A STRATEGY FOR ‘INNER AREAS’ IN ITALY

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Italian Technical Group on Inner Areas

Brussels – DG Regio - 10 th October 2013
Introduction

- The greater part of Italian territory is characterized by small towns and villages which often have restricted access to essential services. We define these territories “Inner areas”, that is, areas far away from large and medium-sized urban centers, and from their associated infrastructure;
- Since September 2012 - Italy is developing a National Strategy in favour of Inner Areas with the final 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 ...
- Strong Technical Support (Department for Development Policies, Central Bank; Institute of National Statistics ...)
- Political Agreement Between Ministry of Territorial Cohesion; Agriculture; Health; Transports; School and Labor ...
Robust Territorial definition of these Areas

The first step in the development of the strategy has been the elaboration of criteria to identify territories as ‘Inner areas’.

The methodology was developed from two main concepts:

• 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 far apart;

• the distance from these urban networks affects people’s quality of life, and their sense of social inclusion.
Definition of the methodology - 2

‘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

Inner Areas
<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>219</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>21,223,562</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>29,519</td>
<td>9.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-municipality service center</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>2,466,455</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>6,251</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belt areas</td>
<td>3,508</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>22,202,203</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>81,814</td>
<td>27.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate areas</td>
<td>2,377</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>8,953,282</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>89,448</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote areas</td>
<td>1,526</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>3,671,372</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>73,256</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultra - remote areas</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>916,870</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>21,784</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>8,092</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>59,433,744</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>302,073</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DPS elaboration on Istat – Population Census 2011
Umbria Region
Inner Areas and demographic change 1971-2011
Main features of Inner Areas

Inner areas are characterized by:

- natural resources (forests, protected areas, and agricultural land);
- cultural resources (archeological sites, abbeys, small museums and craft centers).
- “strong heterogeneity” as a result of their specific natural characteristics and peculiar developmental paths.

But.....

- a process of marginalization (since 1950s) which affects:
  - Demographic trends;
  - Natural assets and land use;
  - Human and territorial capital under-utilized ...;
  - Quality and quantity of services supply.
Inner Areas: main features and trends

DEMOGRAPHY
• Remote and Ultra-remote: negative demographic trends since the late 70’s;
• steep increase in the percentage of elderly people;
• Increasing migration flows into these areas.

NATURAL ASSET
• reduction in the percentage of land exploited for agriculture in the last 30 years;
• increasing forest land;
• increasing exposure to landslip and flooding risks.

ECONOMY
• major (but declining) role of primary sector (especially in the South);
• Regional specialization in secondary sector (inner areas of the Northern regions, such as Piedmont, Lombardy or Veneto)
• Regional specialization in third sector (regions close the Alps like Valle d’Aosta or Trentino Alto Adige and regions such as Campania or Calabria)
• Stronger fragility of productive structure
Inner Areas - Percentage change in population 1971 - 2011

Centers: +11,6%
Inner Areas: +4,2%
Remote areas: -8,1%
Ultra-remote areas: -5,3%


### Percentage change in population 1971 - 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Single–municipality service center</th>
<th>Multi–municipality service center</th>
<th>Belt Areas</th>
<th>Intermediate Areas</th>
<th>Remote Areas</th>
<th>Ultra remote Areas</th>
<th>Totale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont</td>
<td>-18,0</td>
<td>19,3</td>
<td>18,5</td>
<td>-2,5</td>
<td>-27,6</td>
<td>-41,0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valle d’Aosta</td>
<td>-7,6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>46,3</td>
<td>7,0</td>
<td>18,1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lombardy</td>
<td>-17,1</td>
<td>10,3</td>
<td>39,4</td>
<td>8,2</td>
<td>4,5</td>
<td>-1,4</td>
<td>13,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trentino Alto Adige</td>
<td>9,7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>42,4</td>
<td>24,3</td>
<td>15,9</td>
<td>13,9</td>
<td>22,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veneto</td>
<td>7,7</td>
<td>31,2</td>
<td>38,6</td>
<td>15,9</td>
<td>11,3</td>
<td>33,3</td>
<td>17,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friuli Venezia Giulia</td>
<td>-13,7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19,4</td>
<td>5,0</td>
<td>-35,5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0,4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liguria</td>
<td>-24,9</td>
<td>-5,8</td>
<td>4,3</td>
<td>1,0</td>
<td>-41,4</td>
<td>-34,3</td>
<td>-15,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilia Romagna</td>
<td>-0,2</td>
<td>24,5</td>
<td>35,5</td>
<td>14,9</td>
<td>-8,5</td>
<td>-52,0</td>
<td>12,4</td>
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<td>Tuscany</td>
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<td>15,6</td>
<td>24,0</td>
<td>1,0</td>
<td>-15,6</td>
<td>6,6</td>
<td>5,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umbria</td>
<td>13,3</td>
<td>9,5</td>
<td>32,1</td>
<td>7,9</td>
<td>5,2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marche</td>
<td>5,9</td>
<td>15,2</td>
<td>37,0</td>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>-7,5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lazio</td>
<td>-1,0</td>
<td>36,2</td>
<td>67,7</td>
<td>59,1</td>
<td>11,2</td>
<td>-27,4</td>
<td>17,3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abruzzo</td>
<td>6,9</td>
<td>42,5</td>
<td>42,5</td>
<td>2,5</td>
<td>-23,9</td>
<td>-42,8</td>
<td>12,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molise</td>
<td>44,8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,1</td>
<td>18,3</td>
<td>-34,7</td>
<td>-46,9</td>
<td>-1,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campania</td>
<td>-10,6</td>
<td>38,3</td>
<td>45,0</td>
<td>3,7</td>
<td>-16,6</td>
<td>10,5</td>
<td>14,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apulia</td>
<td>3,1</td>
<td>15,3</td>
<td>26,7</td>
<td>17,0</td>
<td>-1,5</td>
<td>-9,5</td>
<td>13,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basilicata</td>
<td>25,2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>57,6</td>
<td>1,9</td>
<td>-10,1</td>
<td>-22,1</td>
<td>-4,2</td>
</tr>
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<td>Calabria</td>
<td>2,5</td>
<td>8,6</td>
<td>17,2</td>
<td>1,7</td>
<td>-18,2</td>
<td>-10,6</td>
<td>-1,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicily</td>
<td>-2,7</td>
<td>5,6</td>
<td>63,0</td>
<td>7,4</td>
<td>-8,1</td>
<td>-21,1</td>
<td>6,9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sardinia</td>
<td>-10,9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81,5</td>
<td>11,3</td>
<td>-4,5</td>
<td>13,9</td>
<td>11,3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Italy                         | -6,8                              | 22,7                              | 35,8       | 11,6              | -8,1         | -5,3               | 10,0   |

