

# Place-based Policies and Local Economic Development

Ph.D. in Economics and Management

University of Padua

Instructor: Guglielmo Barone (guglielmo.barone@unipd.it)

**Aim of the course.** Place-based policies usually refer to policy interventions aimed at enhancing the economic performance of specific areas. Place-based policies usually target underperforming areas, such as cities hit by idiosyncratic negative shocks in the US or lagging regions in European Union countries. The course is intended to highlight the economic rationale for such policies and to discuss the empirical evidence on their effects. We will discuss issues that are high in the policy agenda, such as: (i) what is the economic case for targeting places (instead of people)? Should we spend money for places instead of letting migration from depressed clean local labor markets? Do investments in lagging areas spur local development so favoring regional convergence?

**Prerequisites.** Microeconometric methods for policy evaluation.

## Contents/Program

- Theoretical Basis for Place-Based Policies
- Identifying the Effects of Place-Based Policies
- Empirical evidence on policy interventions
- Place based policies and regional convergence
- Side effects
- Uneven spatial distribution of recent economic shocks and the populist reaction

**Reading list.** There is no specific textbook for this course. The main references are journal articles that will be covered in details during the course as well as lecture notes (slides).

**Exam.** Written examination