

2nd International Symposium "NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES" - Strategic planning, spatial planning, economic programs and decision support tools, through the implementation of Horizon /Europe2020. ISTH2020, Reggio Calabria (Italy), 18-20 May 2016

EU Cohesion-Policies and Metropolitan Areas

Gianfranca Pagano^a, Salvatore Losco^{b,*}

^a *Design and Innovation DiCDEA - Second University of Naples, Aversa, Italy*

^b *Urban and Regional Planning, DiCDEA - Second University of Naples, Aversa, Italy*

Abstract

The European Union has allocated a considerable part of cohesion-policies funds to urban development, recognising urban areas as key-components for social and economic development. They represent at the same time the engine of economy and the social unrest - such as poverty, unemployment and exclusion - the environmental concerns - such as pollution, resource management, urban planning to the maximum extent. Hence there is the need of a sustainable, functional and flexible urban approach to the development, which can meet the different local needs, overcoming metric definitions to classify the manifold connotations of urban agglomerations, characterized by a close network of formal, informal, concrete and virtual relations extending beyond geographic and administrative boundaries to reach an easy territorial management according to the principle of a variable geometry. Only taking up the challenge of an integrated approach, in order to realize a smart sustainable and inclusive society, the European urban network can become a catalyst of innovation and creativity. The Metropolitan City plays a primary role in terms of attractiveness and allocation of resources for development. It can also be a suitable reference framework for the economic recovery with the aim of defining and address the development in relation to the typical features in order to make it competitive both at national and international level.

© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of the organizing committee of ISTH2020

Keywords: European Union; cohesion-policy; urban redevelopment; metropolitan planning; place-based integrated planning

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +0815010390; Fax: +0815037370.

E-mail address: salvatore.losco@unina2.it

1. European policies and Metropolitan Areas

The subject of metropolitan areas and their organization is seriously considered at European level, and among the many studies, it is worthwhile quoting the document of the European Commission of 2011 *Cities of Tomorrow*.

In it the strategic importance of an administrative reorganization is stressed with a view to a competitive relaunch both of economy and social life. Within the cohesion-policy, urban areas are acknowledged as key-components for social and economic development of the Union. With the Single European Act of 1987, the EU has started a social and economic cohesion-policy with the aim of overcoming economic, social and territorial unbalances between Member States, as art. 130A quotes: the Community shall aim to reduce the gap between the development levels of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions. The European Regional Development Fund, provided by art. 130C, is destined to correct these unbalances through participation in the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind and in the conversion of declining industrial regions. Within the seven-year Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), the European Union defines its political priorities and related expenses fixing annual maximum amounts to spend per any priority. As far as the cohesion-policy is concerned, in order to take specific needs and features of territories into account, each member state translates the objectives through National Operational Programs (NOP) (Programmi Operativi Nazionali - PON) or Regional Operational Programs (Programmi Operativi Regionali - POR) included in a National Strategic Framework (Quadro Strategico Nazionale - QSN) defined by a Partnership Agreement, negotiated with the European Commission to access later on the funds provided. In the cycle 2014-2020 the Union has destined 376 billions of Euros to the cohesion-policy on a total of 1.082 billions. It is about 40% of the total of the financial commitments. Hence it can be understood how much the EU points at an integrated approach among the territories of the member states, characterized by different specificities. Thanks to the Partnership Agreement negotiated with each single state, the Union acknowledges their own specific features each and exalts participative local development, in particular from the different levels of local government, since a European economic cohesion cannot be reached without a greater attention to territorial impact of EU policies. The single countries are not called to modify their administrative structure by establishing metropolitan bodies according to definitions prearranged from above. On the contrary, they are legitimized to choose the modalities to manage both metropolitan chances and problems. They shall grant particular statuses to single territories or decide whether to associate several contiguous areas according to specific functions, with a view to a variable structure. Cohesion-policy shall be seen, under a multidimensional view, ensuring that investments of different priority axes of one or more operational programs can combine for pluri-dimensional interventions or among several sectors. This is implemented through Integrated Territorial Investments - ITI. It is through regional policy, starting from not exclusively physical subjects, like social wealth, employment and economic development, that it is possible to come to a space planning management of the whole European territory, whose urban systems are the focal points. About 70 % of the European population lives in a urban area from which more of two thirds of the gross domestic product of the whole EU derives. The period of crisis, started in 2007, can be more easily overcome if the European urban network will be able to take up the challenge of an integrated approach in realizing a smart, sustainable and inclusive society. In fact, if on one side cities represent the engine of economy, on the other they amplify social unrest - such as poverty, unemployment and exclusion - and environmental issues - such as pollution, resource management, territorial planning. Planning and the search for political tools to pursue a sustainable urbanization clearly turn out to be complex tasks, implying on one side overcoming sectorial logics, that is to say thematic interventions untied between them, and on the other, the choice of a more suitable geographical scale in order to analyse and cope with specific issues: ...the search for solutions should primarily take place at local, urban level. For this purpose, the EU leaves up to member states the power to identify various territorial typologies for the interventions to fund: the single quarter, the district, the city-region, the metropolitan area. Once drawn up a strategy of urban development and once obtained the necessary proxies by the member state to manage and select projects, it will be the local governance to receive the funds.

2. The new 2014-2020 cohesion-policy

With the new European financial cycle, in Europe a wide debate on EU on budgetary policies has been opened. The European debate involves in particular the cohesion-policy and the Barca Report (2009) constitutes one of the main

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1107588>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1107588>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)