

New territorial dimension of public policies to improve territory and municipal services and to promote local development strategy and planning new tools

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Abstract

The reform that nowadays concerns administrative territories reinforces the need to promote a new dimension for the management of territories and planning actions, which is different from the current one. In particular, supra-municipal space and inter-municipal cooperation can be considered the best solution to create a new organization of urban and rural areas and to ensure an efficient and effective management of public utilities.

In this sense, as the Strategy of Internal Areas specifies, it is clear the need, above all in disadvantaged territories, to combine local development actions with effective and efficient services, which become an important precondition. This relationship should allow the development of local strategies whose implementation raises, first of all, the issue of territorial perimeters which must be considered.

Even though it is difficult to define unique perimeters for the implementation of overall territorial projects and for the territorial management which includes different administrative levels, a methodological approach that considers territories as from the combination between local development policies and the management of services and basic functions can be completely shareable.

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Starting from a first distinction of services and functions based on their relationship and their influence on local policies (for example mobility, social services, education, territorial government that can be defined as preconditions), the next step is to achieve an integrated interpretation between areas influenced by services and morphological, dimensional, cultural, historical and relational features of territories. The goal is the definition of a possible scenario of stability for management and planning actions: it allows to identify supra-municipal areas that are able to find a strategy in which preconditions are connected with the local development in such a way that policies can really take place. With this purpose, first of all the paper looks for a possible answer about the examination of the current method to identify territorial perimeters for management and planning actions. Then these perimeters are interpreted in terms of means and forms of governance, giving rules, requirements and criteria that should be guidelines for the process of territorial reinterpretation currently in progress, aimed at a new territorialisation of public policies.

Moreover, this interpretation is enriched by some considerations about the challenge offered by new technologies and about how a widespread and structured use of ICTs could bring drastic changes to territories and to their new configurations at a supra-municipal level.

After a first conceptual-methodological overview, the operative reading will concern the Southern Regions of Puglia, Campania, Calabria and Basilicata: with reference to the last we will reach a possible new territorial arrangement in terms of design and management of perimeters, means and organizational forms.

Keywords

Local development, Supra-municipal cooperation, Internal area.

Introduction

If only extemporary financing is available, no policies or development strategies can have long-lasting prospects.

The lack of a vision that analyses all aspects relating to development policy reinforcement, through well-structured forms and strong strategies, contributed to the failure of past planning/programming actions.

Understanding the necessary prerequisites through which territorial policies could become real and useful is itself a strategic element.

During the last years, the attention was focused on monitoring activities and on the effects of territorial policies, rather than on preparatory conditions that may bring to the required results.

The Strategy for Inner Areas of the programming cycle 2014-2020 seems to have an opposite approach. First of all it must be underlined that the spatial organization of Italian territories, characterized by a prevalence of small villages with limited accessibility to services, becomes a strategic priority for the revival of the whole country; thereby the supra-municipal space and its governance find a further opportunity to strengthen the national scenario. Moreover, the Strategy can be implemented by two classes of actions: the first group consists of actions aimed at improving basic services (in particular, we refer to three essential services: health, education and mobility), identifying preconditions for local development. The second group implies the

implementation of local development strategies linked with the previous preconditions.

In fact, the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020 states that:

“...If in the inner areas basic services for citizens are not satisfying, people cannot live there and so a long-term sustainability of promoted projects is not possible, when these projects are disconnected from community life organization... the citizenship topic is a necessary condition for a development prospect: if in these areas basic services are not guaranteed, if their basic levels and the quality of their supply are not controlled, investing on development strategies becomes useless” [translated from Italian].

This is a great methodological innovation that, on one hand, strengthens the importance of the supra-municipal scale and, on the other hand, connects local development strategies and policies with processes that are able to guarantee the optimal management of some basic services, whose existence directly influences local development dynamics and leads people to live in that particular place.

The quality of life and any kind of organization of critical mass (citizens, economical activities, etc.), which are necessary for the survival of the territory, strictly depend on guaranteed services (Lucatelli, Peta, 2010) (both in terms of quality and quantity) and on policies aimed at exploiting endogenous resources of each territory and their uniqueness: this is crucial.

The approach of the Strategy for Inner Areas represents an input to reflect on connections between supra-municipal space and local development policies; an approach that should become ordinary and widespread in the whole supra-municipal area of the national context.

