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## Indicators for Inclusive Growth: From Concepts to Maps

### Indicatori per la Crescita Inclusiva: dai concetti alle mappe

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**Abstract.** This paper analyses some key dimensions of Inclusive Growth, one of the pillars of the EU 2020 strategy, focusing on social inclusion as a fundamental aspect of territorial cohesion. This research is part of a PRIN funded project on territorial impact assessment and territorial cohesion of the Italian regions. Firstly, the results of a survey aimed at developing an applicable, shared language between the PRIN research units are presented. The definitions reflect views and perspectives on various key concepts of social inclusion among 76 stakeholders and practitioners. In addition, the survey provides evidence of the level of knowledge of European programs, and the concepts adopted in the PRIN research project. Secondly, the paper looks at the territorial distribution of some indicators of Equal Opportunities, Trust in institutions and Trust in European Union cooperation. Maps at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 level are discussed and compared in order to define differences and similarities between Italian regions, provinces and metropolitan areas. The paper shows the importance of place-based evidence of territorial impact assessment as a way to address future policies, which consider the geographical and social context.

**Keywords:** social cohesion, equal opportunities, political participation.

**Riassunto.** Il presente lavoro analizza alcune dimensioni della Crescita Inclusiva, uno dei pilastri della programmazione UE 2020. In particolare nell'analisi viene sviluppato il tema dell'inclusione sociale inteso come elemento necessario per aumentare il livello di coesione territoriale. La ricerca si inserisce all'interno di un progetto PRIN sulla coesione territoriale e sul *Territorial Impact Assessment* (TIA) delle regioni italiane. Nella prima parte sono sintetizzati i risultati salienti di un questionario volto a sviluppare un linguaggio condiviso tra le unità di ricerca PRIN su alcuni concetti chiave relativi all'inclusione sociale sui quali si sono espressi 76 stakeholder e practitioner. La seconda parte analizza la distribuzione territoriale di alcuni indicatori che definiscono la Crescita Inclusiva: pari opportunità, fiducia nelle istituzioni e fiducia nella cooperazione dell'Unione europea. La realizzazione di una serie di carte tematiche a livello NUTS 2 e NUTS 3 ha permesso di confrontare l'andamento dei suddetti indicatori su base territoriale. La ricerca dimostra pertanto l'importanza di un approccio *place-based* per una programmazione più mirata che tenga presente le specificità dei territori oggetto di pianificazione.

**Parole chiave:** Coesione sociale, Pari opportunità, Partecipazione politica.

## 1. Introduction

Territorial cohesion is one of the fundamental objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and recent European policies in general (Barca 2009; *Cohesion Reports V*, EC 2010; *Territorial Agenda 2020*, EC 2011). It represents the main measurement of territorial growth and it can be defined from some concepts which outline its different dimensions (Coronato, Pigliucci 2018); amongst the others, these are cohesion, competitiveness, productivity, inner and internal areas, territorial capital, green economy, diversity and social inclusion<sup>1</sup>. The measurement of Territorial Impact Assessment of territorial cohesion is fundamental to establish the weaknesses of a particular area in order to define strategic lines of action through specific integrated territorial policies and investments (Coronato, Pigliucci 2018). The PRIN 2015 research project “Territorial Impact Assessment of territorial cohesion of Italian regions. Place-evidence model for the assessment of green economy development of internal areas and metropolitan peripheries” is developed by ten research units<sup>2</sup> assisted by institutional observers<sup>3</sup>. The project is aimed at defining and measuring the appropriate use of the 2020 funding for occupation and growth, going beyond a mere spatial dimension in favour of a geographical approach which considers the added value offered by territorial capitals, environment, society and culture (Barca 2009, Espon 2013, EC 2014). This assessment will be carried out through the application of the SteMA TIA methodology<sup>4</sup> (Prezioso 2018a; 2018b). The different research units shared a common language and acquired the main notions to define territorial cohesion.

This paper focuses on a group of indicators related to equal opportunities and political participation, both falling under the determinants of Inclusive Growth, one of the three pillars of EU2020 strategy alongside Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Growth. Firstly, some of the main notions contributing to define the concept of social inclusion will be examined; social inclusion is a fundamental component for the measurement of territorial cohesion as a whole. Secondly, the territorial distribution

of some indicators of equal opportunities, trust in institutions and trust in European Union cooperation will be examined. Maps at both NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 level are discussed and contrasted in order to define differences and similarities between Italian regions, provinces and metropolitan areas.

## 2. Materials and methods

The definitions of the main dimensions that contribute to outline the concept of social cohesion have been developed from the results of a survey carried out by the research unit during the first year of the project (2017). The aim of the survey was the development of an applicable, common language which could go beyond the normal institutional and legislative terminology, therefore being of practical use for post-2020 planning (Coronato, Pigliucci 2018). In particular, this analysis will mainly concern the definition of concepts which contribute to describe the social sphere. The indicators which define equal opportunities and political participation are part of the 73 indicators selected by the research units in order to assess territorial cohesion at regional and provincial level. In all cases, data are available at both NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 level. Starting from these data the relevant maps have been produced, which allow a spatial visualisation and comparison of the examined phenomena. The maps are the basis for further analysis aimed at assessing the effects of corrective policies through the use of SteMA, whose application will allow the territorialisation of the indicators.

