

*Smart Villages - A common perspective through different visions*

*Courmayeur*

*23° and 24° May, 2019*



*Italian Strategy for Inner Areas*

*A laboratory for integrated  
development and service innovation*

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Technical Committee for Inner Areas

# Inner Area: what does it mean?

Inner Areas are those territories characterized by:

- ❖ a NOT adequate offer of/access to essential services to assure citizen's rights;
- ❖ being rich in natural assets (water resources, agricultural systems, forests, natural landscapes) and cultural resources (archaeological settlements, abbeys, small museums, craft centres);
- ❖ low population density;
- ❖ often: high seismic risk and with natural constraints.

In Italy inner areas cover almost 60% of the whole national territory embracing about 23% of its total population and more than 4,000 municipalities

# Methodology to identify Inner Areas

'Service Centres' have been defined as those municipalities that offer:

- an exhaustive range of secondary schools;
- at least one hospital with a 1st level *DEA* (emergency unit);
- at least a 'Silver-type' railway station (*RFI*).

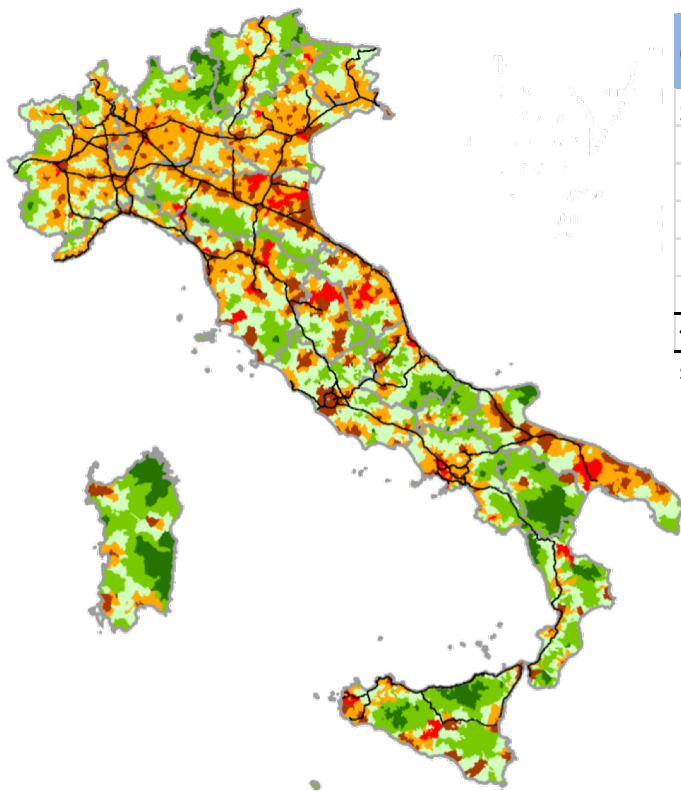
**NO DEMOGRAPHIC CRITERIA HAVE BEEN APPLIED**

Areas have been mapped according to the distance (travel time) from these 'Service Centres' as:

- 'Belt' areas – up to 20 minutes;
- 'Intermediate' areas – from 20 to 40 minutes;
- 'Remote' areas – from 40 to 75 minutes;
- 'Ultra-remote' areas – over 75 minutes.

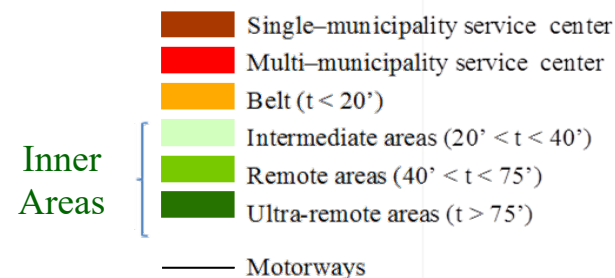
Inner Areas

# Italy's Inner Areas



Classification of Municipalities	N.	%	Average Altitude	Population	%	KM <sup>2</sup>	%
Single-Municipality Service Centre	217	2.7	148	20,993,647	35.3	28,987	9.6
Multi-Municipality Service Centre	123	1.5	195	3,008,676	5.1	8,736	2.9
Belt areas	3,571	44.1	219	22,150,877	37.3	84,235	27.9
Intermediate areas	2,371	29.3	399	8,773,390	14.8	88,461	29.3
Remote area	1,520	18.8	601	3,869,379	6.5	72,541	24.0
Ultra-remote areas	290	3.6	666	637,765	1.1	19,113	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,092</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>59,433,734</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>302,073</b>	<b>100.0</b>

