



Urbanistica n. 137
 September-December 2008
 Distribution by www.planum.net

Paolo Avarello An ocean of houses

Problems, policies, and research

edited by Mariavaleria Mininni The planning for the landscape
Alberto Clementi Landscape. Betrayal, innovation
Pierre Donadieu Landscape studies in Europe: a difficult harmonization
Mariavaleria Mininni A culture for the landscape
Arturo Lanzani Between two shores, looking for a land in between
Pier Carlo Palermo Dilemmas and divisions in the landscape culture. Disciplinary consequences

Projects and implementation

edited by Paolo Galuzzi The structural plan of Reggio Emilia
Graziano Delrio The Municipal structural plan (Psc) of Reggio Emilia and the challenges of a new citizenship
Ugo Ferrari For a city of person
Maria Sergio The stages of the process
Giuseppe Campos Venuti The reformist strategy of Reggio Emilia
Giuseppe Campos Venuti A revolution in drawing up the plan
Rudi Fallaci A new instrument for new policies
Maria Sergio Services plan: the experience of the municipality of Reggio Emilia
Giuseppe Campos Venuti Town planning equalization
Rudi Fallaci 'Rue', the crucial instrument for urban quality
Maria Sergio, Elisa Iori Environment and ecological network
Oriol Bohigas A new planning hopei

edited by Giuseppe Scaglione Calabria in transformation: to project the future governing the present
Michelangelo Tripodi A new season for town planning in Calabria
Maria Grazia Buffon Guidelines of regional planning in Calabria
Rosaria Amantea Competitiveness and attractiveness of Calabrian territorial systems
Alberto Ziparo Substantive landscape and territorial sustainability
Giuseppe Fera Structural planning in Calabria: some reflections
Giuseppe Scaglione Snapshot: light versus shadows
Alberto Clementi Between strategies for the territory and regional plans

Profiles and practices

Luca Fondacci The future is dependent on the offering of the projects

Competitiveness and attractiveness of Calabrian territorial systems

Rosaria Amantea

The original documents on the evolution of European development policies show the Community's commitment to strengthen the 'territorial' approach, based on the role of the city, considered "one of the main propellants of economic development and of productive, social and cultural innovation, to the point of becoming the priority in development policies". A renewed urban-rural relation, the improvement of natural systems and of cultural and local identities, safeguarding environmental assets, equal opportunities of access to infrastructures and to know-how, are recurrent objectives in Community documents.

Interpreting this assumption, the National strategic framework (Qsn) defines priority projects as ones that enable towns to provide high-quality services. In this context the Regional operative program (Por) is an important factor in defining priority choices of territorial development, but also for starting up the process of bringing territorial planning and multi-level economic programming closer together, something that is ever more decisive for the success of development policies.

In Calabria, it is possible to carry out development policies for areas and urban functions, if the regional urban framework is viewed as an articulated complex system, to be promoted, upgraded and strengthened with investments in keeping with the urban and landscape dimension, territorial policies, development strategies and upgrading and improvement processes.

The territorial approach in the new programming

In the new programming, cohesion policies assume a territorial dimension as a basic reference in pursuing a number of strategic objectives:

- increasing welfare levels and quality of life;
- guaranteeing a widespread distribution of the services and favouring access to technological networks;
- contributing towards strengthening the competitive advantages of local systems, guaranteeing better accessibility.

The development prospects of Community programming strongly stress territorial cohesion, which is therefore the most general concept of sustainable development. The fundamental aspects on which this centrality is based may be summed up as follows:

- territorial quality;
- territorial efficiency, as optimization of the use of natural resources;
- territorial identity, as a 'sense of belonging', based on shared visions of local development prospects able to maintain specific local productions and vocations through time.

In the light of these considerations it is clear that, in constructing strategic lines, and defining implementation priorities, it is important to group together projects that improve the city-territory-environment system as a reference area for defining development strategies and dimensions of territorial governance policies.

Priority lines of intervention for competitiveness

The Por 2006-2013 foresees specific actions to upgrade and improve urban systems and those of the territory and the landscape. The unitary regional strategic document for programming states that the improvement of urban settlements and of the territorial system goes by

way of actions that show clearly:

- what new role it is wished to confer to the cities system;
- with what resources it is intended to create the 'platform' necessary to integrate the city networks in a competitive economic circuit;
- what policies must be adopted to define the processes of specialization;
- what strategies and resources it is intended to adopt to guarantee effective actions of rehabilitation and improvement of urban areas.

To sum up, the aims of the new programming are based on the following areas of intervention:

- strengthening the process of renewing what already exists, considered priority in the definition of future urban patterns;
- upgrading and improving the diversity/identity of the cities and of their networks;
- upgrading and improving the 'landscape' as a resource.

Only 5 of the 409 municipalities in Calabria have more than 50,000 inhabitants. It is therefore a region with insufficient urban concentrations. The region's particular physical-morphological configuration (only 9% plainland), and the complex historical factors that have formed this pattern, have given rise to:

- lack of a network of 'central localities';
- a low level of concentration and structuring of higher-rank activities and functions;
- low urban quality;
- an insufficient system of urban social services;
- dissipation of environmental and territorial capital;
- erosion of the landscape and the environmental heritage;
- generalized decline of public spaces.

In view of the above, it emerges clearly that it is necessary to strengthen the development of a network

system of Calabrian centres, based mainly on the development of specific themes.

In this direction, it is strategically necessary to act on the minor centres, which must be urged to form coalitions, to construct projects that promote relational networks, through the principle of integration.

Conclusions

The Calabrian region intends to start up a process of territorial governance, interpreting the strategic guidelines developed at European and national level, summed up by the following cardinal points:

- sustaining development;
- increasing and strengthening; recourse to participated programming and building up social and territorial cohesion;
- narrowing the infra/intra territorial and urban gap).

* Cf. 'Cohesion Policy', working document of the European commission, Brussels, 23/11/05.