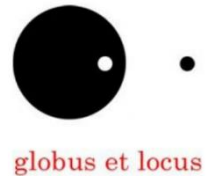




Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence



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

Raffaele Cattaneo (Assessore Ambiente e Clima, Regione Lombardia)

Raffaele Cattaneo took part to the panel, “Growing like an urban region”, and discussed the role of regional policy-design in the assemblage of a new regional imaginary. The changes taking place in the economic and social scenario are posing an epochal challenge to the institutional assets. The issues of sustainability, contrast to climate change, and the transition from linear to circular economy need to be addressed at a scale which is bigger than the municipal, provincial, and regional ones. Yet, these issues produce effects at the local level, and they cannot be managed only by the national or European authorities. They require a glocal approach: global strategies implemented through local actions in a bottom-up way. New multi-level governance models are needed, based on strong cooperation between public and private actors both on the horizontal and vertical axis: a difficult task for administrations which have been built on principles of autonomy and strict divisions of competences. The changes in the functional scenario require a revolution of the institutional practices, towards an improved capacity of the administrations to work together on common goals. In this direction, experiments of informal governance networks have already been organized: an example is the agreement of the regions of Lombardia, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Piemonte on policies against pollution (“Accordo di Bacino Padano”). The European Union contributes to the diffusion of these practices with research projects like ESPON IMAGINE and new tools for the regulation of trans-territorial issues (i.e. EGTC or ITI or Macroregional Strategies): cohesion policies should encourage the diffusion of these experiences, which are important steps in the transition towards governance models based on multi-level institutional cooperation.

Key Points:

- the changes taking place in the economic and social scenario are challenging traditional institutional assets, and need to be addressed at a bigger scale than the municipal, provincial and regional ones
- new multi-level governance models are needed, based on strong cooperation between public and private actors both on the horizontal and vertical axis,
- to implement multi-level governance and cooperation strategies it is required to improve the institutional capacity of the public authorities
- the European Union can contribute through research projects like ESPON IMAGINE to a step forward in the transition towards governance models based on multi-level institutional cooperation