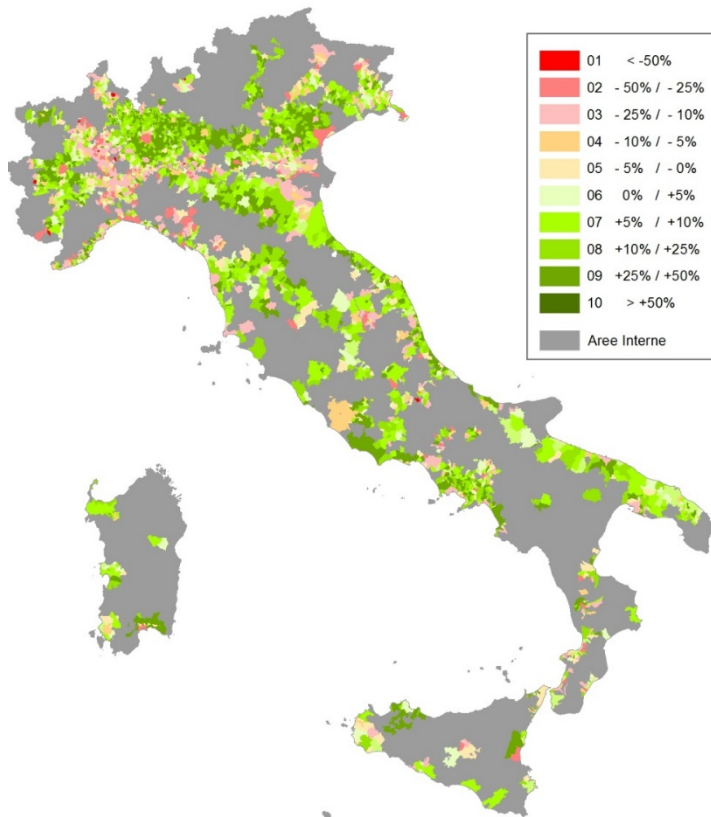
Source: CTAI elaboration Istat - Census 2011



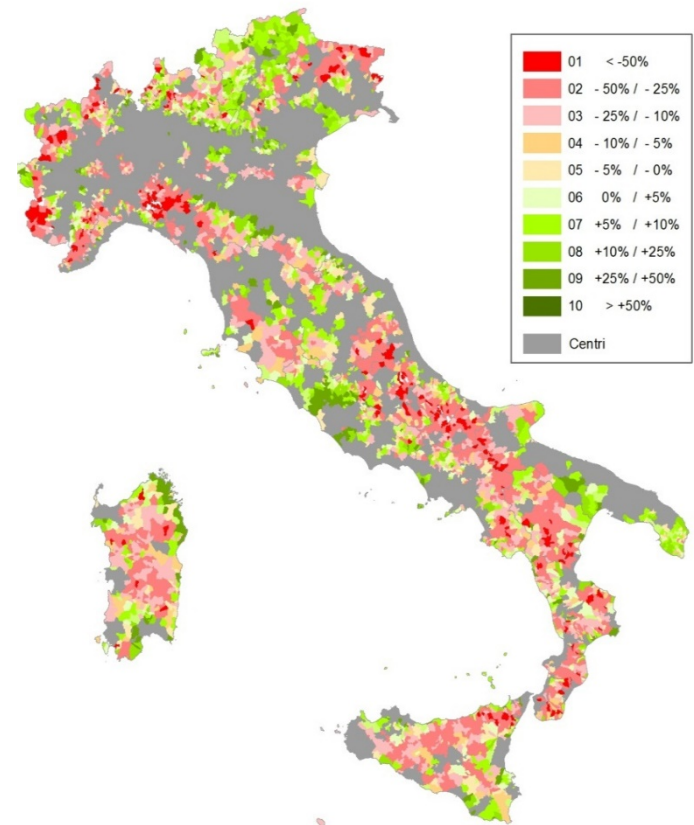
Source: UVAL-UVER-ISTAT elaboration on data from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and RFI (Italian Railway Network)

