

SUPSI

Innovation beyond boundaries

Interpreting, communicating and managing innovation policies in cross-border regions

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Research question

What is the role played by the *regional context* in boosting innovation?

- Economic and structural
- Political and Social
- Cultural and historical

Because

- Lack of scholarly and systematic empirical work shedding light on innovation-driven integration processes in cross-border areas (Lundquist & Trippi, 2013).

Rationale – I

- “the national innovation systems approach stresses that the flows of technology and information among people, enterprises and institutions are key to the innovative process” (OECD, 1997). **Same for local and regional systems of innovation**
- **flow** recalls the importance and necessity of **operating and interacting across boundaries** (physical and mental)
- **openness and flexibility** remains a distinctive element of the **knowledge-based economy**

Rationale – II

BUT

- Strategies and policies geared to boost innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness have been featured by a **nation-centric approach** over the latest 25 years (Rodríguez Pose et al., 2016)
- Regional systems of innovation have been often interpreted, designed, communicated and managed by following a **region-centric approach despite the logics imposed by globalization processes** (Dunning, 2002).

Rationale – III

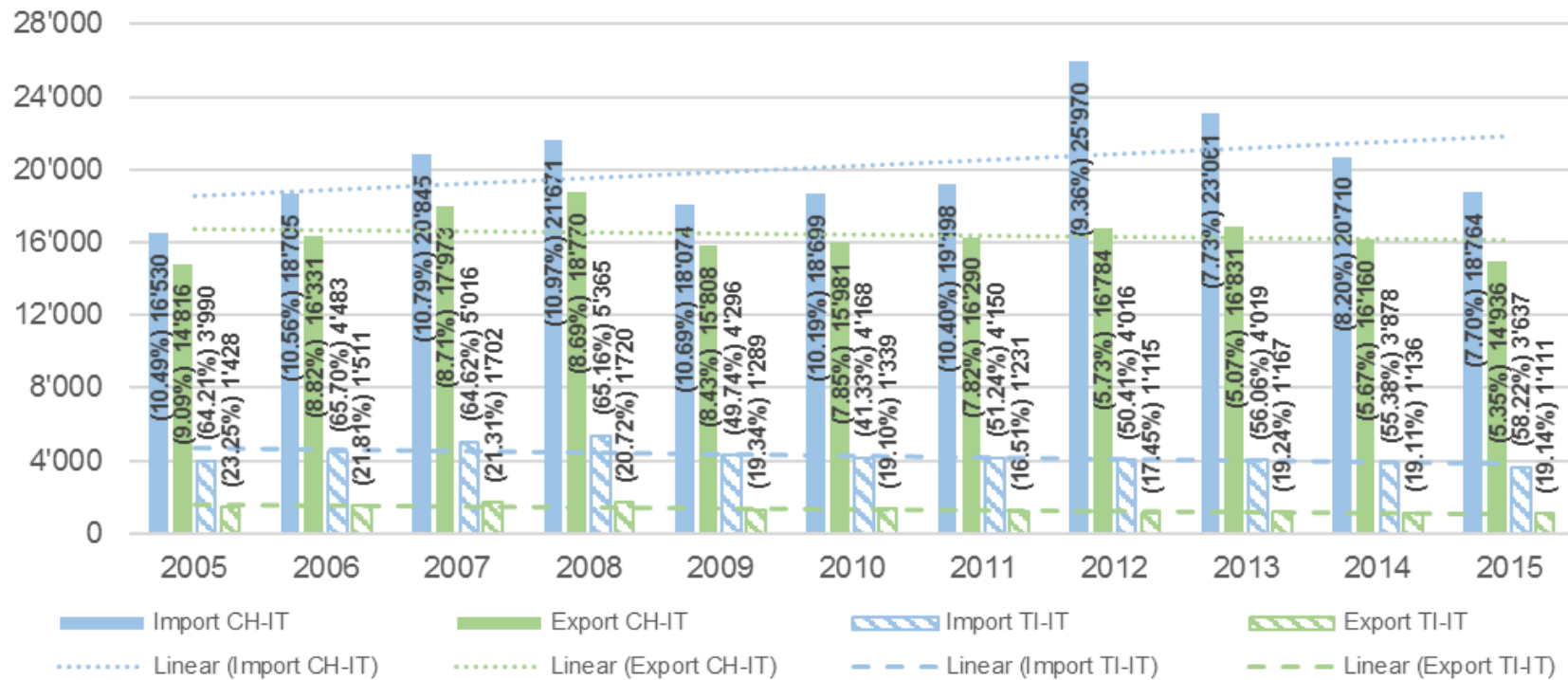
BUT

- **Acknowledged potential** but: long-term analyses usually make it possible to define these spaces as **political dreamscapes** rather than examples of transnational integration (Löfgren, 2008).
- This possibility is linked to the notion of **constructed entities, and symbolic manifestations and political discourse–related** aspects are at the core of CBRs' relations (Anderson et al., 2003; van Houtum, 2002; Scott, 2012; Popescu, 2008).