There is the need to find criteria for the individuation of supra-municipal pertinent morphologies in terms of service management and local development policies.

Mapping of Inner Areas

A mapping of Inner areas was made by the national Committee for inner areas that, in cooperation with the Bank of Italy and Istat, classified the Italian territory according to the distance from basic services of health, education and mobility.

On a first step, the methodology identified the poles, following the supply capacity of some fundamental services¹ and then it classified the remaining municipalities into four zones: peri-urban areas, middle-areas, suburban areas and extra-suburban areas. Their marginal aspect, from a statistic point of view, is linked to an accessibility indicator, calculated according to the distances from the nearest poles that are measured with travel times².

The definition of “pole” is strictly connected to the capability of a city (or a group of cities) of providing basic services, independently from their dimension. In particular, they chose the most meaningful indicators, those regarding high education, health and transport.

Moreover, the definition of “inner area” is connected with the distance of cities from poles and it includes middle, suburban and extra-suburban areas.

Three aspects of this methodology, related to the previous classification, are to be underlined:

- with reference to the method used for classifying poles, the results obtained through dimensional thresholds (number of people in a particular area, population density, parameters generally used to distinguish urban territories from rural ones) do not catch some local peculiarities unlike the analysis of the specific service supply.

These parameters, by themselves, do not characterize territories as attraction poles and their use could exclude areas where small villages, close together, are however able to offer good services, forming a inter-municipal pole;

- there is a “straining” that leads to include also some chief towns of province in the definition of “pole”, even though they have not the fundamental services (only in Sardinia these towns were expressly eliminated);
- the accessibility indicator is applied without considering provincial or regional administrative boundaries, so poles of other regions or provinces could be included.

Carrying on the analysis, the national classification, obtained in this way, has not acquired a static profile, but it was gradually revised and improved, using updated data and thanks to the meetings among the Committee and Regions. By the way, these discussions have made clear the need to correct indicators, especially the one connected to schools, which was considered more flexible in the classification of 2014.

Comparing the classifications of 2012 and 2014, the variations in provision of services and in methodology had a minimal impact on municipal classifications, even though they totally changed towns. These differences can be better understood in each regional context.

Moreover, we have to underline that Regions had two different attitudes towards the Mapping of Inner Areas:

- they considered one of the two national classifications (2012 or 2014) and used it as a reference point in the selection of areas;
- first of all they studied the basic classification in detail, through a different interpretation of indicators, and then they selected territories.

Thanks to data made available by DPS, we have reproduced the national classifications of 2012 and 2014 and then we have compared them (fig. 1).

Passing from one classification to the other, the flexibility of indicators and the reorganization of health facilities, schools and transport services highlight that the use of data related to the two different periods has not produced substantial

variations for Regions provided with a good service framework.

Some of these Regions are Friuli Venezia Giulia, Valle d'Aosta, Lombardia, Emilia Romagna, Toscana, Piemonte, Veneto, Marche, Umbria, Trentino Alto Adige and Liguria. Instead, Regions with a weaker network of services, because of the lack of public resources, show a considerable data variation and so there is an increased number of municipalities that can be considered as “inner areas”. Among these we find Abruzzo, Calabria, Lazio, Molise.

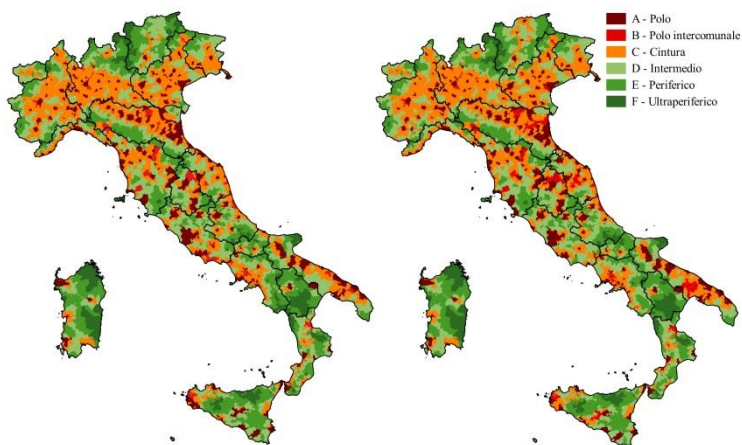


Figure 1 - Classifications of Inner Areas 2012 and 2014.