# Demographic changes (1971-2011)

Center



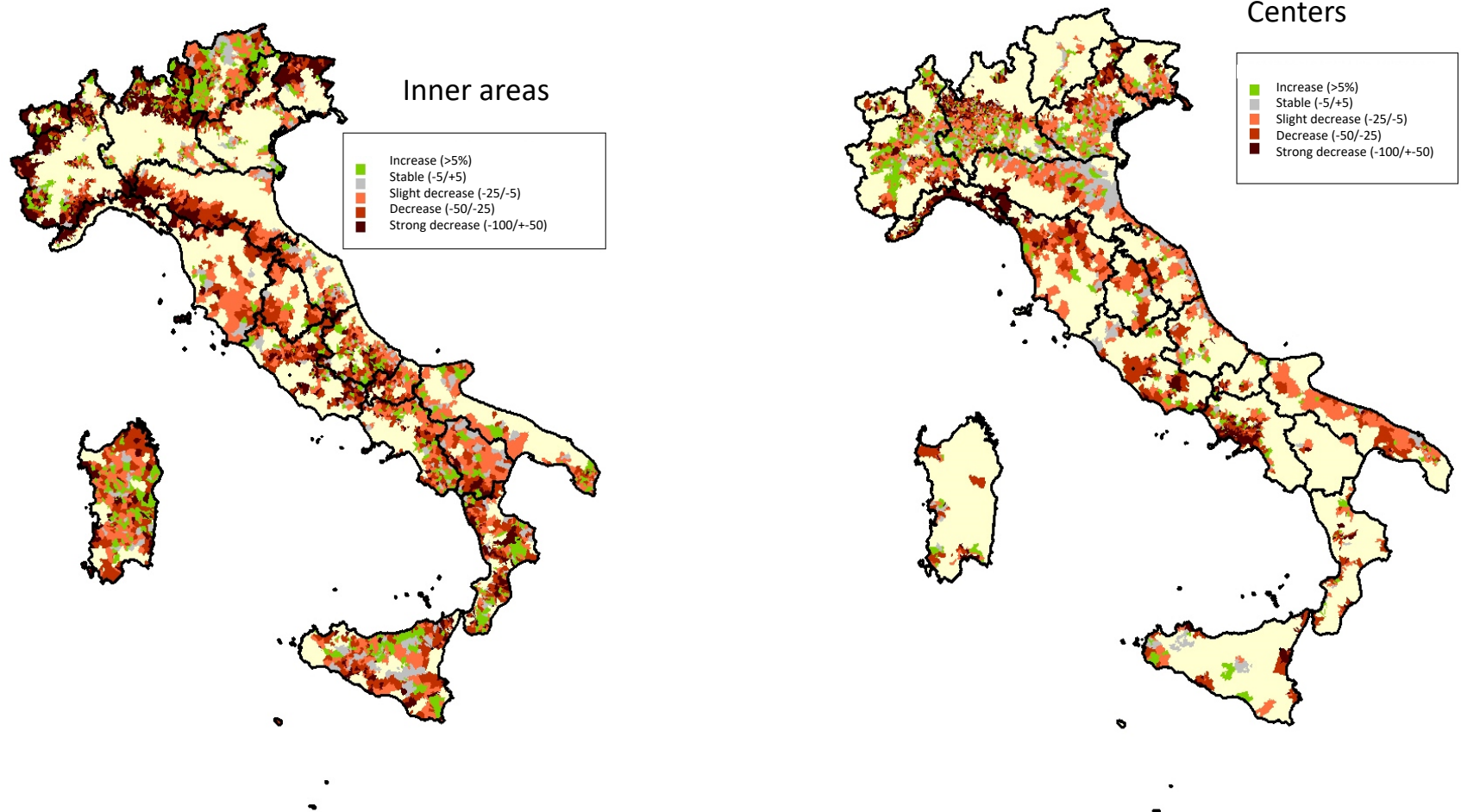
Inner areas



Source: Technical Committee for Inner areas elaboration on data from Istat

# Utilised agricultural area variation (1982-2010)

Source: CREA elaboration on data from Istat



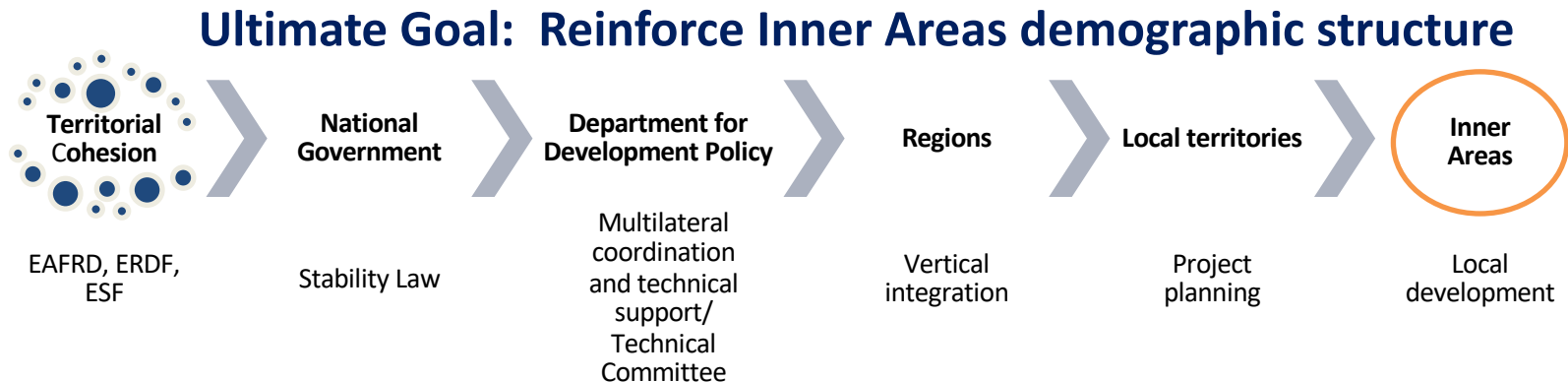
- Strong decrease in 1.144 IA municipalities and 772 Centers

- Increase in 694 IA municipalities and 686 Centers

# Why a National Strategy for Inner Areas?

## Territorial Cohesion Objective

- ❖ To give true content to the EU Cohesion Policy Territorial Objective;
- ❖ To overcome the rural-urban dichotomy;
- ❖ To empower territories and people to restore growth and well-being over marginalised areas, recognising their **diversity**;
- ❖ To recover not enhanced natural and cultural assets, reducing territories' depopulation and consequent abandonment costs.



# Inner Areas Strategy INNOVATION

## 5 main innovations

- ❖ National dimension and multilevel governance (National Administrations – Regions – municipalities and inter municipalities cooperation)
- ❖ In the project areas - **at the same time** - services improvements (mainly through national policy) and investments in selected development factors (energy; agriculture; crafts; cultural heritage; **regional policy**)
- ❖ Multi-fund approach (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF, EMMF and National Funds)
- ❖ Participatory approach to local development (co-project designing)
- ❖ Municipalities Associations and Mayors attention to **Policy Results** (accountability)

*Technical Committee established in Sept. 2012; National Strategy for Inner Areas launched in Dec. 2012; call for co-project designing candidatures (Rieti, April 2013)*



# Inner Areas National Strategy Method

The Technical Committee along with Regions analyse Inner Areas through a desk-analysis and a field-analysis process



Quantitative data and qualitative information are used to identify and select weakest Inner Areas



Each selected area define its local development strategy



A local development strategy is an integrated path aimed at development and growth



It is based on local essential services improvements and local development projects support

# Inner Areas Strategy: Selection based on a two-step assessment process

**The Open Inner Areas method:** over 100 indicators (desk analysis - **Inner Areas Open Kit: demographic and socio-economic parameters**) and **Focus Group** organized by the National Committee with Regions and local authorities involving local actors relevant for services delivery and development (field work - **National Committee's visits to pre-selected areas**) to select areas, prioritizing :

- ❖ Territories with people living mainly in Inner Areas;
- ❖ Inner Areas losing populations;
- ❖ Inner Areas with consistent elderly characteristics;
- ❖ Inner Areas with good project implementation capacities;
- ❖ Inner Areas with strong local leadership and municipalities' capacity to work in association.

