A STRATEGY FOR ‘INNER AREAS’ IN ITALY

(Fostering growth through Inner Areas development)

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Rome – 3 July 2014
The Inner Areas strategy

The Italian Inner Areas strategy is based on a multilevel governance that involve different institutional subject working strictly with local territories.
The Italian spatial model/ modello policentrico

The Italian territory is characterized by:

- A dense and varied network of urban centers
  which offer a wide range of essential services like healthcare, education, and transport. These centers represent a 'point of convergence' for people living in remote areas;

- The distance from these urban networks affects people’s quality of life
  preventing them to benefit of these essential services and fostering their sense of social inclusion

- Relations between urban and rural centers are context dependent
  and may vary substantially standing to the area considered
Main Political Achievements

Since September 2012

Italy is developing a **National Strategy in favor of Inner Areas** with the aim of:

- improving the quality of life and economic well being of people living in its relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas and
- in the long term - “reverting” demographic trends ...

**Working through**

- Strong Technical Support (Department for Development Policies, Central Bank; Institute of National Statistics – Committee for Inner Areas);
- Political Agreement Between Ministry of Territorial Cohesion; Agriculture; Health; Transports; School and Labor ...(last three Governments)
- Agreement with All Italian Regions and the European Commission
Inner Areas: what does it mean?

Inner Areas are:

- territories characterized by a **NOT adequate** offer of/ access to essential services to assure a certain **level of citizenship among population**.

- territories **substantially far from large and medium-sized urban centers able to supply** adequate health, educational and transport services.

- **In Italy** inner areas **covers almost the 60% of the whole national territory embracing about the 23% of total population** living in the 53% of the Italian’s district.

- Inner areas are **considered strategically relevant** to foster a more sustainable and inclusive national growth.
Methodology

‘Service Centers’ have been defined as those municipalities that offer

- an exhaustive range of secondary schools;
- at least a 1st level DEA hospital;
- at least a ‘Silver-type’ railway station (RFI).

NO DEMOGRAPHIC CRITERIA HAVE BEEN APPLIED

Areas have been mapped according to the distance (travel-time) from these ‘Service Centers’ as:

- ‘Belt’ areas – up to 20 minutes far from the centers;
- ‘Intermediate’ areas – from 20 to 40 minutes;
- ‘Remote’ areas – from 40 to 75 minutes;
- ‘Ultra – remote’ areas – over 75 minutes far
### Classification of Municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of Municipalities</th>
<th>N.</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Average elevation</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>KM²</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-Municipality Service Center</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>2,7</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>20.983.786</td>
<td>35,3</td>
<td>28.948</td>
<td>9,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Municipality Service Center</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>1,5</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>2.986.161</td>
<td>5,0</td>
<td>8.606</td>
<td>2,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belt areas</td>
<td>3568</td>
<td>44,1</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>22.135.047</td>
<td>37,2</td>
<td>83.982</td>
<td>27,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate areas</td>
<td>2360</td>
<td>29,2</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>8.832.422</td>
<td>14,9</td>
<td>88.187</td>
<td>29,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote areas</td>
<td>1522</td>
<td>18,8</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>3.812.271</td>
<td>6,4</td>
<td>72.829</td>
<td>24,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultra-remote areas</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>3,7</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>684.057</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td>19.521</td>
<td>6,5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8092</td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>358</td>
<td><strong>59.433.744</strong></td>
<td>100,0</td>
<td>302.073</td>
<td>100,0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DPS elaboration on Istat - Census 2011

Source: UVAL-UVER-ISTAT elaboration on data from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and RFI (Italian Railway Network)
Italy - Percentage change in population 1971 - 2011

**INNER AREAS**
- Service centers and belt areas

**SERVICE CENTERS AND BELT AREAS**
- Inner Areas

**Source:** DPS elaboration on Istat data – Population Censuses 1971 - 2011
Italy – Percentage of population aged 65 and over - 2011

INNER AREAS

- Service centers and belt areas

SERVICE CENTERS AND BELT AREAS

- Inner Areas

Source: DPS elaboration on Istat data – Population Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Inner Areas</th>
<th>ITALY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20,7%</td>
<td>21,2%</td>
<td>20,8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inner Areas Strategy _ OBJECTIVES

Aims of the strategy

- Improve the quality of life and wellbeing of local communities
- Increase local employment and work opportunities
- Recover un-valorized natural resources and territorial capital
- Reduce the social cost due to the progressive depopulation trend characterizing these areas
- Strengthen local development factors

Ultimate goal of the strategy

Reinforcement of the demographic structure of Inner Areas
**Inner Areas Strategy_ INNOVATION**

**4 main innovation**

- National dimension and multilevel governance (Centers – Regions – municipalities and inter municipalities cooperation)

- In the project areas – *at the same time* - services improvements (mainly through national policy) and investments in selected development factors (regional policy)

- Multi-fund attitude (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF and National Funds)

- Participatory approach to local development
A multilevel governance in depth

The central level

- Fosters and Monitors the Strategy’s Application
- Encompass main elements of the Strategy into the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020
- Manages the Federation of Projects

The regions

- Financial Allocation for Inner Areas in the Programs (ITI, Territorial Axis);
- Selection of Specific Areas / Projects; Political Support;

Municipalities (associated) and Provinces

- Application of the Strategy at territorial level; Participate in the Framework Agreement selecting projects; manage services ...
Area based projects will concentrate on a number of selected fields (development factors):

- land management and forests;
- local food products;
- renewable energy;
- natural and cultural heritage;
- traditional handicraft and SMEs (Saperi Locali)
And on Specific Basic Services Improvements

- **Transport**: implementation of smart networks to foster efficiency and connection between strategic communication spot;

- **Health services**: improving territorial healthcare network and doctors associations, “Tele-Health Services”;

- **Education**: re-organising schooling around well balances “main poles”; avoiding excessive professors mobility and ensuring schools networking
Conclusion

- Italian Inner Areas Strategy is giving «true content» to the EU Territorial Cohesion Objective;
- Areas faraway from «Basic Services» do need special attention, regardless from their rural or urban nature;
- Many years of «fragmented» policies in Inner Areas do show that investments intervention – together with cuts on basic services, do not bring desired results;
- This explains why Multi funding, together with a spatial place approach are crucial
- A too strong «Sectoral Approach» - concentration - and not enough flexible tools can weaken effective territorial approach
- Integrated Territorial Investments: strengths and limits
Thank you for your attention

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