

NETWORKS, MARKETS & PEOPLE - NMP2024

THEMATIC SESSIONS - TS

TS-31

THE EUROPEAN COHESION POLICY AND THE REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN CALABRIA FROM 2000 TO 2020 BETWEEN LEARNING PROCESSES AND STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINTS

Keywords: European Cohesion Policy; Regional Operational Programmes; Integrated Local Development; Southern Italy; Calabria.

With the introduction of the Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs) in the third cycle of the European Cohesion Policy (ECP), the Regional Governments of lagging regions were directly entrusted with a budget and the responsibility of implementing their own development strategies.

In contrast with the centralised and sectorial approach deployed by the National Government during the Intervento Straordinario, the EU adopted a more decentralised and integrated approach, assuming that subnational governments could formulate more effective policies, virtuously integrating sectors and actors.

This Session hosts contributions providing a critical assessment of the implementation and impacts of the Calabrian ROPs in the last three cycles (2000-2006; 2007-2013; 2014-2020), with particular attention to selected themes/sectors: institutional innovation, changes in political practices and relations among actors; integrated strategies and projects; cultural heritage and landscape, rural and urban development, tourism, infrastructures.

The main question addressed is whether the regionalisation of the ECP in Calabria has been an 'agent of change' in the direction of a more integrated, sustainable and participated governance path, or they have merely translated in a bureaucratic adaptation to the imposed EU framework. The Session aims at shedding some light on the continuities and discontinuities in the evolution of the ECP in Calabria.

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