# Selected project areas

At the current stage, selected areas within the Strategy are:

- ❖ **72** project areas with about 2mln. total residents and **1,077** municipalities;
- ❖ **711** municipalities (66%) are in mountainous areas (27% of Italian mountainous municipalities);
- ❖ on average: **15** municipalities and **29,000** residents per project area;
- ❖ low population density;
- ❖ about **3%** of Italian population and **16.7%** of Italian territory;
- ❖ **55%** of those 2 mln. live in remote and ultra-remote areas;
- ❖ **4.4%** population drop among selected areas between 2001 and 2011, and **3.2%** between 2011 and 2017;
- ❖ **39 Strategies** approved in **2019**.



# Project areas: main demographic and socio-economic parameters(1)

## Population trend

	2001	2011	2017	%Var. 2011-2001	%Var. 2017-2011
Italy	56.995.744	59.439.792	60.589.445	4,3	1,9
Italian Inner areas	12.983.929	13.298.235	13.266.147	2,3	-0,2
72 Project Areas	2.214.342	2.117.654	2.050.030	-4,4	-3,2

## Share of population aged 65 or more (%)

	2001	2011	2017
	% Over 65	% Over 65	% Over 65
Italy	18,7	20,8	22,3
Italian Inner areas	19,6	21,2	23,0
The 72 Project Areas	23,5	24,6	26,2

## Share of foreign residents

	2001	2011	2017
	% of foreign residents	% of foreign residents	% of foreign residents
Italy	2,3	6,8	8,3
Italian Inner areas	1,8	5,4	6,5
The 72 Project Areas	1,2	3,9	4,9

Source: Technical Committee for Inner areas elaboration on data from Istat

# Project areas: main demographic and socio-economic parameters(2)

*Share of primary school classes with 15 students or less (%)*

	2014	2017
	% of small classes	% of small classes
Italy	19,2	20,1
Italian Inner areas	34,5	36,8
72 Project Areas	49,2	54,0

*Competence level in mathematics in 8th year of school*

	2014	2017
Italy	0,00	0,00
Italian Inner areas	-0,07	-0,09
72 Project Areas	-0,06	-0,10

*Avoidable hospitalisation rate*

	2012	2015
Italy	570	570
Italian Inner areas	516	602
72 Project Areas	620	673

*Time before the arrival of first aid vehicles in health emergency cases (minutes)*

	2012	2015
	Alert – Target (Minutes)	Alert – Target (Minutes)
Italy	16	17
Italian Inner areas	21	23
72 Project Areas	24	25

Source: Technical Committee for Inner area elaboration on data from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education

# Inner Areas: Focus Group for strategy definition

The Focus Group is organised by the Italian Committee on Inner Areas in collaboration with Regions and local territories. On average it lasts 3 hours, broken down as follows:

4 sessions: local development, healthcare services, education, transport services;

16 speakers: 3 local actors + 1 expert from relevant ministry each session.



A typical session focused on local healthcare system

- ❖ 1 speaker from the Ministry of Healthcare – Directorate General health services
- ❖ 1 chief medical officer representing local healthcare system
- ❖ 1 Social Care Supply Worker
- ❖ 1 NGO or ONLUS member or chief

..... *Discussing and analysing the OPEN KIT data on healthcare local services*

# Development project proposals

- ❖ **Tourism** development projects often perceived as a «*panacea*» and not always based on a destination marketing strategy and on the preliminary assessment of demand;
- ❖ **Agriculture** conceived as local produce enhancement linked to tourism; centrality of livestock farming (economic and socio-cultural roles) and forest management;
- ❖ **Cultural heritage assets** enhancement is not sufficiently exploited for market promotion; difficult identification of possible «management» solutions; still weak focus on innovation and creativity;
- ❖ Investments on entrepreneurship and start-ups. Weak focus on **innovation & high technology**;
- ❖ **Investment in human capital and training** is often perceived as a pre-condition but there is a need to better assess training demand and to bend implementation systems to meet specific challenges in inner areas;

# Education

## Issues and solutions to improve services

### Thematic key issues indicated by the Areas concerned

- ❖ School education supply: undersizing and fragmentation
  - ❖ Didactics and pedagogical model quality
    - ❖ Learning levels and skills
  - ❖ Education/Training supply enhancement
    - ❖ Teacher training
- ❖ Education/Training supply oriented to territories' vocations
  - ❖ Adult population's education/training level.



# Education

## Actions proposed by territories

### ❖ Merging hypothesis/new hubs – Civic Centre

- *Basso Sangro-Trigno (Abruzzo)* «innovative» school: creation of a new school centre conceived as future civil centre equipped with labs
- *Valli Grana and Maira* «innovative» school (Piedmont): creation of a new school centre in the former Pisacane military headquarters, equipped with leisure and sports areas.