Economic and Labour Relations

International and regional trade

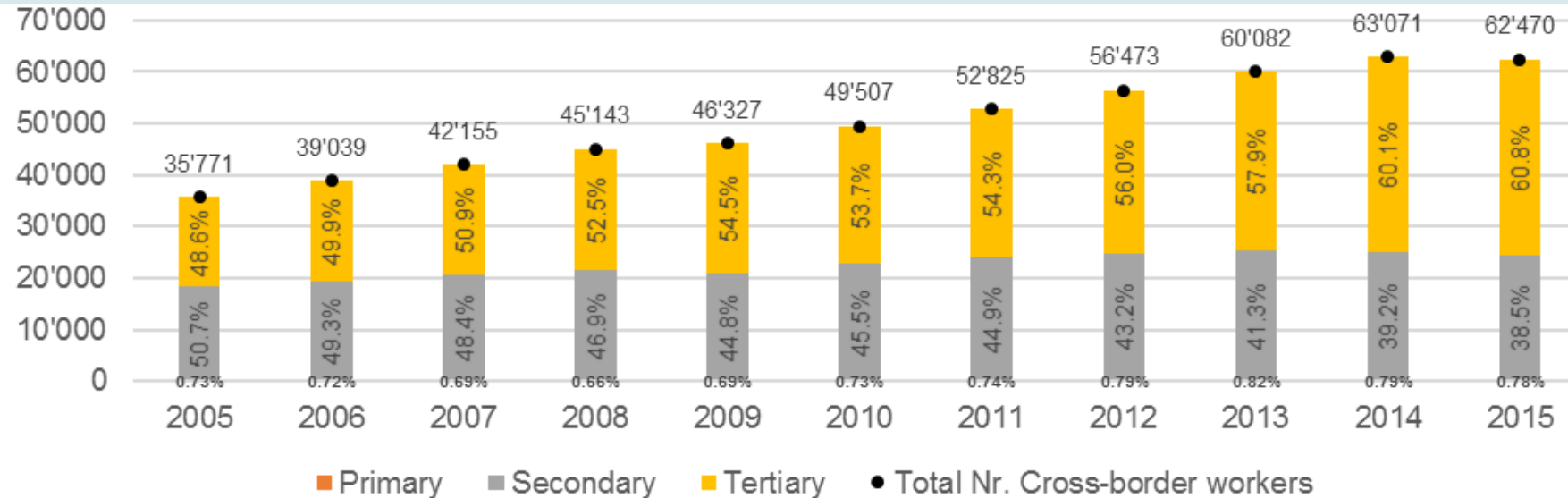
Switzerland-Italy and Ticino-Italy, import and export 2005 - 2015
(Mio Swiss Francs, % of Total National and % of Total Regional)



Source: Federal Customs Administration - Federal Statistical Office, Bern – Switzerland 2016 and Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics, Federal Customs Administration - Statistical Office Ticino, Giubiasco – Switzerland 2016. Elaborated by the authors.

Cross-border workers Italy-Ticino

Cross-border workers, Italy-Ticino 2005 - 2015
(Distribution by economic sector, data of the 4th quarter)

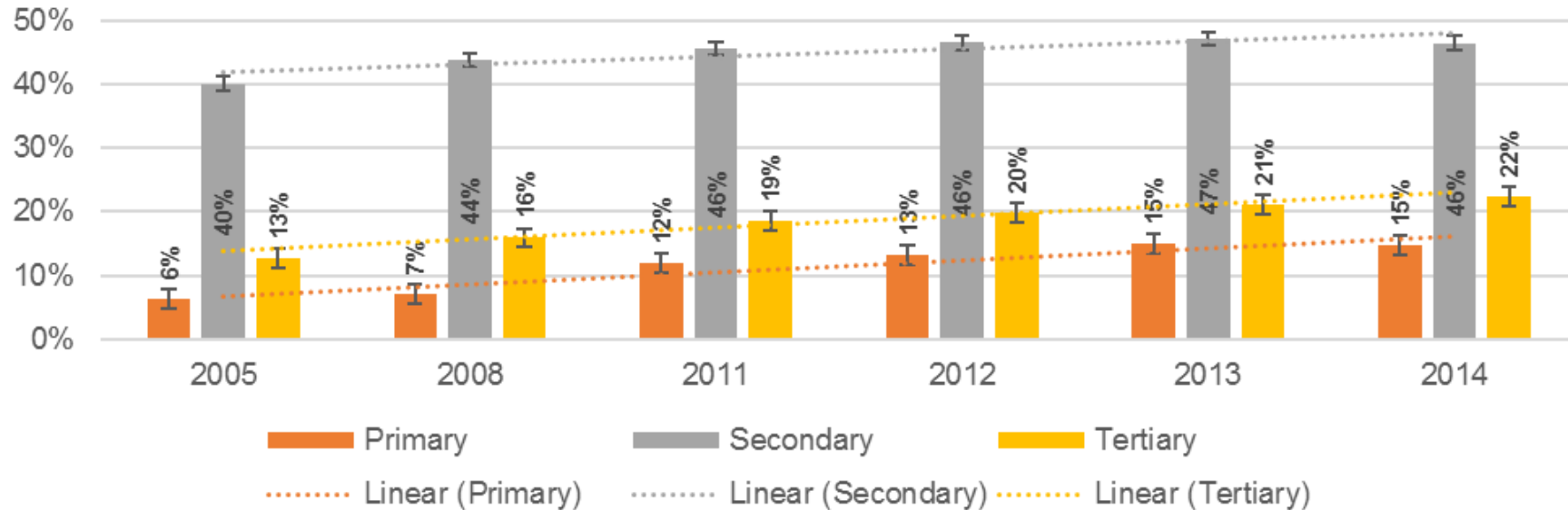


Source: Cross-border Commuters Statistics, Federal Statistical Office - Statistical Office Ticino, Giubiasco – Switzerland 2016*. Elaborated by the authors.

