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## Towards the territory orientation plan of the Tuscany Region

*Silvia Viviani*

After a decade of regional laws on planning reform, which since 1995 have embodied the shift from town planning to governing the territory, Tuscany is now pondering their effectiveness, studying their consequences, calling a halt and turning the page. The new law of 2005 opens a new scenario of reference to administrators in their job of governing complex urban and territorial developments. The new plan provides internal coherence among its sectoral policies, its development programme and perception of the territory. But above all it is the means for fostering a stream of self-generated, recognizable and coherent responsibilities and capabilities of government. Drafting the territory orientation plan provided an opportunity for a full agenda of debate which not only covered institutional issues. There was a series of conferences on the major issues of the new plan which aimed at resolving the complex problems that call for political and professional acumen and 'oblige' practices and tools to combine protection with development, rigour, effectiveness and flexibility. Since the outset, Inu Toscana has worked alongside the Region in promoting, organizing and taking part in the five conferences scheduled between July and December 2006 on 'Town Planning and Upland Areas', 'Good Town Planning', 'Effectiveness as a Quality in Public Planning', 'New Planning in Tuscany', 'Tuscan Public Administrators for the Good Government of the Territory'. The intention of Inu Toscana was to make its mark in this process and initiative by

fostering the idea of the centrality and effectiveness of public planning, the unavoidability of the interests of the whole, the ambition to achieve disciplinary and professional excellence in planning and urban development, the capitalisation of rigour and rules as the basis for a renewed process open to the dynamism of change, the capacity to criticise the production of plans and projects that pay scanty attention to the territorial resources which are the heritage of this region. Furthermore, to wonder what response Tuscany might give to strong, hard to contain pressure involving upland areas.

The process of integration that tends to resolve the tensions between development and identity, local and global, between private and public actors who promote and implement economic and settlement processes has achieved significant dimensions in the territory. It is in this scenario that the tendency to territorial governance has taken root in a context where institutional cohesion and a virtuous practice of subsidiarity also involve the abandonment of badly defined co-planning and where, instead, there is an attitude of technical collaboration and political exchange.

Drafting the regional plan also provided the opportunity for repeating the call for a nationwide law on the principles for governing the territory: a concise, streamlined law that gives Regions and local government legitimate working tools that prevent running the risk of having acts and ambitions annulled.

Inu Toscana requested and supported a leading role for the Institute alongside the Region for a new nationwide law which we trust will have a positive outcome.