As for Campania, in the North the loss of inter-municipal poles influences the classification of neighbouring territories, making them inner areas; in the south and South-West, the presence of new poles and peri-urban areas improves the peripheral condition of territories.

Something similar happens in Puglia and Sicilia, where some inter-municipal poles help territories to change their features of inner areas.

As for Basilicata, the comparison points out a singular situation: in fact, in this territory the scenario is unchanged, except for boundary areas that are influenced by nearby Regions.

In particular, in the South-West a decrease of extra-suburban areas is recorded: these have become middle areas because of the influence of Campania.

In the South, on the contrary, there is an increase of extra-suburban areas since Calabria has lost a pole (fig. 2).

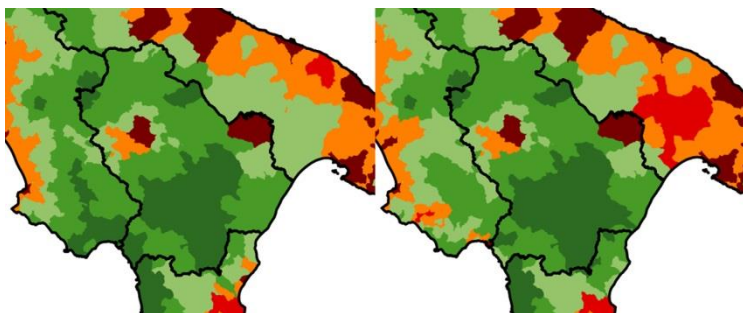


Figure 2 - Basilicata – Inner Areas Classifications 2012 and 2014

The last cases are about Sardinia, Toscana and Umbria. These are the only Italian Regions that have analysed the national classification more thoroughly.

In Sardinia, the NVVIP (Group for Evaluation and Verification of Sardinia's Public Investments) has modified indicators for the identification of poles, especially those related to school and transport, because the previous criteria would lead to exclude territories that serve sub-regional areas.

In particular, these new indicators consider that the presence of schools can be significant if it includes different high schools of the Italian system ("liceo classico", "liceo

scientifico”; at least one among “liceo artistico”, “istituto magistrale”, “istituto d’arte”; five technical and professional schools). Moreover, the transport system is managed by ARST (Regional Transport Service) and not by the presence of a train station. These corrections have allowed a classification closer to Sardinia’s reality, identifying new poles. If this new classification followed the national method, the individuation of new poles would influence only the suburban level of municipalities but, at the macro level, these territories would be placed however in the inner areas of the Region. Instead there is the need to use the regional methodology. A territory is considered more or less peripheral on the basis of its road network, so this regional approach suggests to consider middle areas as peri-urban and, consequently, inner areas become the sum of suburban and extra-suburban ones. For this reason, Sardinia’s scenario looks very differentiated: in the Region you can see a considerable reduction of inner territories which shows the need to contextualize the national approach in order to get a coherent and real idea of each regional context (fig. 3).

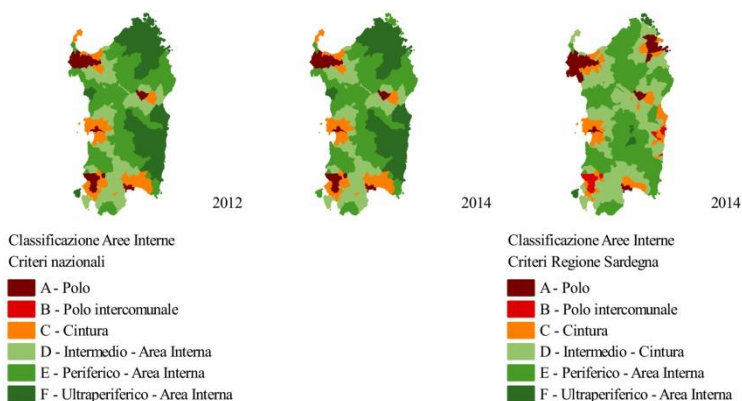


Figure 3 - Sardinia - Classifications of Inner Areas 2012 and 2014.

