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**Governing the public space questioning public regulation and metropolitan dimension: the use of
mayor's orders and social services in the city of Milan.**

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The institutional level and policy instruments have a key role in all phases of policy process: the former specifies territorial area, the latter give regulates the way actors play and pursue their interests. In Italy social policies are implemented principally at council level. Although there are participation instruments which coordinate private authorities and local councils, these do not comprehend the extend to whole metropolitan areas. In the past few years some urban security issues have been raised both at national and local level, and have been included in policy agendas. As a result local social policies dealing with securitisation have come into place. In 2008 after a press campaign the city of Milan starts addressing social issues involving the use of public space, specifically alcohol and drugs consumers and sex workers. The Mayor opts for the use of a repressive device composed by three urban security *mayor's orders*. Inside this institutional framework a team of social workers from private bodies would cooperate with police forces in applying the agreed charges. This policy has been analysed focusing on the underlying logic of those instruments that define its vary institutional framework. The regulation of social issues based principally on public intervention of a single local government, the underlying logic of these instruments and the lack of a metropolitan coordination have led to the migration of these issues to adjacent council. This process is particularly pronounced with sex-workers. Additionally, the choice of repressive and monocratic public policy instruments like *mayor's order* also produces a cleavage in organisational field of private actors involved in social policies which in turn increases the fragmentation of interventions in the metropolitan area. The analysis approach focused on the public action instruments allow to highlight (1) the role of public and private actors; (2) the importance of normative dimension of the instruments in determines policy process and the outcomes; (3) the link between the public regulation of space and the consequent hindrance to the establishment of regulations aimed at addressing social issues stemming from the use of public spaces from a wider, metropolitan perspective. This case study strengthen the hypothesis that to build up a metropolitan social policy not only institutional level plays a key role but also instruments influence and co-determine the degree and the involvement way of private and public actors tied to different polities.

In 2008 the city of Milan starts addressing social issues involving the use of public space by alcohol and drugs consumers and sex workers by the choice of repressive and monocratic public policy instruments like *mayor's order*. The introduction of this policy instrument produces a cleavage in organisational field and increases the fragmentation of interventions in the metropolitan area. The policy analysis approach focused on the public action instruments, used in this case study, allow to highlight that not only institutional level plays a key role but also instruments influence and co-determine the degree and the involvement way of private and public actors tied to different polities.