

Urban regeneration in Milan Metropolitan City: from strategy to implementation

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Policy, strategy, project

“The projects' implementation is crucial for the strategic role that we want to give to the metropolitan city.

If there are projects and these become part of local strategic vision then the resources to realize them can be found.”

Isabella Susi Botto in *Looking at metropolitan areas as Laboratories of metropolitan Governance*, Viviana Rubbo ed.
Metrex Bernd Steinacher Fellowship, 2016-2018



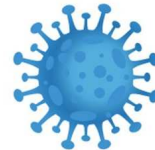
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Urban regeneration strategy

In Italy **the metropolitan cities are young institutions** and most various territorial entities.

They were established by Law 56/2014 and they faced **challenges of administrative innovation**, with traditional tools, inappropriate boundaries and expenditures reduction, crossing very complicated years!



In this context, the **urban regeneration at the metropolitan scale** was, for Milan MC, the **ground for an experimental governance model**, based on inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation and open network.



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Some Milan Metropolitan City features

Area:
1.575 kmq

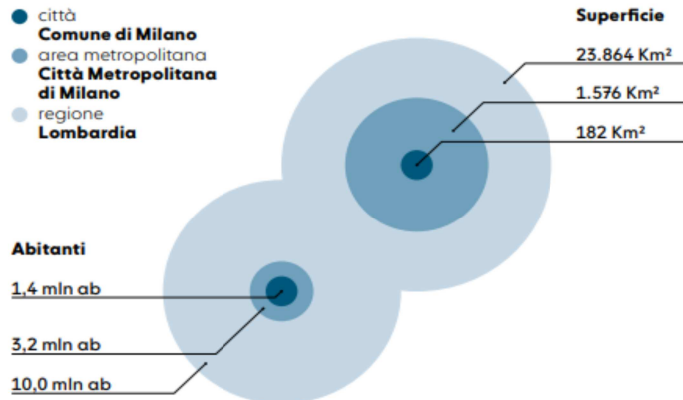
Pop. 2021
3.236.683

Pop. 2021 Milan
capital city
1.398.765

Number
municipalities
133

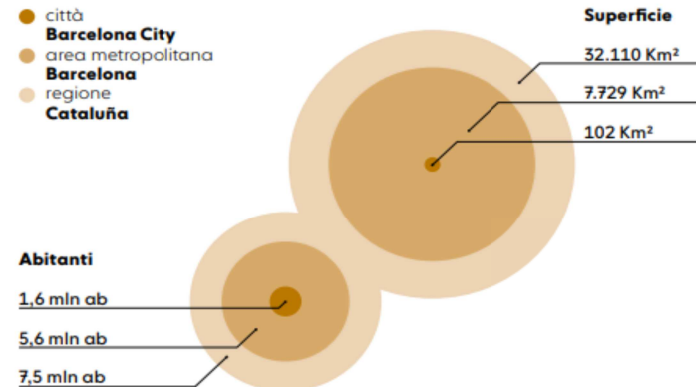
Milano

- città
Comune di Milano
- area metropolitana
**Città Metropolitana
di Milano**
- regione
Lombardia



