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The management of the changes in the agrarian landscape, challenges and innovations of Siena Ptc

Adele Semeraro, Simona Rappuoli

The active and direct management of the agrarian landscape, run by those who operate changes, is one of the main challenges of Siena Ptc (Siena coordination provincial plan); the provincial town plan tries to transform the subjects from "transformers into managers of the landscape". The management tool which so far proved to be the most suitable one for this purpose was the Programme of agricultural environmental improvement (Pmaa). The Pmaa is a tool provided for in the local regional law n. 64/95 for the company development, which is proposed by the agricultural companies to the Local government in order to be approved. The programme focuses in particular on the economic and structural aims the agricultural company means to achieve, finding out the necessary agronomical, environmental and building changes to pursue them. The local government makes use of the advice, within the competence of the province, on agronomic, hydrogeological and landscape-environment aspects which lie and in conformity with the Ptc. Now, let's try to reflect upon the concrete application of the "rules" introduced by the Coordination provincial plan for the active maintenance of the agrarian landscape, as far as both the regulative laws to the Municipality and the prescriptive planning to the private are concerned. From a first reconnaissance on the rural landscape, it is evident that an effective coordination of the relating policy was missing, together with a clear way of acting shared by all the local

subjects, public as well as private. These could have made, through their actions, some meaningful changes in the agrarian landscape. Two factors strongly influenced the results of the application of the structural rules of the Ptc in the management of the agrarian landscape and the specific local resources: one is the fact that "there are a lot of subjects who can make some changes in the landscape, but no one in particular is qualified to manage it"; the other is that the usage of financing in this sector usually consists more in ordinary procedure of environmental protection rather than in specific acts of exploitation of local resources. The most recent experiences of municipal planning show the difficulties met in the management of the changes in the agrarian landscape, while more remarkable results have been recorded in the accurate promotion and protection of historical-architectural properties which are present in the open territory, since a culture of environment requalification in those General town plans (Prg) and redevelopment plan made before the Coordination provincial plan (Ptc). A first questioning about the way of interpreting the tendencies and the objectives of the management of the agricultural landscape of the Coordination provincial plan by those subjects involved in the government of the territory confirms the first impression on the applicative difficulties of its contents. The most meaningful innovations of the Siena Ptc consist in:

a) the holistic approach of the knowledge of the territory; Siena Ptc chose to make landscape changes starting from the holistic idea of its territory and set "the basis, built with an

inclusive method, to form structural plans, through which it could be possible to open, together with the local governments a new didactics of the territory and a more conscious planning approach";

b) the proposal of specific rules, motivated by a quite good survey as for the water-bearing beds, hydraulic risks prevention, erosion and hydrogeological instability containment, dynamic and functional keeping of the ecosystems, reduction of different forms of pollution and landscape;

c) the legalization of the choices of the town Prg, which diverge from the regulative laws and prescriptive planning of the Ptc through the institution of the evaluation to check the coherence with the objectives of the Ptc. Such contents were shared by the local governments during the creation of the Ptc, but, after the Ptc was in force, they were only partly taken into account in the daily change interventions. That is partly due to the fact that the specific contents of the Ptc were enough widespread among the subjects involved in the territorial administration, be technicians, politicians and operators. As a matter of fact, the contents relating to the management of the open territory, and particularly of the agrarian landscape and its emergencies, showed such innovating results, compared with the town-planning daily practice, that they proved to be complex and have almost nothing in common with the usual procedures and local decision-making methods. A new opportunity to investigate the degree of dissemination of the environmental protection principles and the enhancement of the resources, in order to face the cultural spread of a holistic method of knowledge of the territory and of an active

management of its resources, sets to the Province, with the revision of the instrument according to the Regional law 1/2005. We hope the citizens will take part more directly in the provincial territory policy and in the creation of a new Ptc, and their continuous involvement in an active management of the landscape, which the present Ptc is a promoter of.

The question which still remains is of how the management landscape planning of the Ptc can find other operating instruments, better if cross-party ones. They should be able to support efficiently the managing of the landscape changes, maintain practically and lead the choices of the subjects which operate these changes.

"The Ptc meant to give some indications on the way the survey was done. It was necessary to the Local government to specify the regulation of the vast area in the local peculiarity of its own town-planning". The great experience in the application of the Ptc leads to promoting the introduction of its landscape contents and to maintain its methods and tools of knowledge of the resources, not only in the General communal town plans, but also in the daily practice of evaluation of the changes afoot by technicians, institutions, local operators and citizens; all of whom inevitably involved in the management of the territory. The administrative practice of management of Siena Ptc showed the potentialities of the Programme of agricultural environmental improvement (Pmaa, Regional law 64/95), which proved to be the only tool at our disposal, among the applicative instruments of town (though proposed by privates) planning, able to operate directly, precisely and efficiently to upgrade,

protect and promote the rural characteristics of the open territory, both for its peculiarity of being a programming and time-management instrument, specifically in building, agronomical and environmental works, and for the fact that the application of regulative laws and prescriptive planning of the Ptc takes place, in case of a Pmaa, directly, without any other decoding of the local laws, except the acceptance by the Local government of the Provincial advice. As for the rural territory management, the Province is directly called by the Regional law 64/95, which remained in effect together with the Regional law 1/205, to indicate, in its own Ptc, guidelines, criteria and parameters for the management and regulation of the urban, agronomical and environmental changes of the rural landscape and so it takes part to the decision-making moments with its own advice³ which concerns building, agronomical and environmental changes proposed in the Pmaa. The writers of the Ptc understood this instrument was suitable to manage in general and in details the changes in the agrarian landscape and took care of providing the rural territory manager-operators with the instruments and methods of environmental planning and upgrading. We can find clear evidence in the introduction to the paragraph Q "Regulation of the areas only or mainly used for agriculture", included in the report of the plan: "Siena provincial administration believes that the Pmaa are potentially very effective instruments in the management of the agricultural areas, and in this way it has oriented the regulation of the Ptc in such a way as to make the procedure of creation, evaluation and approval ... omissis ... easier. With this

kind of approach we think we found a satisfactory point of balance between the Pmaa, devised as a working instrument for the operators and as almost the only instrument we can use today to get the private involved in the territory and landscape active maintenance".