

The making of city regions

Mobility, innovation and networks

Lugano-Locarno 9-10 September 2021

SwissLAB_2021



Regional development in Switzerland between 1950 and 1980 has mostly focused on rural and mountain areas. Despite these political efforts, urban centres have developed at much faster pace. As a result, deep imbalances between urban centres and the rural periphery have affected the optimisation of existing endogenous resources and the overall innovation, competitiveness and entrepreneurial rates across many regions. From 1990 onward, Switzerland has experienced a real change in the political-economic context, which has pushed the country towards a globalized world. Nevertheless, these imbalances are still present between urban centres and the periphery.

Within this context, the concept of the "city-region" which has been traditionally well represented in the scholarly debate, has been gathering momentum in recent years. As a matter of fact, city-regions represent one of the most advanced and sophisticated stages of urban development. The combination of an urban core or cores, associated to semi-urban as well as the rural hinterland through functional ties, are considered as efficient developmental strategies. These strategies are geared to respond to the exigencies of an interconnected and globalized world.

In the SwissLAB_2021 the accent is posed on examining – comparatively – how a city-region is being made in order to respond to current economic, social, political and cultural challenges. The Canton Ticino represents a relevant case-study where the concept Città Ticino (Ticino City) has been coined to define this new reality. The Monte Ceneri Base Tunnel, inaugurated in September 2020, offers a new mobility concept for the canton. By halving the travel time between the three main urban centres – Bellinzona, Locarno and Lugano – the birth of the City-Ticino will become a reality. Such revolutionary paradigm will pave the way for improving existing networks and opening new ones; it will enhance the cantonal economy by placing it closer to important economic and financial hubs at both national and international levels.

Research questions

The SwissLAB_2021 will focus on addressing the following questions;

- How can new mobility concepts change the economic and socio-political dynamics of an entire region?
- How do this concept can alter the existing mentality which has been particularly divided by a scattered spatial distribution?
- By harnessing the opportunities offered by this mobility concept, which type of policies can be implemented to boost local and regional innovation, competitiveness and entrepreneurship?
- How will be altered the existing governance at both horizontal and vertical levels?
- How can it maximize existing networks and develop new ones?
- How can it affect cross-border relations?
- Which economic sectors can benefit most from this context?
- Which economic sectors may be challenged?
- How other city-regions and foreign experiences can inspire this process?

Call for papers

We welcome papers addressing the concept and challenges of City-Regions from comparative and multidisciplinary points of views.

Submission process and important dates

1. Individual and collective paper proposals (extended abstracts) can be sent by **30th July 2021**
2. The proposals have to be articulated in this way
 - a. Title/subtitle
 - b. Author/authors
 - c. Affiliation/s
 - d. Keywords
 - e. Extended abstract: max 1500 words.
 - f. Languages: German, French, Italian, English
3. Proposals review:
 - a. The scientific committee will end the reviews on the **15th August 2021**
 - b. Acceptance or rejection will be communicated on the **16th August 2021**
4. The proposals must be submitted to:
ivan.ureta@supsi.ch and
franz.kronthaler@fhgr.ch
5. It is possible for researchers based abroad to participate via Zoom if travel restrictions or other limitations still apply.

Programme

Thursday 9.09.2021 - Lugano: SUPSI

-SUGLIO BUSINESS CENTER

11:00 -12:00 **Welcome and Keynote speaker**

- ♦ Mr. *Francesco Quattrini*, Head Regio Insubrica and Cantonal Delegate for Foreign Relations. Welcome speech.
- ♦ Dr. *Igor Calzada*, University of Oxford and University of Cardiff- Keynote speaker: "Smart city-regions' citizenship: Data devolution in pandemic times".

12:15-13:15 **Lunch** - Restaurant Suglio Business Center.

13:30-16:00 **Research Workshop**

13:30-14:00 Dr. *Aurelio Vigani*, Project Leader ARE: "Monitoraggio dell'Asse del San Gottardo - Fase B: Risultati intermedi degli effetti del tunnel di base del Gottardo su traffico e sullo sviluppo territoriale".

14:00-14:30 Mr. *Lorenzo Ambrossini*, Technopark Ticino, Head Innovation Park Ticino: "Switzerland Innovation Park Ticino: Impact on Ticino city"

14:30-16:00 **Papers, presentations and discussion.**

16:00-16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30-17:45 **Roundtable the "Making of City Regions":**

- ♦ Mr. *Lorenzo Ambrosini*, Head Innovation Park Ticino
- ♦ Mr. *Stefano Ardò*. Regional Manager SBB/FSS
- ♦ Arch. Prof. *Michele Arnaboldi*. Faculty of Architecture. USI
- ♦ Prof. Dr. *Gian Paolo Torricelli*. Head Regional Development Observatory, USI
- ♦ Dr. *Aurelio Vigani*, Project Leader ARE.
- ♦ Mr. *Siegfried Alberman*- Moderator. Regiosuisse and IUFFP

19:00 **Dinner** - Lugano city centre - Place TBC

Friday 10.09.2021 - Locarno: SUPSI - DFA

9:30-12:15 **Design Sprint**. In this design Sprint, all participants will work in groups imagining and designing a city region. Experts from different extractions are going to be present (Agencies of Regional Development, scholars, architects and urban planners).

12:30 **Lunch** - SUPSI DFA

13:00 **Final results, wrap up and farewell.**

15:00 **Departure**

About

SwissLAB is an initiative of the Swiss Society for Spatial Planning and Regional Policy and Regional Policy (OEPR), which aims to

- ♦ to network young researchers working on current issues related to regional development to network young researchers working on topical issues related to regional development in Switzerland;
- ♦ promote discussions between young and more advanced researchers during a two-day event two-day event;
- ♦ to create bridges between theory and practice, between disciplines and between regions of Swiss and neighbouring regions.

SwissLAB is interested in the future of small and large cities as well as in the development of the different regions of Switzerland. It is organised each year in a location with specific development issues.

Through conferences, visits to companies and local projects, workshops and discussion forums, Swiss and discussion forums, SwissLAB looks at the current and future challenges of regional and future challenges of regional development in Switzerland through ongoing research and concrete experiences from practice.

Location

- ♦ Day 1 - Lugano-SUPSI
Suglio Business Center - Via Cantonale 18,
6928 Manno (10 minutes walking from Lamone-
Cadempino train station)
- ♦ Day 2 - Locarno - SUPSI DFA
Piazza S. Francesco 19, 6600 Locarno

Costs

- ♦ The participation fee is CHF 160 (double room)
and CHF 180 (single room)
- ♦ The participation fee for students is CHF 80 (in a
double room)
- ♦ The participation fee for a single day is CHF 90.

These fees cover all costs of the event (except
travel costs).

Hotels will be communicated to the participants
and they will be based in Lugano city centre.

Languages

Français, Deutsch, English, Italiano

Registration

Please fill in the attached registration form
and send it to info@rorep.ch

or at www.rorep.ch/rorep_swisslab.html

The deadline for registration without

research paper: 15th August 2021

Places are limited.

Supported by



SUPSI-DEASS
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Information

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