The urban strategy that is being proposed by the present thesis aims to rethink the social and the spatial conditions in the area of Agios Pavlos in Athens, in order to provide opportunities to counteract the processes of decay, urban fragmentation and socio-spatial segregation. The main aim of the strategy is to propose a revitalization process that can encounter directly the existing conditions of decay and socio-spatial fragmentation and at the same time to create the basis for the long-term revitalization of the area.

Through the recognition of the existing socio-spatial characteristics, the strategy that has been defined, instead of a fixed final design, is based on the development of a transformation and integration process that is shaped in time. More specific, the proposed strategy aims towards the re-activation of the local scale of the neighborhood on a short and long term basis and its re-integration in the city network. A key element and the starting point in this process is to use the existing system of parking lots, that are fairly empty on daily basis, as the main pattern of interventions. The aim is to provide guidelines on how these spaces can be programmed, in order to create a platform for new activities to take place in the area.

The proposed activities have mainly a short term character and constitute the first step for the re-activation of the local scale. The first phase of the strategy that concerns the re-activation of parking spaces with temporal activities forms the basis for the next phase that concerns the empowerment of more permanent activities in the area. The analysis that has been made illustrates how some of the proposed activities can be evolved through time, contributing to the re-activation of vacant commercial spaces and abandoned buildings. In that way, the proposed strategy aims to observe the urban abandonment and finally, to establish the long-term revitalization of the area.

Gradual transformation

Vacant buildings - closed shops

Activities - Flows of people

Friday 15 June 2013

Saturday 9 November 2014

Sunday 19 June 2020

Vacant buildings - closed shops

Activities - Flows of people

The high percentage of low income people and the presence of marginalized groups, combined with the urban abandonment and the gradual decrease in activities the last decades, led to the disconnection of the local scale from the city network and to its stigmatization as a marginalized area with high level of abandonment and criminality.