

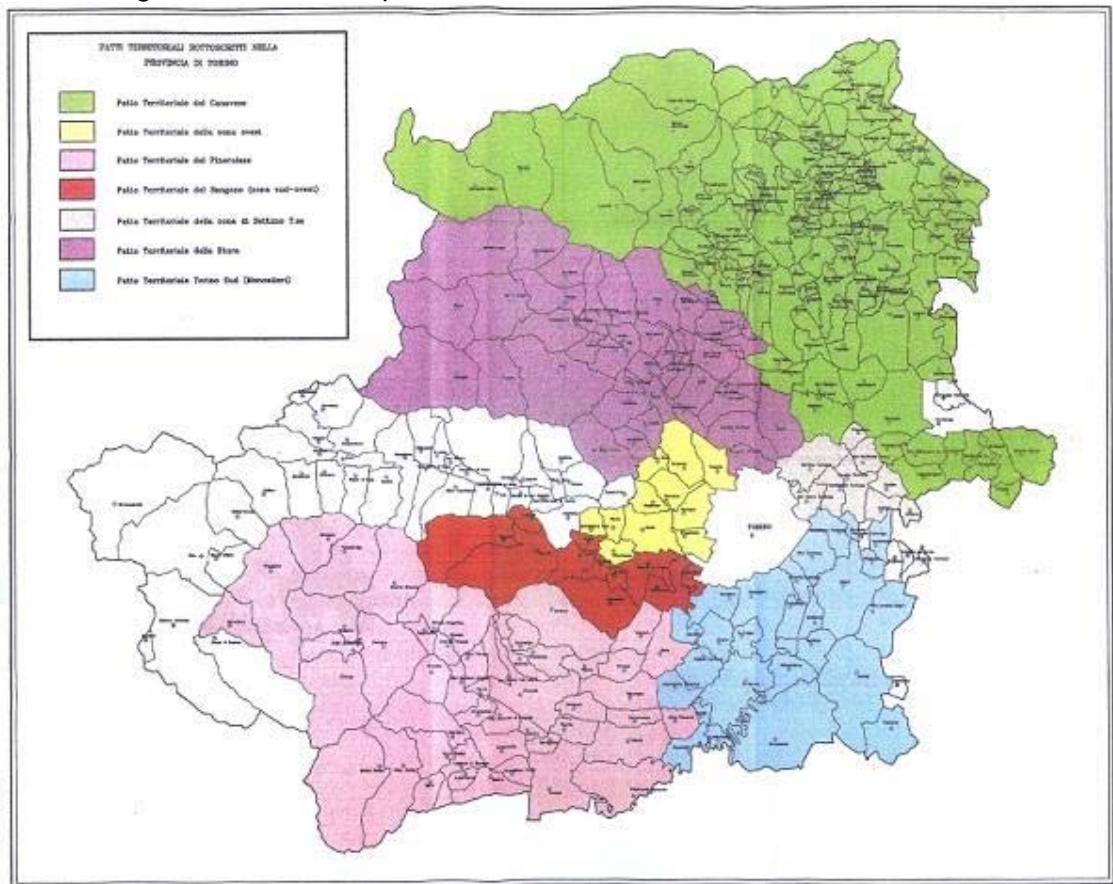
Coordinated planning and local development promotion: a comparison between territorial by-laws concerning the Canavese region and Torino Ovest¹

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This thesis reflects on the “Patto Territoriale” (a sort of territorial by-law promoting an organisational agreements between a community and their local authorities) in order to examine whether the enhancement of the local territory aims to develop local growth processes. In fact, the “Patto Territoriale” plays a significant role, as it promotes economic growth and development on the local level.



¹ Torino Ovest corresponds to the western part of Turin, Piedmont.

Our study provides the analysis of the features of two local development projects, the Patto del Canavese and the Patto di Torino Ovest.

The Patto Territoriale projects helped us:

- shift from a condition where the milieu was fragmented, distinct and characterised by a relative indifference of the public, to a situation where exchanges and actions in the area tend to encourage competitive practices thanks to an agreement involving the whole community and leading them to improve the area potential.

- loosen the hierarchical structures by encouraging requests from the community.

Unfortunately, the community is still compelled to ask the central institution for funds to pursue new projects.

Thanks to the study of the local milieu and of the different networks, we tried to understand whether the project "Patto Territoriale" will start a local development process or just a territorial enhancement process.

The thesis is divided into six chapters.

The first chapter presents the modes of coordination provided for the area by the law.

The second chapter analyses the concept of local development in order to define its dynamics and determine the role of the territory in such a development.

The third chapter aims to provide a general outline of the two projects within the Provincia di Torino.

The fourth and the fifth chapters represent the result of a direct research in the area. The analysis is comprised of several parts concerning the description of the social and economic context, the popular and training procedures of the agreement, the relationships between the social actors and their opinions about the territory.

In the sixth chapter, the comparative analysis of the two examined projects permitted us to determine the distinctive characteristics of the two areas, the different methods of participation of the local community and the diverse lines of action following the approval of the Patto.

It is possible to point out that the apparent lack of homogeneity of the Canavese territory is counterbalanced by the homogeneity of the goals of its population. On the contrary, the apparent homogeneity of the Area Vasta in the Western part of Torino (Western Greater Turin) is thwarted by the lack of homogeneity in the reactions and interests of its occupants.

The projects are characterised by two different approaches concerning the choice of the lines of action (policy guidelines) that are included in their respective agreement protocols.

In the Patto Territoriale del Canavese, where a widespread sharing of goals is presented, two guidelines have been developed in only one "agreement protocol":

- lines and means of communication, on the one hand, and telecommunications systems, on the other;

- the progressive widespread of technological knowledge and consequent productive synergies.

In the Patto di Torino Ovest, the lines of development have been divided into seven policy areas allowing us to state that, in its composition, the specifications of the local milieu have been taken into consideration; or that we tried to create some guidelines in order to satisfy all the potentials expressed by the territory.

However, during the planning phase the various participating subjects expressed their doubts concerning this local project and it is therefore difficult to say whether the Patto di Torino Ovest has implemented a long-term development process. In fact, large businesses and the union representatives did not allow us to determine whether new consequent practices will follow at the end of the project or new processes will be carried out when the local supervising authority will be in charge of the coordination procedures. On the contrary, in the areas of Patto Territoriale del Canavese, the self-organisational and relational actions of the community simplify the local development conclusions. It is sufficient to maintain some guidelines already included among the local milieu specifications. In fact, the community is willing to change and improve methods of production in order to spread the self-organisation process (interaction between local networks and milieu) in the whole local system thanks to its population's dynamism. In this way, the process will continue and new synergies will be generated. These will certainly change the conditions of the relevant areas and will contribute to develop the community's competitive spirit essential on occupational and tourist markets.