### ❖ Innovative didactic models / School networks / Digital school

- Creation of a school network (*Madonie*)
- Innovative didactics: synergy between enhancement of territory's key skills and resources (*Antola-Tigullio, Casentino-Valtiberina, Alta Carnia, Madonie*)
- Digital economy and green economy promotion: Smart schools, Energy FabLabs, Audio-visual labs, multimedia labs, and Web TV (*Madonie, Vallo di Diano*).

### ❖ Activation of new orientations/professional training actions consistent with Inner Areas' development directrices, also via dual training (learning-working) in the sectors of **Agriculture & Tourism multifunctional agriculture and sustainability** (*Appennino Piacentino Parmense*)

### ❖ Lifelong learning/professional training for adults (*Alto Molise, Valnerina, Val di Lanzo*).

### ❖ Facilitation of Innovation transfer in agriculture (*Montagna Materana, Comelico, Valfino, Appennino Reggiano*)

# Healthcare

## Issues and solutions to improve services

### Thematic key issues indicated by the Areas concerned

- ❖ Overly hospitalisation in situations addressable by territorial services;
- ❖ Low percentage of elderly people benefiting of emergency-urgency network;
- ❖ Lengthy waiting for territorial first aid vehicles in health emergency cases;
- ❖ Remoteness of outpatient services for specific treatments, and private GP/Pediatrician outpatient facilities;
- ❖ Orography of Areas and territorial competences involving multiple municipalities, which implies major governance difficulty in recruiting medical staffs on the territory;
- ❖ Services are not oriented / not adequate to weak segments.

# Healthcare

## Issues and solutions to improve services

Going beyond hospital-centred assistance via:

- ❖ Organisational models of primary assistance, and **hospital-territory continuity** enhancement:
  - Integrated homecare
  - Community nurses and midwives; private pediatricians
  - Chemist shops providing hospital-connected services
  - Health points
  - Equipping local pharmacies with smart technologies to allow remote diagnostics
  - Patient empowerment.
  
- ❖ **Tele-healthcare** instruments, tele-assistance, tele-reporting.
  
- ❖ Improving the territorial organisation of the **emergency-urgency network** and infrastructure so as to ensure acceptable «alert-target» timing.
  
