

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Land, Town and Environment Planning  
**Honors theses**

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**The capitalization of the experience of Integrated Territorial Projects in Sicily**

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During the 1990's in the Italian Mezzogiorno innovative approaches in policy and practice for local development were adopted, approaches involving community participation at the local level, in contrast to the hieratical or "top-down" approaches to community planning previously instituted by the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno. Partially resulting from the waste and mismanagement of financial resources, the community-based approach to developmental policy in this area today has entered into a profound state of crisis. Despite there being an increase in institutional and governmental responsibility since those years this approach to policy is now being scrutinized and under threat by local government officials.

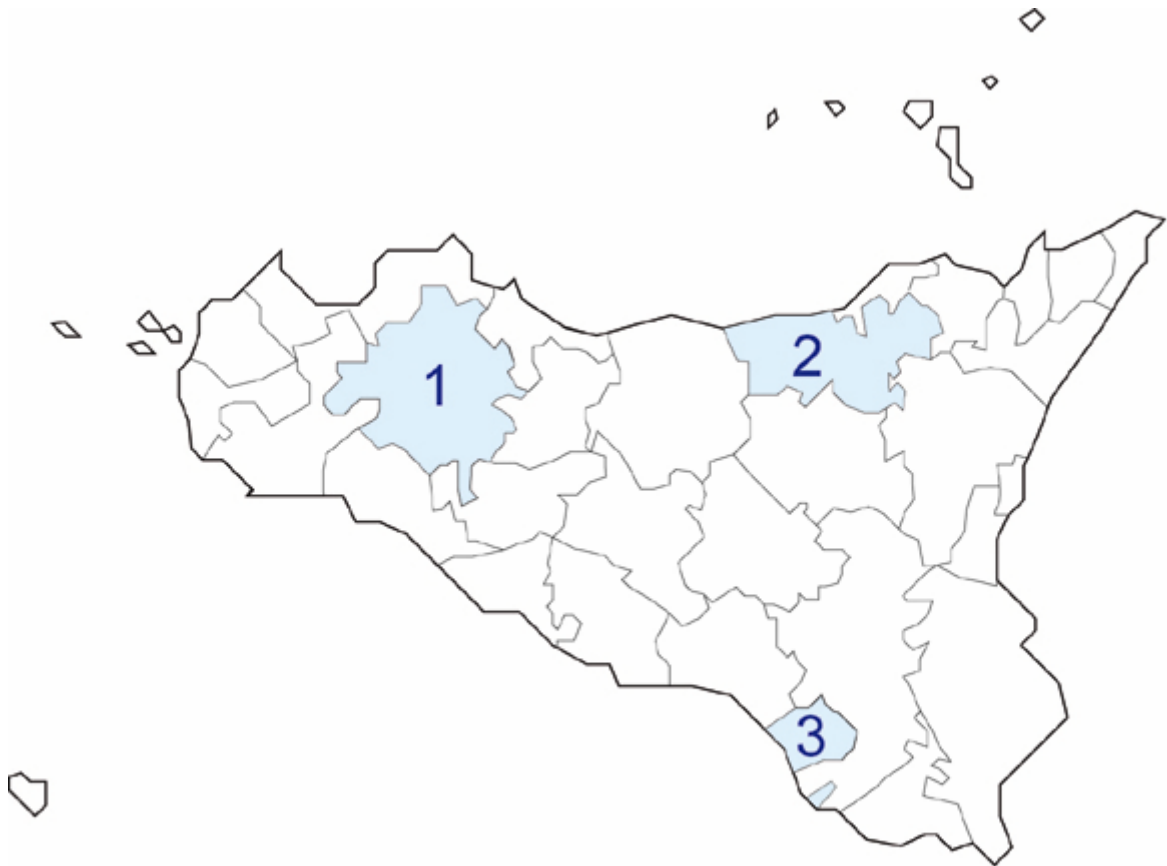
The basis of this research is to capitalize on that experience, or to be more precise, to sustain and promote the successful aspects of the program.

In fact, local governments have learned from the implementation of Integrated Territorial Projects (ITPs), and there are in those territories observable development paths that could be preserved or improved. For this reason strategies in developmental policy should be based on feedback, input and decisions that concern territories at the lower level of government.

The goal of this research was to analyze the direct effect of the development policy though the Mezzogiorno on the involved territories, taking place a territorial lecture of the ITPs research focused on the case of Sicily, one of the Regions Objective 1 developing countries in the European program 2000-2006, and further one of the regions most involved in the implementation of ITPs. Three of the thirty-five existing projects were analyzed to offer useful suggestions for the current phase of Structural Fund Programme (2007-2013).

The methodology developed in two phases, one based on theory and the other based on practice. The first phase considered the nature of the political strategy proposed for the Mezzogiorno since the 1990's. Official documents of the programs Structural Funds were read and put in context of the institutions background and the territorial policy in Europe and in Italy. I then proceeded with an analysis of the debates about local development in the Mezzogiorno, through the interpretation of the contributions from diverse authors that had expressed conflicting opinions on the results of the program in order to clarify local development in terms of a territorial approach.

The second step focused regionally, in Sicily, starting with the study of the Competition Regulations PIT 15/05/2001 (GURS n. 23), which highlighted the peculiarity of the territorialization and management in the Sicilian model. This was followed by an in-depth study of 3 selected ITPs, based on the review of project documents and Formez studies. Field verification was carried out through interviews of the group members of the selected projects. During the operational phase a method was created for the interpretation of case studies, consisting of a grid composed of several criteria useful in the interpretation of the territorial dimension, internally merging all of the considerations of the theoretic character developed in the study.



The projects selected represent tree of the 35 different Sicilian ITPs experience in terms of geographical contest and background: (1) Alto Belice Corleonese, (2) Nebrodi, (3) Valle dell'Ippari

The direct contact with the territories revealed a differentiated reality of the southern contests. Although there were many operative limits in the work of regional and local governments, it came out the good work of many local communities that it couldn't be ignored in future strategic choice.

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