The results are discussed in terms of their geographical distribution with reference to the official division of the EU for regional statistics: NUTS 1 (regions) and NUTS 2 (provinces and metropolitan areas). Territorial references to macro-regions use the official geographical division by ISTAT:

- North: Piedmont, Valle d’Aosta, Liguria, Lombardy, Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna
- North-West: Piedmont, Valle d’Aosta, Liguria, Lombardy
- North-East: Trentino Alto Adige, Veneto, Friuli – Venezia Giulia, Emilia – Romagna
- Centre: Tuscany, Umbria, Marche, Lazio
- Mezzogiorno: Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily, Sardinia.
- South: Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria
- Islands: Sicily, Sardinia

<sup>1</sup> These are concepts which have been redefined in the course of work, thanks to the application of an empirical methodology aimed at bridging the gap between official definitions and their application at different territorial scales by researchers, practitioners and stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.det.uniroma2.it/index.php?page=chi-siamo>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.det.uniroma2.it/index.php?page=osservatori-istituzionali>

<sup>4</sup> The development of the SteMA TIA model (Sustainable Territorial environmental/economic Management Approach for Territorial Impact Assessment) is a quali-quantitative methodological process whose policy planning application is based on 10 simplifying hypotheses and 9 logical steps.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 The definitions

Territorial capital can be defined using different concepts which delineate its various dimensions. Within the PRIN 2015 “Territorial Impact Assessment of territorial cohesion of Italian regions. Place-evidence model for the assessment of green economy development of internal areas and metropolitan peripheries” the definition of these concepts derives from the application of an empirical method based on the use of semi-structured questionnaires given to specific target groups. In particular, researchers of the 10 research units collected and elaborated 76 surveys from national, regional and local stakeholders and practitioners.<sup>5</sup> These are mainly civil servants with diverse skills, background and knowledge of concepts which are useful to define the Territorial Impact Assessment of territorial cohesion (Coronato, Pigliucci 2018).

The concepts developed in the surveys were: cohesion, competitiveness, sustainability, diversity, inclusion, fairness, Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA), social inclusion, territorial cohesion, inner and internal areas, territorial capital, green economy, productivity. The aim of the survey was not only to define the concepts, but also:

- To identify the level of knowledge of European programs.
- To identify the most frequent European programs adopted by the interviewees.
- To identify the degree of knowledge of the concepts of the PRIN research theme and of the results emerged from the projects financed in the European program.

A series of questions was aimed at identifying the documents where these concepts appeared and the various acceptations these words were used.

The definitions emerged from the elaboration of the interviews consider the different points of view of the interviewees and represent a shared language between members of the PRIN project. These are intentionally non-institutional definitions which reflect the interpretations given by the different individuals involved in the survey, taking into consideration their relative involvement with the technical terms of European language.

This contribution examines a synthesis of some of the definitions given by the target group, notably the ones more strictly connected to the indicators analysed

**Table 1.** Attribution (in grey) of the thirteen concepts in the four areas (social/cultural, economic, environmental, territorial). Source: authors' elaboration.

Concepts	Territorial	Economic	Social/ Cultural	Environ- mental
sustainability				
cohesion				
inclusion				
territorial capital				
competitiveness				
social inclusion				
Territorial Impact Assessment				
diversity				
green economy				
fairness				
inner and internal areas				
productivity				
territorial cohesion				

by this unit, concerning the Inclusive Growth determinant.

For this purpose, we grouped 13 concepts in four different areas: social/cultural, environmental, economic and territorial (Tab. 1).

The following definitions concern fully or partly the social sphere:

- *Territorial Capital.* The complex of the tangible and intangible elements that are available to a territory for its development. Tangible: physical, environmental, structural and infrastructural resources. Intangible: cultural (historical-artistic heritage) and social resources (including human and social capital). The importance of each element of territorial capital depends on choices and strategies of the different local communities. Therefore, each territorial dimension (regardless its administrative level) is characterised by a specific territorial capital which is different from other areas. Development and investment policies have to consider the territorial capital of each area (initial territorial means) and to promote its coherent, innovative and efficient use for future generations (Spheres: economic, territorial, social/cultural).
- *Inclusion.* Inclusive growth is one the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy. It is a crucial factor in the requalification and enhancement of the social-economic fabric. It concerns both a status and the process of involvement of single or multiple sub-

<sup>5</sup> In addition, each research unit compiled a survey which was the result of shared ideas and experiences between members of the team.

jects within larger social contexts from both an economic and cultural point of view. It is a concept which is strictly connected to human development. Inclusion policies concern different aspects of the decision making process and have different dimensions: active employment policies, access to services policies, educational policies, housing policies, active citizenship policy and political participation (Spheres: economic, territorial, social/cultural).

