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**Between strategies
for the territory and
regional plans***Alberto Clementi*

In Calabria the programming of investments for development requires to be underpinned by shared, farsighted but realistic future views of the territory able to make the manifold actions indicated by government institutions at various levels immediately coherent. Perhaps more than elsewhere, there is need for responsible strategies, aimed at concentrating investments on priority themes and works, strongly rooted in the local contexts, with tangible effects triggering development, indispensable for increasing the often vacillating credibility of public policies, after all too many disappointments. In view of this situation, the Region has sought to put some instruments recently introduced to innovative use. In particular with the Territorial projections of the Qsr (Regional strategic outline), the objective is that of linking a number of sectoral strategies for the development of territories of regional and supraregional importance. The Region has interpreted the Territorial projects as an opportunity to refine its action choices, convinced that infrastructural works should be regarded above all as 'territorial works', i.e. able to generate significant development effects in the contexts concerned. An important role in this prospect is assigned to the 'guiding view' indicated for the future, increasing the intrinsic regional polycentrism, by belonging to two supra-regional integration contexts, the transnational Sicilian-Calabrian platform and the interregional Calabrian-Ionian platform, towards the port of Taranto, linked by the central isthmus of Lamezia-Catanzaro, the key

element holding together the whole regional system. The keystone of this strategy for the development of Calabria is not just to strengthen the internal cohesion of a basically centrifugal territorial system, but above all to anchor locally the main flows of supraregional relations, used as opportunities to provide further boosts for regional development. The declared aim is to equip the region to intercept a large share of the international investments foreseeable for the future (in the prospect of 'Italy: gateway to the east'). For this strategy to be successful, it is first necessary to substantially improve the functioning of the networks, eliminating bottlenecks and malfunctions which today greatly penalize Calabria, and as far as possible to favour the multimodal interconnection of waterways, railways, air and land routes. It is necessary to count on innovation, and at the same time to develop the territory as a contextual resource. The Strategic document that emerges from the projections aims at local involvement in many public policies, safeguarding and improving the space and the environment as context infrastructures, increasing the material and intangible networks of access to the major European, Mediterranean and international circuits with special reference to the facilities for mobility at various levels. The form that will really be taken by the Strategic territorial document of Calabria will most likely reflect the interinstitutional relations and the consensus reached at local, regional and national level. Naturally, the region is at the centre of this complex interinstitutional strategy. The road taken with the 'Guidelines' invites the

intensification of efforts for a more mature policy of democratic governance of territorial transformations.