A STRATEGY FOR “INNER AREAS” IN ITALY
Fostering growth through Inner Areas development

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OECD Rural Conference, Ireland 2022
The 2014-2020 ITALIAN INNER AREAS PILOT ACTION

The Italian territory is characterized by:

- A dense and varied network of urban centers which offer a wide range of essential services like healthcare, education, and transport. These centers represent a 'point of convergence' for people living in remote areas;

- The distance from these urban networks affects people’s quality of life preventing them to benefit of these essential services and fostering their sense of social inclusion;

- Relations between urban and rural centers are context dependent and may vary substantially standing to the area considered.

Italy suffers from a serious rural-urban divide. With a paradox:
Rural Areas area extremely diversified & they do represent and important potential in terms of both Social and Economic Growth.
Methodology to identify Inner Areas

“Service Centres” have been defined as the municipalities offering:

- a complete secondary study cycle;
- at least a 1st level **DEA (highly specialised) hospital**;
- at least a "Silver-type" railway station (**RFI**).

**NO DEMOGRAPHIC CRITERIA HAVE BEEN APPLIED**

Areas have been mapped according to the distance (travel time) from the “Service Centres” as:

- **"Belt" areas** – up to 27,7 minutes;
- **"Intermediate" areas** – from 27,7 to 40,9 minutes;
- **"Remote" areas** – from 40,9 to 66,9 minutes;
- **"Ultra–remote" areas** – over 66,9 minutes.
QUI VANNO INSERITE LE NUOVE SOGLIE
salucatelli, 9/15/2022
This map was updated in February 2022, with a more precise measure of accessibility and better interpretation of intermediate areas....
Inner Areas Strategy INNOVATION

5 main innovations

- National dimension and multilevel governance (Centres – Regions – municipalities and inter municipalities cooperation)

- In the project areas - at the same time - services improvements (mainly through national policy) and investments in selected development factors (energy; agriculture; crafts; cultural heritage; regional policy)

- Multi-fund attitude (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF and National Funds)

- Participatory approach to local development

- Municipalities Associations and Mayors attention to “Policy Results” (accountability)

Ultimate Goal:
Reinforce Selected Areas Demographic Structure

LOCAL STRATEGIES IN FAVOR OF 72 SELECTED INTER MUNICIPAL AREAS
## Health Indicators, Pre Covid Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aree progetto</th>
<th>Aree interne (totali)</th>
<th>Italia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average distance from closer Pole</td>
<td>47,5</td>
<td>42,3</td>
<td>28,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time between call and arrival of emergency</td>
<td>25,0</td>
<td>23,0</td>
<td>16,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inappropriate HOSPITALISATION rate</td>
<td>688,8</td>
<td>617,3</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nr of specialised checks per 1000 residents</td>
<td>2.168</td>
<td>2.430</td>
<td>4.223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Elaborazione del Comitato Tecnico Aree Interne su dati MdS, Pcm*
Hospitalisation and Selected Areas

- On average, selected areas record higher avoidable hospitalisation rates compared to national rates.

- No correlation between avoidable hospitalisation and distance from Centres (there is a space for better services organisation).

- Policies do matter!
The Focus Group is organised by the Committee on Inner Areas in collaboration with Regions and local territories. On average it lasts 3 hours, scheduled as follows:

**4 sessions:** local development, healthcare services, education, transport services;

**16 speakers:** 3 local actors + 1 expert from relevant ministry each session.

A typical *session, focused on local healthcare system*:

- 1 speaker from the Ministry of Healthcare – Directorate General health services
- 1 chief medical officer, representing local healthcare system
- 1 Social Care Supply Worker
- 1 NGO or ONLUS member or chief

*Discussing and analysing the OPEN KIT data on healthcare local services*

**STRATEGIES DESOIGN THROUGH CO-PROJECTING METHODS**
A new Idea of Administration ....

Instead of Boring Big Front Meetings,
going to Territories! Co –projecting with
Approved Strategies per sector and Source of Financing

- Healthcare
- School
- Transports
- Job and Training
- Nature, Culture and Tourism
- Environmental protection
- Agriculture and animal husbandry
- Efficiency and transparency of PA
- Forests
- Energy
- Businesses
- Information and Communication...

