

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Land, Town and Environment Planning
Honors theses

The local strategic development in alpine cross-border context: the case-study of “Conference des Hautes Vallées”

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The thesis aims to investigate the new vision of the Alps as a "project area", assessing the need for over-local territorial aggregations planning shared development and studying the incentives for the local projects arising from EU programs. These intentions is realized in the study of local strategic development processes in a cross-border alpine area. The case-study is represented by the territory of the "Conference des Hautes Vallées": an association including 6 Italian Comunità Montane of Susa valley and Pinerolese area and 5 French Communauté de Communes of Briançonnais and Maurienne areas, formed in 2007 with the aim of promoting interregional cooperation and help to better organize the territorial planning.

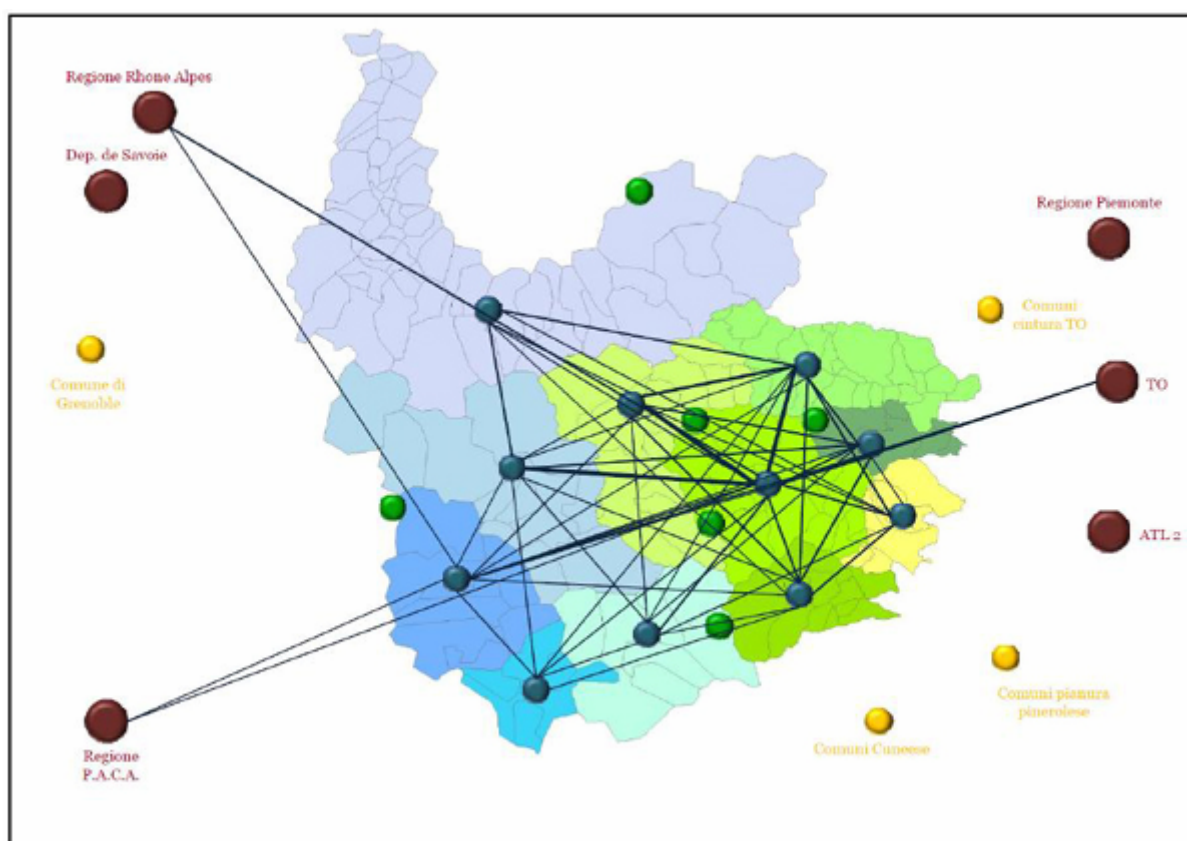
The thesis is composed of 2 main parts. In the first were considered two territorial scales: one is the entire Alpine region, which was investigated the evolution of the different perceptions changed over the centuries and the strategic characteristics, recognized also and above all by the EU; the other is the Western Alps, which in this case represent the local context for analyzed area.