- *Social inclusion.* It refers to the concept of inclusion. When applied, it is based on the social inclusion/exclusion dualism. It is measured by both quantitative and qualitative data: therefore it needs to be contextualised within a specific socio-territorial context where the reference group is characterised by a certain degree of cohesion. Inclusion and exclusion are measured by different dimensions such as income, education, security, health, housing, environmental conditions, etc. Diversity is an added value and active participation is a strategy to overcome socio-territorial inequality. Social inclusion policies at national and European level aim to develop a new welfare model for the territory (Spheres: social/cultural, territorial).
- *Cohesion.* It is strictly connected to the socio-economic-territorial context. It can be estimated based on its dimension at different levels. From a geographical point of view, cohesion is represented, measured and related to a specific region where economic, social, cultural and environmental processes are directly influenced by integration and interdependence of relations. It is the capacity that natural and anthropic components (including institutions) have to look for and find compactness and unifying proposals despite the presence of centrifugal forces (Prezioso 2018a). The measurement of cohesion is an indicator of the potential and real level of development in relation to territorial capital (Spheres: economic, territorial, social/cultural).
- *Fairness.* It concerns both ethics and law. Justice is conformity to law, while fairness is an equality relation between one or more counterparts. It is a fundamental principle of the State: in particular equality in opportunities can relate to equality in the means' perspectives. This second interpretation is strictly connected to social policies, compulsory education, right to health and in general every welfare public policy (Spheres: social/cultural).
- *Sustainability.* Sustainability is a systemic concept and a universal value: it is aimed at conciliating growth and ecosystems conservation in order to guarantee future resources for quantitative and

qualitative development. Sustainability has three dimensions: environmental, economic and social. It is connected to territorial capital, becoming a condition of stable and competitive economic growth in a perspective of subsidiarity. In this sense, it is also recognised as territorial dimension of cohesion and its related policies (Spheres: economic, territorial, social/cultural, territorial).

The examination of the above concepts constitutes the framework of further analysis on some dimensions of Inclusive Growth carried out by our research unit, which will be developed in the following paragraphs.

### 3.2 Some dimensions of Inclusive Growth

More than 70 indicators are used by the research units to define the level of cohesion of Italian regions and provinces: they have been classified under the Smart Growth, Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Growth determinants, which reflect the pillars of EU2020. An additional determinant, Resources and Funding helps assessing if and to what extent funding for cohesion have been spent at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 level (Table 2).

The indicators of Inclusive Growth have been divided into four subgroups (fig. 1). In order to examine the Italian situation in depth and to compare regions, provinces and metropolitan areas, this work focuses on two groups of significant indicators of Inclusive Growth:

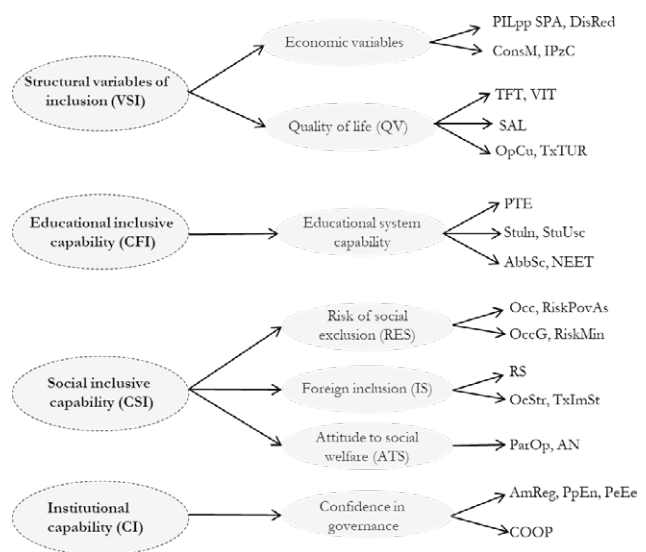


Figure 1. Logic scheme of Inclusive Growth indicators. Source: authors' elaboration.

**Table 2.** Distribution of indicators in the three pillars EU2020 and resources and funding. Source: authors' elaboration.