- Stability Law
- Private Funds
- Other Public Funds
- FEAMP
- FEASR
- FSE
- FESR
Healthcare sector

- Increase/Enhancement of care services and healthcare and social service infrastructure.
- Increase health prevention and access to care (through telemedicine; early screening, health education, etc.)
- Increase transport organisation and efficiency that influence access to healthcare services
- Reduce inappropriate hospitalizations (children's asthma; diabetes; circulatory disease; etc.) through integrated home care and home care services
## How do we monitor results?

### – an example –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result Indicators to measure healthcare improvements</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the time (in minutes) between the beginning of the emergency call made and the arrival of the first aid vehicle</td>
<td>Increase transport organisation and efficiency that influence access to healthcare services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage increase in population aged 65 and over treated via Integrated Home Care (ADI) services</td>
<td>Promote social inclusion, fight against poverty and all forms of discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase specialist outpatient services provided per 1,000 residents</td>
<td>Increase/Enhancement of care services and healthcare and social service infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### THE BASSO SANGRO TRIGNO CASE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project area</th>
<th>Abruzzo Inner Areas</th>
<th>Italy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of municipalities</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 2011</td>
<td>22,568</td>
<td>484,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 2016</td>
<td>21,289</td>
<td>479,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop. var % 2016-2011</td>
<td>-5.7</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop. var % 2011-2001</td>
<td>-13.7</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop. var % 2011-1971</td>
<td>-43.8</td>
<td>-4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expected outcomes</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement of students' skills, security and usability of school institutes, territorial school activities, and improvement of didactics.</td>
<td>Creation of a single poly-functional centralised school institute in Celenza sul Trigno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement of infrastructure network and of provision of territorial healthcare and social services.</td>
<td>Community Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New emergency service locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fragility nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement of the transport system for the elderly, students and workers.</td>
<td>Social-aim transport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do we monitor results?

—an example—

Result Indicators to measure healthcare improvements:

- Reduce the time (in minutes) between the start of the emergency telephone call made and first aid vehicle’s arrival at the site
- Percentage increase in population aged 65 and over treated via Integrated Home Care (ADI) services
- Increase specialist outpatient services provided per 1,000 residents

Actions:

- Increase transport organisation and efficiency that influence inhabitants’ access to healthcare services
- Promote social inclusion, fight against poverty and all forms of discrimination
- Increase/Enhancement of care services and healthcare and social service infrastructure.

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What are the main actions proposed by the territories?

- The experimentation of assistance that goes beyond the central role of the hospital through:
  - Organizational models of primary care and facilitation of continuity between hospital and territory:
    - Integrated home care
    - Community nurse and community midwife
    - Pharmacies that provide hospital-related services
    - Health points
    - Patient empowerment
  - Telemedicine, remote assistance
  - Improvement of the organization of the emergency network and transports to reduce the time of access to healthcare services
  - Integration between the social and health sectors
All the 72 selected Italian Inners Areas have built up their Strategies to reverse their demographic and socio-economic decline. 66 have signed the agreement, more than 1 billion has been allocated ..... 

They are strongly working on Improvement of Health Services 

Important Both Horizontal and Vertical Coordination (between different Ministries and between Health Ministry, Regions and Mayors 

Innovation has been lessend by Buricaric Ostacles 

Projects and Innovative Solutions important in areas with organised communities and good administration 

Need to adapt legislation to different local areas needs
Oltrepò Pavese Area: A working group in action to define mobility outcomes
OpenCoesione is the open government initiative on cohesion policy in Italy

The portal provides access to information about projects:

- Description, Funding (amount and sources), Locations and Thematic areas, Implementation timing

- 100+ variables for each project in open data section (CSV)

Everyone can therefore assess how resources are being used to meet the needs of the territories involved

The section dedicated to the projects included in the Strategy for Inner Areas is about to be published
THANK YOU!

Sa.lucatelli@palazzochigi.it – PCM DPCoe Nuvap
LOCAL INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

71 areas
Updated in November 2021

TYPOLOGY

- Mountain community: 18%
- Mountain community and public contract of municipalities: 4%
- Public contract among administration units: 6%
- Public contract among administration unit and mountain communities: 9%
- Public contract among municipalities: 44%
- Administration Unit and Public contract among municipalities: 18%
- Existing administration Unit of municipalities: 1%