*This statistics is not provided divided by nation but cross-border workers from Italy are in average more than the 99.5% of total cross-border workers in Ticino.
Source: Cross-border Commuters Statistics, Central information system on migration - Statistical Office Ticino, Giubiasco – Switzerland 2016.

Cross-border workers Italy-Ticino – By economic sector

Cross-border workers in Ticino 2005, 2008 and 2011 - 2014
(Proportion on the total workforce employed by economic sector)

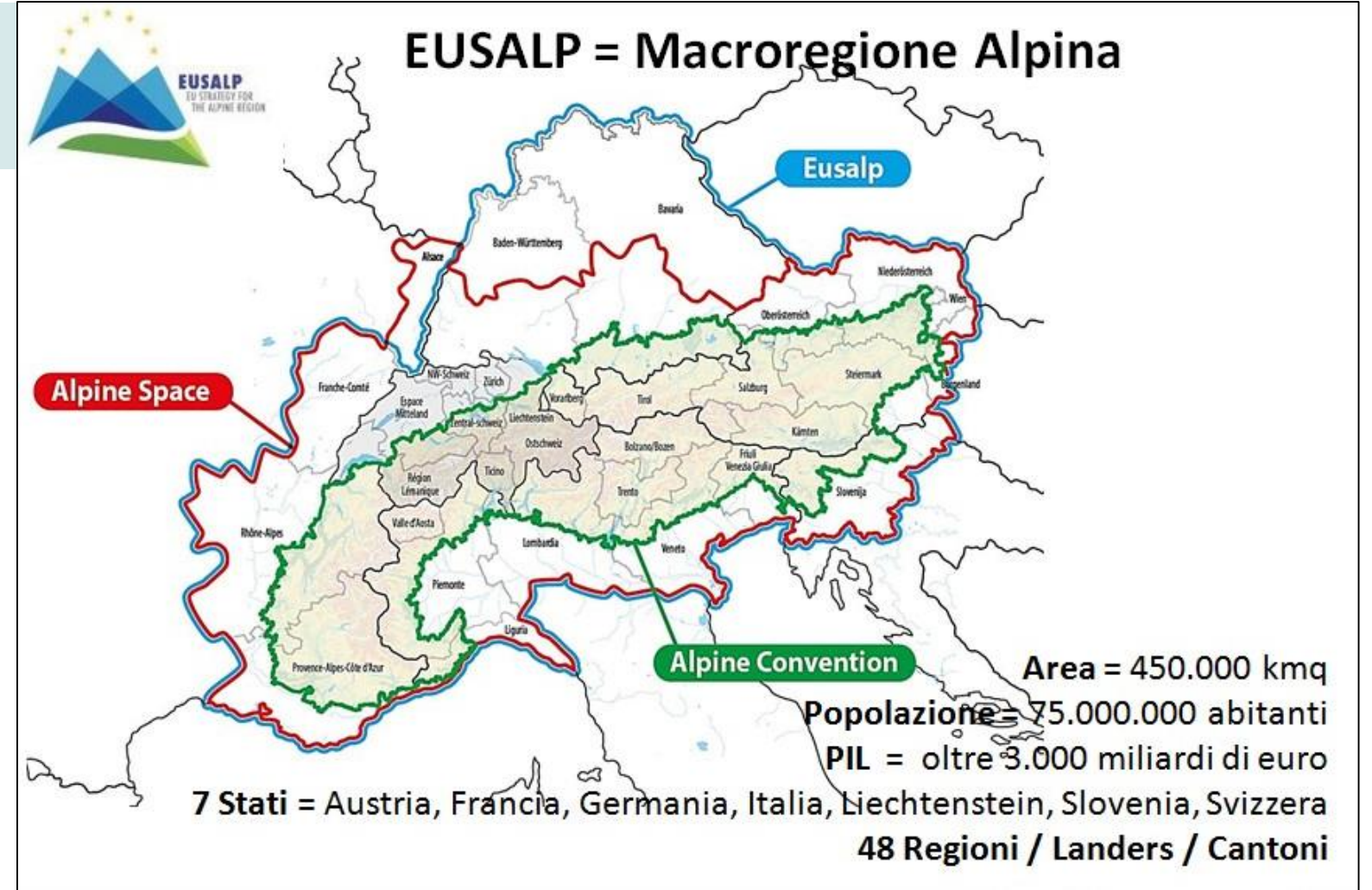


Source: Cross-border Commuters Statistics, Federal Statistical Office – Switzerland 2016 and Cross-border Commuters Statistics, Structural statistics on enterprises (STATENT) - Statistical Office Ticino, Giubiasco – Switzerland 2016. Elaborated by the authors.

*This statistics is not provided divided by nation but cross-border workers from Italy are in average more than the 99.5% of total cross-border workers in Ticino.
Source: Cross-border Commuters Statistics, Central information system on migration - Statistical Office Ticino, Giubiasco – Switzerland 2016.

