



**Datar**



## **COESIONET**

**RESEAU D'ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES SUR LA COHESION ET LES TERRITOIRES EN EUROPE**

**Workshop synthesis  
November 30, 2012  
14h00 – 16h00**

### **The South of Italy: questions about the cohesion**

#### **1. European cohesion policy and economic crisis: impacts on the South of Italy – Stefano Prezioso, Senior Research, SVIMEZ**

In its latest report on the South of Italy, the SVIMEZ points out the persisting gap between the North and the South of Italy. The South of Italy is composed of 8 regions representing 40% of the population but only 29% of the Italian GDP. It has experienced a negative evolution for the past years. One main issue is the situation of unemployment of the young people and the women: the South doesn't manage to create jobs for them.

Whereas the gap between the North and the South of Italy is a long standing factor, it has been worsened over the past years. According to the "AK model", the indicator linking productivity and work has decreased dramatically in the South in the middle of the 90s: it decreased from 0.82 in 1995 to 0.47 in 1996. Many reasons explain this evolution:

- the cohesion policy stops intervening in 1995, the extraordinary support stops in 1997,
- the end of the State intervention coincide with a loss of investment capacity in this region,
- the other shock was created by the introduction of the Euro in 2001 which did no longer allow to use the devaluation system to boost the exports. It generated negative impacts on peripheral regions,
- lack of entrepreneurship enabling to develop innovative products and to tap new foreign markets: this type of companies is located in the North not in the South.

All these factors resulted in the fact that the South remains at the same level of development as in 1995 increasing the gap between the North and the South. For the population of the South the alternative to this difficult economic and social situation is emigration. Over 100,000 persons emigrate to the North, among whom 40% are graduate people, and over 140,000 persons are residents in the South but work elsewhere. This is a massive phenomenon. The emigration wave could be compared to the processes experienced by Italy after World War II.



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### *Discussion*

- *What kind of economy did the structural funds generate?*
- *Is there any strategy of diversification?*
- *How is the use of public subsidies regulated?*
- *What is the role of labour market policies?*
- *Does the closure of steel factories lead to a debate about the alternatives of development?*

## **2. Integrated Urban Projects in Campania – Elodie Manceau, Associate Research Fellow, UMR Géographies-Cités**

The Integrated Urban Projects represent a new territorial programming tool for regenerating urban areas. It allows to re-think the “urban fact” in the implementation process of cohesion policy. Campania is a good laboratory of observation of the first urban integration projects of the European Union. The aim is to reduce the intra-regional and infra-regional disparities. Napoli represents a urban metropolis facing many socio-economic difficulties. This is a persisting problem. It is part of the Convergence regions and has been suffering from many failures: the waste management crisis, the industrial crises and the level of criminality. The fact that it is going through a de-industrialisation process led the region to implement several Integrated Urban Projects aiming at regenerating the city and the region using the local resources. But despite the intervention of structural funds, the spatial planning policies haven't changed over the years. The cleavages between the North and the South, between the coast and the inland, between the urban and the rural areas are still important.

Therefore the question of the efficiency of these projects is raised. We don't have much distance to evaluate these projects since they were launched in 2007. But we can note that there is a problem in the implementation: the number of implemented projects compared to the projects initially planned is very low. And they are suffering from the global crisis and the impacts it had on the Italian public finances. Out of a budget of 1.5 billion euros, 5.2% have been spent and 1.5% certified by the Commission. This is explained by a difficult governance which tries to link vertical and horizontal governance resulting in delays.

### *Discussion*

- *What is the place of housing in these projects?*
- *Using a European policy doesn't mean harmonisation of the territory: don't we need rather a regional coherence?*
- *Are the tools used really adapted to the specific situation of the South?*
- *Is the administrative staff qualified to manage the structural funds?*
- *What is the impact of the recentralisation of the cohesion policy?*
- *Isn't there a problem of confidence in the State, in the politics?*
- *What is the link between the “formal and informal” Italy?*
- *Does the political “colour” of the region play a role?*
- *What would be the virtuous circle to be developed?*
- *Isn't there a lack of territorial capacity to implement national policies or to develop their own policy?*
- *What are the rules of the game between public and private actors?*

