

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

Towards a new metropolitan significance. "Implicit" Metropolises of Calabria

Massimo Zupi^a, Chiara Altomare^{b,*}

^aUniversità della Calabria, Dipartimento di Ingegneria per l'Ambiente e il Territorio e l'Ingegneria Chimica, Via Ponte P. Bucci, Rende (Cs) 87036, Italy

^bUniversità della Calabria, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica, Modellistica, Elettronica e Sistemistica, Via Ponte P. Bucci, Rende (Cs) 87036, Italy

Abstract

The paper intends to conduct a reflection on the role of metropolitan cities in regions lagging behind. In particular, we want to address the case of Calabria that, precisely because of its characteristic of being devoid of cities of European dimension, can be the ideal laboratory to experiment a new meaning of Metro City. Developing this thesis, we will briefly explain the structure of regional urban framework, classification of regional urban areas proposed by QTRP, detecting the existence of at least three territorial systems that may be representative of an approach to the theme of the metropolitan city, quite peculiar.

© 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: Metropolitan city; competitiveness; social capital; cultural project.

1. Introduction

The definition "Calabria, region without city" has now become a formula, a slogan, a mantra that repeats indefinitely, in an automatic and repetitive, so as to completely lose the sense and the real meaning of the sentence. Sure, from a numerical point of view, this is an unassailable statement: in the whole region, there is only one city

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +393492968525; fax: +390984013605.

E-mail address: massimo.zupi@unical.it

with more than 150,000 inhabitants (Reggio Calabria); four cities over 50000 inhabitants (Catanzaro, Cosenza, Crotona, Lamezia); six cities they come over quota 20000 inhabitants (Acri, Corigliano Calabro, Rende, Rossano, Vibo Valentia). By contrast, there are 323 municipalities with fewer than 5000 inhabitants; among these, well even tranche 79 do not reach 1000. In these micro-communities live ca. 630,000 people (more than 30% of the regional population).

Yet, in spite of that premise and that numerical evidence, today also the Calabria has its Metro City: Reggio Calabria, with its ca. 550,000 inhabitants, it is the second smallest metropolitan city, among those identified by Delrio Law (Cecchini D, 2012).

However, if we leave the cold and arid logic of numbers and we try to change perspective and point of view; If we interpret the challenge of Metro City as an opportunity to build a cultural project aimed at the development and optimization of the urban and social capital (Sassen S, 1991); If we use the opportunity of the metropolitan city to build a new model of urban governance (Healey P, 2009), then, not only the city of Reggio, but more generally the Calabrian urban areas, may represent an experimental laboratory where search for a new metropolitan significance that goes beyond the administrative boundaries, and which is based on strengthening of the active perception of belonging to a new community, the metropolitan (Bonora P, 2006).

This new Metropolitan significance transcends the label of metropolitan city just for decree or administrative demarcation of convenience, but it can become a way to reason about the structuring of the regional urban framework, with a view to territorial rebalancing. This also in consideration of the fact that ability of aggregation (also for localization reasons) of the metropolitan city of Reggio is not extraordinary as that of other metropolitan cities. The metropolitan city of Reggio collects less than 30% of the regional population, while other metropolitan cities like Genoa, Turin, Milan arrive in more than 50%, not to mention the limiting case of Rome that encompasses more than 70% of the residents in the region (De Luca G, Moccia F. D, 2015).

2. The regional urban framework

The Calabrian settlement system is historically characterized by the existence of a number of small and medium-sized agglomerations and the polarization of the population in a relatively small number of urban areas themselves. The distribution of the population is strongly influenced by topographic and morphological factors that determine a contrast between the low population density, which distinguishes the upland watersheds and considerably higher values occurring in coastal and lowland areas in the linear system.

The reasons that led to this workforce can be attributed to the following factors:

- the morphology of the places, which has certainly not favored an adequate support to the development of settlements especially interiors, indeed often constituted a physiological limit to growth;
- the presence of widespread hydro-geological instability conditions;
- the progressive reduction and the concentration of employment opportunities in a few areas of production.

The structural difficulties that characterize the mountainous areas and internal settlements, exacerbated by low levels of accessibility, have led to the progressive abandonment, towards the coastal areas and plains. This trend has contributed to weaken the hinterland of human presence that was also linked to the social identity and broke the organization that had marked its territory, with serious consequences for the economic and social activities, for the real life of the affected communities that they suffer from the disruption effects.

To sum up, it is an unstoppable population loss in mountain areas and high hill in favor of low hills and plains that is more pronounced, when we consider the "split" between centers located the original site often in places almost inaccessible, and a newly formed "seaside" or expansion. The result is a region in which contrasts with the urban areas are essentially stable and "rural areas" in gradual decline.

It determines a double condition: a limited number of cities and urban centers, although not reaching in some cases the size characteristics of urban settlements, it must assume the functions, a settlement pulverization of small municipalities. This situation lends itself to a double reading: in small towns are experiencing the benefits of "local communities" (good levels of social cohesion, reduced congestion, traffic, pollution, higher levels of security). On the other hand, the small size and localization in hill and mountain areas are an obstacle for access to much of the

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1107594>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1107594>

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