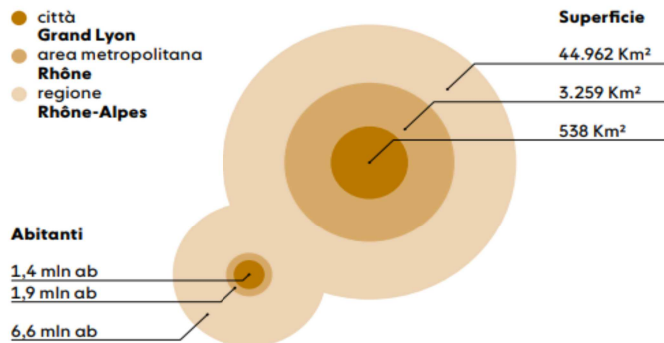
Barcellona

- città
Barcelona City
- area metropolitana
Barcelona
- regione
Cataluña



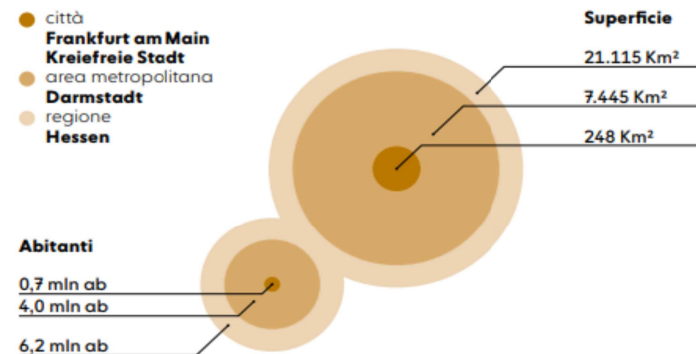
Lione

- città
Grand Lyon
- area metropolitana
Rhône
- regione
Rhône-Alpes



Francoforte

- città
**Frankfurt am Main
Kreiefreie Stadt**
- area metropolitana
Darmstadt
- regione
Hessen