Inclusive Growth Indicators = total 27	Sustainable Growth Indicators = total 28
PILpp SPA(Gross domestic product standard purchasing power); DisRed (Unequal distribution of regional income); Cons (Per capita consumption); IPzC (Consumer price index); TFT (Total fertility rate), SpVit (Life expectancy), SAL (Tax of hospitalization), OpCu (Cultural opportunities); TxTUR (Tourism intensity); PTE (Population with bachelor degree/total population); Stuln (Incoming students); StuUsc (Outgoing students); AbbSc (School drop-out rates); NEET; ER (Employment rate); RiskPocAs (Absolute poverty risk); YN (Youth unemployment); RiskMin (Minors exclusion); RS (Foreign residents); OcStr (Employed foreigners); TxImSt (Foreign entrepreneurs tax); ParOp (Women employment); AN (Nurseries); AmReg (Regional elections participation); PpEn (National elections participation); PeEe (Regional elections participation); COOP (Transnational and cross-border participation) <sup>1</sup>	IM (Manufacturing firms); UL (Local units); AdGREEN (Active population in green sectors); BTS (Green companies); MDP (Marking); PILppSPA (Gross domestic product per capita and purchasing power); PILGreen (VAGreen); Icom (Commercial integration of products); IcB (Commercial integration of products); IDE (Direct foreign investments); OCC (Employed people); IAC (Capital accumulation intensity); PF (Taxation); CL (Hourly labour cost); BnK (Banks); IAF (Financial and insurance institutes); CC (CO2 Emissions); Sair (Quality of air); AcPotn(Water for potable use); Risk; RaccD (Differentiated collection); RifP (Dangerous waste); RifU (Urban waste); AAG (General agreements on environment); SNA (Specific environmental regulations); AccM (Multimodal accessibility); BL (Broadband spread); IAutEn, (Energy self-sufficiency index) <sup>3</sup>
Smart Growth Indicators= total 9	Resources and Funding Indicators = total 10
UI (Internet users); BUL (Broadband spread); PAI (Public administrations using Internet); PL (Structures of education and creation of knowledge); IDI(Innovative dependence index); PET (Population with bachelor degree); PLL (Population in lifelong learning); RDI (R&D Infrastructures); BL (Broadband penetration level) <sup>2</sup>	RF_SpR&S (Research and development expenditure); RF_SpSvEc (Economic development and competitiveness expenditure); RF_SpOc, (Employment expenditure); RF_SpFoP, (Vocational training expenditure); RF_SpSS, (Sustainable development expenditure); RF_Tra, (Transports and right to mobility expenditure); RF_SpG, (Youth policies, sport and free time expenditure); RF_SpSoc, (Social rights, social policies and family expenditure); (RF_FCP, (Cohesion funding used in projects); RF_COOP, (Spent EU projects funding) <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Italian version: Prodotto Interno Lordo pro capite Standard Potere di acquisto; Diseguale distribuzione del reddito regionale; Consumo pro capite; Indice dei prezzi al consumo; Tasso di fecondità totale; Speranza di vita >65; Tasso di ospedalizzazione, Opportunità culturali; Tasso di turisticità; Popolazione con laurea triennale/Popolazione totale; Studenti in ingresso; Studenti in uscita; Abbandono scolastico; NEET; Livello di occupazione; RS; Rischio di povertà assoluta; Tasso di disoccupazione giovanile; Rischio di esclusione minori; Residenti stranieri; Occupati stranieri; Tasso di imprenditori stranieri; Occupazione femminile; Asili nido; Partecipazioni alle amministrazioni regionali; Partecipazione pubblica alla politica nazionale; Partecipazione alle elezioni europee; Tasso di cooperazione transfrontaliera e transnazionale.

<sup>2</sup> Italian version: Utilizzatori internet; Penetrazione della banda ultra larga; PA Utilizzano Internet; Strutture Educazione alla creazione di conoscenza; Indice di dipendenza innovativa; Popolazione con laurea triennale; Popolazione in life long learning; R&D Infrastructures; Livello di penetrazione della banda larga.

<sup>3</sup> Italian version: Imprese manifatturiere; Unità locali; Popolazione attiva in settori Green; Imprese green; Marchi; Prodotto Interno Lordo pro capite per potere di acquisto; VAGreen; Integrazione commerciale di beni; Integrazione commerciale di beni; Investimenti diretti esteri; Occupati; Intensità di accumulazione del capitale; Pressione fiscale; Costo orario del lavoro; Banche; Istituti assicurativi e finanziari; Emissioni si CO2; Stato di salute dell'aria; Acqua prelevata per uso potabile; Rischi ; Raccolta differenziata; Rifiuti pericolosi; Rifiuti urbani; Accordi generali sull'ambiente; Specifiche norme ambientali; Accessibilità multimodale; Livello di penetrazione banda larga; Indice di auto-sufficienza energetica.

<sup>4</sup> Italian version: Spesa in ricerca e Sviluppo; Spesa per sviluppo economico e competitività; Spesa per occupazione; Spesa per formazione professionale; Spesa in sviluppo sostenibile; Spesa in trasporti e diritto alla mobilità; Spesa in politiche giovanili, sport e tempo libero; Spesa per diritti sociali, politiche sociali e famiglia; Fondi di coesione utilizzati in progetti; Fondi progetti EU spesi.

1. Attitude to social welfare, in particular equal opportunities: women employment (ParOp), nurseries (AN);
2. Indicators for trust in institutions, in particular: a) Political participation (Regional elections participation - AmReg, National elections participation - PpEn, European election participation - PeEe, b) trust in European Union cooperation (Cross-border and transnational cooperation - COOP).

### 3.3 Some significant indicators for inclusive growth

#### 3.3.1 Equal opportunities

For equal opportunities, we focussed on two indicators: women employment (ParOp) and nurseries (AN). Women employment is the ration between employed women/total amount of employed population for 2017. It is based and elaborated from ISTAT data. The sec-

