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The image of the urban planning

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The settlement system

Gabriele Comacchio, Paola Loglisci

The overall framework of the settlement model of the Metropolitan Scheme of the Siena area is characterized by its subdivision into urban areas of various size and by a more marked presence of these forms of agglomeration both to the north-west and to the south of the Municipality of Siena. The survey aimed at studying in-depth the characteristics of each urban areas in relation to the morphology, its location in municipal territory, the logistics opportunities and the presence or otherwise of production, distribution and service companies. The work of analysis and interpretation carried out has been summarized in the *Catalogue of forms of settlement in the Siena area*, which made a classification subdivided into various typologies, drawing a distinction among: *dynamic urban areas*, where the recent phases of the urbanization process reflect the trend towards an accentuation of settlement dynamics; *urban areas in stagnation*, where the incidence of the historical assets are decisive and the stand-still of urban growth seems ascribable to the presence of inadequate conditions of accessibility; *'parasite' urban areas* which, being located in the belt, exploit the supply of jobs and the provision of the main urban services; *urban filaments*, whose building growth has taken place mainly in linear fashion, i.e. using the main road network as its reference settlement matrix; *nodal-type settlements*, whose development has been favoured by the presence of a complex infrastructural system; *isolated urban areas*, where the difficult access to the main infrastructural system has stopped the urban

growth; *industrial units*, where the urbanization process has recently fostered a sharp divide with the residential areas. These analyses have shown that from a settlement system consisting of a historically consolidated central nucleus and a built area spread over the whole territory linked to agricultural activities, there has been a passage to a relative concentration of settlement patterns in the northern sector of the Municipality. Through the effect of the policies promoted by earlier town-planning instruments, the main expansions have thus concerned the direction between the most densely urbanized area and the northern boundary of the Municipality, while more modest but in any case significant initiatives have led both to the growth of the existing urban areas and to the formation of new ones.