

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Pietro Lupo VERGA


www.pietroverga.com

HIGHLIGHTS

Job Title Urban Researcher & Local Development Expert
URBACT Validated Lead Expert

Education Ph.D. in Urban Studies
Languages Italian; English; German; Spanish

Current Work & Achievements **Urban Innovative Actions Project SPIRE Baia Mare [Urbasofia]**
D.4.3.1 - State of the Art. Innovation Landscape Report [Editor and Main Author]
D.4.3.3 – State of Play in Baia Mare. Desk Analysis, Research Repository & Awareness Appraisal [Editor and Main Author]

Happy Hour Webinar Series Rebuilding Local Economies After Lockdown [LDnet]
Member of the Series' Organising and Scientific Committee
Leader and Moderator of the "Reinventing Local Shopping and Hospitality" Session

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/10/2019–Present **Urban Planning Expert / Project Manager**
Urbasofia SRL, Bucharest (Romania)
· Strategic planning & technical coordination for URBASOFIA's tasks within the Urban Innovative Actions 4th Call project "SPIRE – Smart Post-Industrial Regenerative Ecosystem".
· Co-Design and preparation of deliverables and outputs assigned to URBASOFIA within the SPIRE project
· Represent the SPIRE project at EU and International Level.

15/03/2019–Present **Validated Lead Expert**
URBACT, Paris (France)
Thematic Expertise: Urban Strategic Planning

27/01/2017–Present **Urban Researcher & Advisor**
Independent Consultant, Milano (Italy)
Main Thematic & Expertise Areas: European Projects; Local Development Strategies; Nature Based Solutions; Policy Analysis & Design; Neighbourhoods & Urban Systems Analysis; Participatory Planning Workshops; Academic Research

Main Clients:

AEIDL asbl, Brussels (BE), Sept.2019

- Expert contribution to the preparation of AEIDL's bid to Call for tenders N° EAC/21/2019 "Peer-learning scheme on cultural heritage for cities and regions"
- Expert contribution to the AEIDL Focus Group "Looking Towards 2021- 2027 Citizen Climate Action" – Brussels, 21/09/2019

Urbasofia SRL, Bucharest (RO), Nov. 2018-Sept.2019

- Co-led the preparation and submission to the Fourth Call of the Urban Innovative Actions of Baia Mare's project proposal "SPIRE – Smart Post-Industrial Regenerative Ecosystem".

- Represent the SPIRE project and liaise with the Permanent Secretariat of the UIA Initiative as well as other national and international organisations and institutions.
- Co-led the preparation and submission of the AGORA (Advanced coGeneration Options for Reintegrating local Assets) project proposal under the Third Call of the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme.
- Contributed to the Horizon2020 “BULTINWOOD” project proposal.
- Contribute to the design and preparation of European projects under different programmes (e.g. INTERREG, Horizon2020, Urban Innovative Actions, etc...).
- Contributed to the Participatory Planning Workshops of the CRISALIDE Project under the ERA.Net RUS Plus Framework.

Nextdoor.com Inc., San Francisco (USA), Feb. 2017-Dec. 2019

- Advise on and plan the mapping strategy for Italy; lead the mapping efforts in Italy.
- Research and identification of neighbourhoods' boundaries in several German and Italian cities based on historical records, interviews and own expertise; production of digital maps.

Walloth Urban Advisors SPRL, Brussels (BE), Jul.-Nov. 2017

- Analysis of the features and development potential of selected European municipalities and neighbourhoods.
- Research on relevant European case studies and preparation of synthetic booklets.
- Contribution to the organisation of strategic planning workshops with local administrations and stakeholders.

04/11/2013–03/11/2016

Doctoral Researcher - PhD Candidate

Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila (Italy)

- Carried on research on the broad issue of deprived and/or multi-ethnic urban neighbourhoods (socio-economic evolution; political and media rhetoric in their representation; policies and programmes for participatory neighbourhood regeneration).
- Held visiting scholarships at the Institute for European Urban Studies, Bauhaus University (Weimar, Germany – Jan-Oct 2016), and at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (Erkner, Germany – Feb-Oct 2015).
- Participated as a speaker to national and international academic conferences, seminars and workshops.