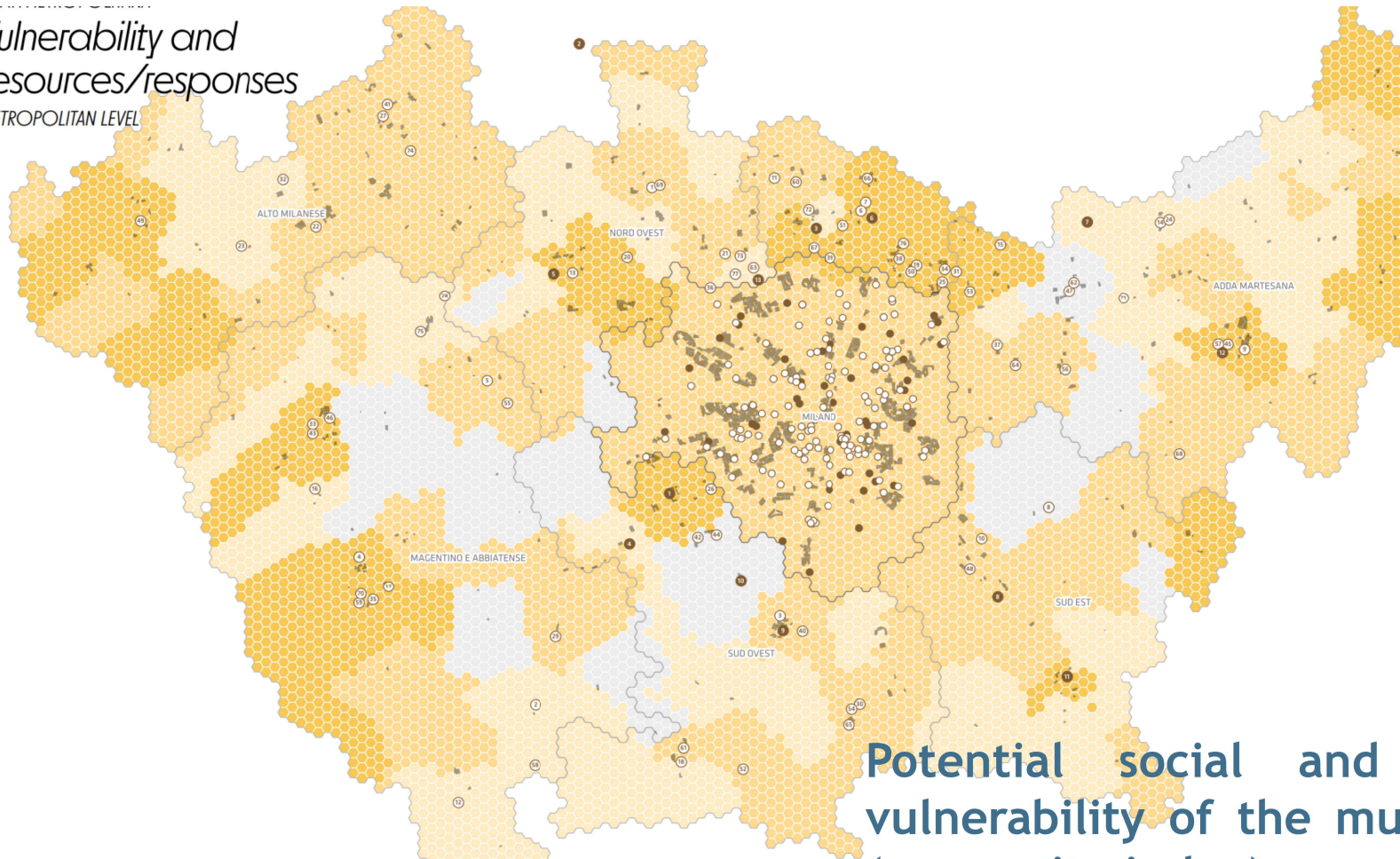


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Some Milan Metropolitan City features

Vulnerability and resources/responses

METROPOLITAN LEVEL



Potential social and economic vulnerability of the municipalities (composite index), public housing neighborhoods and social associations



Urban regeneration strategy. The first steps

Urban regeneration was already given attention in the **Statute** of the Milan Metropolitan City (2014).

Article 36 mentions urban regeneration as one of the **goals of sustainable development** for the metropolitan territorial policies.

In general terms, article 30 indicates that the metropolitan city establishes **forms of cooperation and collaboration with municipalities** with the purpose of achieving a **balanced accessibility of the services** and a common management of the metropolitan functions.



Urban regeneration in strategic planning (I)

The **Strategic Plan 2016-2018** of Metropolitan City of Milan was approved on May 2016 (first case in the Italian panorama) and later **updated for the triennium 2019-2021** on October 2019.



Between the inspiring principles of the first Strategic Plan, there is the **cooperation between territories and actors** (institutions, territorial agencies, economic and social realities, the associative world and the third sector) aiming at the promotion of **action-oriented policies and projects** designed for the qualification of the territory and for the creation of service management networks.



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Strategy and project

In 2016, the Milan metropolitan city took the opportunity offered by the national government to metropolitan bodies through a **national tender for “Extraordinary program of intervention for urban regeneration and the security of the suburbs”** (DPCM 25/5/2016).

The call for the regeneration of the suburbs was the first public bid for the metropolitan cities since their foundation.

Milan Metropolitan City have mobilized its territories to respond to the call with the project called **“Metropolitan Welfare and urban regeneration. Overcoming emergencies and building new spaces for cohesion and hospitality”**



PROGETTO

**WELFARE METROPOLITANO
E RIGENERAZIONE URBANA**



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Strategy and project

The project design **physical places and social actions** (more of 50 interventions) to enhance the urban regeneration of the **metropolitan outskirts** and represented a chance, fully taken by the Metropolitan City, to test its role as strategic leader and curator of the metropolitan territorial strategy.

The economic dimension of the project amounted to a total of more of 50 mlns euro, of which **40 mlns euro was the contribution** of the national government.

The project involves **31 Municipalities**, institutional subjects and stakeholders in partnership with them.



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Strategy and project



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Strategy, project and capability

The financial resources of WMRU projects were split as follow:

- more of 39 mln euro for public works and social actions to be implemented in the municipalities involved;

- about 700.000 euro for the **reinforcement and development of coordination capabilities** and active directing role of Milan Metropolitan City

- ... for planning, e-government, territorial marketing, development of new services and training...

This was functional and supportive to the project, but also contributed to **growth up the institutional role awareness and manegement capability of civil servants and politicians.**



Urban regeneration in strategic planning (II)

The urban regeneration strategy got stronger in the **second Strategic Plan 2019-2021** (october 2019) with a new strategic **project REMIX_VALORI** (Regeneration Metropolitan Incubator - To valorise to regenerate)

The goal of REMIX-VALORI is to define and realize projects that, through the **reuse and requalification of unused or underused public spaces and structures**, can generate relevant **social and environmental consequences**, but also **opportunities for economic development** and for financial **incentives for further projects**.



