

URBNETLAB
Urban Networks Laboratory

POLITECNICO MILANO


INNOVATION AS ENGINE FOR URBAN REGENERATION

NETWORKING AND NEIGHBORHOODS RESHAPING AROUND THE REGION
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The Dynamics of an 'Innovation Driven' Territorial System

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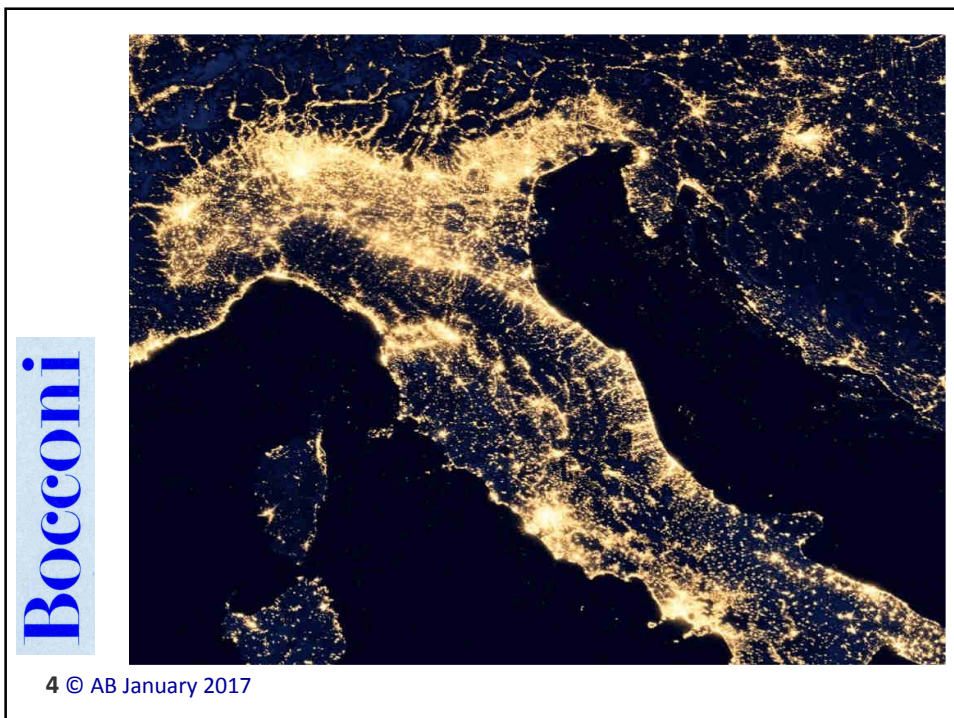
Index of ideas

Four main points to debate if innovation can be considered as a paradigm [...]

- 1 R&D investments and innovation processes as a still powerful engine of contemporary development;
- 2 The global city-region of Milan and Lombardy as a core manufacturing region showing some winning features;
- 3 A diagrammatic model to understand territorial dynamics;
- 4 The new urban needs (and markets) as a privileged investment fields.

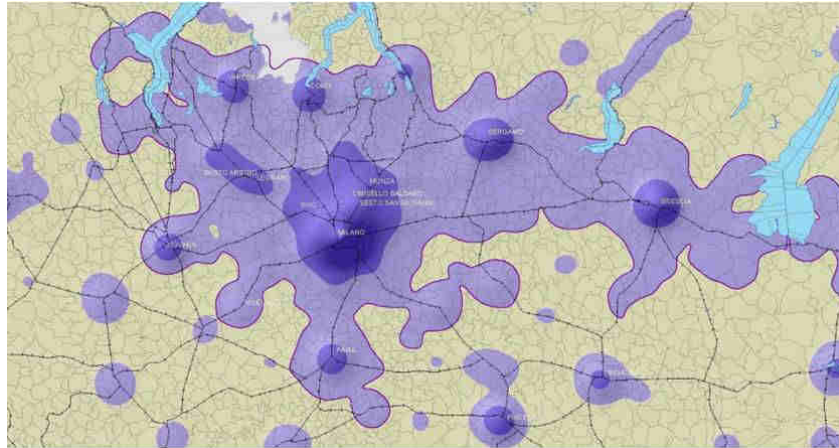
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The metropolitan area: the endless city

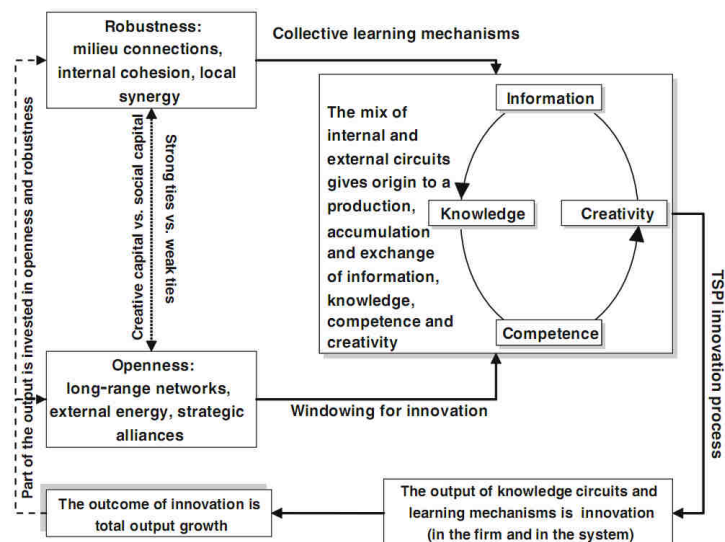
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A sustainable growth mechanism