- ❖ **Social-healthcare integration.**

# FINANCIAL COVERAGE OF INNER AREAS STRATEGIES

Macro Region	Inner areas	Stability Law	Programmes ESI - Funds	Of which:				Other public funds	Private Funds	Total
				OPERD F	OPE SF	PSREAFR D	EMFF			
North	Alta Carnia	3.690.000	4.614.000	2.114.000	1.000.000	1.500.000	-	-	1.251.000	9.555.000
	Alta Valtellina	3.011.895	15.400.000	9.600.000	2.969.000	2.831.000	-	1.045.000	-	19.456.895
	Alto Lago di Como e valli del Lario	3.739.980	15.211.000	9.830.000	2.550.000	2.831.000	-	1.474.760	-	20.425.740
	Antola Tigullio	3.740.000	2.185.000	725.000	200.000	1.160.000	100.000	96.800	460.000	6.481.800
	Appennino Emiliano	3.740.000	17.241.022	2.671.000	330.000	14.240.022	-	1.159.000	6.367.000	28.507.022
	Appennino Lombardo e Alto Oltrepò Pavese	3.740.000	15.975.000	9.500.000	3.644.000	2.831.000	-	1.284.160	63.000	21.062.160
	Appennino Piacentino Parmense	3.740.000	10.298.842	2.682.318	240.000	7.376.524	-	655.400	290.000	14.984.242
	Bassa Valle	3.740.000	8.116.063	1.893.084	800.000	5.422.979	-	3.058.000	-	14.914.063
	Basso Ferrarese	3.740.000	7.198.630	3.453.567	1.500.000	2.245.063	-	400.000	180.000	11.518.630
	Beigua Sol	3.740.000	5.121.100	2.450.000	200.000	2.471.100	-	180.715	45.000	9.086.815
	Comelico	3.740.000	4.784.000	2.500.000	284.000	2.000.000	-	902.366	10.000	9.436.366
	Grand Paradis	3.740.000	3.436.042	500.000	100.000	2.836.042	-	1.731.317	18.000	8.925.359
	Spettabile Reggenza	3.553.000	4.172.500	1.500.000	672.500	2.000.000	-	-	3.660.000	11.385.500
	Tesino	3.740.000	3.412.000	1.860.000	810.000	742.000	-	2.601.735	2.382.000	12.135.735
	Val di Sole	3.740.000	6.967.549	2.387.549	580.000	4.000.000	-	74.946	11.640.000	22.422.495
	Valchiavenna	3.740.000	15.771.860	9.500.000	3.440.860	2.831.000	-	2.140.000	-	21.651.860
	Valli Maira e Grana	3.740.000	6.250.000	3.300.000	450.000	2.500.000	-	255.000	695.000	10.940.000
	Valli Ossola	3.740.000	6.850.000	4.000.000	450.000	2.400.000	-	700.000	200.000	11.490.000
	<b>Totale</b>	<b>66.354.875</b>	<b>153.004.608</b>	<b>70.466.518</b>	<b>20.220.360</b>	<b>62.217.730</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>17.759.199</b>	<b>27.261.000</b>	<b>264.379.682</b>
	<b>% TOTALE</b>	<b>25,1</b>	<b>57,9</b>	<b>26,7</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>23,5</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>6,7</b>	<b>10,3</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Center	Appennino basso pesarese e anconetano	3.740.000	6.009.000	2.753.000	1.254.000	2.002.000	-	2.997.684	25.000	12.771.684
	Ascoli Piceno	3.739.000	4.841.000	2.148.000	1.044.000	1.649.000	-	-	-	8.580.000
	Casentino Valtiberina	3.740.000	3.740.000	545.000	1.754.437	1.440.563	-	764.800	2.169.062	10.413.862
	Garfagnana	3.740.000	3.740.000	795.000	120.000	2.673.000	152.000	1.190.000	973.000	9.643.000
	Nord Est	3.740.000	8.053.740	2.561.887	1.471.853	4.020.000	-	-	-	11.793.740
	Sud Ovest Orvietano	3.740.000	8.122.923	1.866.300	1.421.623	4.835.000	-	-	-	11.862.923
	Valle del Comino	3.740.000	2.661.092	531.278	-	2.129.814	-	6.534.200	-	12.935.292
	Alto Maceratese	3.740.000	4.791.940	2.098.940	1.044.000	1.649.000	-	-	1.015.784	9.547.724
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29.919.000</b>	<b>41.959.696</b>	<b>13.299.405</b>	<b>8.109.914</b>	<b>20.398.377</b>	<b>152.000</b>	<b>11.486.684</b>	<b>4.182.846</b>	<b>87.548.226</b>
	<b>% TOTAL</b>	<b>34,2</b>	<b>47,9</b>	<b>15,2</b>	<b>9,3</b>	<b>23,3</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>13,1</b>	<b>4,8</b>	<b>100,0</b>
South	Alta Irpinia	3.740.000	15.286.482	2.879.482	1.707.000	10.700.000	-	7.000.000	-	26.026.482
	Alta Marmilla	3.740.000	4.773.000	2.950.000	1.140.000	683.000	-	-	-	8.513.000
	Basso Sangro	3.740.000	4.539.540	2.539.540	1.400.000	600.000	-	2.000.000	1.000.000	11.279.540
	Fortore	3.741.420	3.717.139	2.730.027	637.112	350.000	-	-	-	7.458.559
	Gennargentu Mandrolisai	3.740.000	4.655.300	2.275.300	850.000	1.530.000	-	570.000	-	8.965.300
	Madonie	3.740.000	33.331.650	30.999.650	1.312.000	1.020.000	-	35.000	1.004.040	38.110.690
	Matrese	3.740.000	3.018.000	2.212.000	506.000	300.000	-	-	20.000	6.778.000
	Montagna materana	3.740.000	17.751.377	11.234.515	2.606.105	3.910.757	-	-	1.487.157	22.978.534
	Monti Dauni	3.740.000	60.000.000	41.000.000	2.000.000	17.000.000	-	-	12.800.000	76.540.000
	Reventino Savuto	3.735.000	8.255.000	6.150.000	1.330.000	775.000	-	1.500.000	-	13.490.000
	Val Simeto	3.700.000	28.290.544	26.519.193	1.311.351	460.000	-	-	-	31.990.544
	Vallo di Diano	3.720.320	13.963.049	9.333.000	930.049	3.700.000	-	-	-	17.683.369
	Valfino Vestina	3.740.000	1.750.000	-	1.150.000	600.000	-	2.000.000	-	7.490.000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48.556.740</b>	<b>199.331.081</b>	<b>140.822.707</b>	<b>16.879.617</b>	<b>41.628.757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13.105.000</b>	<b>16.311.197</b>	<b>277.304.018</b>
	<b>% Total</b>	<b>17,5</b>	<b>71,9</b>	<b>50,8</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>15,0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,7</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Italy	<b>Total</b>	<b>144.830.615</b>	<b>394.295.385</b>	<b>224.588.630</b>	<b>45.209.891</b>	<b>124.244.864</b>	<b>252.000</b>	<b>42.350.883</b>	<b>47.755.043</b>	<b>629.231.926</b>
	<b>% TOTAL</b>	<b>23,0</b>	<b>62,7</b>	<b>35,7</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>19,7</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>6,7</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Data updated to 15 /5 /2019

# Financial allocation by sector for the 39 Strategies approved

	<i>Financial allocation by sector (public funds)</i>	
	Euro	Percentage
<b>Mobility</b>	€ 90.551.131	14,4%
<b>Health Care</b>	€ 75.957.664	12,1%
<b>Education</b>	€ 67.001.474	10,6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 233.510.270</b>	<b>37,1%</b>
<b>Agriculture and livestock</b>	€ 68.956.472	11,0%
<b>Forestry</b>	€ 15.199.563	2,4%
<b>Transparency and efficiency of the PA</b>	€ 10.259.887	1,6%
<b>Energy</b>	€ 48.349.274	7,7%
<b>Enterprises</b>	€ 60.429.358	9,6%
<b>Infrastructures and digital services</b>	€ 37.864.086	6,0%
<b>Employment and training</b>	€ 18.835.449	3,0%
<b>Nature, culture and tourism</b>	€ 120.537.649	19,2%
<b>Territorial protection and risk prevention</b>	€ 15.289.919	2,4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 395.721.656</b>	<b>62,9%</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>€ 629.231.926</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

Data updated to 15 /5 /2019

# How do we monitor results?

– an example –

Result Indicators to measure  
healthcare improvements:

Actions:

Reduce the time (in minutes) between  
the start of the emergency telephone call  
made and first aid vehicle's arrival at the  
site

Increase transport organisation and  
efficiency that influence  
inhabitants' access to healthcare  
services