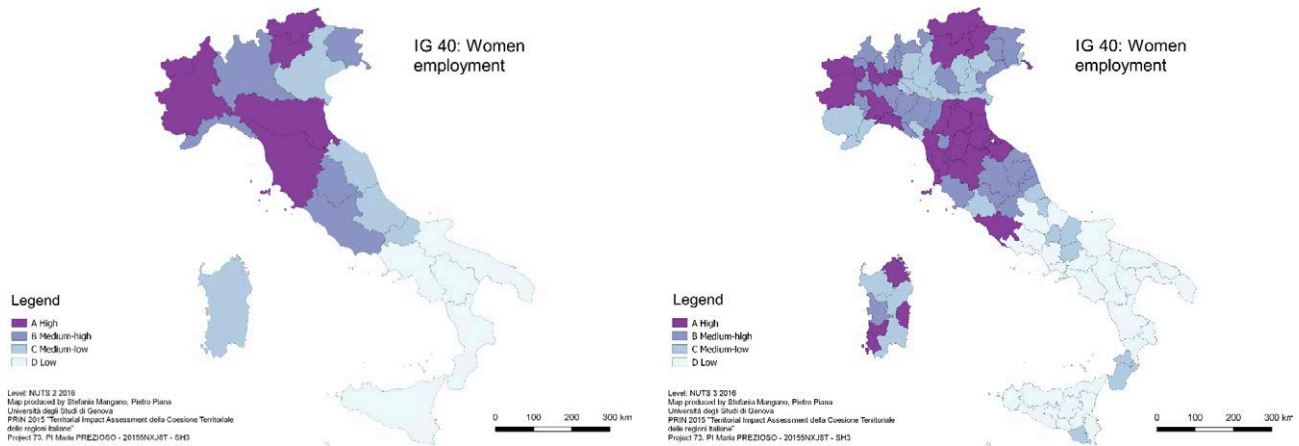


Figure 2. Women employment (NUTS 2, NUTS 3). Source: authors' elaboration.

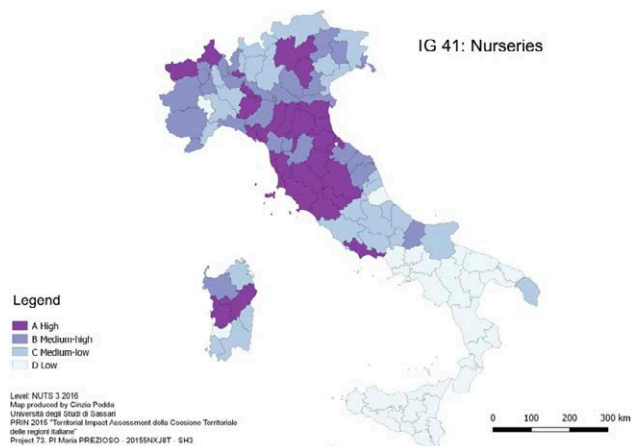
ond indicator documents the distribution of nurseries in each Italian province. Data on nurseries have been collected and elaborated by the units of Sassari and Rome Tor Vergata Universities.

- *Women employment (ParOp)*. At NUTS 2 level there is a very evident difference in the number of employed women between northern and southern regions of Italy: the former show medium-high values, the latter are consistently characterised by a low index (fig. 2). At NUTS 3 level we notice a distinct and consistent broad geographical area featured by high values which includes provinces and metropolitan areas of Tuscany, of central-eastern Emilia Romagna and of the northern provinces of Umbria and Marche. High values are also found in the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano and the neighbouring Province of Belluno, in Veneto.

In north-western Italy, the Metropolitan City of Genoa and some provinces of Piedmont are also high, as well as the Metropolitan City of Rome in the centre. The provinces of the Mezzogiorno show a consistent distribution of low value (D) with very little exceptions of medium-low value (C) in the Provinces of Vibo Valentia, Reggio Calabria and Ragusa. The results of this analysis generally reflect the policies on equal opportunities promoted by the various regions in the past decade. Local performances in terms of policies aimed at increasing female occupation and reducing gender gap constitute what has been defined as “regional awareness” (ISG, *Indice di Sensibilità di Genere*; Gender Sensitivity Index) measurement by ISFOL (*Istituto per lo Sviluppo della Formazione Professionale dei Lavoratori*). The model, based on the OCSE Global gender gap index, combines data on the position of women in the job

market (IREG, *Indice Regionale di Equità di Genere*; Regional Gender Equality Index) and those on specific gender policies at local level (*Indice di Sensibilità di Genere delle Politiche Regionali*, ISGP; Regional Policies Gender Sensitivity Index), ranging between 0-1<sup>6</sup>. In 2010, Umbria, Friuli-Venezia Giulia Emilia-Romagna and Valle d'Aosta were the best performing regions, with a ISGP index between 0.50-0.60, followed by Valle d'Aosta (0.50), Tuscany (0.47), Liguria (0.46) and Marche (0.44). Other nine regions have values above national average: Piedmont and Lazio (0.43), Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Abruzzo and Calabria (0.42) and Lombardy, Apulia and Sardinia (0.41) Three regions are below national average: Basilicata (0.38), Molise (0.33), Campania (0,23) and Sicily (0.15) (ISFOL 2012). In general, there is good correspondence between the ISGP and data shown in the map, with some exceptions: Umbria and Friuli-Venezia Giulia which are respectively the first and second region in terms of ISGP, have medium-high levels of equal opportunities. In addition, some regions characterised by high level of equal opportunities, for example Piedmont, do not rank particularly high in the list of regions for ISGP. Other indicators considered of crucial importance for equal opportuni-

<sup>6</sup> The ISGP is divided into two different macro areas: work-life balance and governance. Work life balance entails the number of nurseries, elderly people home cares and per capita expenses on female occupation. Governance relates to regional bodies of legislation: a) specific regional law on equal opportunities; b) specific regional law on social and employment policies with reference to gender policies; c) regional law against violence on women; d) regional law on work times in the cities. In addition, the governance dimension considers the institutional structure (presence of Regional *Assessorati* to equal opportunities) and the index of gender balances for region, provinces and municipalities.