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Different performances according to different initial conditions

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| | Low degree of openness | High degree of openness |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Strong endowment of R&D institutions | <p>3</p> <p>'Innovative TSPI' but very self-centered ⇒ innovation may decrease. It needs to strength external networks</p> | <p>2</p> <p>'Internationalised TSPI' very innovative, highly competitive, gaining leaders robust positive feedbacks</p> |
| Weak endowment of R&D institutions | <p>4</p> <p>'Localistic TSPI' scarcely competitive, losing leaders not able to cut down vicious circles weakly positive feedbacks</p> | <p>1</p> <p>'Dominated TSPI' Outflows easily overcome inflows, or inflows are not fully exploited (due to lack of absorptive capacity)</p> |

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Balanced vs. unbalanced evolution of TSPI

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| | Low degree of openness | High degree of openness |
|---|--|--|
| High degree of robustness (milieu effect) | <p>3</p> <p>'Potentially implosive TSPI' Very inward looking milieu, the circuits of innovation are no longer fed by external channels and fade</p> | <p>2</p> <p>'Leading TSPI' Very innovative, highly competitive, strong regional innovation system local milieu conducive of pro-active innovative behaviour</p> |
| Low degree of robustness (milieu effect) | <p>4</p> <p>'Paralyzed TSPI' All the positive feedbacks are very weak, scarcely innovative tissue may meet with difficulties on the demand side</p> | <p>1</p> <p>'Potentially explosive TSPI' Leader are no longer supported by local sub-contractors and are rapidly attracted by external locations</p> |

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Cities are back/1

In the global talent race metropolitan regions, rather than countries, often act as magnets, mobilising internal and international talent alike:

- ① Talent continues to be attracted by usual enablers [a) high-quality infrastructure; b) competitive market conditions and business environment (including clusters); c) an existing critical mass of talents with excellent networking and cooperation possibilities; d) superior living conditions];
- ② Talent is mobile and congregates in clusters;
- ③ Talent are attracted by opportunities: to learn, to create and innovate;
- ④ This means the existence of clusters and industry hubs where cutting-edge new innovations are likely to happen.

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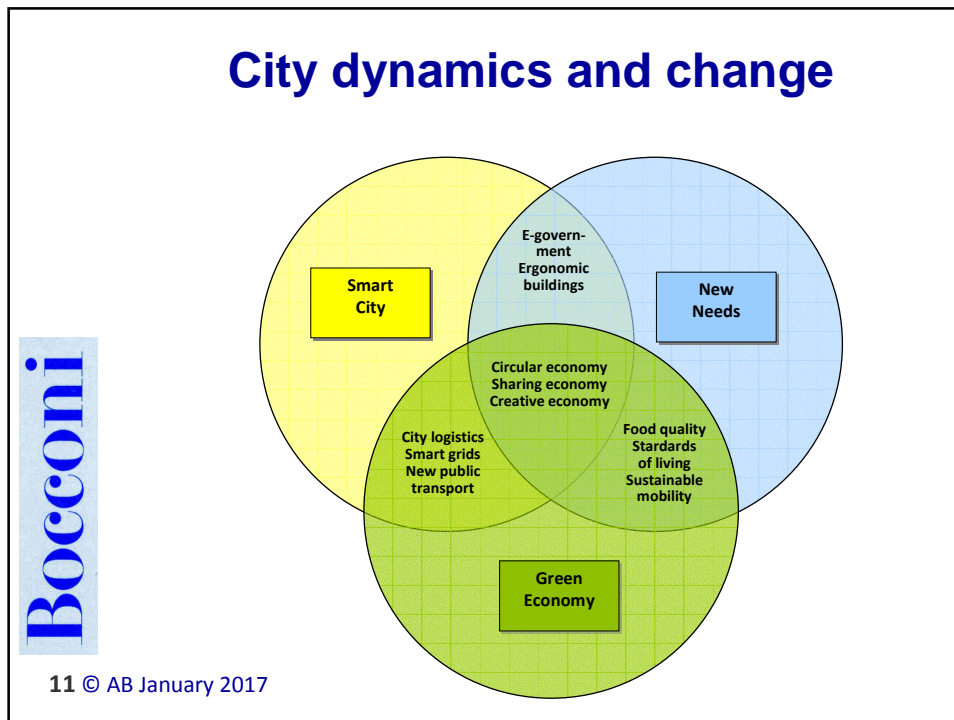
Cities are back/2

What are the three main trends moulding European cities' future?

- ① smart city: at the crossing among ICT, big-data and intelligent systems;
- ② green economy: a more attentive environmental sensibility both from the demand-side [improvements of environmental quality] as well as the supply-side [with strong innovation perspectives];
- ③ active aging: new urban needs.
- ④ If we look at a new demand-side approach we will be able to create new jobs. New jobs for high-skilled talents offering innovative answers to a rising home-market demand.

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Conclusions and a look ahead

- ① The market 'alone' is not able to give answers to the problem of growth and employment.
- ② Full employment requires the creation of new products and new business to meet new needs of citizens in the territory.
- ③ Investment must focus on urban areas, which can be a great laboratory for the development of new products, services and employment.
- ④ We need a new European industrial and regional policy centered on a major program of innovative investments, which starts from the territory and focuses on the network of cities and regions where companies operate and citizens live.

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