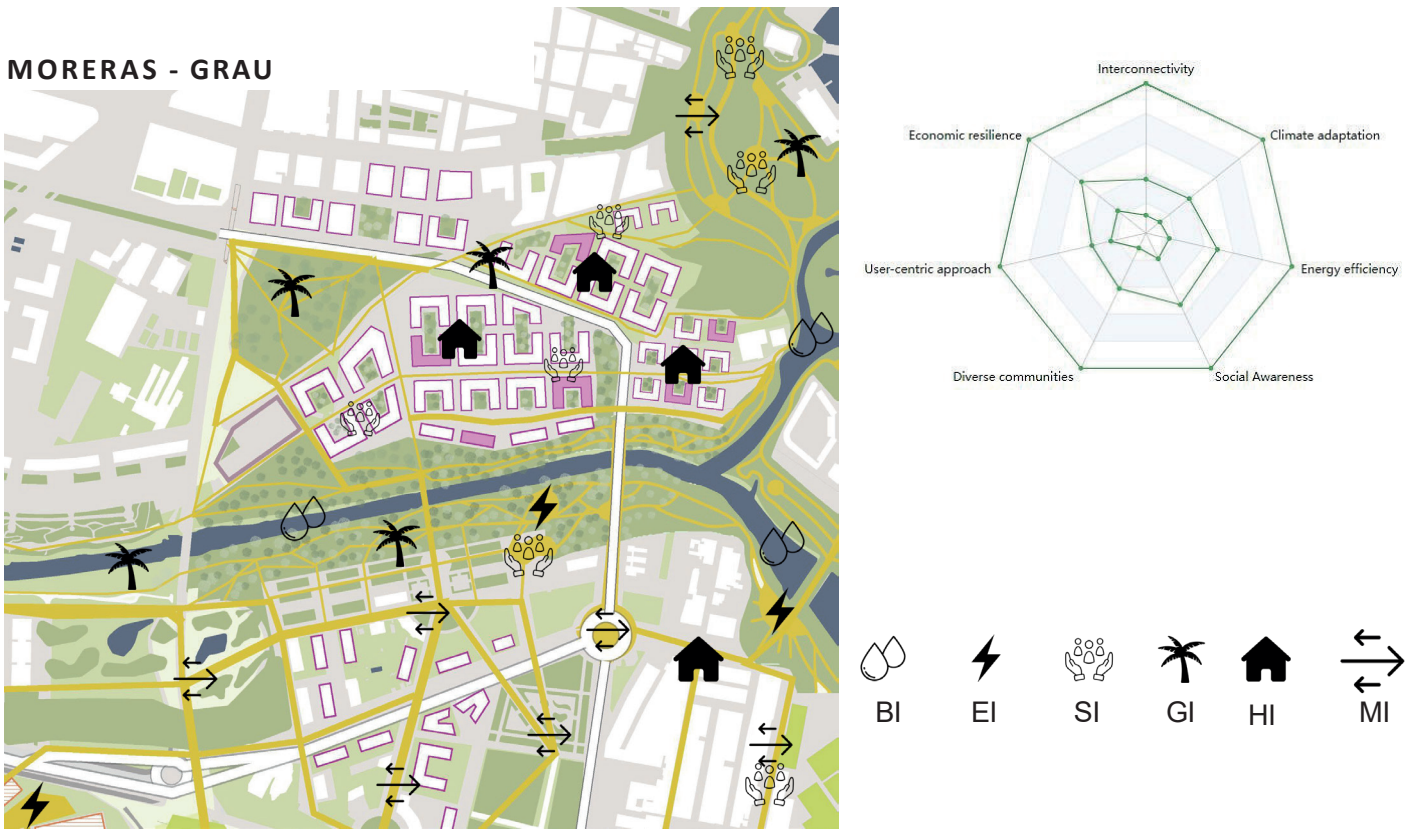

Figure 2.4.7. Moreras and Grau connection (Source Team 2: Kambur, Fosshagen, Polyakova, Zannouti, & Fast, 2023

From an operational perspective, one of the main strengths of Team 2 was the emergence of a leader in the first stages of work - an empathetic, highly organized person who skillfully managed time in the context of the entire process, and at the same time knew the local conditions very well. In the interdisciplinary work of people (in this case - students) from different academic backgrounds and different experiences, it is very important to create a clear platform for understanding and defining common goals. It is very difficult to cooperate in such a team without a leader. Typically, this role is performed by a tutor/university teacher - in the case of team 2, this was not necessary. The students were fully autonomous and prepared their work independently. The substantive assistance from the tutor was limited only to support and facilitate discussions on the considered problems, but it was the students who made the final decisions on their own.

The following lines display a short summary written by the students from Team2 at the end of the course:

For this Summer School we worked with 6 different infrastructure and our goal was to try to find synergies between these. The infrastructures are Blue, Green, Social, Energy, Housing, and Mobility. By identifying and connecting similarities between these infrastructures, we were then able to create 7 "super synergies" to help us tackle the problems in Nazaret, El Grao, Moreras and La Punta. We combined the 7 synergies and decided that our overall vision for the task is "Revitalisation and Liveability". Our 7 super synergies are interconnectivity, climate adaptation, energy efficiency, diverse communities, user-centric approach, and economic resilience.

Interconnectivity for Nazaret is key. We are creating more human friendly streets by creating two main roads where cars are allowed outside of the city. We are strengthening the connection in the area by creating more bridges between El Grao and Nazaret. By moving the railway, we are also connecting Nazaret with La Punta to the west. We facilitate cycling through the field which will create a connection to Ruzafa and to the south towards the New Turia River.

For our climate adaptation we are creating new green connections which will provide cooling for the city and the people. We are strengthening the green connections in the city. The green connection alongside the seafront will work as a meeting place for the people. By establishing more green spaces and renovations in Nazaret, it can help with reduction of the urban heating effect. The new green spaces in El Grao are working as liveable and local parks for the people's well-being. We are creating a green blue eco river corridor that will connect to the sea and strengthen biodiversity. We are also widening the riverbed to make it floodable and, in this way, reducing the flooding risk.

To achieve energy efficiency, we are designing net zero energy housing and creating energy communities. For our Social Awareness we are bridging people together, creating visual connection to the harbor and creating community activities in the fields.

For the diverse communities we are creating affordable and social housing in El Grao. We want to preserve and emphasize the unique identity in Nazaret. Our user-centric approach is to facilitate community centers and local businesses in Nazaret. The people in Nazaret will reclaim the streetscapes and we are shifting the focus from Port-oriented to people-centric.

To achieve economic resilience, we think that first of all it's important to make the pilot area attractive and a destination for the rest of the city. We are creating a new marketplace west of Nazaret and we want to activate the ground floors in Nazaret and El Grao. By using containers from the harbor, we are creating an attraction site alongside the sea front and in this way make the area more alive.

All the measures are based on making the areas more alive and making them part of Valencia. At the same time, we want to focus on the heritage and characteristics of the surrounding areas. It is also important to create living areas around Nazaret and El Grao.).

Authors: Birsu Kambur (Politecnico di Milano), Aksel Teig Fosshagen (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Mariia Polyakova (RWTH Aachen University), Amina Zannouti Jarradi (Polytechnic University of Valencia), and Lea Fast (Technical University of Berlin).