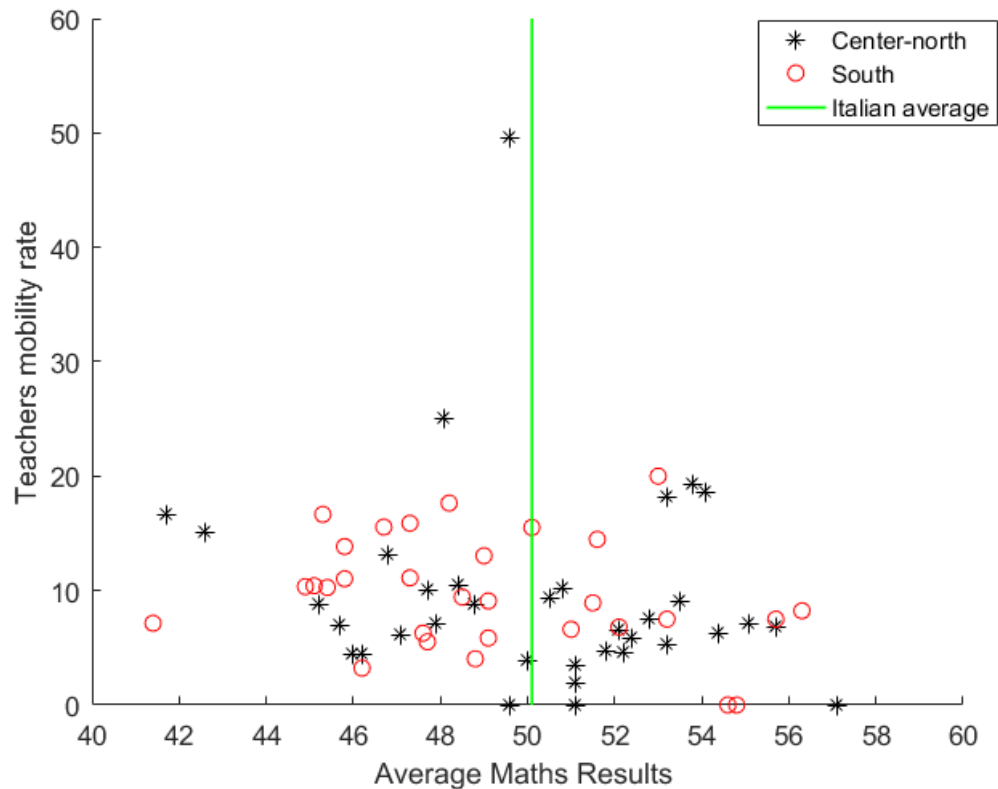
Percentage increase in population aged 65  
and over treated via Integrated Home Care  
(ADI) services

Promote social inclusion, fight  
against poverty and all forms of  
discrimination

Increase specialist outpatient services  
provided per 1,000 residents

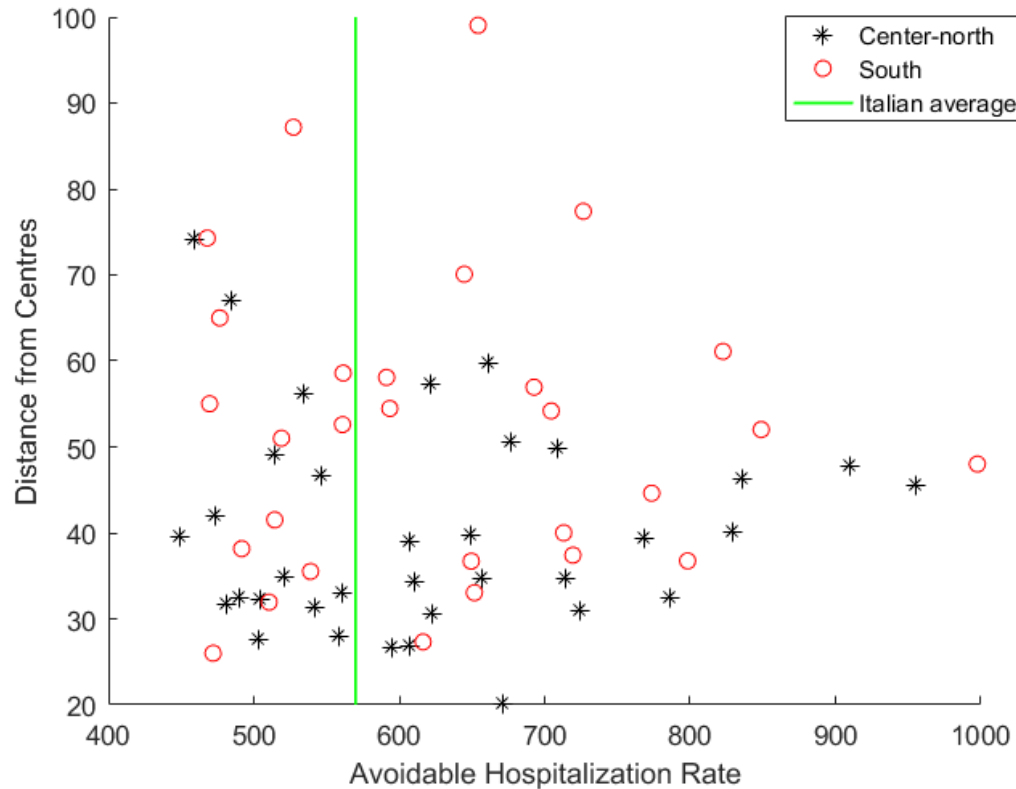
Increase/Enhancement of care  
services and healthcare and social  
service infrastructure.

