



Urbanistica n. 130

May-August 2006

Distribution by www.planum.net

Paolo Avarello

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edited by Marco Cremaschi

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edited by Maurizio Marcelloni

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Tuscany

Massimo Bressan, Armando Dei, David Fanfani

Since the early 70s, through the contributions of Becattini and the IRPET (Tuscan Regional Institute for Economic Planning), the debate on the territorial forms of local development in Tuscany has revealed a plurality of models of relation between society and economy. The policies adopted by the regional administration reflect this territorial diversity.

The analysis of the most recent experiences of urban and territorial policies highlights the substantial absence of an overall picture of strategically coherent action capable of directing local planning in a single direction. This circumstance, combined with the proliferation of operational instruments produced by the regional, local and national structures operating in the sphere of the so-called complex programmes, has led to the differentiated capacity of governance of the administrative structures resulting in an extremely heterogeneous panorama of local development.

The most significant experience, on which the analysis has been focused, concerns the implementation of the Objective 2 SPD, which represents an interesting example of public action, in terms both of the considerable financial resources (approximately 1,232 million Euro) and the extent of the territory involved: 82% of the regional territory, involving over 1.8 million inhabitants, that is, 52.4% of the regional population.

In relation to territorial distribution, the public spending of the SPD features a considerable concentration: approximately two-thirds of the overall spending (regarding the first four

years of implementation) is localised in 15 LLS (of the 53 overall recorded by ISTAT in the entire regional territory) which have received a public contribution of over 15 million Euro.

The SPD spending has been characterised above all by actions aimed at boosting the competitiveness of the local production systems (56.1% of the expenditure).

Approximately one third of the spending (35.3%) is linked to actions aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the territories. Only 9% of the expenditure is due to actions aimed at innovation; by far, the greatest part is accounted for by recourse to incentives aimed at the enterprises. Much less weight is attributed to the actions aimed at achieving public assets, both generic and specific.

The *expenditure for innovation* assumes marked importance in the local systems of Florence, and particularly of Prato: these two LLS together focus 60% of the regional spending on 'advantages for innovation'. The analysis carried out allows us to confirm that, on the themes of local development the 2000-06 programming cycle of the structural funds represented for Tuscany an opportunity to focalise the design capacity of the local and private bodies on local development objectives and on complex tools for the management of public action.

40% of the public spending is concentrated solely in the LLS of Florence, Prato, Livorno, Pisa and Massa Carrara. Within the 'urban' LLS the operations are on average more concentrated in the central municipality (especially in the cases of Prato and Livorno), in comparison to what takes place in the other LLS. If we add to these 5 LLS those which have at least 50,000 inhabitants we reach no

less than 60% of the public spending.

The next programming period of the ERDF will feature a greater attention on the urban dimension; the new regulation of the structural funds speaks of urban regeneration, calling up the *positive aspects* of the Urban experience and delineates forms of programming integrated between management authorities at regional level and urban authorities, delegated to the implementation of the actions.

In this sense the experience conducted in Tuscany highlights the fact that there is room for a greater involvement of the local authorities in the management of the territorial policies: the quantity of the infrastructural actions and the considerable mobilisation of private entities have been intercepted by the economic programming and by the town planning, generating experiences which can be further integrated in the future regional programming.