01/02/2012–31/07/2012

Visiting Scholar

Center for Community Planning & Development - Hunter College - CUNY, New York City (United States)

- Bibliographic and online-based research about New York City's recent history, governance frameworks, zoning, land-use and urban policy processes and issues, and community development organisations.
- Through in-field analysis, online research, budget analysis, and interviews to key-players and public agencies representatives: reconstruction of two community development case-studies selected by their capacity to develop affordable housing units, to protect low-income communities from gentrification and to foster social and economic growth of deprived neighbourhoods.

28/12/2011–28/01/2012

External Collaborator

Comune di Bergamo - Area Politiche del Territorio - Direzione Pianificazione Urbanistica – Servizio Sviluppo Territoriale e Politiche della Casa, Bergamo (Italy)

- Designed and implemented the communication strategy for the “Contratto di Quartiere” for Grumello al Piano, and in particular:
- Wrote explanatory and descriptive texts, and produced maps, graphic representation and conceptual schemes to illustrate the program's actions;
- Managed the overall design and implementation of a dedicated section within the Municipality's website and designed and formatted a printed informative booklet.

European Projects

Urban Innovative Actions 4th Call • SPIRE “Smart Post-Industrial Regenerative Ecosystem” – City of Baia Mare (RO)

Danube Transnational Programme 3rd Call • AGORA “Advanced coGeneration Options for Reintegrating local Assets” – Cluj-Napoca Municipality (RO)

Publications & Working Papers

2020. **SPIRE Baia Mare. State of Play in Baia Mare. Desk Analysis, Research Repository & Awareness Appraisal.** Bioflux: Cluj-Napoca. eISBN 978-606-8887-75-3. (Verga PL, editor)
2020. **SPIRE Baia Mare. State of the Art. Innovation Landscape Report.** Bioflux: Cluj-Napoca. eISBN 978-606-8887-73-9. (Verga, PL et al.)
2019. **Overcoming EU Discontent in “Places That Don’t Matter” through the Community-Led Local Development.** Position Paper. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssm.3329280> (also on LDnet.eu)
2017. **Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable CLLD. Lessons from a Neighbourhood Management in Berlin.** Working Paper. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssm.2947817> (also on LDnet.eu)
2016. **Ambiguities of the Community-Led Local Development: An Instrument Hovering Between Neo-Liberalism and Participatory Democracy.** Conference Paper.
2016. **Beyond the Rhetoric: The Emerging Configuration of the Padova-Monza Area in Milan.** Working Paper with Chiara Vitrano. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssm.3289874>
2016. **Rhetoric in the Representation of a Multi-Ethnic Neighbourhood: The Case of Via Padova, Milan.** Antipode 48(4). <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12229>
2016. **Community Development as a Way-Out from Crisis. Guidelines From New York City's Experience.** In Borghini, A. and Campo, E. (eds.). *Exploring the Crisis: Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Investigations*. Pisa: Pisa University Press
2013. **Rigenerare via Padova.** Milano: Ilmiolibro Self-Publishing. ISBN:9788891046079