As for Toscana, the adopted corrective actions towards the national methodology are:

- A more selective individuation of poles. In fact, in this case the mesh of the Urban Morphological Zones has been introduced (UMZ)³. The formation of inter-municipal poles is allowed only among municipalities placed in the same UMZ, because a pole has to be geographically concentrated by definition;
- A better classification of train stations, evaluating the number of daily trains and the quality of routes (speed and frequency), with more attention on Silver stations;
- A more flexible school parameter (it requires the presence of at least two kinds of schools instead of three);
- The range of services includes poles of other Regions in boundary areas.

This kind of selection leads to a considerable reduction of poles and, consequent, to a greater spread of the inner areas (fig. 4).

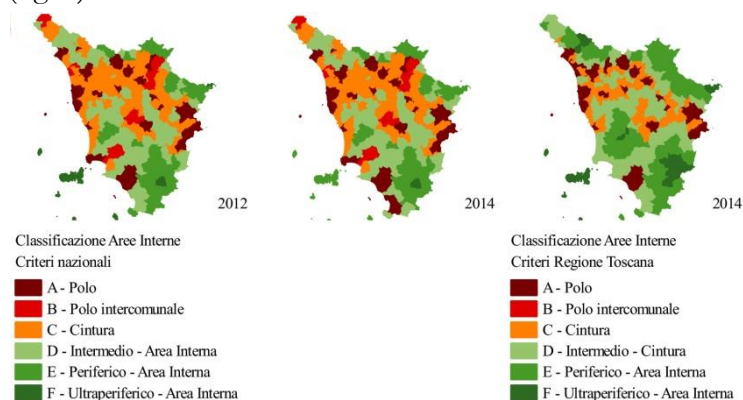


Figure 4 - Toscana – Inner Areas Classifications 2012 and 2014

But the regional study is not exclusively about corrective actions to national classification.

In fact, the regional territory is further interpreted in the light of the strategic goals, through the individuation of “weak territories” and “territories with development potential”.

The first ones are those for which the socio-economic system is very weak and where there is the need to reinforce social cohesion. The second group includes territories where you can find development opportunities not completely exploited that require economic promotion.

As you can see in the work done by IRPET, the criteria used for the definition of weak territories are:

- population density (inhabitants/km²) below the regional average;
- negative demographic change (%) 2011-1971;
- number of people aged 65 and over above the regional average;
- number of “empty” houses above the regional average;
- real estate value (€/m²) below the regional average;
- IRPEF medium income below the regional average;
- employment-to-population ratio below the regional average;
- tourists-residents ratio below the regional average.

The parameter used for determining areas with development potential is the employment-to-population ratio above the regional average. As this parameter excluded some known tourist areas, it was supported by the tourists-residents ratio and by the IMU revenue for II houses, both above the regional average.

Moreover two other categories of areas have been introduced: “residential inner areas”, characterized by a prevalent residential use, and “potential centres”, where you

can find some specific services (hospitals, schools, stations) that make them reference points for neighbouring territories. The goal is to give a territorial interpretation that is strongly strategy-oriented and not only a description.

Finally there are the corrections made by Umbria. This Region has given a new meaning of “inter-municipal pole”, which better reflects regional peculiarities.

While in the national definition an inter-municipal pole is “a group of contiguous municipalities which integrate together the provision of services for population”, the new one confirms this and adds a further distance limit among towns (not more than 30 minutes on average from each other).

So the adopted correction does not change the classification of Umbria’s municipalities except for the North-East area.

After sharing each regional methodology with the DPS-UVAL, regions have to indicate potential territories that could become project areas according to the national strategy.

On the basis of the national mapping and indicators, each region selects some territories; the general criteria used for this selection are:

- Priority of suburban and extra-suburban areas, as well as rural areas of type C (Intermediate Rural Areas) and D (Rural Areas with problematic aspects related to development), considering EAFRD interventions;
- Critical points of demographic, economic, social or environmental indicators and of service quality;
- Interpretation of territorial vocations, of their design capability;
- Communication with Local Administrations and people that provide services and economic and social partnerships.

Combining these elements with the knowledge of the territory makes selections possible.

The previous phase leads to identify about 55 territories of 16 regions and 1 autonomous province, among which only 23 are pilot areas for testing the feasibility of the strategy.

