

New Mendrisio-Varese railway.



Country	Italy
Sector	Transport
Year	2018
Narrative description	Electric railway line, 8.4 km dedicated to the passenger service, which connects the Canton Ticino (Switzerland) to Varese (Italy). Inaugurated in December 22, 2017, after 4 years of delay, and started operating on January 7, 2018. The cost of the work, paid by the state, was 261 million euros (not considering the Swiss part). The line serves over 4,000 passengers a day, with around 2,500 cross-border transits. The work was carried out with the aim of providing a solution for Italian commuters that need to leave their cars at home because of private transport policies in place in many Swiss companies.
Responsible authority	Italian State railways manager RFI
Relevant legal basis	Joint action of two public railways bodies
Policy Type	Promotion of train commuting
Governance Level/ Target audience	Commuters/students
Objectives	Allow commuting citizens to leave the car at home and use public transport to reach the workplace as required by Swiss regulations. Link major Italian and Swiss towns of the area. Provide access by rail to the airport of Malpensa for Swiss citizens.
Summary of reasons for success	The idea of creating a transnational new commuters train line was quite an innovative one as the area has seen little to no development of railways in the last decades. Considering an average value of 100 g CO ₂ /km and an average distance of 50 km for 4000 citizens, the emissions avoided in the atmosphere are around 29,000 kg/year. The lines not only are served by latest low-consumption Staedler trains, but also provide access to the airport of

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Malpensa, a national hub, from Switzerland, thus reducing overall emission of the airport.

Replication potential

Many other suburban railways need refurbishing and upgrade. This is an inspirational case.

Relevant website

<https://youtu.be/cdI0TS10u9U>