Innovation and Cooperation: International, National and Regional

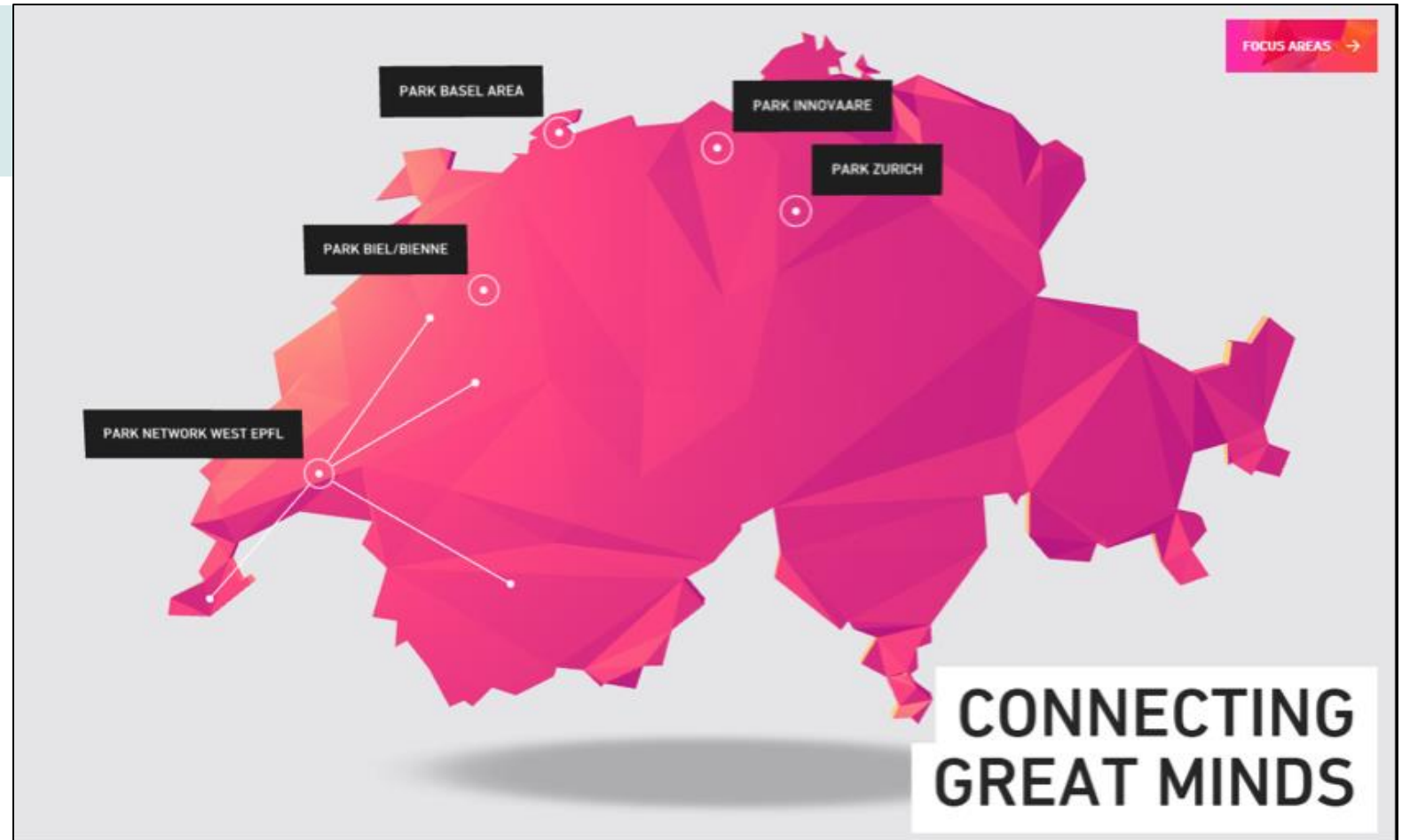
International: Macro alpine region



Swiss Innovation Park

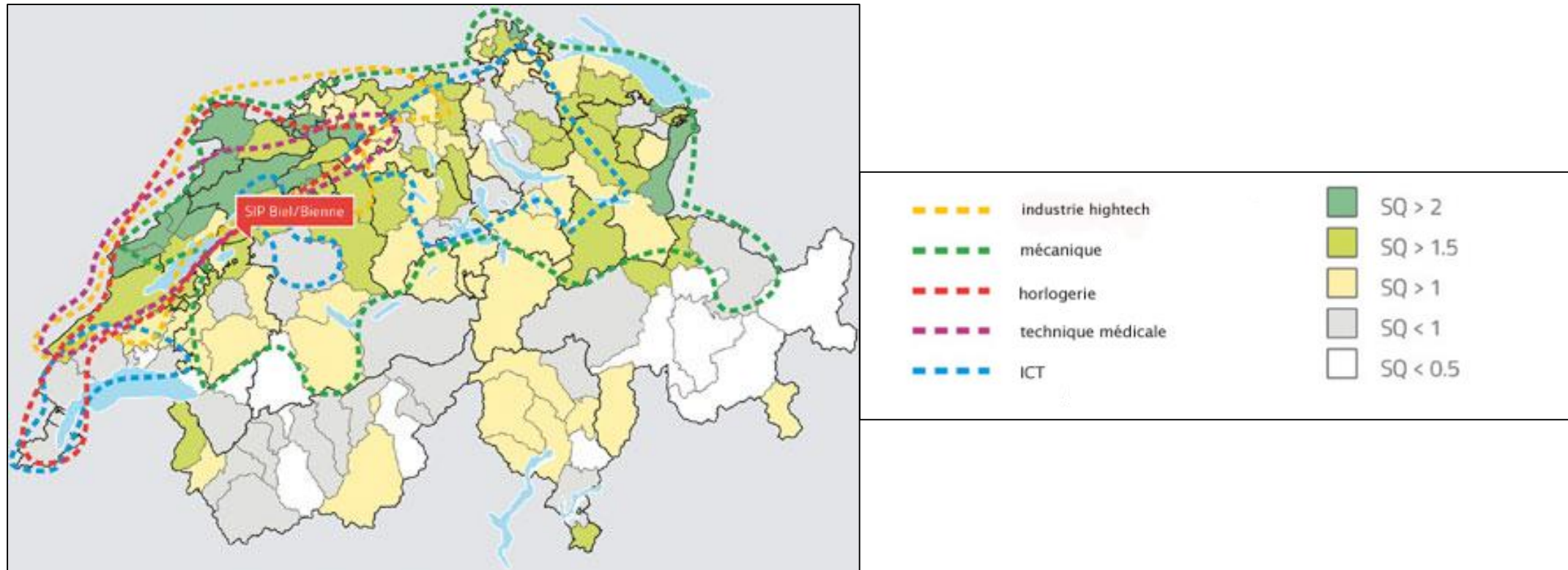
Ticino experience:

- 2014 Application
- 2015 Update application
- 2016 Rejection

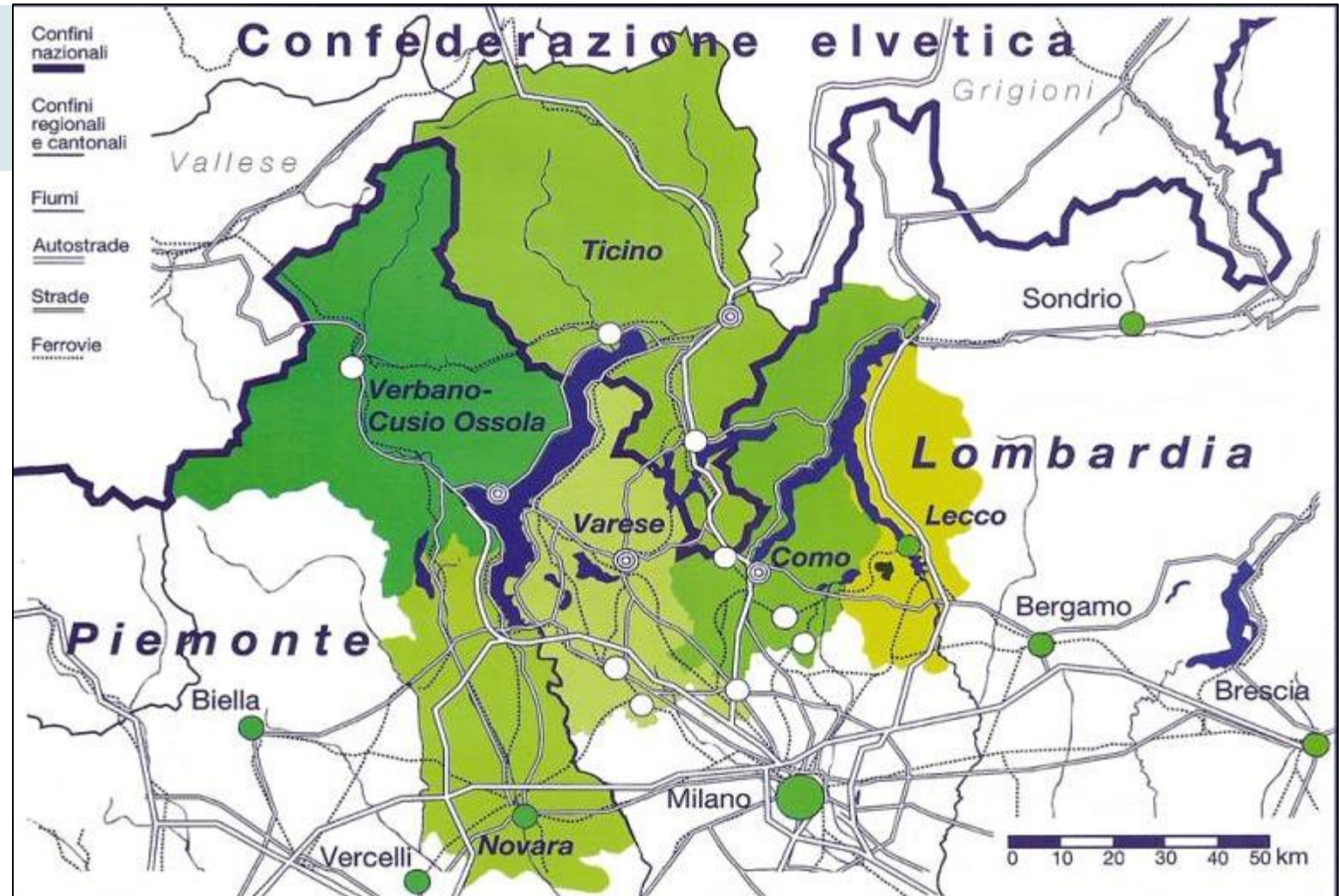


Source: <https://www.switzerland-innovation.com/>

Areas of Specialization



Regio-insubrica

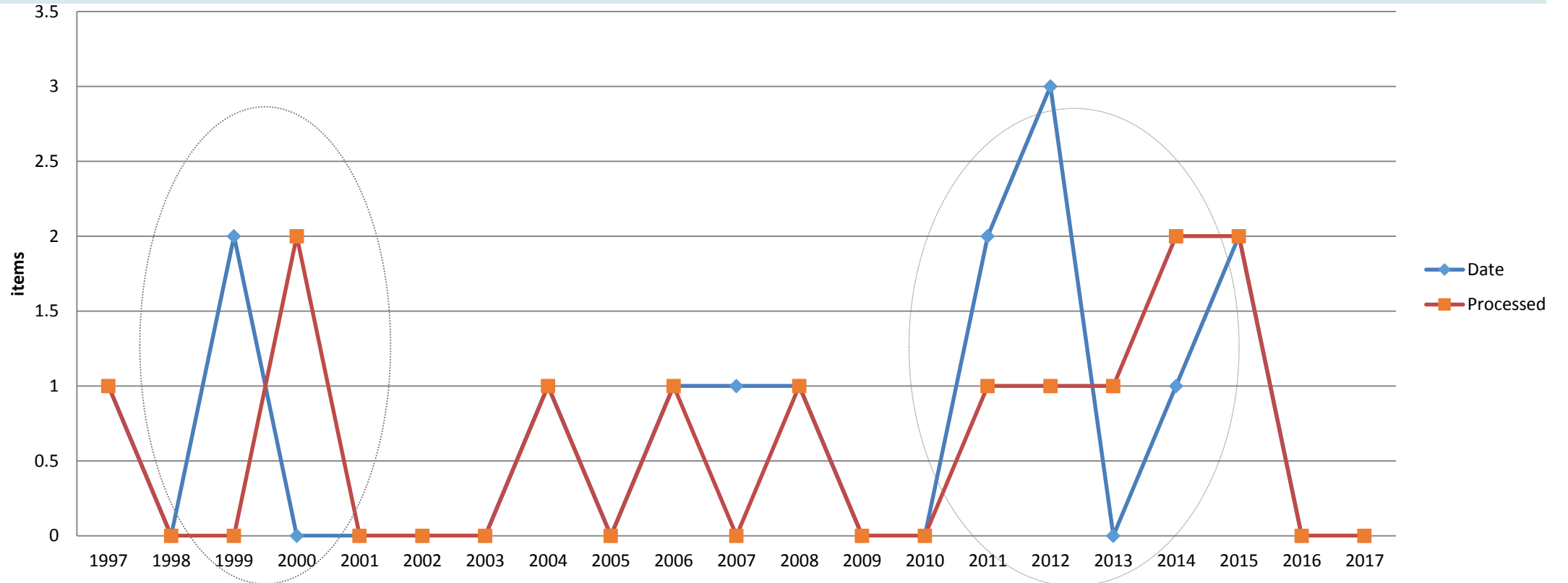


Ticino: Innovation Journey



Innovation and public debate

Public Documents



Source: Parliament, Ticino. Elaborated by the authors

Regional System of Innovation (RSI) TICINO as of 2017

Main objectives:

- SMES: increasing innovation and competitiveness
- Tourism: increasing competitiveness and attractiveness
- Repositioning of peripheral regions

Main support elements:

- Regional economic policy
- Economic innovation act → Revised on 2015
- Territorial marketing activities

Regional System of Innovation (RSI) - Development

Since 2005: Canton Ticino has invested heavily in human and financial resources to set up a concrete RSI TICINO: **TWO MAIN PILLARS**

- Lighthouse-PROJECT: **AGIRE Foundation** – Future **central hub** of the RSI
- Founded in 2011, successfully passed the audit in 2014
 - 2015 Signature of a new Mandate to AGIRE Foundation
- Constitution and organization of **Techno-pole Ticino**
 - 2013 opening of the first pole in Chiasso
 - 2014 opening of headquarters in Manno
- *“... The development of this kind of ecosystem is going to establish, even in Ticino, the RSI as one of the main tools for promoting innovation.”*

Source: Program for the implementation of the 2016-2019 regional economic policy of the Canton of Ticino, 2015

RSI – Structure and organization

	Education
	Tech Transfer
	Coaching
	Funding
	Incubation