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
Italia – Share of foreign resident population on total population 2011

Fonte: ISTAT – Censimento della popolazione 2001 e 2011

INNER AREAS
- Poli urbani, poli intercomunali e cintura

CENTERS
- Aree intermedie, periferiche e ultra-periferiche

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aree</th>
<th>Quota 2001</th>
<th>Quota 2011</th>
<th>Rapporto quote 2011 su 2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centri</td>
<td>2,5%</td>
<td>7,2%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aree Interne</td>
<td>1,8%</td>
<td>5,4%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALIA</td>
<td>2,3%</td>
<td>6,8%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Italy – Risk of landslip - Population exposed to risk

INNER AREAS
- Service centers and belt areas

SERVICE CENTERS AND BELT AREAS
- Inner Areas

Fonte: ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Protection and Research)
Italy – Tourism specialization (Hotels and restaurants) – 2009

Specialization index per municipality with at least 150 employees

Source: ISTAT – ASIA (Statistical register of active enterprises) 2009
# Access to school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of school</th>
<th>% of municipalities with at least one school</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centers</td>
<td>Inner areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DPS elaborations on Ministry of Instruction data – school years 2010-2011
A Strategy for Italian Inner Areas

The Department of Development and Economic Cohesion is working on the final draft of a National Strategy for the development of Inner areas within the Country.

Aims of the strategy:

- reallocate Inner areas in a strategic position for the Country, the Regions, the Municipalities
- set up a set of interconnected projects focused on few selected priority fields of intervention and linked with the ordinary policy (supply of services).
Targets of the Strategy

local targets
• improving wealth and well-being of the population;
• restoring vitality of local communities

national targets
• population growth/stability and increase in occupation;
• definition of new functions for under-utilised human, natural and economic resources;
• reduction in social costs linked to population dynamics.

Ultimate goal of the strategy: reinforcement of the demographic structure of Inner Areas.
Development Factors

• the strategy will focus on Specific Factors with great potential for socio–economic growth in Inner areas.

• Strategic projects will concentrate on a limited number of fields (development factors):

  ➢ land management and forests;
  ➢ local food products;
  ➢ renewable energy;
  ➢ natural and cultural heritage.
  ➢ traditional handicraft and SMEs (*Saperi Locali*)
Implementation of the Strategy (1)

Key steps:

• **Strategic Approach**
  - opening of a National Committee with strategic analysis charges;
  - negotiation with regions and establishment of a common operative framework;
  - Signature of the Partnership Agreement with the Commission and high level commitment from key Ministries and President of the Regions;
  - Organization of a **Platform** to put projects in a Net-Work.
Implementation of the Strategy (2)

• **Project Approach**
  Selected projects need to have a number of specific characteristics:
  - create new employment through action on at least two of the selected development factors;
  - strong participation of the local Community;
  - constant monitoring and evaluation process on pre-established results;
  - strong “Assistance”;
  - action on both development factors and improvement of basic services.

• **Pre-Conditions:**
  - Central Ministries engage in improving services (health; School; Local Transport);
  - Municipalities do Associate (Unions; Consortiums; etc).
Governance of Area projects

Area = Framework Programme Agreement

Ministries; Regions; Provinces; Municipalities and/or Municipalities Associations

Promotion and joint planning of Area projects
Projects and interventions appraisal and selection
Projects funding and financial management
Final remarks

The Strategy recognizes heterogeneity of Inner Areas, but also their common features and trends that makes necessary a common national policy – with a complex multilevel governance-, from the very North to the South of the Country.

The future of the strategy will be strictly linked to:

- the political commitment, both at national and regional level;
- the capacity to find out simple and transparent operational solutions;
- the clear set up of measurable results;
- shared approach (the Federation);
- involvement of local Authorities and Communities.
Thank you for your attention

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