**Figure 3.** Nurseries (NUTS 3). Source: authors' elaboration.

ties at local level are electoral systems which ensure adequate representation of both genders in regional councils and parliaments. In this sense, Law no. 215 of 2012 introduced the fundamental need of specific measurements aimed at improving gender equality in the regions, including gender quotas in electoral rolls. This is 50% in Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Sardinia and Veneto, 40% in Abruzzo, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Molise, Apulia and Umbria, 33% in Campania, Marche, Sicily and Trentino-Alto Adige and 30% in Valle d'Aosta (Openpolis, 2018). By 2019, the only two regions not to have produced any specific law were Piedmont and Calabria (Stefanoni, 2019).

- *Nurseries (AN)*. In this paper we focus on the map at NUTS 3 level which is the most appropriate for a detailed comparison with the map of women employment (fig. 3). As shown in the previous section, nurseries are a very important indicator to relate to women employment. Spatial distribution and performances of the various Italian areas largely correspond, and even in this case there is an evident Centre-North/South divide, the former being largely characterised by medium-high and high levels, the latter showing homogeneous low levels. In the North, Valle d'Aosta, the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Provinces of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Monza Brianza, Lodi, Vicenza and La Spezia have a high level of nurseries. However, Emilia Romagna is by far the most virtuous region, with widespread high levels and only a province, Parma, ranking medium-high. Many provinces in the North fall into the third and fourth quartile, in particular Asti (low), while several areas of Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Liguria (Savona) have medium-

low levels of nurseries. Provinces of the Centre, particularly Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio show continuity with those of Emilia Romagna, a characteristic which is also found in the map of women employment. Only Lucca, Pistoia and Florence have medium-high levels of nurseries, while the two Umbria provinces, Perugia and Terni have a high level, as well as the bordering Province of Viterbo, Lazio, where Latina is also particularly virtuous. In the Mezzogiorno, the Sardinian provinces of Nuoro and Oristano are high, Sassari is medium-high, while the rest is medium-low, only Carbonia Iglesias being low. Molise in the South is the only region with a medium-high province (Campobasso), in territorial continuity with Foggia (medium-low); in Apulia another province, Lecce has medium-low level, while all the other provinces, as well as those of Campania, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily are characterised by low levels.

### 3.3.2 Trust in institutions

Trust in institutions is measured through three specific indicators: Regional Election Participation (AmReg), National elections participation (PpEn) and European elections participation (PeEe). AmReg is the ratio between number of voters and total number of people entitled to vote. Since regional elections in Italy take place in different times, data relate to the period 2014-2018; the information were obtained from the historical archive of the Ministry of the Interior. PpEn relates to the ratio between number of voters and total amount of people entitled to vote for the past general elections of 2018 providing useful information on Italy's trust in institutions at national scale. The data, related to both Camera and Senato, has been extracted from the historical archive of the Ministry of Interior. PeEe relates to the ratio between number of voters and total amount of people entitled to vote for the European elections of 2014. For this analysis, the considered data relate to the Italy area, particularly the five districts (*Circoscrizioni*, these are North-western, North-eastern, Central, Southern and Islands), the regions and provinces.

- *Regional Elections Participation (AmReg)*. In the North the map of Regional Elections Participation at NUTS 2 level shows high values in Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Lombardy and the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano. In the remaining regions, Veneto shows medium-high participation level, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Liguria medium-low, while the only region with low level of political participation is Emilia Romagna (fig. 4). In the Centre and

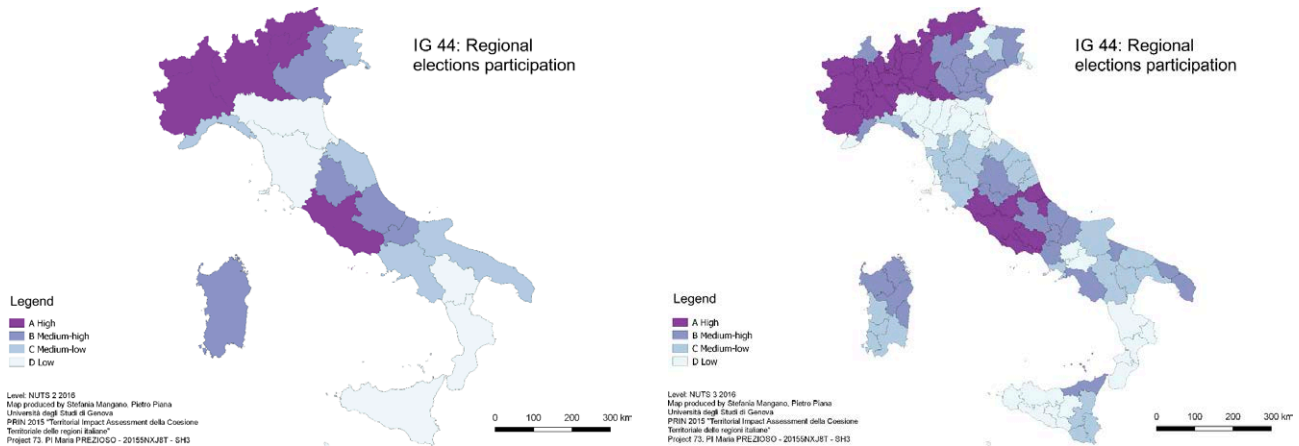


Figure 4. Regional elections participation (NUTS 2, NUTS 3). Source : authors' elaboration.

