

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape
Planning
Honors theses

**The “Metropolitan City” authority in spatial planning
Turin and Genoa study-cases: Comparative analysis of contexts’ specificity
and development of possible approaches for effective metropolitan planning**

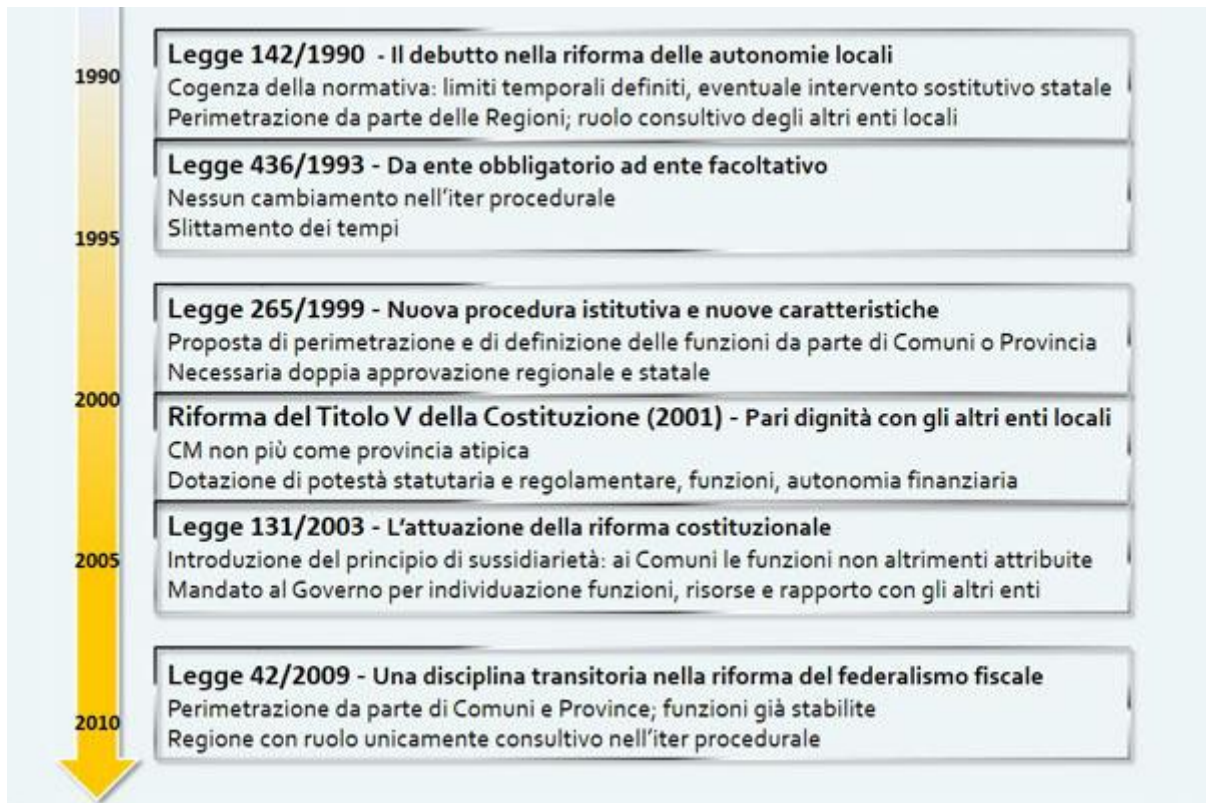
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“Metropolitan City” is a new Italian local authority conceived to offer a new level of government to biggest Italian cities, whose urbanization process has spread on areas much larger than current municipalities’ boundaries, which are now inadequate. Its constitution is even late, if compared to the needs it was required for. In other European countries, with different approaches, similar authorities are already working, although they are usually less numerous than what is foreseen in Italy. So far, the high number of interinstitutional cooperation experiences which developed in many Italian metropolitan areas partially managed to give a solution to the problem. However the current socio-economic scenario requires nowadays a structural renewal in metropolitan government that cannot be postponed anymore.

The authority was introduced in Italian legislation in 1990 and since then it followed a troubled path, changing continuously its features and its implementation steps without any concrete result. Recently, in 2012, a new phase started in the process, bringing through other vicissitudes to current situation, where a national level politic will and a local debate coexist together.

Aim of the thesis is to analyze the consequences that the new authority will lead to in metropolitan areas and to develop some proposals to reorganize planning activity. In dealing the topic, the work doesn’t examine in depth causes and evolution of metropolitan dynamics. It focuses instead on best tools and practices for dealing with the phenomenon and on most appropriate governance relationships to allow or promote them in the new institutional frame offered by the reform.



