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Structural planning in Calabria: some reflections *Giuseppe Fera*

Regional law 19/2002 of Calabria is titled "Norms for the safeguarding, governance and use of the territory". Not therefore a 'town planning' law, but one for territorial governance, which means that alongside the traditional missions of town planning there are some new, different aims: the analysis and mitigation of environmental risks, protection and enhancement of the landscape, development of agricultural areas, etc. The main novelties in the regional law may be summed up as follows: - the law combines organization of the territory and the promotion of sustainable development; - it fosters at all levels the processes of concerted action and participation; - it promotes forms of equalization making the plan more effective; - it introduces the principle of assessment of planning instruments. These innovations regard

planning at all levels, including municipal level, which basically is that at which town planning forecasts are carried out. The Calabrian regional law outlines the system of municipal planning through these instruments: - Municipal structural plan

(Psc), replacing the old master plans;

- Building and town planning regulation;

- Temporary operative plans (Pot);

- Unitary implementation plans (Pau);

- Building sectors. From this law derives, therefore, a definitely more complex and articulated planning system than the old one. But apart from any feelings of justified optimism, a doubt emerges, regarding the concrete possibility of implementing this system, in a region

where only 37 municipalities out of 409 have more than 10,000 inhabitants, while 2,000 have between 2,000 and 5,000, and as many as 170 are below the 2,000 mark; hence with technicaladministrative structures quite inadequate to carry out the complex tasks assigned them by the new law. All the important innovations introduced by the law therefore risk being transformed into a burden on municipal planning, leading to its substantial paralysis. The Region and the provinces must thus carry out an active role of assistance to the municipal administrations. One of the issues not fully resolved by the law of 2002, is probably the fact that differentiated planning instruments and procedures should be thought out for the small municipalities. The guidelines have sought to make a small yet significant step forward by introducing the Associated structural plan (Psa). One of the objectives of the law is in fact to urge small municipalities to form associations, trying to foster the formation of reticular territorial systems of relations, helping to overcome the gap suffered by the small municipalities. The formation of such reticular systems is at the centre of territorial planning and reorganization policies, and one of the ways to promote this policy is that of favouring the association of municipalities for drawing up the Psc, which would bring with it undeniable advantages: - better, more effective governance of the territory

governance of the territor and, above all, of natural resources (catchment basins, wooded areas, landscape);

the possibility of making local development programmes which use in the best way resources that acquire value only at supramunicipal scale;
the possibility of carrying out and operating in association services and infrastructures that require higher population thresholds; - the possibility of obtaining adequate technical planning and design structures, not within the reach of small municipalities.