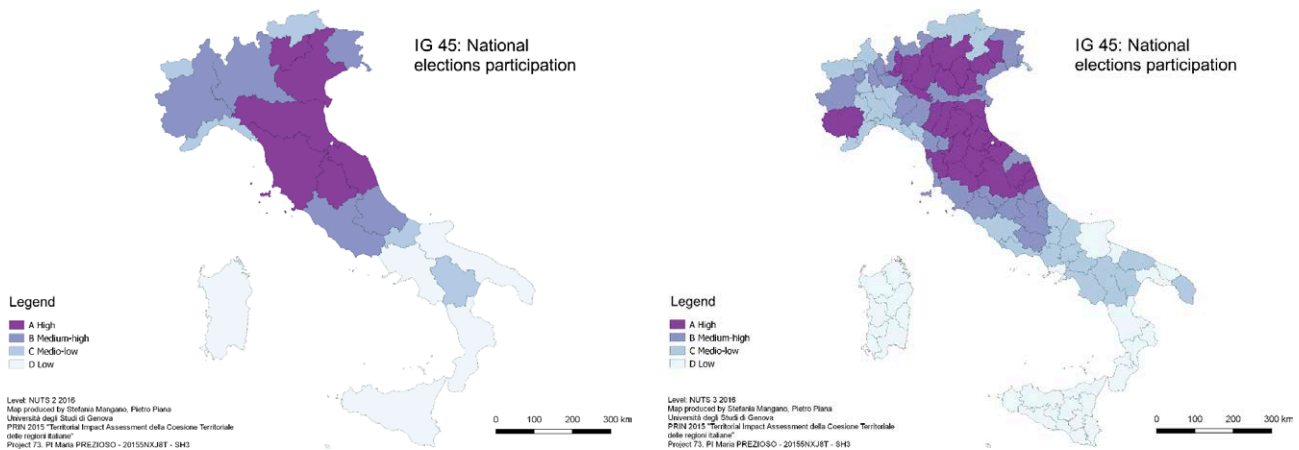


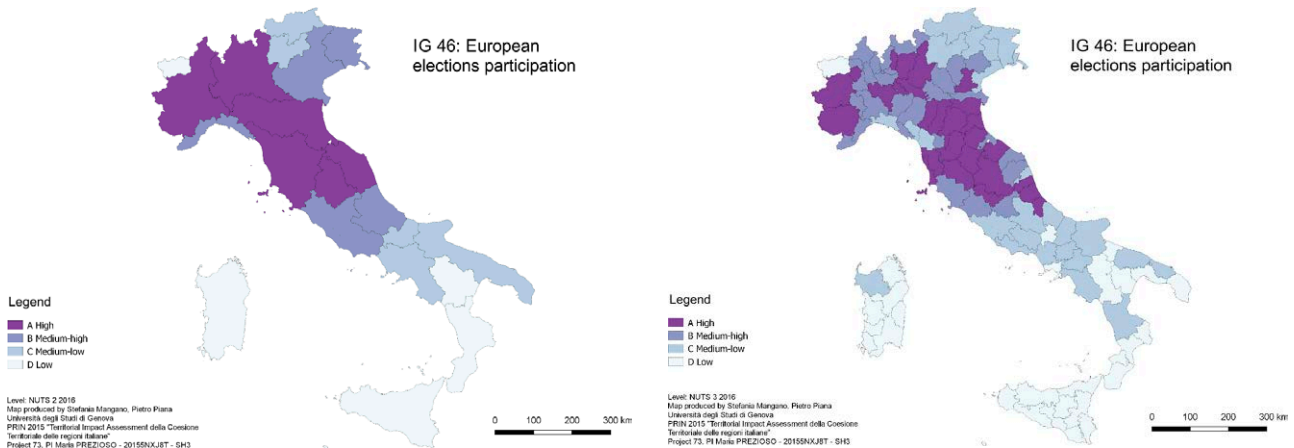
Figure 5. National elections participation (NUTS 2, NUTS 3). Source : authors' elaboration.

the Mezzogiorno there are generally medium-low or low levels of turnout, particularly in Tuscany, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicily, while Lazio shows a high level. The regions of Emilia Romagna and Tuscany are characterised by low level and they are the only regions as such within the North and Centre area. The data is particularly significant as the two regions are amongst those traditionally considered as models of civicism and political participation. Regional elections in Emilia Romagna took place in 2014 and were characterised by the lowest historical turnout (Ministero dell'Interno, 2019). In Tuscany, people voted for regional elections in 2015, alongside Veneto, Liguria, Umbria, Marche, Campania and Apulia; the Tuscan turnout was the lowest of all, showing analogies with Emilia Romagna. In both cases, however, the political scenario did not change although the traditional leading parties mostly shared a remarkable decrease

of votes. At NUTS 3, there is homogeneously high turnout level in all the Lazio provinces, as well as the ones of Piedmont (except for Verbano-Cusio-Ossola) and Lombardy.