In this context it could be interesting to analyze the specific selection criteria of each region. The identification of territories for local development is not a banality. Tracing a limit helps to organize territory as a place of actions (Raffestein, 1981, Dematteis, Governa, 2005). As Dematteis and Governa argued (2005), the delimitation of a territory, the inclusion or exclusion through a boundary line, is the physical aspect of a project, of the implementation of desired changes and political relations, so it is not a secondary element. The analysis of the choices of each region about proposed territories allows to understand how this delimitation can be improved.

It aims at defining methodology, coherence and the connection with other supra-municipal morphologies that in the last few years involved regional scenarios because of the administrative reform still in progress; this is especially true if you consider that the activation of a suitable management of services derives from the condition of being a project area. Both processes (institutional reorganization and the Strategy for Inner Areas) respond in a different way to a general need of territorial configuration and of governance reform, that is a consequence of the need to make up for past political failures and to meet contemporary economic, social, urban and territorial dynamics in a coherent way (Pontrandolfi, Cartolano, 2013).

Criteria for identifying Project Areas

In this section we present the most important elements for tracing the boundaries of areas in order to understand the procedure that was adopted by each Region.

The analysis, with some alterations, has led to divide regions into three groups, each of them characterized by similar approaches.

The first group of Regions makes the pre-selection of the territories and it is mainly based on the outcomes of the socio-economic analysis and on the calculated indicators.

There are limited references to past experiences or territorial interpretation on a supra-municipal level: they are basically mentioned in a descriptive way, and in just some cases the project areas link together municipalities or mountain communities.

This means that new territorial geographies are generated and they are on purpose for the Strategy, but it is hard to find more detailed parameters than the criteria required at national level.

In this group of Regions we have: Liguria, Lombardia, Sicilia, Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo and Basilicata.

In the second group of Regions, instead, the project areas strongly refer to current processes of institutional reform, to past planning activities or to more general coherence frameworks.

These references are not just declarations of intents, but they have concrete effects also on the physical configuration of the project areas, even if often not in an evident and clear way.

We can take for example Sardegna, Veneto, Piemonte, Friuli, Valle D'Aosta, Molise, Puglia and Campania.

If we get closer, we can observe how the selected areas of the Sardegna Region retraces the boundary line of Union of Municipalities or Comunità Montane (Mountains community), creating continuity with them and not generating, in fact, new supra-municipal geographies.

Something similar happens in Veneto, Piemonte, Valle D'Aosta, where is strong the reference to Union of mountain and not mountains Municipalities established

according to the new institutional reform process started in the three Regions.

However, for Piemonte the project areas not only retrace or include the boundary line of one or more Union of Municipalities, but they also join municipalities not yet included in other form of unions.

As for Valle D'Aosta, despite the boundary line of the intervention areas is mainly in agreement with the effected national and regional analysis, it is important to underline the will to recompose the plurality of the institutions with the aim of fulfil the criteria of association and to identify just one institutional referent.

The Friuli Region, with the regional law 26/2014, instituted The Territorial inter-municipal unions: it means that the Union of Municipalities should fulfil also the functions that belonged to Comunità Montane (Mountain Community).

On February 2015, after the preselection of the project areas, the Piano di Riordino Territoriale (Territorial Reorganisation Plan) was approved, so we can identify 17 aggregations of Municipalities or UTI.

The comparison between these and the selected Inner Areas makes clear how the selected territories, also without a perfect coincidence, aggregate municipalities belonging to just one Territorial inter-municipal union (Unione territoriale intercomunale).

Going on, the Molise Region, for the preselection of the territories, considers the experiences of the territorial planning reached in the previous planning periods, oriented to the development of the environmental resources and to the supply of services among municipalities.

At the methodological level, the regional administration share with the committee the choice of add the Inner areas identified at national level with the reference areas of the territorial plan 2007-2013. Except for one area, the Alto Medio Sannio, the selected areas retrace the boundary line of

the areas that were the subject of the Territorial planning of 2007/2013.

Even for Puglia, the selection is based on the outcomes of the national diagnosis that leads to identify the weakest area of the Region: this is the area of Daunia Mountains, even if it coincides with the Strategic Wide Area of the “Comunità Montana dei Monti Dauni Meridionali” (so it is defined by DGR n° 1072 of 4 July 2007 “Approval of guidelines for territorial strategic planning in wide areas”), except for the municipality of Lucera.

