

THE GLOCALIST MANIFESTO

We are glocalists:

1. Because we know that technology, in changing our concept of time and space, has changed the world and made it one
2. Because we know that in the world of knowledge, innovation is the moment in which knowledge and power come together to create custom, values and history
3. Because we know that innovation means opportunity, yet can also constitute a threat
4. Because we know that zero-time and zero-space mean the dominion of mobility over settlement
5. Because we know that mobility means flows, networks and nodes of relationships independent of territory and its confines
6. Because we know that relationships without boundaries change the meaning of place, bringing it closer to the meaning of node, opening up a new relationship between the global and the local, in which the global penetrates all *loci* through its networks, and each *locus* folds directly into the global
7. Because we know that this new glocal world will be our world and our destiny

But we are also aware:

8. That glocalism must not mean stateless conformity, macdonaldalization, imbalances or ecological disaster
9. That to stem these threats new policies and institutions will increasingly be required
10. That new policies and institutions mean new powers
11. That recourse to legitimate force and territorial control will count less and less in a mobility-driven world
12. That we do not need borders, citizenship, sovereignties or subordinate localisms to take advantage of the global while at the same time defending our local spaces
13. That the end of nationalism does not have to mean the end of territorial ethnic cultural identities
14. That in the global village the social movement will be protagonist
15. That new political relationships must inform the management of mobility and territory
16. That the enterprise constitutes the central form of mediation between coexistence and the economy
17. That the enterprise is regulated by global markets
18. That the populations of enterprises within these global markets operate on a global scale through logically interwoven networks of functions
19. That these functions give rise to flows of goods, people and relationships that are relatively free of territorial considerations
20. That traditional national and regional political institutions are increasingly hard pressed in influencing these relationships
21. That only new glocal institutions, i.e. institutions capable of tying together global enterprises and local enterprise populations, are in a position to mediate between the global economy and local forms of coexistence
22. That the crisis national states are currently undergoing in their capacity to regulate is in fact irreversible and that only profound institutional innovation can save us.

We therefore call for:

23. A new form of statehood in which diverse individuals, ethnicities and nations can coexist on equal terms, where territorial communities and communities of practice can interweave their interests and functions
24. Networks and territories that are organized without nationalist or localist influences
25. A new form of citizenship based on multiple affiliation
26. The consequent ability to feel that we are cosmopolitan, Italics, Europeans, Mediterraneans, Northern Italians, Milanese, Catholics, Moslems, liberals, socialists, technical, humanists, Boca fans, Inter fans, etc., without losing our sense of political identity
27. The ability to cultivate these new affiliations as individuals and as a community
28. A new form of spatial laicism that protects the new mobility, in the knowledge that a life lived fully among a wealth of affiliations in multiple *loci* is far more authentic and richer than any form of monochord sectarianism
29. The ability to operate freely within the rich and dynamic structure of functional and territorial networks the glocal world is preparing to offer us
30. A new form of cosmopolitan governance, indispensable for protecting the environment, peace, human rights and justice in a glocal world

To achieve this, we are prepared to put on the line:

31. Our current identities and political subjectivisms, in order to attain new structures of representation and governability
32. Our traditional relationship to territory, in order to prepare ourselves for the influx of migrants that mass mobility will bring
33. Our current local and national structures, which we will transform and adapt in order to meet the challenges that the demise of the nation-state and the advent of a glocal world will inexorably pose

To work towards the advent:

34. Of the new thinking, the new parties, the new institutions and political practices that will have to take on the role of leaders and actors in the new glocal history
35. Of the new aggregations that this path will need to subjectify
36. Of the new relationships between settlements and mobility of things, people, and ideas
37. Of rules for coexistence that reconcile efficiency and democracy in the new communities of practice and function on a global and local scale
38. Of the urban reorganization driven by the springing up of glocal cities wherever intersections of functional networks and existing civic aggregations come together in new ways
39. Of the new sub-national political geography that regional aggregations are in the process of creating virtually everywhere
40. Of the related institutions and their new powers
41. Of the new levels of meta-national statehood that are emerging throughout the world, beginning with Europe

We are launching this appeal from Milan:

Because we are aware:

42. That Europe is the continent that invented the City

43. That European unity will not be reconstructed by arranging its regional and metropolitan realities in forms imposed by the advent of the nation-state
44. That the integration and rebalancing of the stronger and weaker areas of Europe will no longer be solely entrusted to the unifying power of the national states, but rather to the building of new interregional functional networks between areas that are not necessarily contiguous
45. That, where Italy is concerned, its various parts will move within Europe in varied, complex ways, and it will witness the North, Center, South and Islands connect in new ways with the corresponding continental and global realities
46. That, in these conditions, the glocal city in which we live and call Milania, being none other than a piece of the vaster dimension of Northern Italy and the Po valley, cannot reject its responsibility to connect the entire country with the rest of Europe.

There is much work to be done

47. In order to better understand, designate, organize, and institutionalize the great metropolitan area in which we live
48. In order to mark out Milania's new if still uncertain identity
49. In order to link this identity with the rest of Italy and Europe in a new way
50. In order to allow new potentially glocal institutions like chambers of commerce, bank foundations, provinces, regions, and agencies to strengthen their connections with those multinational companies, major banks and groups of SMEs already engaged in the glocalist challenge
51. In order to enable the thousands of associations and service organizations animating Milania's local dimensions to learn to interconnect with the progressively denser web of functional networks that cross them on a glocal scale
52. In order to stimulate our centers of cultural life to become more aware of the high rate of innovation that glocalization involves
53. In order to bring efficiency and order to the myriad networks coursing through the glocal city, as well as to the thousands of enterprises that energize it and the forms of mobility that infuse it with life
54. This is work in which we invite all those who share our ideas and aims to participate
55. Because we need a better understanding of the realities in which we operate
56. We must mobilize entire generations to meet the new challenges we clearly envision
57. We must oversee the birth of new subjective realities capable of bringing political life to a new glocal world
58. The Milanese must awaken to the new challenges of the glocal city in which they live
59. Italic peoples the world over must come together in the awareness of an affiliation that transcends yet does not deny affiliations between Italians, or natives of Canton Ticino, Monte Titano or Dalmatian regions; and which unites with that affiliation any persons - be they Canadian, American, Latin American, Australian, or resident alien immigrants in Italy, etc. - who see themselves as Italic for reasons of origin, interest, culture or values.
60. Together we must begin to build the new institutions and new governance the glocal world needs
61. In other words, we need a new glocalist policy

And we hereby commit ourselves to work!

Piero Bassetti, President of Globus et Locus

Milan, 7 January 2008