Urban regeneration in strategic planning (II)

REMIX

The Metropolitan incubator for the territorial regeneration is thought as a permanent and ordinary tool in the strategic perspective of regeneration implementing



Urban regeneration and more projects

Strategy developed a lot of various projects, either taking the opportunity offered by the **European, national and regional tenders** for the urban regeneration (recently enhanced by PNNR), or thank to **own initiatives** of Milan Metropolitan City



**AMMINISTRAZIONI
CONDIVISE
DEI BENI
COMUNI**



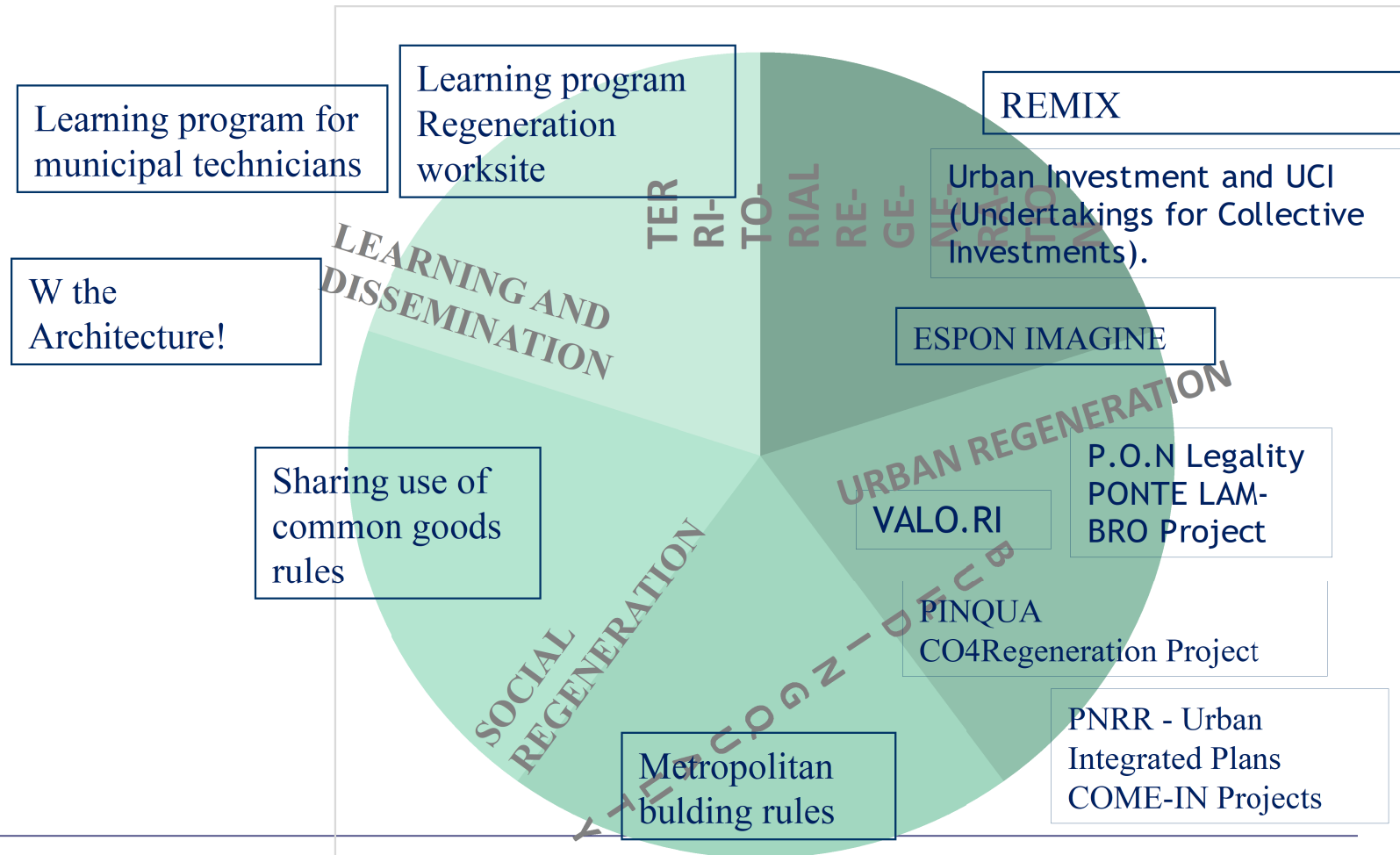
**AGENDA
METROPOLITANA
URBANA
PER LO SVILUPPO
SOSTENIBILE**



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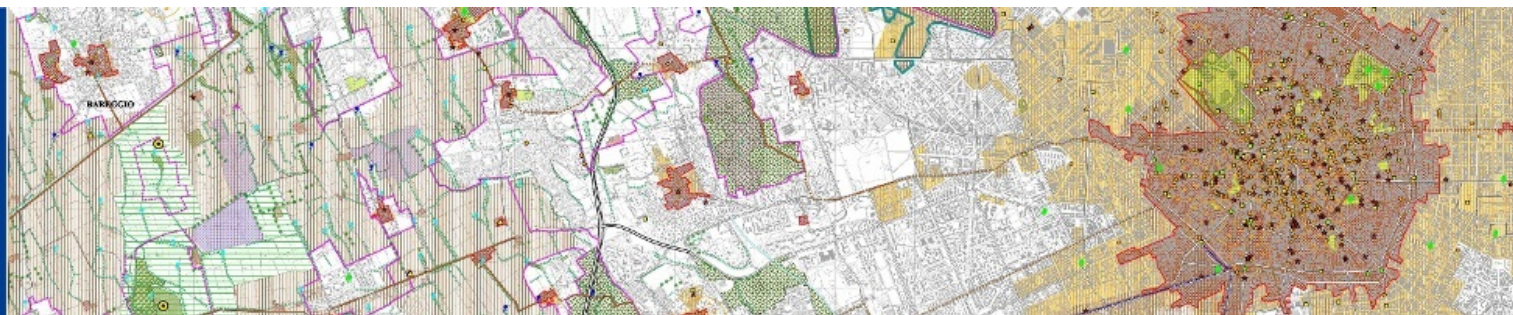
Urban regeneration and more projects



Urban regeneration in territorial plan (PTM)

On may 2021, the Metropolitan Council of Milan approved the first Metropolitan Territorial Plan (PTM).

The founding principle of plan is the **sustainable land use** and among the main goals there are: the protection of **non-renewable resources** (soil, water, energy, air quality), adaptation/mitigation to **climate change** and **urban regeneration**.



The plan faces the structural **transformations brought by the pandemic** and the new challenges in the use of the territory.



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Urban regeneration in territorial plan (PTM) ... and its tools

Now, we are working to the plan's implementation and its tools.

One of the most relevant is the **metropolitan equalization fund**.

The equalization funds have recently become part of the regional territorial law in Lombardy (L.R.18/2019).

With this financial tool we will have the possibility to **promote and empower urban and territorial regeneration in peripheral areas**, where the real estate market is weaker and its trends are insufficient to regenerate degraded areas.



Urban regeneration and equalization

Drawing a metropolitan equalization fund, we will aim:

- to identify the marginality areas and the new territorial functions generating bad environmental impacts and negative spill over;
- to **locate the areas where it is a priority to foster regeneration**;
- to find, into the strategic and territorial metropolitan plans, common points finalized to develop policies in support to territorial functions generating positive spill over;
- to develop a **financial tool in order to pay a public services system on metropolitan scale**, with special attention to ecosystemic services, landscape setting, sustainable mobility, welfare services, social housing.



Definitely...

from strategy to implementation

The metropolitan city has chosen to invest on "**metropolitan regeneration strategy**" as **driver towards a new territorial governance model** and consequently for the **implementation of the metropolitan scale**.

The **strategy** has (and **its projects** and **planning tools** concern) a large integrated and non-sectorial dimension. It goes (and they too) beyond the building activity and now it interests (and they too) the **environmental requalification, social and civic promotion, acting on public and private spaces, the improvement of infrastructures, the green system and ecological networks, welfare and local economic systems**.