Lastly the Campania Region refers to a more general coherence framework and in particular to the interpretation contained in the Piano Territoriale Regionale (Regional Territorial Plan) L.R. 13/08 where we can identify 45 STS (Sistemi Territoriali di Sviluppo, Territorial development systems) defined as optimal environment for the socio-economic plan of the territories.

Then the proposal of the 4 areas is the result of the intersection between the mapping of Sistemi territoriali di sviluppo (territorial development systems) and the one that belongs to Inner Area Strategy.

As PRT L.R. 13/2008 puts it, “Territorial development systems (STS) are identified on the geography of processes of self-identification of local identity and of self-organization in the development, comparing the “mosaic” of the territorial agreements, of the area contracts (Contratti D’area), of industrial municipalities, of natural parks, of mountain communities (Comunità Montana), and endorsing this geography instead of a geography based on indicators of development dynamics. The identified 45 STS, represent (also taking in account their aggregations and subdivisions) a reference framework for local development politics that concern different sectorial actions that belongs to the Region (agriculture, factory, tourism, transport ...)”. Moreover, these systems are classified as a function of territorial dominants

(naturalistic, rural - cultural, rural-industrial, urban, urban – industrial, landscape – cultural).

The overlapping between this two parameters shows that, beyond the intents, the preselected areas, not always respect the boundary line of the STS with the risk to lose an opportunity of balance the current initiatives.

The last group includes just the Toscana Region because it has carried on a completely different process of preselection from the other Regions. The recognition of the intervention areas, in fact, is based on a public announcement made to collect expression of interest from each territory.

At the base of this announcement there is the classification used at Regional level, giving priority to classified territories as frail suburban and weak extra-suburban.

In fact, the evaluation parameter for the applicants are: the incidence of weak municipalities, the incidence of municipalities classified as Inner area, the incidence in terms of Union of participant municipalities with number of “Inner area” municipalities, in addition to other elements to evaluate the territorial project presented.

An additional element worthy of attention of the Tuscany approach is the distinction between Strategic Area and Project Area (this approach has been also used from Umbria e Valle D’Aosta even if just for some preselected areas and not for the all areas, as in the case of Tuscany).

The Project Area represents the set of municipalities that directly benefit from the interventions, while The Strategy Area includes, not only the project area, but also all the municipalities that want to associate into a strategic alliance with the previous municipalities, even though not directly beneficiary.

The idea of the two levels is justified by functional necessities, with the aim to guarantee a good and coherent reorganization of the services in the territory.

For this reason, the attention to the presence of union of municipalities/fusions in the preselected area shows, on one hand the advanced state of association of the Tuscany municipalities, and on the other hand the importance of the role that these new authorities could play with the goal of the strategy.

Altogether, the brief study shows how selection criteria adopted by Regions cannot be always related to a specific method, and, in many cases, they consider only the description of the national mapping of inner areas.

The double value of project areas is considered in a lot of different ways, as these areas are preferential for the distribution of services and for the implementation of strategies.

The supra-municipal space has again new territorial interpretations, disconnected from the past and, in some cases, from the present too. These is the result of a complicated reasoning that very often has not a coherent framework.

Local development and information and communication technology (ICT)

A relevant opportunity for Local Development and for the space-management/space-design binomial is offered by Information and Communication Technologies; in fact, their introduction and their strengthening questioned geographical and political hierarchies and moreover they generated new jobs and roles (Millard, 2000).

Technological innovation has always been a factor of territorial distinction and of social transformation (Corna Pellegrini, 2000), whose current pervasiveness makes us think about possible effects on the way of living, thinking and planning cities and territories, despite the difficulty to

“translate” socio-spatial effects deriving from technological development (Aru *et al.*, 2014).

The importance of this relation is recognized also in the Strategy of Areas; the spread of ICTs is an essential condition for territorial development, a crucial point for lessening the disadvantages of Inner Areas caused by a reduced accessibility to services and their connections.

This obviously changes also the definition of marginal features for inner areas, that are connected with the distance of a community from the access to basic services.

But this is not the only role of ICTs.

On one side these new technologies promote the birth of new strategic assets for development and on the other side they influence the geographical delimitation of territorial systems, defining boundaries that give a physical dimension to territorial development.