	International development



Source: www.ti.ch/sri

Priorities

Thematic priorities

1. Life Sciences	240 Co's 4100 FTE
2. Fashion & Luxury	320 Co's 4100 FTE
3. Precision mechanics and electronics	230 Co's 6800 FTE
4. Information and Communication Technologies	760 Co's 3300 FTE

Source: Canton Ticino http://m4.ti.ch/fileadmin/DFE/DE-SRI/20161003_brochure_SRI.pdf

Top innovative companies / High Fractionalization

1. Life Sciences	<i>Humads biomed; Aptar Pharma; Cerbios; Institute of Oncology Research</i>
2. Fashion & Luxury	<i>VF International; Quickly</i>
3. Precision mechanics and electronics	<i>Faulhaber minimotor; Femtoprint</i>
4. Information and Communication Technologies	<i>Moresi; Board; B-Source; CSCS; IDSIA</i>

Source: Canton Ticino <http://www4.ti.ch/can/oltreconfiniti/dal-1990-a-oggi/le-aziende-internazionali-di-punta/tecnologie-dellinformazione-e-della-comunicazione-ict/>

Cross-Border Relations and Innovation: Policies, Mechanisms, Challenges

SRI – Cross Border Regions Relations – I

Commitment Ticino Cantonal Authorities:

- 09.2014 Nomination of a Cantonal Delegate for cross-border and international relations
 - Objective: To maintain consistency with the cantonal development strategy
- 16.06.2015 Signature of the **Lombardy-Ticino collaboration agreement**
- 18.06.2015 Meeting **AGIRE Foundation – Region Lombardy – Polytechnic universities Milan** objective identify key cross-border cooperation projects in R&D and innovation
- 11.12.2015 Signature of the Lombardy-Piemonte-Ticino collaboration agreement about the “**Working community Insubrica**”

