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Received books

**The Italian experiences:
between atlas and
guidelines for the road
projects**

Paola Pucci

Reading comparatively the Italian experiences, and also the contributions introduced, finalized to construction the working and reiterating procedures for the road projects, three declinations of the topics in reference to the finalities, approaches, results it is possible single out:

- repertoires of operational analytical-interpretative studies and road projects. They are shaped like atlas, like collection of strategies for the project, like "projects that they help to make plans", rather than like normative instruments for implementation the project (i.e. *In.fra* research *Forme insediative e infrastrutture. Procedure, criteri e metodi per il progetto*);
 - sustainable planning of roads advices, like selection of important topics and issues for the infrastructure project, interpreted like an integrated plan of territory, able of dealing and integrating technical and territorial dimensions of the road infrastructure, as landscape project (i.e. Research network *Infrascape. Infrastrutture e paesaggio, indirizzi per la qualità della progettazione*);
 - guidelines as an handbook, in order to supply instruments for the road projects, finalized to propose a transmissible and consensual process, general, flexible and open (since modifiable) of road infrastructure planning (i.e. *Linee guida*, Provincia di Bergamo and Regione Emilia-Romagna).
- In the experiences *in itinere*, the three declinations specific finalities and ways of treatment of the topic translate, but they make also to emerge a common aim to work out instruments analytical and operational too, in shape of guidelines,

of abacuses, of project handbook, to give concreteness and practicality to the consensual infrastructure interpretation like territorial network. The urgency to construct transparent and repeatable procedures, it seems to become the operating challenge of some public administrations; they are aware of the necessity not only of guiding the infrastructure projects in order to control of the outcomes, but to value the infrastructure investments for new works, creating externalities of network and 'value added' for the territory.

In reality, many of the experiences introduced are promoted from public administrations that have started operational studies finalized to define 'consensual rules' for the infrastructure projects, being moderate itself with the topic of the guidelines, of the repertoires of best practices for the integrated road projects.

In these experiences the aim regards:

- the proposal of a iter of road planning in a position to offering solutions for the appraisal of the tracing, for the technique and economic feasibility of the road project, for the eventual measures of mitigation and compensation to implement, considering not only the road aspects, but also urban, environmental and territorial conditions of the infrastructure project;
- constructing consent on the contents, on the objects, on the attended results with an infrastructure project, which premised for the consolidation of a practical one and in order to address the consensual planning process, not only for widen the attention field, but also to increase the field of competences.

The interest for the comparison with under way experiences on the topic sends back to the possibility

to select the suitable issues and the ways of handling of the same ones this, as an important condition for the construction of rules that, in the most interesting cases, they are shaped like the proposal of a possible way-process, rather than like a fixed handbook for the road project. Many of the experiences are addressed towards the search of ways, able to turn to account a reflection:

- on the nature and on the ways in order to construct repeatable procedures like possible way, far from the aims of completeness, comprehensive or impartiality (in the sense that necessarily privileges some topics and some issues), for which the consensual process becomes central;
 - on the conditions within which such experiences they can be given;
 - on the shape that such experiences can assume in order to play a practical and divulged role to deal the infrastructure project as a territorial project, proposing a way from the 'open character' and with 'contingent worth', above all.
- In this picture, the interest it is not in 'the' handbook construction as definitive or fundamental technical guide, but rather to the cleverness of the text, in its various shapes:
- to characterize the most important topics of the road project;
 - to show the shapes of their interaction, necessary in order to guarantee a multidimensional approach;
 - to offer an analytical and working way, adaptable in reference both to the involved territories and subjects and to the emergent questions;
 - to consent building on the contents, on the aims, on the results attended, like necessary premise for consolidation of a practical one of integrated infrastructure planning in the territory.
- The diffusion and the

utilisation of the communicable text (in its possible various shapes) would be melted on its capability of being 'depotstore of experiences' and 'opened dispositive' in a position to suggesting a reiterating iter and consensual planning process.

In effects, far away from the founded and definitive handbooks, some of the Italian experiences, offers a methodology characterized by a continuous process of modernization-implementation-modification. In this way, they are useful and they will go therefore privileged those experiences that:

- they have guideline function, above all in phase of preliminary plan, because they facilitate the individualisation of the problems and they suggest new landscape interpretations;
- they concur to construct a picture of coherences at different territorial scales;
- they are introduced like alternative to often too much rigid norms, unable to speed up innovated ways;
- they supply one instrument in order to concur with the planner to search the most adapted approach, allowing the task to characterize the best solution in a determined area, rather than to represent an ideal and methodological protocol or rather than to define standard solutions for any situation;
- they are proposed in a interactive way that not search the completeness and comprehensive, but it stimulates to having an active role using the text.