

The Metropolitan city of Turin (“Città metropolitana di Torino”) is a new local governmental authority, which replaced provincial administration, established in 2014 by national law no. 56/2014 and operational since 1 January 2015. It is “second level” administration, composed by the City of Turin and 314 other municipalities (most of them on mountain and rural areas). The territory covers an area of 6,830.25 km<sup>2</sup>, the population is around 2,300,000.



As regards competences, its strategic mission is to be a **driver for economic-social development for urban and rural areas**, capable of interpreting the new needs of the economy and society, manage flows and networks, and launch high-impact projects to promote the standing of Italian metropolitan areas within the network of global cities. The Metropolitan city is therefore a “governing tool” that can coordinate with individual municipalities within the metropolitan area, surrounding areas, regions and the national government, in order to program and plan within a

vast area. It has specific competencies in the following areas: strategic and general planning; territorial planning, including spatial planning and land-use planning; environment, including environmental protection, disaster prevention, pollution, fauna and flora protection, natural reserves and parks, water refuse; supra-municipal roads and traffic; transports; data collection and analysis; ICTs and digitization; technical and administrative assistance for municipalities; civil protection.

The **Economic development and local cooperation Office** has among its priorities the development of economic and productive system of industry, commerce and crafts. Many initiatives are implemented, coordinated with institutional and economic forces of the territory, in order to harmonize both public and private interests, to enhance the competitiveness of local enterprises.

The actions planned and which are being implemented, have some goals in common, such as:

- Foster training, research and innovation for excellence
- Promote the creation of new businesses and strengthen existing ones
- Ensure the employment, especially in response to crisis in business sector
- Revive declining industrial areas
- Stimulate sustainable and balanced socio-economic development
- Promote micro and SMEs abroad Piedmont

Through years, Metropolitan City of Turin has activated many local development programs and processes (among them the Territorial Pacts and the ITPs– Integrated Territorial Programs). The mentioned programs, which follow a bottom-up and participative approach, are finalized to a sustainable socio-economic development of the local systems, through a public-private partnership.

Since 1994, Metropolitan City of Turin manages MIP – Mettersi In Proprio (**Start your own business**) programme - [www.metttersinproprio.it](http://www.metttersinproprio.it)

It is a support service to the creation of new firms and for the self-employment and consists of a set of measures to promote a culture of entrepreneurship and to stimulate the creation of new businesses. A specific set of activities is targeted to agriculture would-be entrepreneurs: *MIP – Mettersi In Proprio in Agricoltura*.



Since 2003 MIP operates within the framework of O.P. ESF of the Regional Authority of Piedmont thanks to funding from the European Union, the Italian Government and the Regional Authority itself.

Since 2011, the Metropolitan city (former Province of Turin) has cooperated through a formal agreement with 3 Local Action Groups in order to sustain new business initiatives in mountain areas, particularly concerning the tourism sector and the valorisation of local typical products.

## EU projects experience

**Alcotra Innovation** project (2010-2013), as part of the Interreg Alcotra cross-border cooperation Programme 2007-2013 between Italy and France. One of the main goals of the project was to define a strategic trans-border innovation plan, concerning four scientific and technological priority areas: smart energy, intelligent mobility, e-health and creative industries. As part of the project, “living labs” involving firms, universities, research centres and institutions of the two sides of the Alps were developed. Moreover, citizens and users of products and services were incentivised to give their contribution as well.

**Working 4 Talent** (2012-2014), funded by the INTERREG IVC Programme and aimed at improving the effectiveness of regional innovation policies and the knowledge based economy;

**Healt 4 Growth** (2012-2014), funded by the INTERREG IVC Programme and aimed at improving the effectiveness of regional development policies regarding the operational

environment of local and regional economic players within the health sector;

**Energiea - Energy Enterprise Generation in the Med Area** (2013-2015), funded by the MED Programme and originated from the shared need for more effective ways of supporting entrepreneurship in the field of renewable energy.

**OASIS (openly accessible services and interacting society)** 2012-2015 co-funded by the Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme - CIP. The aim has been to provide public administrations a cloud-based environment for the deployment of interactive e-government services that facilitate creation, dissemination, access and reuse of information by public bodies as well as citizens, businesses, non-profit organizations.

**Degust'Alp** project (Interreg Alcotra) aimed at strengthening the local producer-consumer relationship and at promoting local products in cross-border territories.

**Padima** project (Interreg IVc) was a project of exchange of good practice in fighting depopulation in mountain areas.

**IN FOCUS Smart Specialisation Strategy at city level** (URBACT III Program) 2015-2018 is a project that aims to bring together a number of cities that are committed to enhance their growth potential and global positioning according to their specialization strategies. Despite the recent proliferation at regional level of the so-called Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation RIS3, a performance shortage has rapidly emerged on this issue at the level of urban economies. At a large extent, it is a question of multi-governance.

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