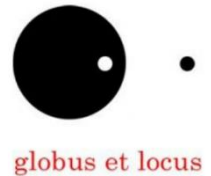




Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence



ESPON IMAGINE

Final Regional Forum

Urban regions within the new cohesion policy: Developing an ITI for and from Milano-Bologna urban region

Stakeholders of ESPONE IMAGINE:



Highlights

Piero Bassetti (Presidente Globus et Locus)

Piero Bassetti made some concluding remarks on the connection between the local and global dimensions, which is the heart of the ESPON IMAGINE project. Today, the organic connection between local and global levels requires the ability of the territory to reorganize itself through a “political” compromise with its functions. The latter, however, tends to be independent from the territory, giving rise to an unprecedented relationship between "mobility" and "permanence".

The ESPON IMAGINE project involved local governments and stakeholders of the main economic and territorial functions in a discussion on the development of a regional imaginary and an integrated territorial strategy between Milan and Bologna. The project represents a starting point for the development of strategic networks and programs able to govern the transformation of urban and regional scenarios both within the Milan-Bologna corridor as well as by acting as a model for other corridors, in line with the European Union’s urban and regional development policies.

During the IMAGINE project, we saw how the issue of governance evokes the problem of widespread and concentrated institutional subjectivity. Today, more than ever, these emerging needs challenge institutions to redefine their own forms of governance as well as the nature of their governance. Both territorial and functional institutions are increasingly called to play a key role in building new processes of governance and policy planning open to the dialectic of interests and values based on the knowledge and new social practices that find their expression in urban zones, intermediate territories and in the polyarchic relationships shared between them.

The ESPON IMAGINE project can therefore be an important experiment in institutional innovation with the aim of developing an operational and coherent vision of the Milan-Bologna system. From this point of view, the proposal for an ITI for the Milan-Bologna urban region can represent an opportunity to institutionalize new horizontal and vertical partnerships.

The Milan-Bologna system is, in fact, a system that certainly exists, but that must be supported in order to thrive, through the ability to find incentives for cooperation and to highlight the advantages which the development of a broader vision can guarantee to each actor.

The actors involved in IMAGINE: institutional and territorial actors, banking foundations, technopoles, research networks and universities, companies representing the connective functions (mobility, logistics, multiutilities, innovation and creative industries, etc.), all hold a crucial role since they may possess the vision and necessary resources needed to activate experimental trans-regional, public-private cooperation projects.

In essence, the importance of the invention of a political dimension emerges from the topics discussed in this forum and in previous meetings. We need to ask ourselves which government or power reference should be the interlocutor in the urban and macro-regional perspective developed by the IMAGINE project: European powers (Green Deal), the Italian government or functional powers (finance, logistics, energy, circular economy, etc.). Reconciling the implantation of a specific policy with its power-generating dimension is a complex issue that must be carefully considered.

My conclusion therefore focuses on the exhortation to all the partners of the ESPON IMAGINE project to report the problems encountered as a result of the work done to the power centers involved. Only in this

way we will be able to promote a more integrated governance between Milan and Bologna. A goal of great relevance for the urban and political development of the whole Northern Italy.

Key Points:

- the organic connection between local and global levels requires the ability of the territory to reorganize itself through a “political” compromise with its functions
- The project represents a starting point for the development of strategic networks and programs able to govern the transformation of urban and regional scenarios both within the Milan-Bologna corridor as well as by acting as a model for other corridors
- The emerging needs challenge institutions to redefine their own forms of governance as well as the nature of their governance. Both territorial and functional institutions are increasingly called to play a key role in building new processes of governance and policy planning open to the dialectic of interests and values based on the knowledge and new social practices
- The ESPON IMAGINE project can therefore be an important experiment in institutional innovation with the aim of developing an operational and coherent vision of the Milan-Bologna system. The ITI proposal for the Milan-Bologna urban region can represent an opportunity to institutionalize new horizontal and vertical partnerships
- The actors involved in IMAGINE hold a crucial role since they may possess the vision and necessary resources needed to activate experimental trans-regional, public-private cooperation projects
- We need to ask ourselves which government or power reference should be the interlocutor in the urban and macro-regional perspective developed by the IMAGINE project. Reconciling the implantation of a specific policy with its power-generating dimension is a complex issue that must be carefully considered
- the exhortation to all the partners of the ESPON IMAGINE project to report the problems encountered as a result of the work done to the power centers involved, in order to promote a more integrated governance between Milan and Bologna