Territorial cooperation in Europe and Italy: risks and opportunities of macro-regions

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Summary

- Macro-region between theory and practice in Europe
- Macro-regional territorial dimension by place evidence
- Impacts and effects, risks and opportunities from Structural reforms in Italy
- Policy territorial recommendations and provocative remark

Starting from:
- a common lexicon on: region, regionalism, regionalisation (institutional form from regionalism), new regionalism (full integration and efficient organisation)
- geographical economic political scale of macro-regions (place) evidence
- paneurope concept as the re-organization of the EU-State-Regions relations in favour of the Regions
Macro-region between theory ...

- Macro-region is an high and free democratic cooperation form
- Macro-region in Europe is a form of polycentrism and it is used to integrate cities (large and small-medium towns) and places (urban-rural)
- Macro-region is a type of region (metropolitan, inter, trans, internal, inner), with close complementary relations between places (Randstad Hollande-horseshoe shape, Baltic, Danube, Alpin, etc.)
- Macro-region border is geographically flexible, but macro-regional policies and behaviour roles are more rigid to have and manage consensus
- Macro-region is not static body, but its evolution depends from the capability to make innovative political synergy respecting single territorial identities

Macro-region artificially created by a top-down approach is bound to fail the purpose
Macro-regions experience appears particularly useful to re-launch the competitiveness in Europe in facing the crisis:

- stress Cohesion Policy and balanced polycentric development;
- make exercises towards shared sustainable organizational models (i.e. capacity building, spatial planning, etc.)
- verify common tools, instruments and integration processes (TIA, social inclusion, digital, migration, climate change, infrastructure, accessibility, etc.)
- play a game by common rules at political level

Macro-region is also a geopolitical discourse for Europe (and Italy)

Multilevel governance and territoriality (Faludi 2015) need because boundaries do not often converge with administrative ones. Is the EGCT as a super-regional level of governance? (Evrard, 2015)
What is the better macro-regional territorial dimension? Cohesive? Sustainable?

Territorial polycentric systems on Green Economy but the South macro-region has not developed as a whole in a green economy perspective as in the North one.
Cooperative by Multilevel Governance? 
From ESPON Atlas, 2014)
Metropolitan? by Planning type?

Looking at the geographical scale:

- A places’ network surfaces, which merges municipal, provincial, regional, national boundaries
- MEGAs and Regional Capital Cities (Hall) grow and densify the EU North-Central zone beyond the Pentagon (Brenner called it as Planetary Urbanisation), re-setting the European urban structure as metropolitan-urban-rural
From European Applied Research and macro-regional experience

Macro-regions of European space have assumed different forms of territorial co-operation in both contents and perspectives (scenarios)

- Economic core
- Central and Eastern Europe: twinning cities
- Danube Region: TENs, prosperity, environment, tourism, etc.
- North-West Europe
- North Sea regions and Baltic Sea region: Tourism, wellness, sustainability, energy, wellness, agriculture
- Mediterranean
- Atlantic Area: sea and ports
- South-West Europe
- Alpine Space: sustainable spatial planning
- Northern periphery

ESPON ET 2050, 2014
Arno van der Zwet, 2015
Promoting co-development with Neighbouring regions (2/5)

- Linking Trans-European Networks with the Neighbouring countries’ networks
- Supporting cross-border integrated development

ET 2050 says
Integrated Spatial Planning land-sea, German Experience in the North Sea

Multitude of uses on the sea; potential conflicts between uses and/or uses and marine environment multitude of uses on the sea

Traditional uses and activities:
- shipping, fisheries
- oil and gas industry
- sand and gravel extraction
- pipelines, power & telecommunication cables
- military training, scientific research, nature conservation sites

New developments:
- large scale offshore-windparks (15.000 MW by 2030)
Metroborder experience (Evrard, 2012, 2015)

Insitutional capacity
Infrastructures
Macro-economic stability
Health
Education
High Education
Job market dimension
Tecnology
Enterprises
Innovation
Three *Nos* Impacts: institutions, legislation, funds, but a great focus on policy/project coherence and consensual approach

It is due to **characters** of macro-regional voluntary institution:

- Indipendence of decision making process
- Direct execution of measures
- Interest of the cross-border region as a whole:

- discuss what models the European policy actions should adopt in order to not compromise the results implementing austerity/rigor measures ability of integrated territorial investments to play a major role in the short term for combating the macroeconomics goals and paving the way for a stable, balanced and long term development
- the effective compliance among Structural Funds objectives, declared priorities of investment, regional territorial capability and the European Financial Policy (the 2014 *Junker Investment Plan* and 2015 Mario Draghi’s *Quantitative Easing* policy)
- use territorial cohesive capability as the most effective way to transform European challenges into long term political goals (Europe 2020 pillars and flags toward the 2050 vision) by territorial regional planning (new competitive vision of development based on diversity)

education, climate change, energy risks, migration, etc.
Macro-regions in Italy: an external and internal discourse starting from a unfulfilled federalism and regionalisation

- 1989 - Fondazione Agnelli: 12 macro-regions
- 1992 – Lega: 9 meso-regions
- 1999-2016: Costitutional Reforms
- 2012 - SGI proposal
- 2014 - Morassut-Ranucci proposal
- Reform L. 56/2014 declasses provinces:
  - 14 Metropolitan Cities: Torino, Milano, Venezia, Genova, Bologna, Firenze, Roma, Napoli, Bari, Reggio Calabria, Messina, Palermo, Catania, Cagliari
  - and Municipalities Unions

And in the middle:
- Trans Alpine Convention and EUSALP (1991: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland)
- Adria-Po Valley (2007) to Padano-Alpine-Maritime Macro Region (2009-2010)
- Trans Mediterraneanean and Middle East

A bit confusion is between socio-economic territorial identity and functional parameters of neo-regionalisation
Examples of Proposals of administrative or political re-organisation

**Italian Geographical Society proposal (2012) 31 regions**

- **L’ITALIA OGGI:**
  - 20 Regions
  - 110 Provinces
  - Feweromas ENTI INUTILI

- **La NUOVA ITALIA:**
  - 31 Regions
  - 0 Enit Inutili
  - Stronger, more efficient, better public management

**Local systems of job, population**

**DdL Morassut-Ranucci, C3090 (2015)**

- 11 macro-regions and 1 Capital region
In a country as Italy, what is the sensu to search for macro-region? In order to: re-distribute income and growth? Reduce the national debt?
STeMA TIA application to Rome Capital City and Latium Region
Geo-econ. and political Lesson from macro-regions experience

In my research and planning opinion macro-region appears as a tentative test for making Europe as political (federal or new regionalised) unit

• The importance of territorial adaptability
• The capacity, capability and willingness to act
• The adoption of flexible policy instruments
• The role of choices and bottom-up expectations
• The importance of place-based solutions
• Past choices constrain the present (and the future)
• The sharing of risk

Integrated sustainable territorial planning needs as well as the people cohesive involvement

Few macro-regions and metropolitan cities need
Thank you for your attention

Maria Prezioso

We are regions, we see regions (Van der Berg, 1997)