SRI – Cross Border Regions Relations – II

Key aspects – Program 2016-2019:

- Reinforcing and enduring activities in **Interreg V Program**; following Interreg 2007-2013
Variations and changing priorities
 - Objective: ensure territorial continuity to sectoral laws / policies
 - Budget: 5mio CHF (Of which 2,5mio CHF for projects consistent with the economic development strategy)
- Foundation AGIRE goal: To create a real network of skills and to **coordinate the RSI with federal and international institutions**
 - Scientific collaborations: **developing and strengthening relations between RSI and cross-border partners** considered a **priority** (objective of the four-year program)

RSI – Planning and/Vs. Implementing

Examples of wording in the programming document:

- Economic development through synergies: Regional, Cantonal, National, International
 - “..., as well as **the search** for national and international collaborations, are the basic elements of the economic development strategy aimed at stimulating the competitiveness of our territory”.
- Main policy intervention for SMEs - support for innovation at regional level
 - “...All measures in the field of SMEs explicitly envisage the **search** for the necessary supra-cantonal, national and international collaborations...”
 - “”.... With the Lombardy Region, however, it is the **objective of identifying** cross-border cooperation projects within the SRI.” → Commitment from Ticino guaranteed.

RSI – Planning and/Vs. Implementing

Examples of wording in the programming document:

- *Meeting AGIRE Foundation – North Italy Research Institutions*
 - “... with the aim of **identifying** key cross-border cooperation projects in R&D and innovation, in order to support the competitiveness of SMEs.”
- *Relations AGIRE Foundation - North Italy Research Institutions and Innovation Promotion Agencies*
 - *These collaborations **are a good precondition for developing synergies between the activities** supported by the regional policy through the Italy-Switzerland Interreg V Cross-Border Cooperation Operational Program.*

Shared priorities

EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

- Employment
- Innovation
- Education-training
- Social inclusion
- Environment-energy

Ticino-Regional Political Economy 2016-2019

- SMES: increasing innovation and competitiveness
- Tourism: increasing competitiveness and attractiveness
- Repositioning of peripheral regions

The neighbor- Lombardy, and the possibilities- complementarity

Since 1988 – 4 motors of Europe – Smart Specialization Strategy

16 Specialization districts

TILO- mobility



Lombardy	Ticino
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aerospace 2. Agribusiness 3. Eco-industries 4. Creative and cultural industries 5. Life sciences 6. Advanced manufacturing 7. Sustainable mobility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Life sciences 2. Fashion and luxury 3. Precision mechanics and electronics 4. Information and Communication Technologies

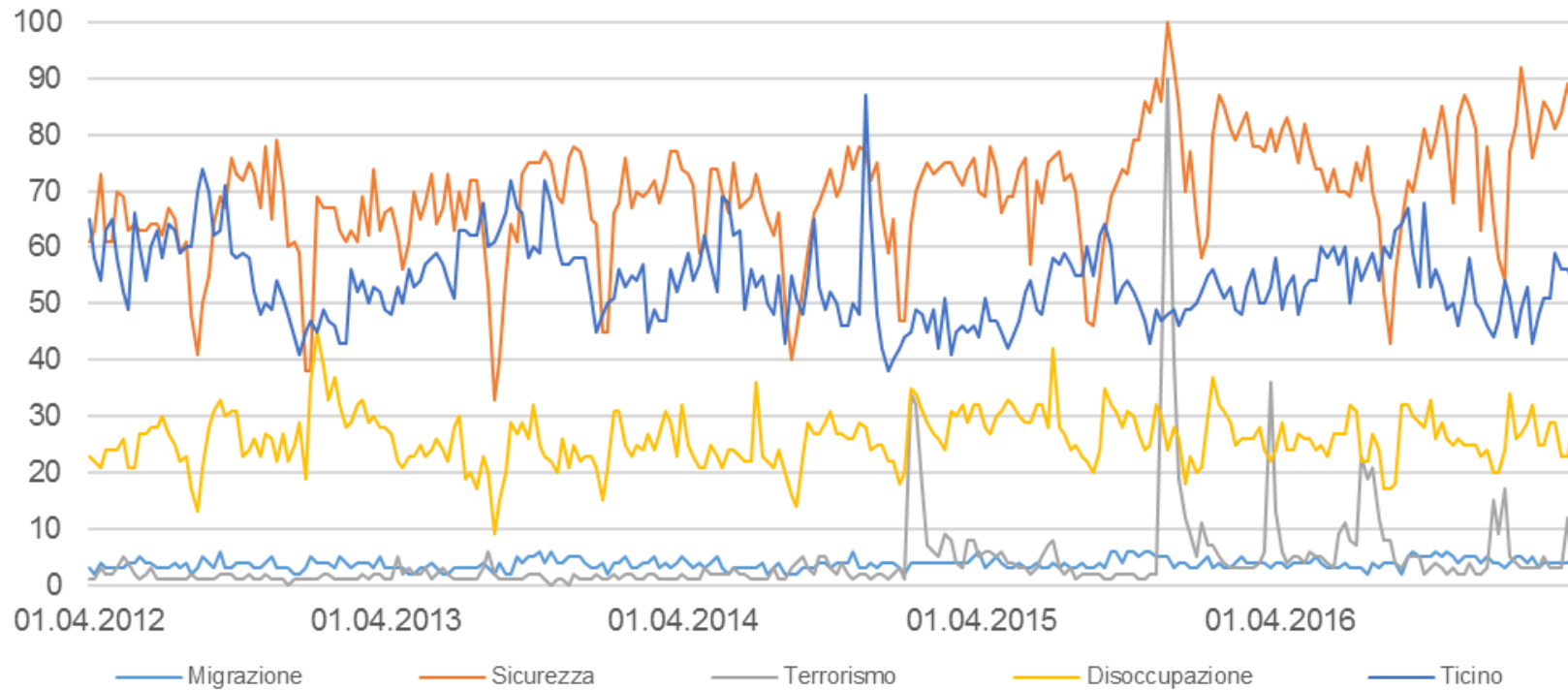
Policy coordination between regions with different degrees of devolution/obligations

