



*Ministero delle Infrastrutture
e dei Trasporti*



ESPON ITALIAN EVIDENCE IN CHANGING EUROPE

edited by
Maria Prezioso



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The book reflects the positions and opinions expressed by the Italian partners in the execution of projects. More information on the ESPON Programme and the projects can be found on the website www.espon.eu.

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As experimental people we do not act as the theoretical ones: the originality of an idea is not intended to be printed on a sheet of paper but to prove it through an original experiment
(Blackett '62)

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5. SPATIAL INDICATORS FOR A EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS SIESTA¹

*Francesco Bonsinetto², Angelo Cannizzaro³, Enzo Falco⁴, Barbara Lino⁵,
Giuseppe Modica⁶*

5.1 PROJECT SYNOPSIS

The Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020) launched on 3 March 2010 by the EC is a new key policy based on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to help EU facing global economic crisis with ambitious objectives to be reached by 2020.

In this policy context, considering the close link of this Strategy to territorial cohesion, the SIESTA project (Spatial indicators for a Europe 2020 Strategy Territorial Analysis), funded by the ESPON 2013 Programme, examines regional differences between EU Member States (MS), the territorial dimension of initiatives and targets and different types of challenges for regional development towards the objectives of the EU2020S.

Analysing the meaning and the geographical patterns of some significant indicators quoted directly or indirectly in the document "Europe 2020", one of the main results is the 'Atlas' that gives a "picture" of the current situation in Europe with reference to the targets and flagship initiatives set out in the EU2020S.

The aim of the project was to provide evidence on the territorial dimension of the EU2020S by identifying opportunities for different types of regions. The results of this ESPON project are intended to be useful for policy makers in identifying territorial interventions and developing strategies at a regional scale. The findings of this project furthermore enable policy makers to steer the implementation of the EU2020S, also providing some useful guidelines and policy recommendations. The Italian research partner from University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria coordinated the section on Sustainable Growth (green economy, energy, climate change).

5.2 ITALY'S SITUATION

The current situation in Italy appears to be somewhat bad if compared with that of the main European economies (Map 9). If for some indicators such as energy efficiency, labour productivity, energy intensity of the economy and other environment-related indicators such as Natura 2000 network and municipal waste collection, Italy is amongst the best performing MS, for many other indicators the situation is all but satisfying.

¹ English translation provided by the Authors

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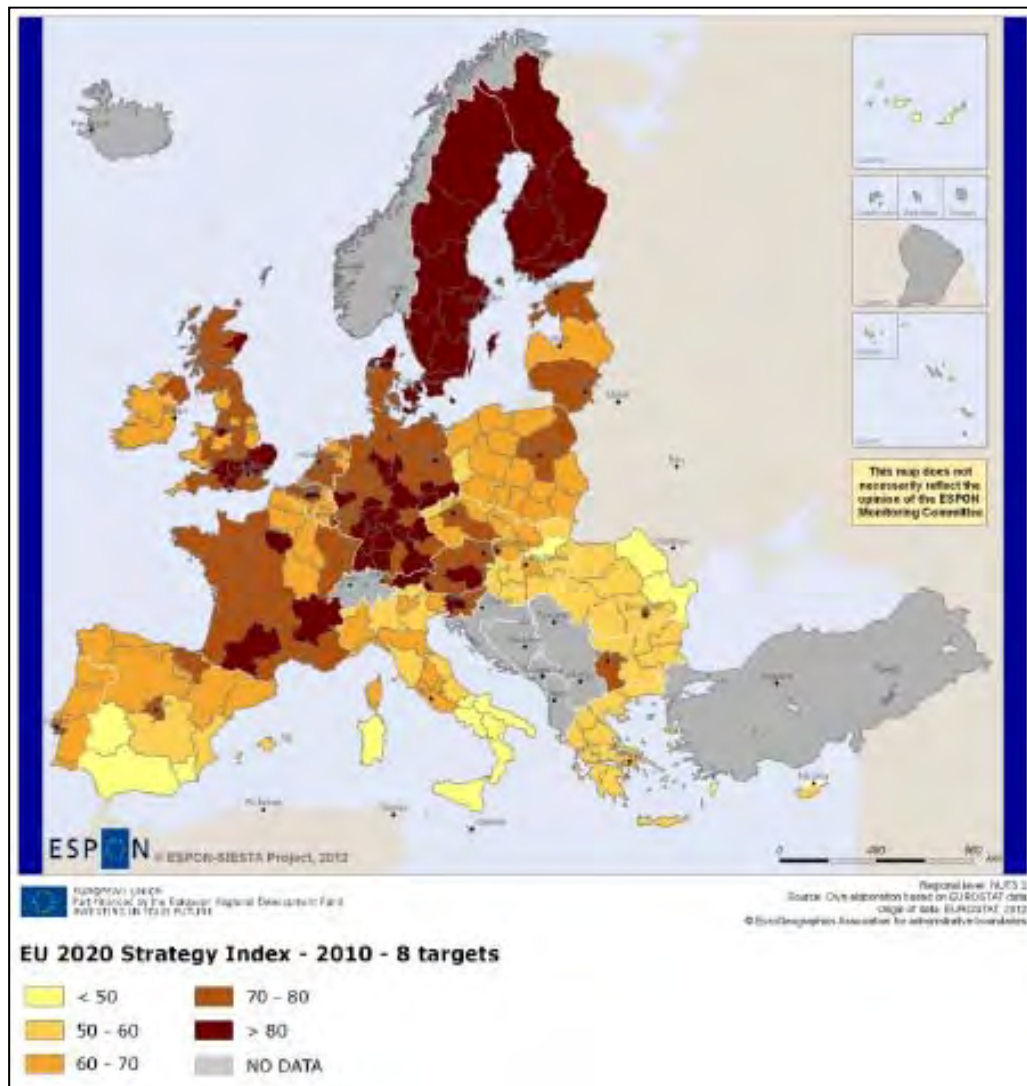
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Main indicators that express negative trends concern per-capita GDP, number of people employed in ICT sectors, early school leavers, investments in R&D. The latter does not concern only public sector but also the so-called business expenditure in R&D. Worrying are also the low numbers of population aged 30–34 with tertiary education and percentages of individuals who have never used a computer. The situation of Italy, and above all, South Italy is comparable only with Portugal, Romania and Bulgaria. Moreover, especially serious is the conditions of women and their access to the labour market with strongly marked gender imbalances. Such situation concerns the whole country and similar conditions are found in certain areas of Greece, Spain and the Balkans.

