



The Inner Areas Strategy in Italy and its relations with Rural Development Plans

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Key problems for rural space in Italy (the Inner Areas Strategy premises)

Physical: travel distance from 'Service Centers' municipalities (secondary schools, specialized hospital, 2.500-4.000 users p/day) railway stations

Italy: 21 min

Italy inner areas: 37 min

Digital divide: % of population connected to broadband > 20 mbps

Italy: 65%

Italy inner areas: 46%

Demographic: lower increase (pop 71-2011) and aging of population

Italy: +10%, 21% over 65

Italy inner areas: +4.5% , 22% over 65

Economic: reduction of agricultural utilised area (Census 1982-2010)

Italy: -19%

Italy inner areas: -21%

Inner Areas Strategy: features and methods

- ❖ **72 Pilot Areas** in which to experiment the Strategy (around 1.000 municipalities, 16,7% of the national territory, 2M pop, 85% mountain municipalities, strong population decrease)
- ❖ **Multi-level governance** → different institutional actors working closely with local stakeholders (local, regional, and national)
- ❖ **Local partnership of mayors** as driving force of local strategies, support from a national task force of experts
- ❖ **Multi-fund approach:** services (school, mobility, healthcare) are covered by National budgetary law funds, while local development projects are financed by EU Structural Funds (ESF, ERDF, EARF)
- ❖ **Planning Approach and Territorial Concentration:** searching for innovative projects and actors to avoid path dependence and locked-in processes
- ❖ **Monitoring** achievements through **RESULTS** indicators

How RDP contribute to the Inner areas Strategy in different Italian regions

Leader approach

- Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Trento
- Molise
- Calabria
- Campania
- Sicilia
- Abruzzo

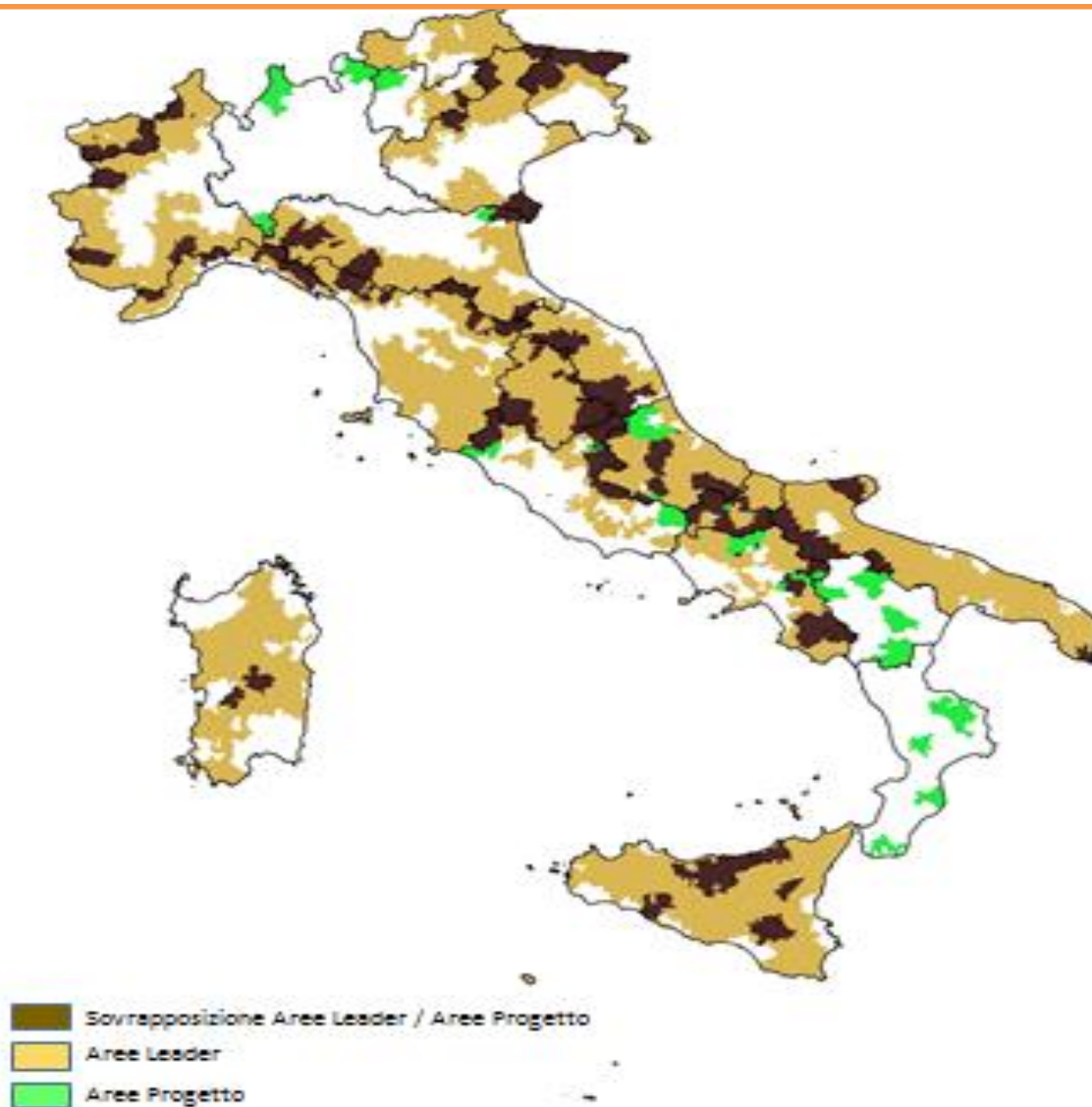
Leader approach + mix of RDP measures

- V. Aosta
- Emilia-Romagna
- Liguria
- Lazio
- Umbria
- Marche
- Basilicata
- Puglia

Only RDP measures

- Lombardia
- Piemonte
- Veneto
- Toscana
- Sardegna

Territorial overlapping of pilot Inner Areas with Leader project areas in Italy



Lombardia, Basilicata e Calabria: Teritori Leader ancora non disponibili. Campania non disponibili i comuni degli ultimi 4 gal addizionali

What can be said about the relations between RDP and Inner Strategy

- ❖ **Pre-existing capacity building** in leader areas was a key element of designing good quality strategies in pilot Inner areas. Many local experts involved in the process come from LAGs
- ❖ **More targeted and non-blind approach**, typical of the Leader, is very helpful to build up pilot projects in Inner areas
- ❖ **Broader and more innovative impact on the territories** can derive from the integration between Inner areas strategies and Leader local plans. IAs capable to promote effective interventions on access to services, Leader more effective on local development initiatives. Good division of work
- ❖ **More rigid rules of EARDF** represent a strong disincentive to implement RDP measures in pilot Inner areas. In Inner areas strategy each Fund works with its own rules and this does not facilitate the collaboration among different management authorities
- ❖ **Different timing in the selection and strategy approval** causes problems of integration between Leader local plans and Inner areas local strategies