- Decision-making processes
- Coordination
- Agency
- Regional/cantonal/national/European
- Fiscal differences- 70% vs. 25%
- Special economic zone
- “Prima I nostri”; ecc
- Temporary borders closing
- Interregs- cantonal vs. intl. priorities



Sentiment Analysis- Lombardy

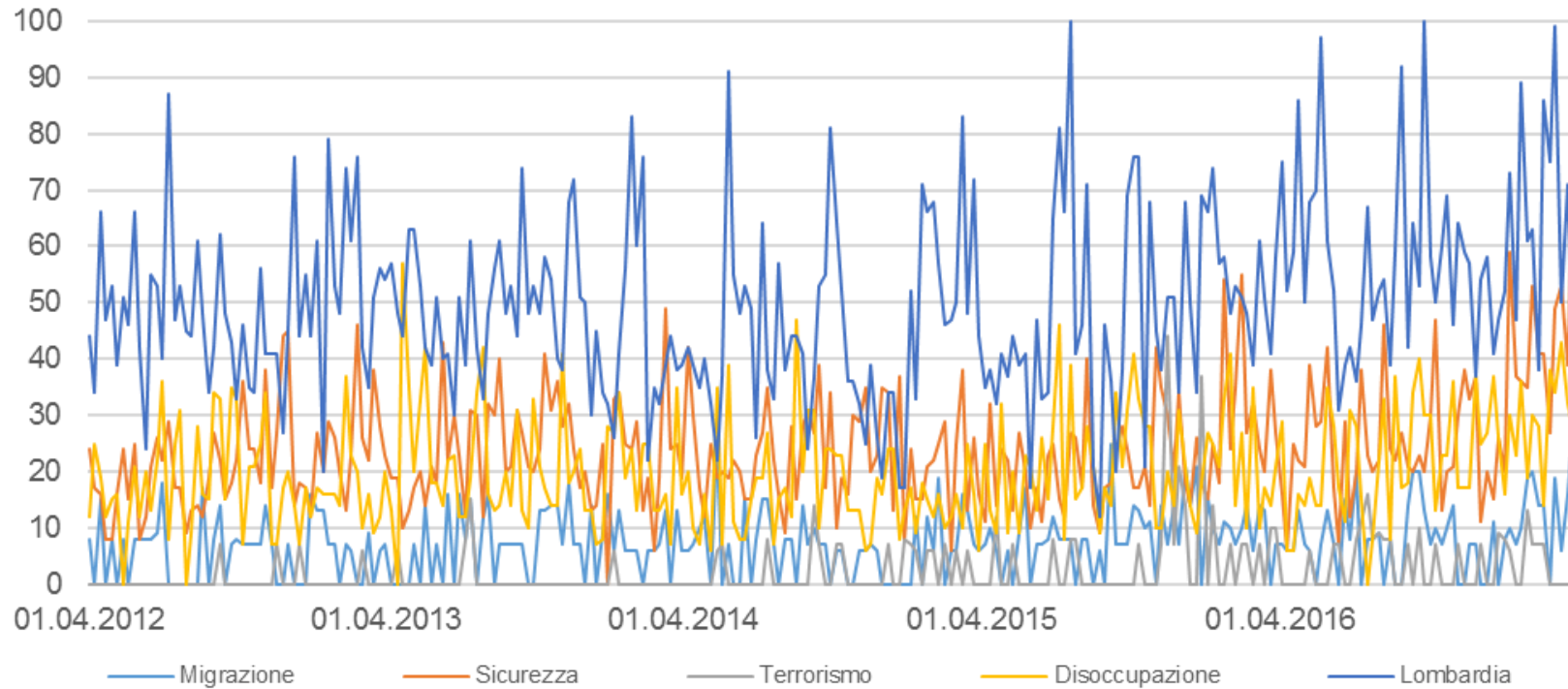
Volume of searches - Lombardy
(30.03.12-30.03.17)



Source: GoogleTrends – 30.03.2017. Elaborated by the authors.

Sentiment Analysis-Ticino

Volume of searches - Ticino
(30.03.12-30.03.17)



Source: GoogleTrends – 30.03.2017. Elaborated by the authors.

Conclusions

- Region-centric approach
- Protectionism
- Weight of political/emotional decisions vs. Economic pragmatism
- Regional unbalance: demographics and salaries matter
- Asymmetric decision-making processes and political interest dominated by short-term objectives
- High degree of complementarity and possibilities of cooperation
- In cross-border regions regionalization of policies of innovation should be designed by integrating more explicitly neighbouring partners.