

## The Socio-Economic Context of Internal Campania Areas: Data and the Qualitative Approach to Restore the Previous Agricultural Mind-Set

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### Abstract

*The research focuses on the transformations and evolution of territorial development policies in the internal areas of Campania. The goal is to photograph the state of affairs in the internal areas as designed by the National Strategy for the Internal Areas. From the data analyzed, it's possible to identify the multiple gaps of these more peripheral territories: in terms of access to essential services (health, education, mobility) as well as the lack of infrastructures essential for the economic development of the areas concerned. The analysis intends to reflect and focus on public policies regarding the definitive solution of the many problems that still unresolved like the progressive marginalization of the territories connected to the progressive decrease of the resident population. Has been analyzed the level of employment and the offer of services and the processes that have been accompanied by others of equal or greater gravity, like hydrogeological instability.*

**Keywords:** development policies, rural areas, Campania region, business models

### INTRODUCTION

*<<I never thought... I could live long enough to see the end of peasant misery, but instead I did. Today peasant misery - the misery of people who had no shoes, who lived in huts or in one room, who did not have enough to eat because according to the old saying they ate "bread and cooked grass" - this misery no longer exists in inland areas. And this substantial progress is due to emigration.>>*

Poverty no longer exists in inland areas, as wrote Manlio Rossi Doria in 1965, but problems and profound critical issues persist in these territories, as does the problem of depopulation which is declined in a slow process of impoverishment of a rural economy that must and can still give a lot.

This research work on the transformation and evolution of territorial development policies in the internal areas of Campania has, first of all, focused on photographing the state of affairs in the internal areas as designed by the National Strategy for Internal Areas. From the data reported in this study it is already possible to identify the multiple gaps of these more peripheral territories: in terms of access to essential services (health, education, mobility) as well as of course the lack of infrastructures essential for the economic development of the areas concerned.

In addition to the analysis, this work intends to reflect on the need to focus public policies on the definitive solution of the many problems that still unresolved and in particular those related to the progressive marginalization of the territories connected to the progressive decrease of the resident population.

The same goes for the level of employment and the offer of services. Processes that have been accompanied by others of equal or greater gravity, such as hydrogeological instability.

## **CULTURAL REFERENCES**

According to the definition of Manlio Rossi Doria in the 1950s, the relationship between "polpa e l'osso", has been reflected for decades by investigating the relationships between productive and urbanized areas - the "pianura polpa" - and the inner most areas; those areas that, paradoxically, on the geographical level express the internal backbone of Italy, precisely that bone that starting from the 1920s begins to dry up with slow and continuous movement until today, with a acceleration of the economic boom in the years after the Second World War.

## **THE INTERNAL AREAS TODAY**

The Inner Areas represent a large part of Italy – about three-fifths of the territory and just under a quarter of the population - heterogeneous inside, far from the large agglomeration and service centers, with unstable development trajectories and demographic problems, but never the less endowed with resources and a strong potential for attraction but which are lacking in the central areas.

In the Campania region, a substantial part of the inland areas gradually underwent a process of marginalization after World War II marked by population decline, sometimes below the critical threshold; reduction of employment and land use; decreasing local supply of public and private services; social costs, such as hydro-geological instability and the deterioration of the cultural and landscape heritage.

## **INTERNAL AREAS IN CAMPANIA: THE DATA**

In Campania, the 4 selected areas, for the purpose of implementing the National Strategy for Internal Areas, include 93 Municipalities for 233,340 inhabitants (2017), of which 59% are classified as peripheral and ultra-peripheral areas. The affected area is equal to 3,469 sq km, with an average density of 71 inhabitants / sq km.

*Alta Irpinia* it's an area made up of 25 municipalities, all in internal areas, with a resident population of 61,829 inhabitants in 2017, with a population rate over 65 in 2017 of 24.8%, higher than the regional and national average for internal areas which have values equal to 23%. The Area denotes a demographic decline between 2011 and 2017 equal to - 4%, higher than both the regional average for inland areas (-1%) and the national average for the same type of area, equal to -0.2% .

Furthermore, it shows a loss of UAA (utilized agricultural area) between 2000 and 2010 equal to -6.2% and a negative index equal to -51.1% as regards the percentage change of agricultural holders up to 39 years in the period 2000/2010. However, the presence of companies with quality productions remains below the national average, 4.5% against 10% of the national average for inland areas.

