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The assessment of territorial contexts and the landscape analysis

Stefania Caiazzo

In keeping with the principles of the European convention and the Code of the cultural and landscape heritage, the meaning of landscape as a complex heritage of identity resources, as adopted by the Province territorial plan (Ptcp) of Naples, has inevitably presented the idea that landscape adopts a central reference and cross-connection role between the various research contributions and different disciplinary perspectives.

The concept of landscape, both as a structured and complex result of all the interactions between installed communities, and the places and activities that occurred during the historical process of the area's construction, and also an identity heritage of populations that have a clear perception of it, has stimulated an innovative setting for research, in terms of both content and interdisciplinary connections.

Research on landscape has therefore assumed a key role as a tool for exploration and selection: since the goal is not to recognise the integrity and relevance level of the landscape values in order to define a hierarchy of restrictions, but rather to fully understand the different landscape settings, recognise their specific characters, resources, criticality, and potential, even as they are perceived and considered by installed communities; the research will act as an instrument of recognition and selection of landscape values to guide the implementation of the most appropriate strategies for 'landscape preservation, management and/or planning'.

Faced with a complex and strongly differentiated

territory in terms of landscape quality, such as the province of Naples in the Ptcp, the research is geared towards in-depth understanding of the different spatial dynamics and observing and interpreting the different way in which, throughout the historical land planning process, local resources have been variously intertwined and combined to configure areas, at different scales, with very different identity values.

In this sense, what has taken on particular importance is the structural interpretation of the area, through which on the basis of interdisciplinary assessments have been selected the characteristics with particular stability and tenure, for which fundamental roles in environmental processes and unifying concepts from a landscape point of view have been recognised.

Within the structural framework, characterising factors are also recognised as further elements and relations that, while not relevant on a provincial level, are critical to fully understanding the complexity and historical natural heritage and landscape of the Neapolitan province.

The recognition of characterising and structural factors has also been essential for outlining the local settlement environments (Ail) which, in accordance with the Regional articulation of landscapes scheme provided by the Regional spatial plan, proposes the division of the province into 22 partitions, in many cases partially overlapping, and in others established by contexts involving other Campania provinces. Each local settlement environment is in turn formed by certain identity landscape areas that, in line with the European convention, correspond to the portion of land that the

settled community will acknowledge.