



The Inner Areas Strategy in Italy: which are the most important innovations?

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OECD Rural Development Conference,
Workshop 3.B: “Rural policy and future governance”
Edinburgh, 9-12 April 2018

Key problems for rural space in Italy (the Inner Areas Strategy premises)

Physical: travel distance from 'Service Centers' municipalities (secondary schools, specialized hospital, 2.500-4.000 users p/day) railway stations

Italy: 21 min

Italy inner areas: 37 min

Digital divide: % of population connected to broadband > 20 mbps

Italy: 65%

Italy inner areas: 46%

Demographic: lower increase (pop 71-2011) and aging of population

Italy: +10%, 21% over 65

Italy inner areas: +4.5% , 22% over 65

Economic: reduction of agricultural utilised area (Census 1982-2010)

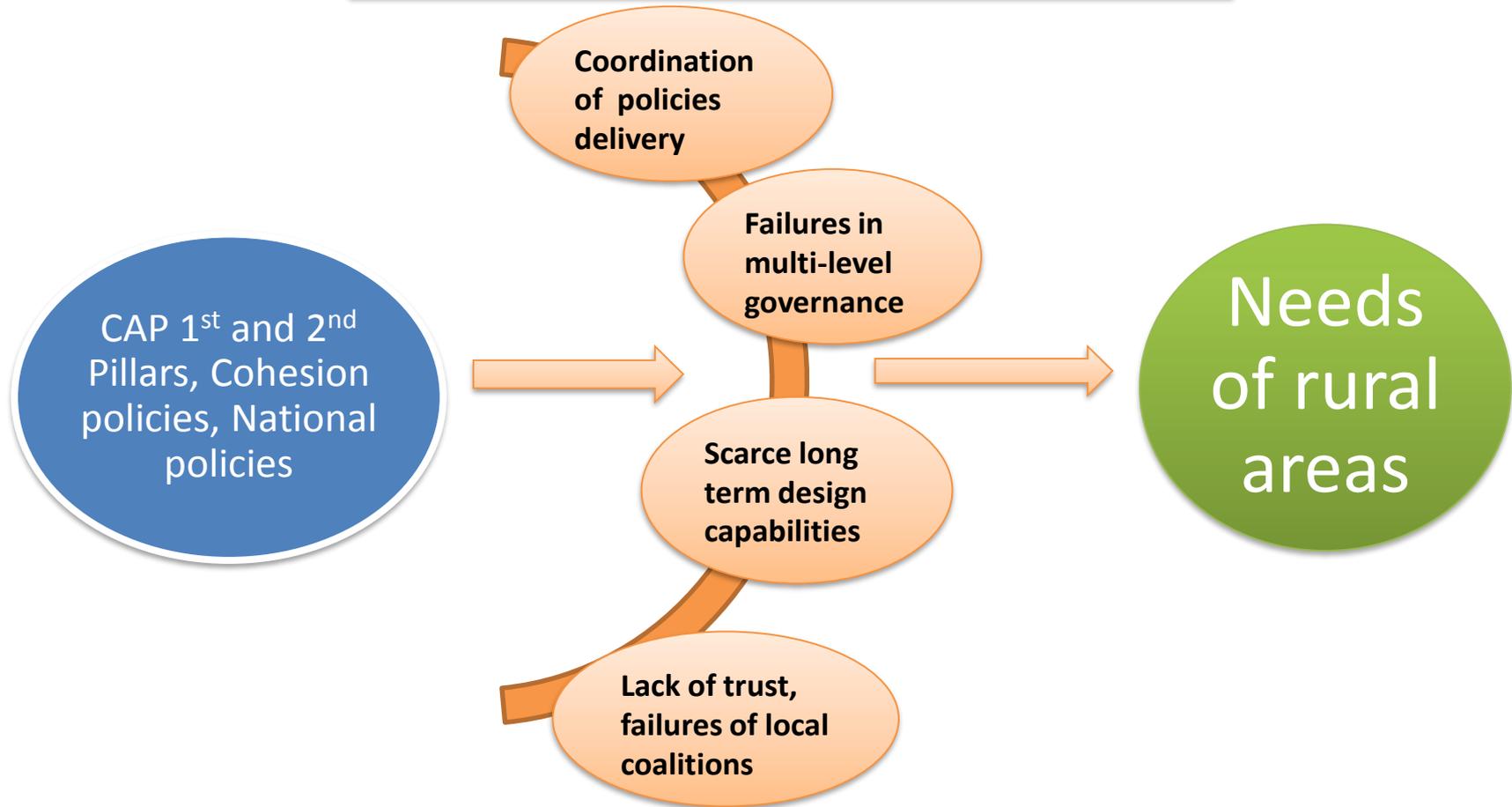
Italy: -19%

Italy inner areas: -21%

Inner Areas Strategy: features and methods

- ❖ **72 Pilot Areas** in which to experiment the Strategy (around 1.000 municipalities, 16,7% of the national territory, 2M pop, 85% mountain municipalities, strong population decrease)
- ❖ **Multi-level governance** → different institutional actors working closely with local stakeholders (local, regional, and national)
- ❖ **Local partnership of mayors** as driving force of local strategies, support from a national task force of experts
- ❖ **Multi-fund approach:** services (school, mobility, healthcare) are covered by National budgetary law funds, while local development projects are financed by EU Structural Funds (ESF, ERDF, EARF)
- ❖ **Planning Approach and Territorial Concentration:** searching for innovative projects and actors to avoid path dependence and locked-in processes
- ❖ **Monitoring** achievements through **RESULTS** indicators

Barriers and obstacles between policies and needs of Italian rural areas



How does Inner Strategy remove obstacles and barriers?

- ❖ **Coordination of policy delivery:** EAFRD, ESF, ERDF and national funds contribute to finance the budget plan of each local inner strategy (IAS). Integration between Inner areas strategies and Leader local plans. IAS capable to promote effective interventions on access to services, Leader more effective on local development initiatives. Good division of work
- ❖ **Failures in multilevel governance:** the National Committee coordinates and facilitates the contribution of national Administrations, Regional and local authorities and their competences about related policies. NC helps to solve conflicts and/or lack of initiative from some institutions
- ❖ **Scarce long term design capabilities:** a technical task force (depending from the National Committee) supports constantly local coalitions in designing and managing local development strategies and connections with other policies
- ❖ **Lack of trust, failures of local coalitions:** the National Committee and the technical task force support the creation of unions of municipalities included in the IAS with the aim of designing and managing development strategies.

Thanks for your attention!

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