# Selected Areas and Final Evaluation Maths Results



- Students' average maths results in selected areas lower than national average
- Weak but existing correlation between maths results and teachers' mobility.

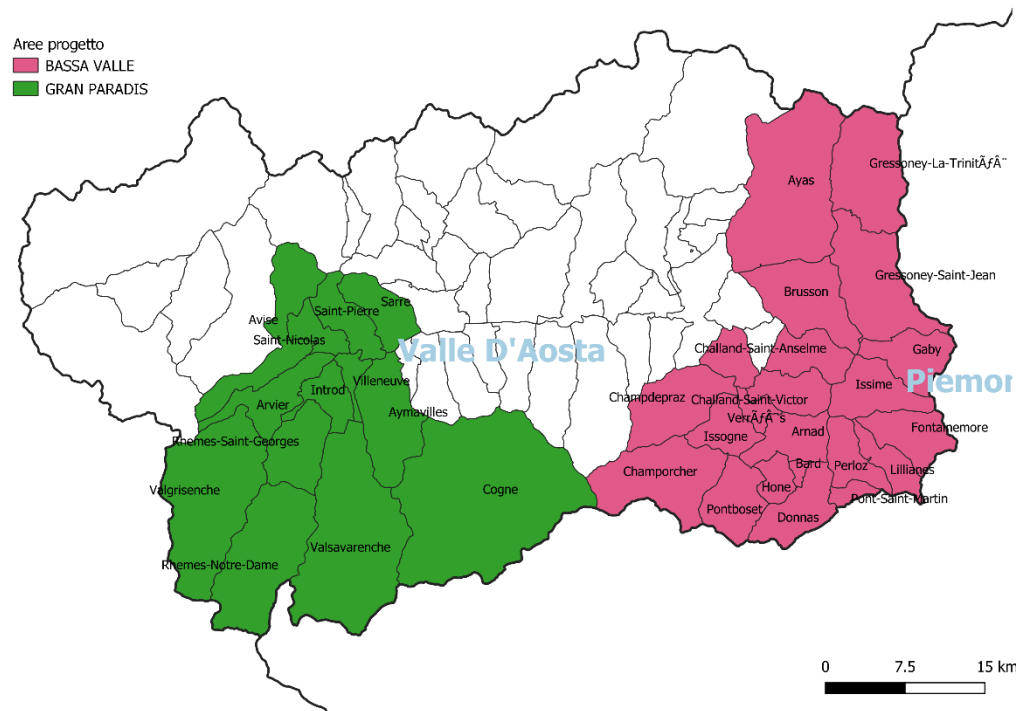
# Hospitalisation and Selected Areas



- On average, selected areas record higher avoidable hospitalisation rates compared to national rates
- No correlation between avoidable hospitalisation and distance from Centres (there is a space for better services organisation)



# INNER AREAS IN VALLE D'AOSTA



## BASSA VALLE

	Project area	Valle D'Aosta IA	Italy
Number of municipalities	23	44	8,092
Population 2011	23,663	38,680	59.439.792
Population 2017	21,208	38,407	60.589.445
Pop. var %2017-2011	-1,9	-0,7	1,9
Pop. var %2011-2001	3,0	4,2	4,3
Pop. var %2011-1971	6,7.	9,5	9,8

## GRAND-PARADIS

	Project area	Valle D'Aosta IA	Italy
Number of municipalities	6	44	8,092
Population 2011	2,463	38,680	59.439.792
Population 2017	2,332	38,407	60.589.445
Pop. var %2017-2011	-5,4	-0,7	1,9
Pop. var %2011-2001	0,2	4,2	4,3
Pop. var %2011-1971	-14,2	9,5	9,8

# INNER AREAS IN VALLE D'AOSTA

## Essential Services actions

### BASSA VALLE

Expected outcomes	Actions
Improvement of students' skills, reduce the number of early school leavers, address low educational achievement	Creation of a single poly-functional centralised school institute in Verrès, combining inclusive learning environment with innovative teaching (secondary school)
Enhancement in the provision of territorial healthcare and social services.	Fragility nurse Support organizations working in the social-health field
Enhancement of the transport system	Social-aim flexible transport General-aim flexible transport

### GRAND-PARADIS

Expected outcomes	Actions
Improvement of territorial school activities and improvement of didactics.	Predispose schools spaces for Innovative didactics Interactive Training for teachers Summer school "Una montagna da imparare"
Enhancement of infrastructure network and of provision of territorial healthcare and social services.	Fragility nurse New emergency service locations Assistant d'hameau
Enhancement and sustainability of the transport system	Student aimed transport General flexible transport Green mobility

# Conclusions

- ❖ Italian Inners Areas are building up their Strategies to reverse their demographic and socio-economic decline, working on innovative solutions for basic services provision and local development
- ❖ They are strongly working on Education systems (reorganising school settings, classes and pedagogical methods, innovative didactics)
- ❖ Better linkage between education options and jobs opportunities
- ❖ Introduction of education options focused on multifunctional agriculture and sustainability
- ❖ Enhancement of the transport system (rationalisation of transport systems serving social aims, student needs, etc.)
- ❖ Integration between healthcare and social services
- ❖ They look for a new equilibrium between hospitals and local healthcare networks with a reinforced role for nurses and midwives
- ❖ development projects with strong emphasis on tourism, agriculture and their integration and focus on sustainability.

THANK YOU!

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