



CIMS
Centro di Studi Integrati del Mediterraneo
Centro de Estudios Mediterráneos Integrados
Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies

For further information:

Prof. John J. Accordino
Research Director
923 West Franklin Street
Richmond, VA
USA
jaccordi@vcu.edu

Dr. Patrizia Marcella Scalisi
Executive Director
scalisipm@unime.it

CIMS - Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies
Universidad de Córdoba
Università di Messina
Virginia Commonwealth University
Villa Pace
Via Consolare Pompea - Pace
98167 Messina
Italia



CIMS
Centro di Studi Integrati del Mediterraneo
Centro de Estudios Mediterráneos Integrados
Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies

CIMS

Laboratory for Territorial Analysis, Economics and Planning



Territorial Analysis and Policies

Strategic Economic

Development and Planning



Introduction

The Laboratory for Territorial Analysis, Economics and Planning of the Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies produces objective information, analyses, reports and plans for local, regional and national governments, as well as non-profit organizations and businesses. The rapid economic, social and political changes in the Mediterranean Basin and in the global economy generally require responses in both theoretical and applied research that clarifies policy solutions and planning opportunities. This is particularly true in regions that are suffering from economic dislocation due to the growing globalization of production and trade. The principal scope of the Laboratory is therefore to bring together the experiences and competence of researchers and professors in economics, other social sciences, and in planning at the Universities of Messina and Cordoba and Virginia Commonwealth University, as well as other universities, to identify theoretical and applied solutions appropriate to these challenges.

Organization and Network

CIMS (the Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies) is an international consortium founded by the Universities of Cordoba, Spain, Messina, Italy, and Virginia Commonwealth University, USA. Its purpose is to facilitate the exchange of docents and students among the universities and to promote joint theoretical and applied research. The Laboratory for Territorial Analysis, Economics and Planning represents one such initiative of theoretical and applied research for CIMS in the areas of economics, territorial development, public policy and planning.

All of the researchers of the three universities constitute the human and intellectual resources to conduct analyses, research and planning through the Laboratory.

In addition, the Laboratory draws upon a wide network of collaborators who include the centers for technical research that already exist at all three of the CIMS universities. This network also extends beyond the confines of CIMS to include other laboratories and research centers at prestigious institutions in Italy, the United States and in various European countries, especially Germany and the United Kingdom. Drawing upon this network, the Laboratory can bring to bear the experience and insights of various countries to any given situation in the area of territorial development, economics and planning at any geo-political level.

Activities Underway

Education

Since 2006, the Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies has been working through its educational programs to create an international pool of experts in research, consulting and other activities in the social sciences, territorial analysis and urban planning to support public administration and non-profit organizations. Through this process, the CIMS researchers and students are developing an understanding of how problems are framed in different countries and contexts, and how the approaches taken in one context may be adapted to others.

Various academic programs at the CIMS-member universities are playing roles in this work. Among them, the Master of Urban and Regional Planning at VCU has welcomed University of Messina students and sent Professor John Accordino on several occasions to the University of Messina to deliver lectures and lead seminars for students and faculty of the University of Messina's Department of Political Science, Economics and Statistics, as well as the staffs of the planning departments of the *Comune* of Messina and the Province of Messina. Topics include the following:

- ◇ *Urban & Regional Planning in the United States*
- ◇ *Urban & Regional Economic Development Policy & Planning in the United States.*
- ◇ *Urban Revitalization in the United States: Commercial Districts Regional Planning in the United States.*
- ◇ *The Culture of Planning.*

The University of Messina has hosted VCU students in urban and regional planning and in related fields through programs such as The Sicilian Cities Study Tour: The Influence of Environment and History on Urban Life.

