

Workshop

Re-Commoning the Italo-Slovenian Borderlands: Civic Infrastructures and Shared Futures after GO!2025

6 June 2025 Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia

Italian Borderscapes After 2020:

Mapping, Unfolding, Re-Framing Border Territories
in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic



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Italian Borderscapes After 2020: Mapping, Unfolding, and Re-Framing Border Territories in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Project partners

Politecnico di Milano – Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU)*

Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz) – Faculty of Design and Arts**

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto di Studi sui Sistemi Regionali, Federali e sulle Autonomie (CNR – ISSIRFA)***

Scientific Coordinators

Alice Buoli, Ingrid Kofler, Raffaella Coletti

Project Team

Alice Buoli*, Ingrid Kofler**, Raffaella Coletti***, Luca Gaeta*, Andreas Metzner-Szigeth**, Isabella Traeger*, Valentina Rodani*, Alessandra Volgger**, Emanuela Rubbino***

Abstract

The project aims to investigate the impacts of a set of interconnected crises, encompassing socio-economic, humanitarian, ecological, and health-related challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic, which have significantly affected Italian border areas in recent years. Rather than framing these regions solely as 'border areas' or 'peripheries,' we adopt the concept of 'borderscape' to address the complex entanglement and 'constellations' of spaces, relations, and practices that shape these territories. The primary focus of the study is to map, analyze, and understand the complex intertwining of (old and new) re-bordering, de-bordering and cross-bordering processes that have emerged along and across Italy's borders prior to and following the 2020 pandemic. To do so, the project will delve into three case studies located on Italian national borders (Italy-France, Italy-Austria and Italy-Slovenia), allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by these regions.

Main objectives

1. Re-frame cross-border cooperation and border management mechanisms in Europe before and after 2020, and understand what happened across and along EU member states' borders in the past years, with a specific focus on the Italian context and its bilateral relations;
2. Identify in three study contexts both: a) the new territorial fragilities pushed by the multiple crisis; b) the synergies and coping strategies that have been activated by alliances of local stakeholders and citizens to provide bottom-up and/or institutional responses to the social and economic distresses caused by the sanitary emergency.
3. Explore pathways of resilient territorial development among cross-border territories in a permanent crisis conditions / post-pandemic recovery phase, considering their (old and new) interdependencies, integrating the existing strategies, plans and policies at the regional and local scale.

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Web

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Instagram

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Workshop

Re-Commoning the Italo–Slovenian Borderlands

Civic Infrastructures and Shared Futures after GO!2025

6 June 2025 | 10.00–13.00

Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG), Via Giuseppe Mazzini 13 – Gorizia (IT)

Abstract

The workshop aims to share and **discuss collectively** the preliminary findings of our research project *Italian Borderscape After 2020: Mapping, Unfolding and Re-Framing Border Territories in Response to Covid-19 Pandemic* by focusing on the **polycrisis-resilience nexus in the Slovenia-Italy borderscapes**, promoting a common reflection on current trends, main challenges and ongoing projects. Through co-design activities, the workshop aims to contribute in supporting a cross-sectoral and trans-boundary dialogue on **alternative scenarios for the future of the Gorizia-Nova Gorica-Šempeter-Vrtojba conurbation**, starting from the ongoing projects and potential **legacy of GO!2025**.

Programme

10.00 | WORKSHOP OPENING

Welcome of the Participants

INTRODUCTION

1. Round of participants' self-presentations
2. Presentation of "Italian Borderscapes After 2020"

CO-DESIGN ACTIVITY #1

GO!2025 as a tool to re-frame the polycrisis-resilience nexus

CO-DESIGN ACTIVITY #2

Rethinking alternative shared futures after GO!2025

12.30 – 13.00 | WORKSHOP CONCLUSION

Final Reflections

The workshop is organised by the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASTU) at the Politecnico di Milano, with the organisational support of the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG).

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