In the second part of the thesis were specified the analysis about the study area (the territory of the “C.H.A.V.”) and done the project elaboration. We proceeded to analyze the geomorphological, natural, administrative-institutional, socio-demographic, infrastructural features and those linked to the past and current planning: this to know in detail each of the variables which may influence the process of local development strategy. Particular importance has been covered by the study of planning undertaken by local communities, they, in fact, have been regarded as the main “clues” for the identification of a potential Local Territorial Systems (SLoT). For this reason was made an assessment of these projects from different points of view, building on research carried out by the Dipartimento Interateneo Territorio of the Politecnico of Turin.

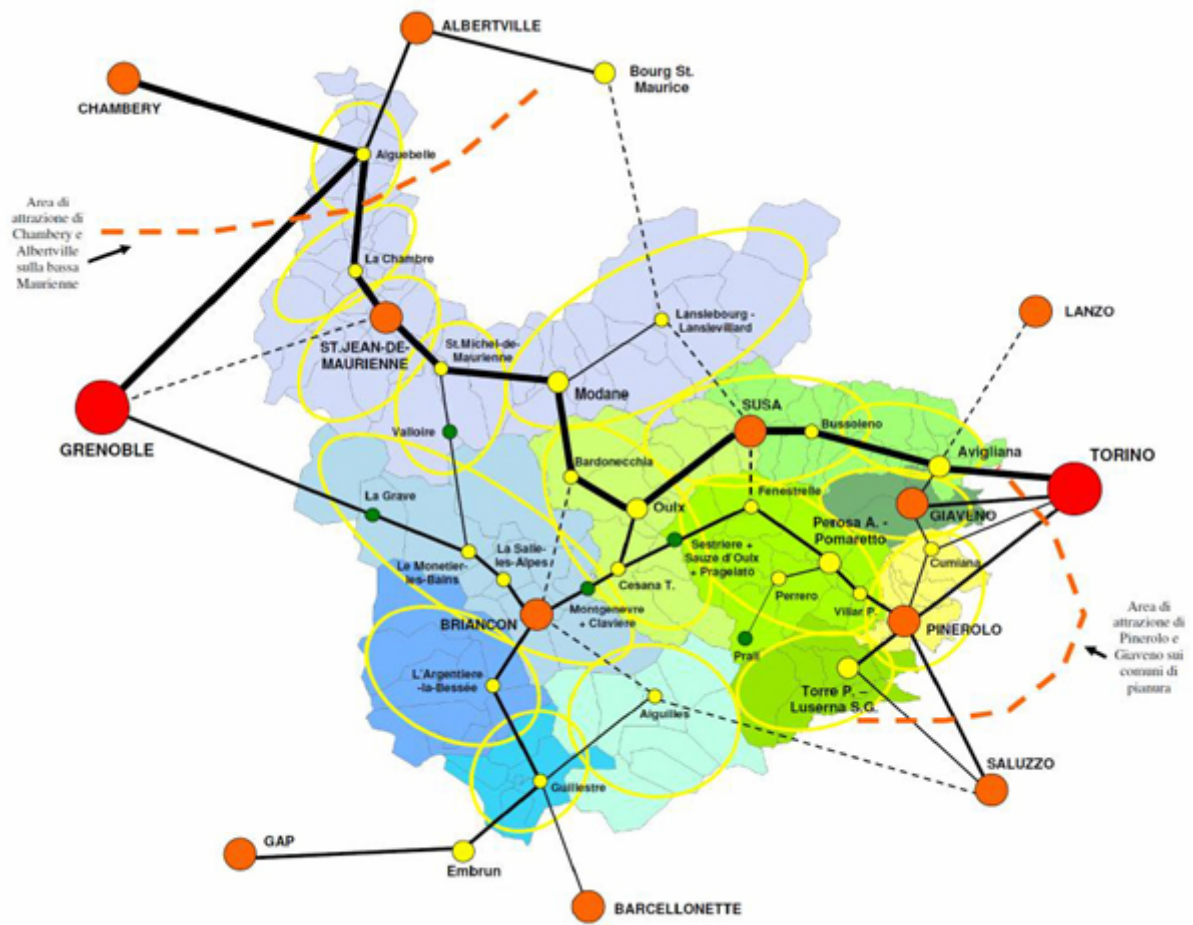
To realize useful tools for the territory’s administrators, were then made some elaboration from the data collected, such as the S.W.O.T. analysis, a representation of the spatial networks produced by the planning and an attempt of hierarchical spatial planning, based on the Christaller’s theory of centers with different rank.