Law evolution of Metropolitan City in the 90s and 2000s

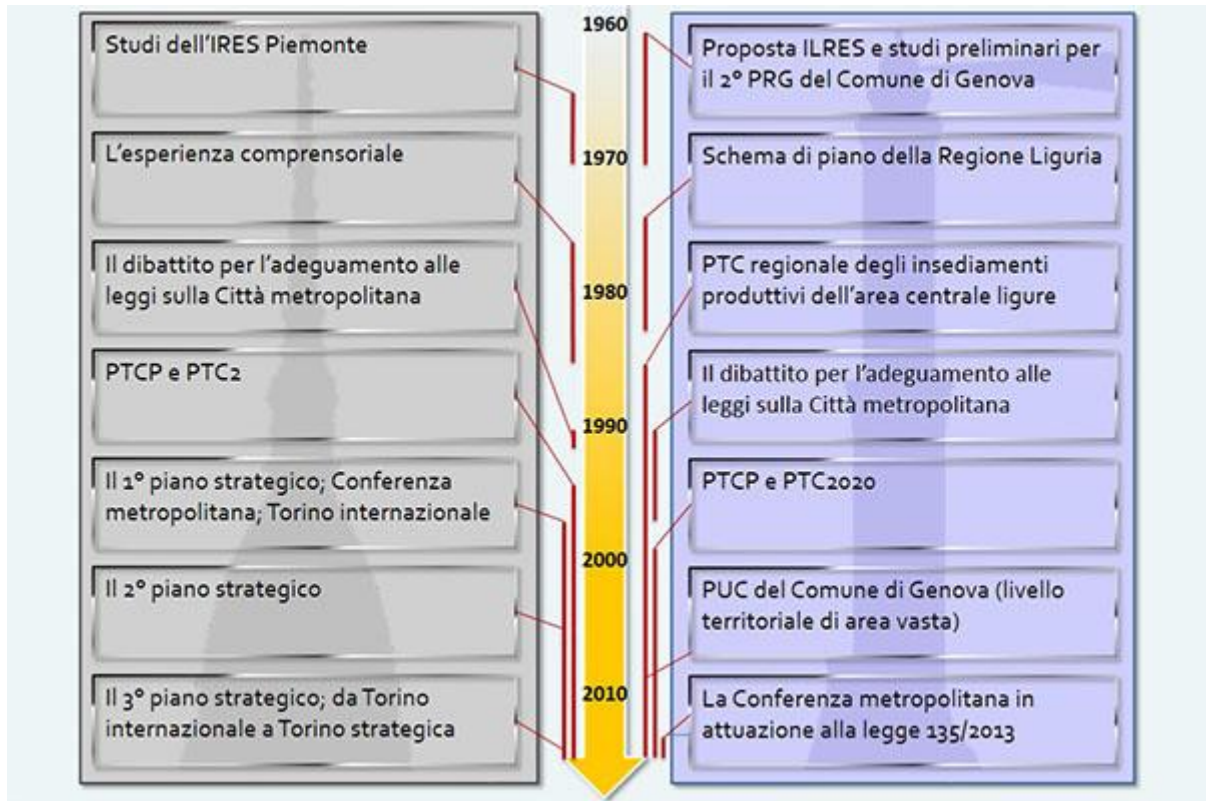
To reach described aim, thesis is based on a deep analysis of the events that brought to recent developments in law. The path runs from solutions provided to metropolitan issue until the '80s to the following debate on the creation of a new specific governmental body, resulted in Metropolitan City as defined in law 142/1990 and in the other ones following it in last two decades. Afterwards, thesis analyzes the reactions to those laws by local governance systems, searching for the reasons that thwarted the implementation of legislator's drawing. It focuses then on actions which are still effective nowadays, both of structural than functional nature, developed in last decades while Metropolitan City's course was going on. Finally, thesis recalls and critically describes last phase of law evolution, started in 2012 by premier Monti's cabinet and still in progress.



Metropolitan City's relaunch: recent evolutions in law

Among foreseen and feasible changes possible in the new scenario, the creation of the unprecedented metropolitan planning level requires the rearrangement of tools and competences between Metropolitan City and the Municipalities that compose it. It will be necessary to split traditional local plan into a structural level drawn up by metropolitan authority and an executive one, compliant with it, drawn up by Municipalities, as single bodies or joined together in Unions of Municipalities (whose creation will have to be promoted to allow smaller Municipalities to conveniently carry out their tasks and to be represented in Metropolitan City's council). At the same time, strategic planning has to develop from an occasional process into an ordinary tool for metropolitan planning, though maintaining its main strength (its voluntary and comprehensive character).

Two study-cases of Turin and Genoa are included as spatial references, necessary to supply thesis with practical examples and to guarantee implementation opportunities beyond theoretical constructs. Following a quick overview on the two contexts, the path towards Metropolitan City's birth is retraced, critically describing its main phases and giving rise at the end to some proposals for local metropolitan planning. The two cities, with their context peculiarities and their different approaches, are good examples of how recommendations obtained through general analysis can fit differently depending on local needs.



Turin and Genoa study-cases: debate evolution and tools developed to govern metropolitan area

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