

## **Abstract del progetto strategico di Ateneo dal titolo:**

“UBIquitous ultra-broadband NETworks development for a smarter Society: Technologies, Territories, Economics and Policies”, o:

“Lo sviluppo di reti ubique a banda ultra-larga per una società più intelligente: tecnologie, territori, economia e politiche”.

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This project performs an empirical study of the diffusion of ultra-broadband (UBB) networks and digital services across Italian jurisdictions, stemming from private and public investment. A central policy question will be how to fill the divide between rural and urban areas. Together, we will study the technologies and applications supported by an UBB infrastructure (including public e-Services, such as e-Government). To this end, we will build on the Infratel dataset measuring UBB coverage and investment at the (infra)municipality level, and we will match this geo-referenced source with other socio-economic and technical data from ISTAT-SISTAN, to get our integrated multi-theme and multi-dimensional dataset (UBINET). By employing multivariate statistics and other quantitative tools (including simulation), we aim at uncovering: 1) the role of external factors in shaping the initial market outcome and the investment paths, considering both private and public subjects, and 2) the main stylised facts and outcomes stemming from the investment on UBB and digital services (in terms of socio-economic performance, innovation, territorial activities and cohesion). The project builds on an interdisciplinary literature, since it integrates key dimensions traditionally treated as separate, such as technology, geography, socio-economic forces and policy-making. The expected output includes drafting high-level academic papers, and producing evidence assisting stakeholders and policy-makers in the pursuit of regional Digital agendas.