It was finally possible to envision the future development of the analyzed area, through the realization of hypothetical spatial scenarios at medium-long term based giving emphasis at some of the dynamics already in place; for example, "scenario 0 or trend" is been suggested for the continuation of present trends; in the one called "polarized development" has been emphasized the polarizing process of population and activities, with the result of a territory with few major hubs and large areas in economic and social crisis; and finally in "integrated scenario" was optimistically assumed a trend of consistent and balanced development of many sites on the territory, all with their own vocation and allowing the harmonious development of each area.

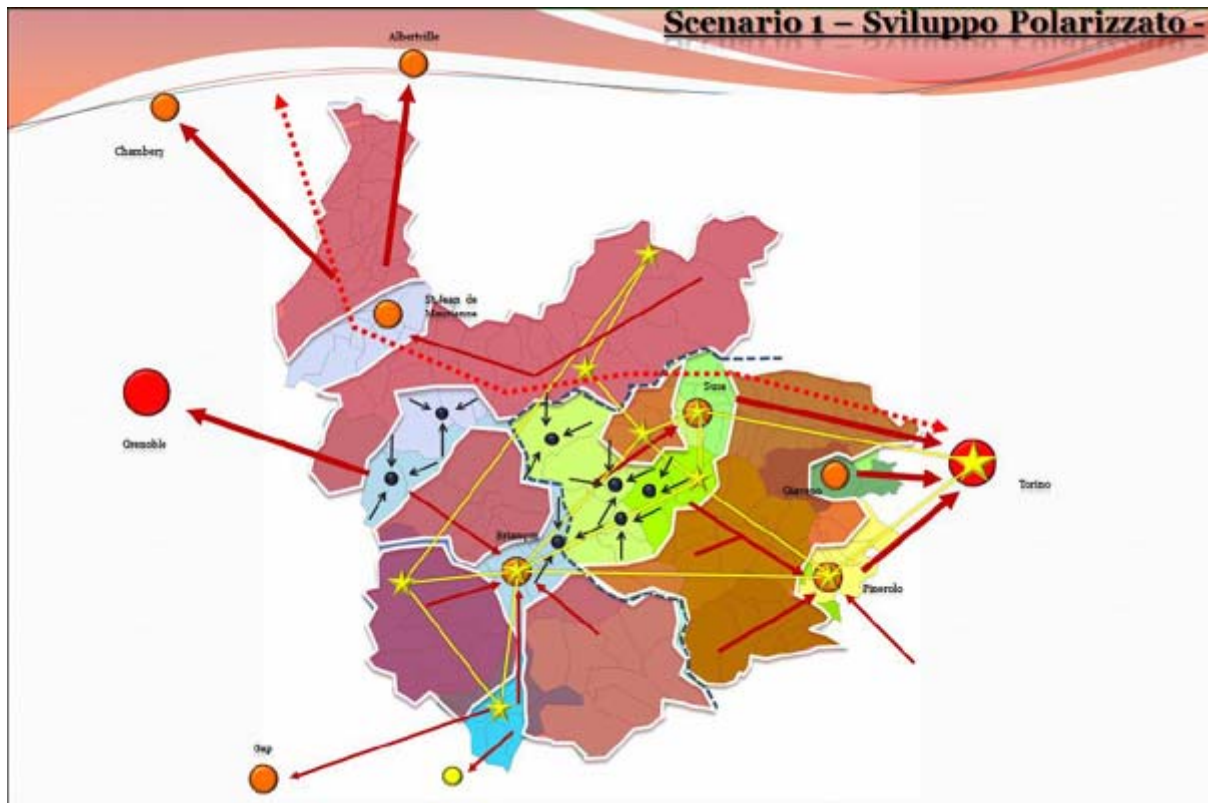
Duty of local authorities is choosing which of the proposed scenarios is the best future vision of their territory, but to reach it you must implement a clear and organized planning process: this generalization is the constituent part of the conclusions proposed in the research work. Through the recognition of 4 main phases, in fact, were identified the basic steps that characterize a good local territorial development process, specifying for each of them objectives and methodology. These claims were outlined in a simply and immediate-consultation a brochure enclosed, including some glossary-cards to simplify the understanding of certain key-words featuring the latest theories and tools of territorial development, addressed to local authorities, mountain communities, groups or individuals who intend to participate actively in this processes.



Representation of territorial networks generated by cross-border projects



Hierarchical spatial planning of study's area



Representation of “Polarized Development Scenario”

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