

# URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Urban regeneration: institution, agency, and tools

<b>Funded By</b>	Centro Interdipartimentale FULL
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<b>Context of the research activity</b>	<p>The PhD research proposal is connected with a prolific research field that goes from urban development to integrated regeneration interventions, and that addresses – in broader terms - the “actions in/for cities” from several perspectives: the institutional and governance framework, the policy initiatives, the coalition of involved actors, the strategic approach, the aim of fighting inequality in urban areas, the operational choices, the cultural, normative, and cognitive frame that informs the policy agenda, and the like. It is part of the clusters of knowledge and expertise that characterizes FULL – Future Urban Legacy Lab. The proposed activity can take advantage of (and it could contribute to) the research agendas that are currently active in the Interdisciplinary Centre.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The aim of the research is to critically address the issue of urban policies and urban regeneration in Italy, as much as using the European context as a reference.</p> <p>This topic can be located within a long-term research tradition, which links theoretical frame to operational and processual dimensions with the aim of addressing actions and challenges in urban contexts. Contextually, it is rooted in national policies and in their socio-economic dimensions that characterize the urban welfare state.</p> <p>Starting from the innovative experiments of the nineties (integrated programs, negotiated planning tools), the place-based and area-based methodological approaches appear now as mature and consolidated forms of urban and spatial intervention, despite the reduction in investments and the changes in institutional settings. In recent years, the urban regeneration agenda has been scattered in a series of sectorial and mono-thematic approaches, due to different narratives and propieties, and the progressive scarcity of investment in urban policies.</p> <p>On the one hand, following the global economic and financial crisis (2007-08), the Covid-19 pandemic and the changing economic policies, it is possible to read a general trend of growing spatial, economic and social inequalities. On the other hand, the international scientific and policy debate, has swunged between different positions: from integrated approaches addressing the complexity of socio-spatial disparities and fragilities, to simplified physical interventions and renewal development projects.</p> <p>The proposal investigates the current situation, which seems to be at the</p>

dawn of a new boost, given the new national and European support (PNRR, Next Generation EU, etc.). It requires to be framed within a trend of growing inequalities and imbalance, to which different institutions and resources have been deployed. How institutions and structures, forms of agency, and tools are under change is the issue at stake.

From a methodological point of view, the research relies on a series of theoretical approaches, from socio-institutionalism to social innovation, from strategic spatial planning to urban studies, with an integrated approach. As applied research, it also investigates the different dimensions of the institutional contexts and local actions, the coalitions of (public and private) actors, and the changes in discourses, which then inform the implementation of instruments and tools.

**Skills and competencies for the development of the activity**

The candidate should have:

- competences in urban studies, spatial planning, integrated approach to spatial/urban inequalities, capacity to investigate institutional arrangements, and socio and spatial forms of innovation;
- Knowledge about urban policy, Italian and European urban and / or territorial policies;
- Master's degrees in the field of urban studies, such as spatial planning, economic and human geography, urban sociology.