

## PRESENTATION

Beatriz Escribano  
*SUSTAINABLE? Magazine Scientific Director.*

Many years have passed by since we started the journey of the *SUSTAINABLE? Magazine* with a variety of topics such as *globalization, biotechnology, the African continent, energy, and sustainability* assessment among others, until the last year's edition *Recycling City*. We have always tried to work thorough selected topics with a critical perspective while rigorous and scientific. The magazine ought to be a multidisciplinary communication and dialogue tool at university level about the current state of the art related to humanities, science and technology with a sustainable approach.

At the time the magazine's board met to choose the topic for the new issue, we all agreed fairly quickly that we could not take the chance to miss (or ignore) what is happening in our immediate environment and therefore concluded that the content of the 13th Number of this publication should focus on the most trendy topic at the time, which is no other than the crisis of our society. It seemed that, even the number 13 ironically predicted a topic that would be neither pleasant nor optimistic. Hence follows the chosen title for the new edition of the *SUSTAINABLE? Magazine: Society in Crisis*.

In this issue, we tried (as it is tradition) to open a scope that is both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary reviewing a variety of problems that outline this crisis of ours, justifying the fact that the collaborating author/s have very different and diverse profiles associated with areas such as engineering, archeology, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, etcetera.

In the first article *Of collapses and continuities. A conceptual review on the study of societies in transition*, the scientist and plural tandem Delgado-Rosas first presents a discussion and more specifically a nuance on the concept and the definition of "collapse" considering theories of scientists such as Jarred Diamond and Joseph A. Tainter, all within a systemic and complexity approach. Secondly, the authors explain the case study of the Argaric society that was developed in the Bronze Age in the Southeast of the Iberian Peninsula where it is analyzed how the unsustainability of the social and economic organization gave place to a new structure instead of the demise of this society.

Professor Recio follows with the article *Youth in crisis* where one of the most important problems among modern societies is exposed: youth is still one of the most negatively affected groups by both the employment destruction and the growing vulnerability of employees. The author gives an account of the different elements that explain this situation by providing very interesting facts about Spain and offering some reflections and answers about the policies that must be facing this type of crisis.

## Presentació

Then Guillem Domingo, member of the People Affected by Mortgage Platform and city management specialist, nears us with article *Evictions in the city of Terrassa* directly and personally to one of the economic crisis most dramatic consequences with social impact: the loss of housing. Many families cannot cope with their mortgage payments and from here a tough process begins. The author presents how this eviction process evolves, how several demonstrations generate in response and finally presents the proposals of the Platform. He presents to us in a very special and particular way, the case study of the city of Terrassa.

Finally the article *It's about private debt*, from the Observatory of Debt in Globalization researcher Daniel Gómez-Olivé, raises the question on the debt crisis specifically at the Spanish State. At first, the author wonders if the responsibility of the indebtedness problem relies (or not) on poor governance. Then the author notes the response of civil society given through the Citizen Audit for the Debt Platform.

As usual, feedback from the authors is completed with a list of Bibliographic resources prepared by Miquel Puertas and Núria Castillo.

Most assuredly, all we have done with this 13th edition is starting to develop some issues. We are aware that there are many more arisen aspects of the crisis to be analyzed and this surely would lead to the publication of a whole encyclopedia. But although the situation is very serious and the future seems bleak we hope that step by step all of us can contribute to develop alternatives and solutions to this, our *Society in crisis*.