Research

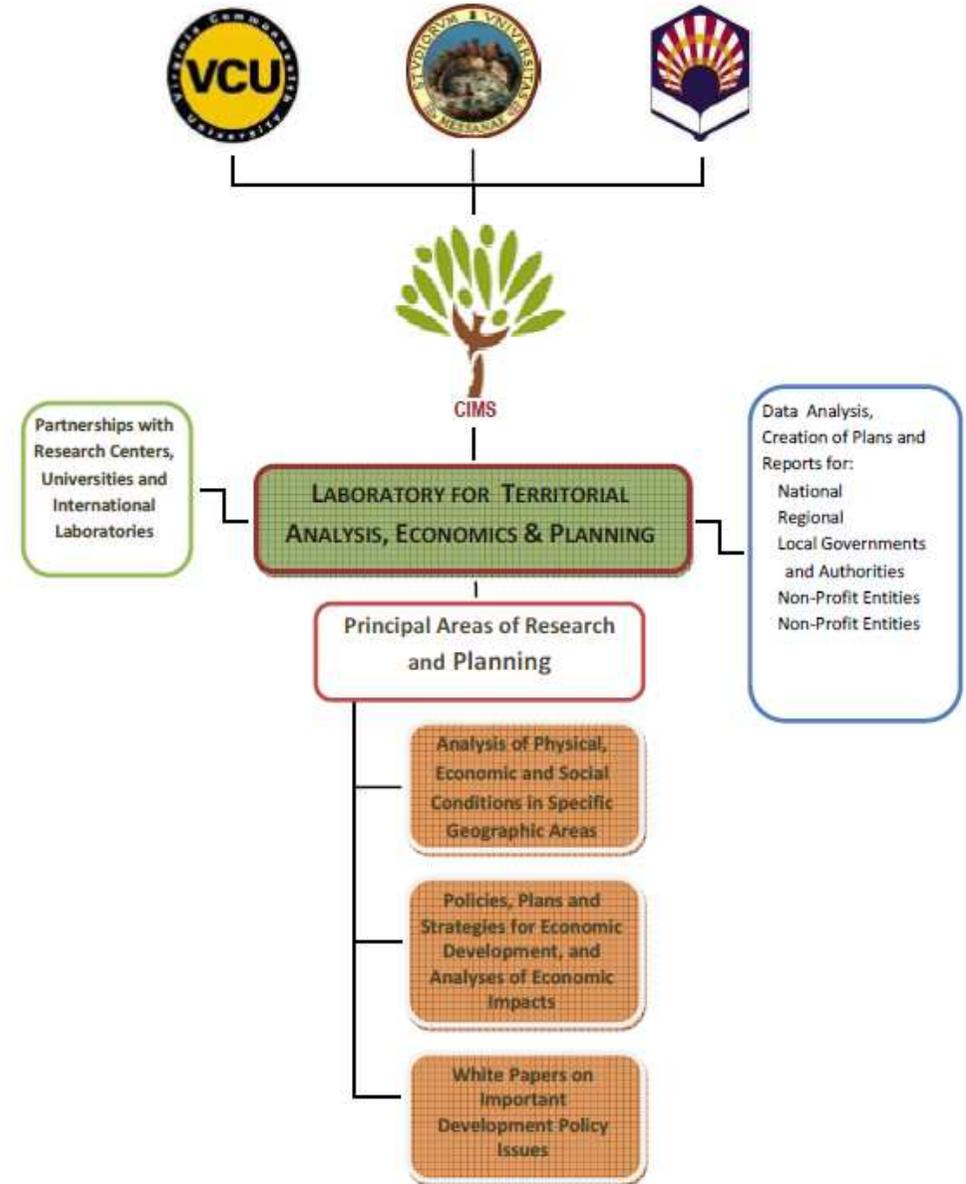
The Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies' mobility programs have led to several joint research projects and publications, involving the three Universities professors, doctors, undergraduate and graduate students. These papers include the following:

- ◇ *I Corridoi Commerciali Nella Citta' di Messina: Analisi e Proposte (2008).*
- ◇ *The Mediterranean: From Barcelona to the Union. Planning*
- ◇ *Regional and Local Development in a Global Economy: The Mediterranean Opportunity (2009).*
- ◇ *Globalization and Small-Store Survival: The American Main Street and Italian Centro Commerciale Naturale Approaches (2009).*

Methods and Tools for Analysis and Policy Development

The Laboratory conducts studies, analyses and research using research methods and tools that include:

- ⇒ Quantitative economic, social and financial data from both public and private sources
- ⇒ Special datasets and meta-data created by the Laboratory
- ⇒ Qualitative data collected through:
 - ◇ focus groups
 - ◇ public meetings
 - ◇ surveys
 - ◇ interviews and expert testimony
- ⇒ Analyses and interpretation of data using tools such as:
 - ◇ ArcGIS (geographic information system and mapping)
 - ◇ SPSS (statistics)
 - ◇ Excel (spreadsheets)
 - ◇ Access (databases)
 - ◇ IMPLAN (industrial linkages, cluster analysis, and impact analysis)
 - ◇ CommunityViz (visualization of planning alternatives)



Territorial Analyses

Physical, Social and Economic Analyses of Regions and Localities

The Laboratory conducts analyses of the physical, social and economic characteristics of national, regional, provincial, and local areas, on topics such as the following:

- ⇒ General economic condition and performance
- ⇒ Demographics and living conditions
- ⇒ Labor market structure, dynamics and performance
- ⇒ Regional industrial structure (including cluster analysis) and industrial performance
- ⇒ Trends and market conditions in specific industries and sub-industries
- ⇒ Capital and goods flows
- ⇒ Infrastructure – material, social and institutional
- ⇒ Indicator systems – specification of variables and collection of data over time to measure changes in social and economic indicators

Economics

Theory development and policy implications

The Laboratory conducts scholarly research on issues most relevant to regional and local development, such as industrial location, the productivity of factors of production (labor, land, capital, management) and location-specific factors that contribute to economic growth. These are published as scholarly articles and as *White Papers*.

Planning

This category includes research, analyses, policies and strategic plans, and impact analyses of policy alternatives and choices in the following areas:

- ⇒ Overall regional, provincial and local economic development
- ⇒ Industrial development
- ⇒ Education and training
- ⇒ Revitalization of traditional commercial corridors
- ⇒ Central-city revitalization
- ⇒ Residential neighborhood (quarter) revitalization