If the individuation of “pertinent territories” for a self-sustaining local development were possible (Dematteis, 2004), where all basic services are guaranteed, the loss of a spatial constraint for some services would completely transform territorial organization and could make criteria used in the identification of territories more flexible.

The elimination of distances through ICTs has a natural consequence: the need to reconsider development strategies and criteria by which we arrive at the identification of pertinent territories.

This is true both if you consider how physical size, catchment areas and ranges of influence of telematic services are defined and if you think about the network of actors, that is “interactions among subjects of a local area in order to achieve common development goals” (Dematteis, 2004).

The influence that ICTs have on the spatiality of services and, consequently, on the strategic interpretation of territories, is a central issue. From a methodological point of view, reflecting on criteria that help to get the geographical

limit of “permanent territories” means to investigate spatial and relational changes caused by an increasingly widespread use of technologies, that starts from some international good practices for the provision of local services in wide areas⁴.

Conclusion

Even if we are aware that a “perfect” territory or an “excellent” dimension for local development do not exist, the idea of “pertinent territories” can be considered shareable, and it has to be devised according to specific interpretations of local milieu (Dematteis, 2004).

A “pertinent territory” is not rigidly determined, but it is the result of a project starting from the idea of territorial aggregation (Dematteis, 2004).

And just this hypothesis has shown the greatest weaknesses of supra-municipal planning actions.

Nowadays the challenge for public administrations is to balance the current initiatives in order to exploit all the opportunities and to identify a territorial dimension that could simplify (*possa semplificare*) the search for coordination and coherence between socio-economic programs and environmental planning (Pontrandolfi, Cartolano, 2014).

With reference to the hypothesis of territorial aggregation that helps to find pertinent territories, the Strategy for Inner Areas provides important operative starting points according to local peculiarities. There is not only one solution.

When people think about possible operative prospects, the attention is immediately focused on Basilicata and the southern Regions in general.

Basilicata’s territory, placed between Tyrrhenian coast and Ionian/Adriatic one, is characterized by two only poles, that

are Potenza and Matera, and their remaining land classified as internal.

Matera is strictly connected with important poles and peri-urban areas of Puglia; instead, the remaining territories in north-south direction, except Potenza and few neighboring municipalities, have continuity with other areas of Puglia, Campania and Calabria.

The criteria which can be used for a possible configuration of pertinent territories cannot ignore gravitational processes already in progress that are totally disjointed from the current administrative limits.

Therefore there should be no administrative constraints in order to understand real territorial dynamics.

A balanced distribution of services for the new territorial configuration should consider the opportunities provided by ICTs; in fact, these technologies could lead to think about territorial morphologies which do not strictly depend on spatial distances and on the physical size of services and so, they could make supra-municipal territory more uniform in terms of range of influence.

After getting the re-balancing of services related to health, job, mobility, education, culture and entertainment, etc., we can start the analysis of territorial vocations and of the main strategic assets.

The division into Strategic Area and Project Area, even for the whole South, could ensure the balance between managed space and designed space.

There is the need to take this path in close cooperation with an institutional re-organization. The goal is to identify tools, management and governing bodies that can be stable and recognizable and that can avoid temporary cooperation linked to a single planning vision.

These are considerations about pertinent territories that should involve especially Basilicata, whose internal dynamics

are strongly influenced by relations outside the regional boundaries.

¹ The nature of “centre for service supply” is reserved only to municipalities, or groups of neighbouring municipalities, offering simultaneously all secondary schools DEA first level hospitals, which provide First Aid, the functions of observation, shorter hospital stays and intensive care, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions of general medicine, general surgery, orthopaedics and traumatology, intensive care of cardiology and laboratory performance; large, medium-large and medium-small train stations (Platinum, Gold and Silver).

² Compared to the poles, inner areas are defined as follows: peri-urban areas (until 20 minutes traveling by car); middle areas (until 40 minutes traveling by car); suburban areas (until 75 minutes traveling by car); extra suburban areas (more than 75 minutes traveling by car).

³ The Urban morphological zones (UMZ) are the result of the study about the land cover through satellite imagery, developed in the CORINE Cover Land project.

⁴ In terms of local telematic services, we refer to the experience of Ardèche Central (Rhône-Alpes region, France), where a platform for local services for school and health has been implemented. Municipalities are project managers, while the coordination is entrusted to a special entity.

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