Economic Geography
Why do some territories and regions perform better than others in terms of economic growth and development? How can local and regional development policies foster economic activity and socio-economic development in lagging areas? The Economic Geography coursework will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the determinants of spatial economic disparities and of the evolution of the attendant geographic perspective, examining the main theories and approaches to local and regional economic development. The final part of the course will focus on the regional development policy of the European Union, illustrating its rationale and discussing its evaluation and results. The last lesson will be devoted to a debate exercise: students will be divided into two groups defending contrasting policy positions on a pre-established topic. The course will be taught by the course convenor, Dr. Giulia Urso, with the help, when necessary, of other faculty members. The course is compulsory.