

## URD\_1

### Title of the doctoral program

Urban and regional development

### Title of the research activity

Spatial Planning Systems and EU Territorial Governance

### Short description of the research activity

Regional and urban policies are pivoted upon the functioning of spatial planning systems that were established and modified over time within specific institutional contexts. Each country has developed its own spatial planning system, inspired by a variegated set of social models, administrative traditions and technical cultures. This factual circumstance provides the opportunity for the development of international comparisons, aiming at answering a number of crucial research questions such as: (i) how do planning systems differ? (ii) how can planning systems change? (iii) what are the opportunities of learning from other institutional contexts?

Furthermore, despite the absence of a 'European spatial planning system', the European Union influences the development of urban and regional policies in its Member States. This occurs through the development of guidelines, operative tools and specific regulations developed at the EU level, which can contribute to the transformation of national planning systems. At the same time, this process of so-called 'EU territorial governance' is variously influenced by the technical cultures that are active in Member States. This triggers an additional set of interesting research questions such as: (i) how can EU territorial governance be defined? (ii) how does EU territorial governance affect Member States' planning systems? (iii) how do national planning cultures influence EU territorial governance?

Among the research projects in which the research group was involved these years:

- ESPON TANGO – Territorial approaches for new governance ([http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/tango.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/tango.html))
- ESPON SMART-IST – Smart institution for Territorial Development ([http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_TargetedAnalyses/smart-ist.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_TargetedAnalyses/smart-ist.html))
- ESPON 2.3.1 Application and effects of the ESDP in the member states ([http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_ESPON2006Projects/Menu\\_PolicyImpactProjects/esdpimpact.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ESPON2006Projects/Menu_PolicyImpactProjects/esdpimpact.html))
- ESPON 2.3.2 Governance of territorial and urban policies ([http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_ESPON2006Projects/Menu\\_PolicyImpactProjects/governance.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_ESPON2006Projects/Menu_PolicyImpactProjects/governance.html))
- ARL Working Group 'Comparative Spatial Planning Research' (<http://www.arl-net.de/projekte/comparative-spatial-planning-research>)

### Scientific responsible (name, surname, role, email)

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### Number of vacancies for XXXI cycle (3 years program)

2

### Specific requirements (experiences, skills)

Expertise in spatial planning, good knowledge of the English language.

**Website of the research group (if any)**

[http://www.dist.polito.it/la\\_ricerca/ambiti\\_di\\_ricerca](http://www.dist.polito.it/la_ricerca/ambiti_di_ricerca) (A. Sviluppo urbano e regionale)

[http://areeweb.polito.it/ricerca/eupolis/index\\_en.html](http://areeweb.polito.it/ricerca/eupolis/index_en.html)