Presentations & Workshops

- LDnet Happy Hour Webinar Series “Rebuilding Local Economies After Lockdown”** – Weekly Webinars between 18/06 – 09/07/2020
- European Week of Regions & Cities 2019 • LDnet Workshop “Capitalising on Diversity in Local Development”** – Brussels, 09/10/2019;
- AEIDL Focus Group “Looking Towards 2021-2027 Citizen Climate Action “** – Brussels, 21/09/2019;
- ERA.Net RUS Plus “CRISALIDE” Participatory Planning Workshop** – Rostov-on-Don, 14-18/06/2019;
- Czech Republic CLLD Urban Partnerships’ Meeting** – Prague, 23/11/2018;
- Placemaking for Innovation Workshop** – Valencia, 14-17/11/2018;
- Eurocities Social Affairs Forum** – Stuttgart, 23-24/10/2018;
- Nextdoor Italy Launch Event** – Milan, 18/09/2018
- RSA Cohesion Policy Research Network • EU & the City Workshop** – Delft, 16/10/2016;
- XXXVII Italian Conference of Regional Sciences (AISRe)** - Ancona, 20-22/09/2016;
- RSA Annual Conference 2016** – Graz, 3-6/04/2016;
- IRS-Leibniz Institute • Regeneration of Cities & Towns Department Internal Seminar** – Erkner, 19/08/2015
- XVIII National Conference of the Italian Society of Urbanists (SIU)** – Venice, 11-12/06/2015;
- AESOP International Congress 2014** – Utrecht, 9-12/07/2014;
- University of Pisa International Conference “The Crisis in EU and USA”** – Pisa, 12-14/06/2014;
- 5th AESOP-ACSP Congress** – Dublin 14-19/07/2013;
- Via Padova è Meglio di Milano • “Rigenerare Via Padova” Book Presentation** – Milan, 25/05/2013;
- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale • Seminar on Community Development in New York** – Milan, 11/01/2013
- Erasmus Intensive Programme “Demochange Cities”** – Trieste/Muggia, 25/08 - 07/09/2010.

- Invited Lectures** **Zona 2 at a Glance** – Politecnico di Milano, Urban Sociology course, Prof. A Coppola, 11/11/2016
City and Migration: Investigating and Tackling Concentration. The case of Via Padova – Politecnico di Milano, Social and Urban Analysis Course, Prof. V. Fedeli and Prof. R. Torri, 11/01/2012
- Memberships** **LEDA Partenariat – Local Development Network Association (LDnet)** – Contributor (2017-present) & Board Member (2019 - present)
Hockey is Diversity e.V. – Program Outreach Officer (2019 - present)
- Other** OpenHeritage 2020 Advisory Task Force Member (2020)
 External evaluator of applications to the TRAIN@Ed Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND Fellowship (2019)
 MOOC of the European Committee of the Regions - Make the most of EU resources for your region or city (2018)
 Peer reviewer for a manuscript submitted to Antipode (2016)
 Ice and inline hockey player for several teams – up to semi-pro level – in Italy, Germany and USA (1997-present)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 04/11/2013–24/02/2017 **Ph.D. in Urban Studies** EQF level 8
 Gran Sasso Science Institute & Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
 L'Aquila and Pisa (Italy)
 Dissertation Title: *Towards Urban Community-Led Local Development in Europe. Learning from Soziale Stadt in the Kömerpark, Berlin.*
 Supervisors: Dr Laura Colini; Prof. Dr. Frank Eckardt.
- 26/09/2009–20/07/2011 **Master's Degree in Urban Planning & Policy Design** EQF level 7
 Politecnico di Milano, Milano (Italy)
 Thesis Title: *Rigenerare Via Padova. Da un vuoto di politiche alla proposta di una politica collaborativa (Regenerating Via Padova. From a lack of policies to the proposal of a collaborative policy).*
 Supervisors: Prof. Alessandro Balducci; Dr. Francesca Santaniello.
- 10/09/2004–25/02/2009 **Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning** EQF level 6
 Politecnico di Milano, Milano (Italy)
 Thesis Title: *Riciclare l'abbandonato. Pratiche spontanee e politiche pubbliche per il riuso di spazi abbandonati.* (Recycling the abandoned. Spontaneous practices and public policies for the re-use of abandoned spaces).
 Supervisor: Prof. Christian Novak.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Foreign language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
German	B2	B2	B2	B1	B1
Spanish	B2	B2	A2	A2	A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Digital skills

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Independent user	Independent user

Digital skills - Self-assessment grid

Proficient User of: Adobe Design Suite (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Bridge) • MS Office (Word, Excel, Power Point) • Google Suite • QGIS

Independent User of: STATA