

PIERGIORGIO VALENTINI

- A. **Currently employed at:** Metropolitan City of Milan (CMMI)
(<http://www.cittametropolitana.mi.it/portale/>)

Current Assignment: Waste Technical Coordination Service Manager and CMMI Manager of the ForestaMi project

- B. **ForestaMi Project:** ForestaMi is a great urban forestation project launched by the City of Milan to increase the resilience of the urban territory to environmental stresses and the effects of climate warming thanks to the improvement of air quality, green spaces and natural connections urban. The ForestaMi Project was developed by the Polytechnic of Milan with the coordination of Arch. Stefano Boeri, with the support of the Municipal Administration of Milan, the Metropolitan City of Milan, the North Park and the South Milan Agricultural Park. ForestaMi aims to plant 2 million trees by the 2026 Winter Olympics in the CMMI territory, up to 3 million trees - one for each CMMI inhabitant - by 2030.

C. **Previous assignments relating to the ForestaMi project:** Responsible for the 2005-2012 Metrobosco project for the Province of Milan

Planners: Multiplicity.lab-DiAp-Polytechnic Laboratory

Project launched in: 2005

Objective: 3 million trees in 10 years

Context: Metrobosco project was strongly influenced by the Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997) as well as by the media awareness campaign carried out by the European Community. Furthermore, Milan's official candidacy for Expo 2015 has contributed to further highlighting the subject.

Description of the project: the heart of the project was a green belt of around 30,000 hectares of woods, parks and rows around Milan, to be carried out in multiple phases on both public and private areas with the direct involvement of local players and institutions. The many parks and agricultural areas with farmhouses and rural villages in the territory of the Milanese province would have been combined in a single system. Metrobosco thus inherently promoted interventions with potential landscape and production advantages, such as the mitigation of climate imbalances, the reduction of noise and air pollution, the care for and maintenance of the territory through local communities and the separation of urban growth from land usage.

Conceived as a perpetually evolving scenario, the Metrobosco strategic plan did not have an actual project design, but rather enacting guidelines characterized by a variable programming based on the availability of tree planting areas, priorities linked both to the environment and to the enacting players(public as well as private)involved from time to time. Equally, the contribution in terms of land to be used for forestation purposes could have come from a plurality of subjects: municipalities of the belt, companies interested in environmental compensation actions, large landowners, foundations and farmers interested in repurposing their lands. Interventions were realised upon request of players interested in implementing the Metrobosco project which, on their request, could also provide certifications issued by RINA®.

Upon conclusion of the mandate of the President of the Province and of the Councilor for the environment and agriculture in 2009, the new administration did not continue with the implementation of the project. Metrobosco did however carry on, especially thanks to schools, whose requests to participate in planting initiatives continued up to 2014. This path is emblematic of the need to untie forestry projects such as Metrobosco from groups and/or political exponents, to ensure its continuation until natural fulfilment regardless of the exhaustion of political mandates. By its nature, ForestaMi represents a natural successor of Metrobosco. This aspect should be an incentive to learn from past mistakes and leverage on the project's own strengths. Particularly interesting in this sense is the issue of carbon certifications, which –if rethought with a view to the future setting of ForestaMi - could become an integral part of the project.

Project highlights:

- Planning of interconnection of greenery on a metropolitan scale then taken up by ForestaMi.
- Collaborations with individuals and various sectors of the public, associations and institutions.

Results:

- 560,000 new trees, almost 51,000 out of which planted in collaboration with schools (as of 2012).