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Honors thesis

TERRITORIAL, URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL- LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Abstract

**Interpreting the past, prefiguring the future – New and old
solutions for regional planning in Italy**

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The work consists in a deep analysis of the regional planning system in Italy, with particular attention to the first historical season and the introduction of the sub-regional districts. The entire process of transformation in this specific field is then retraced to find out which social, political and economic factors influenced its development. This ultimately allows to underline the implication of the most recent economic crisis and consequential political decisions over regional planning. The overall result of the study leads to the proposal of reinterpretation and actualization of some of the most interesting and innovative ideas on Regional and district planning and socioeconomic programming, abandoned over forty years ago. The study uses an extensive collection of historical sources and analysis of the studied context, elaborated by institutions and personalities who had an active role in the process of research and implementation of the Regional planning discipline in Italy and its regions. For the most recent context, on the other hand, it has been made extensive use of articles and publications of researchers and lawyers who have dealt with issues with a strong impact in the covered field. The law n.56/2014 and the recent constitutional law from Renzi government, submitted to referendum on December 4, 2016, were instead subject of a thorough technical analysis to identify an alternative development path for the future. The document is divided into three parts. The first part analyzes the district experience in the first regional season, starting from the national level down to investigate the case of Piedmont, which made interesting advances in the field of regional planning discipline. The second part analyzes the second stage of regional planning in Italy, from 1980 to 2000, and the causes that led to the abandonment of the districts' concept and the need to reorganize the intermediate level, ultimately leading to its identification in the provincial entity. All these phenomena, combined with globalization and Europeanization, lead the Italian political scene to debate on the regional issue once again, coming to an amendment of the Constitution leading an autonomist interpretation of the Italian law. A change that failed to achieve any real coordination between national and regional law systems. Nonetheless, the transformation had a deep impact on the conception of the most recent iterations of regional spatial planning in its strategic, structural and operative components, favored both by greater autonomy assured by the reformed constitutional text than by a lack of national law intervention. Finally, it was analyzed the negative impact of the economic crisis on confidence in the autonomy law, that led to a contemporary territorial legislative season characterized by a strong centralizing trend. The third part explores in detail the contents of the 2016 constitutional reform law and the law n.56/2014, identifying them as a summary of the latest "crisis legislation" path. Information gathered from the analysis of past experiences and historical context are then used to draw an identikit of the Italian institutional system, characterized by an innovative and a conservative register, both unable to coordinate with each other and filter the respective thrusts and drives. Starting from this framework, the second section provides an alternative proposal directly aimed to rebalance the role of regional spatial planning, considering the presence of this dual institutional register which intervenes both in times of crisis as in those of economic expansion. That is why the proposal is based on the idea that to reach a new balance in regional planning is necessary to complete the process of regionalization initiated by the Italian Constitution in 1948, to achieve coherence between regional and national systems while expanding the autonomy already provided. In the second instance the reform proposal suggests a legislative

intervention that, by amending the contents of Law 56/2014, pursues a rebalance of the role of the provinces, through a renewed concept of district planning that interfaces between the local and supra-local levels, enabling the provincial areas to more effective forms of planning.