Map 9: Index of Europe 2020 Strategy



Source: ESPON SIESTA

5.3 SIGNIFICANT TRENDS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Trends and regional patterns were analysed by means of a specific index implemented within the project: the SIESTA Index. The SIESTA index measures the performance of region with regard to all eight headline targets of the EU2020S in a [0, 100] range. A region scores 100 if all eight targets are reached, 0 if the region is farthest away. This index shows a clear north–south divide in Italy. All southern regions show an index lower than 50, whilst all other regions show values between 50 and 70. However, if such an

analysis takes into consideration the whole of the EU-27, the performances of the Italian regions are far from best performing regions of Northern and Western Europe. The current situation in Italy is comparable only with that of Spain, Greece and countries of Eastern Europe, even though southern Italy as a whole bloc shows one of the worst performances comparable only with Andalusia and Extremadura in Spain and eastern regions of Romania.

5.4 POLICIES FOR ITALY AND ITS REGIONS

The results of the SIESTA project highlight that there is great potential within Italy for improvement of regional performances even in sectors such as energy efficiency of the economy where current performances are among the top of EU MSs.

Whereas, as far as greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and energy production from renewables (RES) are concerned performances can be greatly improved. The former, by acting and taking action mostly at local and regional level since emissions appear to be extremely related to main metropolitan areas. Improving household behaviour, delivering public transport improvements in large cities since transport accounts for about one quarter of all EU GHG, drawing new freight transport policies and new and more efficient buildings could deliver greater improvements than expected, not only relatively to cutting emissions but also with regard to energy efficiency.

Green economy and RES can stimulate job creation, investments in new technologies. Investment in this sector as well as measures to constantly increase energy efficiency have the potential to reduce energy dependency of Italy resulting in lower costs of end products which coupled with potentially cheaper freight transport would bear extremely positive results for the whole national economy.

The book is part of the activities of ESPON Contact Point Italy. It includes the results of the contribution of the Italian partners in the development of projects under the ESPON 2013 Programme, which stands for European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion. The texts summarise and highlight, among other things, the relations with the regional development policies of Italy, placing them in a framework of transnational cooperation involving the 28 + 4 EU Countries.

Addressing aspects of European territorial policy, ranging from innovation and knowledge accessibility, from the polycentrism to metropolitan areas, from migration to globalization, the authors highlight the position of Italy and of regions also in relation to the objectives set by Europe 2020. A place is devoted to the regional experiences that in the ESPON found a stimulus and an opportunity for discussion, as well as to the concepts behind the vocabulary, to the principles of guidance, and new planning models in Europe, and to the training experiences aimed at the younger generations and the decision makers

The book forms part of the initiatives of the Italian Presidency of the European Union and is co-financed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) in charge of the national ESPON Programme. It is aimed at researchers, institutional users, policy makers, at "practitioners" and "non-specialists" including students, so that they can make use of the results of the constant and rigorous work also respectful of the territorial diversities that have characterized the experimental and applied research since 2007, so contributing to the growth of Italian society as an integral part of the European system.

The ESPON Monitoring Centre, for those who still do not know, can be a journey into the European territory, its territorial, economic, social, cultural diversities to integrate and make cohesive and sustainable, by maintaining and developing the increasing potentials of competitiveness and, at the same time, by innovating and disseminating new ways, methodologies, tools and practices to make the territory a common and shared good. Data, references and useful policy recommendations to the growth of the country are also included in the book.

Presentation by the Minister of Infrastructure, Mr. Maurizio Lupi

Afterword by the Director of the Coordination Unit ESPON Programme , Peter Mehlbye

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