

Research program:
“Geographic information systems for governance in Bergamo: mobility and public spaces”

Annex C

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Description

The project is part of the studies carried out by the Diathesis Cartographic Lab and concerns the reflection on the role of mapping for rendering spatial phenomena related to globalization, focusing on mapping as a support of urban governance in the Bergamo area.

It assumes that contemporary cities are inhabited and crossed by multiple residents, mobile and temporary users of urban spaces introducing practices for the use and reuse of urban areas and contributing to the reconfiguration of the identity of a territory that goes beyond a topographic representation and presents a topological network, in a new representative perspective (Casti, 2013). The city of Bergamo has become a node of an urban networked system at a worldwide scale being alive, plural, intercultural, but it contains mass spaces, fractures, segregations, congestions showing frictions and conflicts between residents, as well as between residents and mobile actors or temporary users of urban spaces.

The social relevance of such problems in the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 results in the role of the city as a privileged context for testing forms of territorial governance based on participation. The latter is strategic and the base of the concept of spatial capital, that is a set of knowledge and expertise of citizens and their ability to self-organize in order to manage urban challenges. The concept of spatial capital offers the opportunity to reflect about the role of the citizen who, while pursuing his personal goals, provides knowledge for the production of public goods (Lévy, 2013). The research will use not only standard analytical methods (bibliographic and statistics sources), but also field work and participatory technologies and geographic information systems, focusing on three main issues:

- the urban and extra-urban mobility of city users (residents, commuters, immigrants) in order to analyze, at a local-scale, the connections between urban core, urban area, metropolitan city and province;
- the public spaces of the urban core, their use by the inhabitants and their strategic role in the construction of the identity process;
- the reticular network that affects the city at a double scale: provincial, for tourism development, and European, for a share of territorial policies with cluster cities of Bergamo.