From a productive vocations point of view, we can identify various sub-areas in which the prevailing orientations are cereal farming, dairy farming and permanent crops. The percentage of the population reached by broadband on a fixed network of no less than 20 mbps is 36.6%, a value lower than the national average of 46.2%.

The tourist accommodation rate (beds per 1,000 inhabitants in 2016) was 38.2, one of the highest values among all internal areas, the number of overnight stays per 1000 inhabitants (2016) was 262.7. There are still low levels of ADI (integrated home care) assistance, although higher than in other internal areas.

The mobility issue is deeply felt both for internal movements and as regards external accessibility to the area - with a recurring reference to the themes of the Salerno Pontecagnano airport, to the completion of the SA / HS, to the high capacity Naples / Bari. With regard to school, in addition to problems related to school transport, the data indicate a high number of small classes, with fewer than 15 pupils (50% in lower secondary schools and 53.3% in primary) and a high percentage of pluriclasss in primary school (4.7%) and long-term classes in lower secondary school (71%), indicating large margins for intervention.

*Vallo di Diano* area is made up of 15 municipalities, all in the province of Salerno and all falling within the "internal areas" category. 75% is made up of small municipalities and does not exceed the threshold of 5,000 inhabitants. This is an area with a resident population of 59,899 inhabitants in 2017, with a population rate of over 65 in 2017 of 22.5%, in line with the national average for inland areas.

The Area shows a loss of UAA between 2000 and 2010 equal to -1.7%, lower than the other internal areas and Italy. There is also a significant loss (-59.7%) of agricultural tenants up to 39 years of age over a decade (2000/2010), which indicates the lack of dynamism of this sector. Agricultural activity has a particularly low percentage of companies with PDO / PGI productions (0.9%) and well below the Italian average, an indication of the substantial absence of valorisation paths for agri-food production at the local level. The population index reached by broadband on the fixed network of no less than 20mbps, is equal to 21.7% and lower than the national average, relative to the internal areas, which is 46.3%. The tourist accommodation rate (beds per 1000 inhabitants in 2016) was only 29.4, while the corresponding value recorded for the internal areas of the Campania region (116). Also in these territories the issue linked to mobility is very much felt both for internal movements and as regards external accessibility to the area, which also appears decidedly favored (but today not adequately exploited) by the gravitation on the modernized SA-RC motorway. . As far as school is concerned, in addition to problems related to school transport, interesting experiences related to the school-work connection emerge. The training offer is distributed as follows, there are: high schools, professional institutes (addresses prevail in the catering and agriculture sectors) and technical institutes.

*Internal Cilento* it is an area made up of 29 municipalities, with 57 percent of the population in the internal area and the majority of municipalities classified as peripheral (there are 14 peripheral and ultra-peripheral municipalities) with high depopulation peaks equal to -5, 9% between 2001 and 2011 and 4.1% between 2011 and 2017. The resident population in 2017 was 48,440 (of which 14,661 are residents in peripheral and ultra-peripheral areas) with a rate of foreign citizens equal to 4.1% and a population rate over 65 in 2017 of 26%, higher than both the regional average for inland areas and the national average for inland areas (23%). The Area denotes a consistent loss of UAA (-9.3 between 2000 and 2010), a worry in loss of agricultural tenants aged up to 39, equal to -48.4%. The population index reached by broadband on the fixed network of no less than 20mbps is 14.7%, lower than the national average for internal areas of 46.3%. The accommodation rate (no. Of presences per 1000 inhabitants) equal to 320.5% is lower than the regional and national value for the same type of Area. The issue linked to mobility is deeply felt by the territorial actors who indicate how it should be addressed both for internal movements and as regards external accessibility to the area, in particular as regards the issue linked to the operation of the Salerno airport. - Pontecagnano and the extension of the high-speed train from Salerno to Battipaglia. Particularly serious is the state of maintenance of the roads, attributed to the lack of funds. The percentage of municipalities with school provision is quite low: 69% for primary school, 55.2% for lower secondary school and 17.2% for lower secondary school. In addition to the problems related to transport for school attendance, the insufficient training offer linked to the vocations of the territory emerges as critical. There are high schools, technical institutes (the address "administration, finance and marketing" has the highest number of students) and professional institutes (the addresses linked to food and wine and hotel services prevail).

