

Milan-Malpensa Airport



TYPE OF TOOL:
Project



MAIN SECTOR:
Transport



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:
Co-ordination across levels of government

In a nutshell:



OBJECTIVE: The Milan-Malpensa Airport project restructured the Milan aviation system and turned the airport into a Northern Italian transport hub.



Agency in charge
Regional government of Lombardy



Levels of government
National and sub-national



Year of implementation:
1990



Current status:
Operation



Value:
€5 billion

Overview:

Malpensa, the main airport of Milan and the second largest in Italy, was included in the 1983 regional transport planning, although with a limited geographical role. In 1985, the airport franchisee, SEA, produced a new Master Plan for its development, based on traffic forecasts of 12 million passengers. Based on this, two national laws allocated resources for construction. In 1986 the General Transport Plan of Italy included the development of Malpensa to make it a “large airport for Northern Italy”. The Lombardy Regional Council then approved the Malpensa 2000 project. The Italian Ministry of Transport approved the project the following year in 1987.

The success of Malpensa airport has been at least partially dependent on good surface access, towards which sub-national governments made a significant contribution. The regional government managed the planning of surface access mainly through dedicated plans and agreements. The two main documents were the agreement signed in 1999 and the annual regional financial plan, both concluded after the opening of the airport. The plan included approximately 40 road and rail investments, to be completed over a 7-8 year period with funding shared between Regione Lombardia and the State.

Challenges: From the beginning, surface access was seen as a potential weakness and a cause of constraint for the project development. Even though basic rail and highway access from Milan was improved, Malpensa was still seen as remote from the rest of the region.

Lessons learned: Multi-level government coordination is crucial to bring coherence to the activities of different entities towards a common objective.

REFERENCES:

- OECD (2015), Effective Delivery of Large Infrastructure Projects: The Case of the New International Airport of Mexico City, OECD Public Governance Reviews, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264248335-en>