*Tammaro-Titerno* it is an area made up of 24 municipalities, all falling within internal areas, with a resident population in 2017 of 63,172 inhabitants, with a population rate over 65 in 2017 of 24.2%, higher than the regional and national average " internal areas ", equal to 22.3%. The Area shows a demographic decline in the period 2001 - 2011 equal to - 2.1%. Furthermore, it shows a contained loss of UAA between 1982 and 2010 equal to -5.8% and a negative index equal to -38.6% as regards the percentage variation of agricultural tenants up to 39 years in the period 2000 / 2010. The agricultural sector retains a non-negligible incidence of companies with PDO and / or PGI products (19.9%). These values are linked to the enhancement processes launched in the wine sector for many years now, which have led to a consistent affirmation of the market. The population reached by fixed network broadband no less than 20 mbps is 22.7%, a share below the national average of 46.2. The tourist accommodation rate is 37.7, one of the highest values of all the other inland areas selected by the Campania Region. In this area too, the issue linked to mobility is strongly felt both for internal movements and for external accessibility to the area.

The percentage of municipalities with primary school is the highest (100%). Municipalities with schools Lower secondary school accounted for 71% and 42% of those with upper secondary education were among the highest among the selected areas.

The educational offer of the upper secondary school is distributed as follows: high schools, professional institutes (courses linked to food and wine and the catering sector prevail) and technical institutes (the 'Tourism' address has the largest number of students).

## **NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INTERNAL AREAS**

In order to initiate the reversal of this situation - counteract the demographic decline and promote development - in December 2012 the "National Strategy for inland areas" was launched, financed both by EU funds and by ordinary budget resources. These objectives are pursued through two complementary classes of shares:

- a) Improvement of the quality and quantity of services for education (incentives to reduce the mobility of teachers, reorganization and construction of new schools, etc.), for health (telemedicine, emergency services, mobile diagnostics for citizens, etc.) and for mobility (multifunctional transport services, connections with railway stations, etc.). These additional interventions are carried out with the resources made available by the Stability Law (2014 and 2015) and with other resources, including Community resources, by central ministries, regions and provinces in relation to their respective responsibilities. Actions to improve these services may be accompanied by actions to improve connectivity and reduce the digital divide.
- b) Monitoring of the network of services in the internal areas, of the different solutions identified to ensure their offer, of the methods of access and of the quality of the services themselves, evaluating the specific impact of the new regulations on these areas. These are fragile territories, far from the main centers of supply of essential services and too often abandoned to themselves, which however cover a total of 60% of the entire surface of the national territory, 52% of the municipalities and 22% of the population. The most "real" and also the most authentic Italy, whose primary need is to be able to reside there again, or to return.

The National Strategy aims to act in these places, investing in the promotion and protection of the wealth of the territory and local communities, enhancing their natural and cultural resources, creating new employment circuits and new opportunities; ultimately by countering the " demographic hemorrhage". The areas selected by the SNAI (National Strategy for Internal Areas) are seventy-two; a total of 1077 municipalities for about 2,072,718 inhabitants are part of it.

## **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Based on the data extracted, catalogued and analyzed it is possible debate based not only on numeric fact but also on qualitative perspective in terms of policies that the governments has actuated in those years in

particular from 2012. Today the question of inland areas actually marks a novelty compared to the past. For the first time, these territories are no longer perceived only as a problem but also as an opportunity. Places where an unprecedented vision is being produced, due to a crisis that today accompanies the urban model and the crisis of an old univocal development model centered on industrial production and urban life, a model that is literally imploding in the dramatic weld that is taking place between economic crisis and environmental crisis.

Campania of inland areas is not residual. It is a territory that also expresses and encounters a new relationship with the countryside and agriculture, no longer as a marginal place, but as a "prophetic place" , as a place for rethinking the relationship between man and nature, for the rediscovery of cultivated biodiversity as a value. A different perspective on inland areas that does not look at these as "lagging" areas, to be helped according to a paternalistic or reforming vision, but as places to grasp their own potential, listening to them as territories in their recent developments and to be equipped with same citizenship rights as the rest of the country. Despite the new vision of inland areas, an idea of "empty" places is needed that must be filled, where innovation and development must be brought in the perspective that solutions must be found.

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