- *National elections participation (PpEn)*. At NUTS 2 level the regions of Central and Northern Italy show high values, particularly in the North-East (Veneto, Autonomous Province of Trento, Emilia Romagna), and medium-high in the other regions, except for Liguria, Valle d'Aosta and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, characterised by medium-low levels (fig. 5). The Mezzogiorno is characterised by widespread low level, Abruzzo being the only region with medium-high value. The results at NUTS 3 show that there are some macro areas with similar levels, which do not necessarily follow regional borders. It is the case, for example, of the bordering provinces of eastern Lombardy (Lecco, Bergamo, Cremona,





**Figure 6.** European elections participation (NUTS 2, NUTS 3). Source : authors' elaboration.

Brescia), Veneto (Verona, Vicenza, Padova, Treviso), the Pordenone Province and the Autonomous Province of Trento. Another area characterised by high value includes the provinces of Emilia Romagna (except for Piacenza and Parma), part of Tuscany (Pisa, Siena, Arezzo, Florence and Prato), Marche (except for Ancona) and the Province of Perugia in Umbria. In the South, all the provinces of Calabria, Sicily and Sardinia have low levels of turnout.

- *European elections participation (PeEe).* For the turnout at European elections, the regions of the North and the Centre have high or medium-high levels of participation, except for the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and Valle d'Aosta, the latter characterised by low turnout level. In the South, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily and Sardinia show low levels of participation. At NUTS 3 bordering provinces of Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria, Marche and Abruzzo show high participation levels, as well as the majority of Lombardy and Piedmont. The map of European elections shows analogies with the one of general elections both in the North and in the South: here Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily and Sardinia are characterised by a low level of participation (fig. 6).

In general, the geography of vote of European and national elections shows some elements of continuity; regional elections, which took place in different moments between 2014 and 2018 have a different trend which might reflect the political situation at local scale or a particular political contingency that influenced public opinion and people's vote. At NUTS 2 level, no Italian region had high levels of political participation for all the three events; the most virtuous regions are Piedmont, Lombardy in the North and Umbria in the Cen-

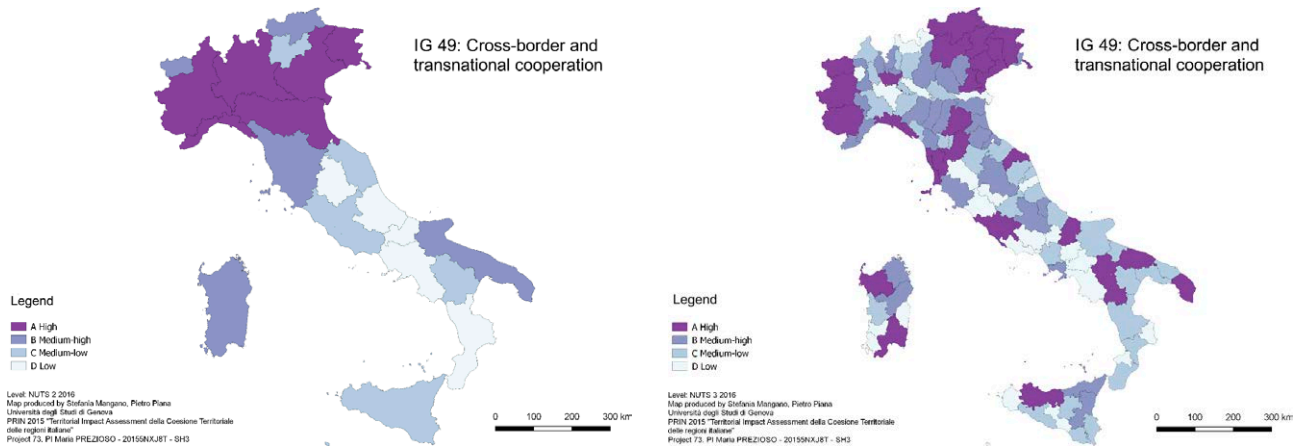
tre. The Southern regions of Sicily and Calabria show consistent low values throughout the period and types of elections under consideration: in the South, Abruzzo is the only region with constant medium-high level of political participation, showing in this sense more analogies with regions of the Centre than with those of the Mezzogiorno.

### 3.3.3 Trust in European Union cooperation

Trust in European Union cooperation is measured by the COOP indicator (Cross-border and transnational cooperation), which provides evidence of the level of cooperation participation of the various Italian regions and provinces; it has been measured by counting the number of active EU projects at provincial and regional level. The same indicator has been used in both the Inclusive Growth and the Resources and Funding determinant, due to lack of availability of provincial data on spent budget for European projects (the EU data was only provided at NUTS 2 level). The number of projects can contribute to provide an idea of the amount of investments in cross-border and transnational cooperation.<sup>7</sup>

- *Cross-border and transnational cooperation (COOP).* At NUTS 2 a high level of cross-border and transnational cooperation characterises the regions of the North, while in the Centre and the South, regions show medium or low values, with the exception of Tuscany, Apulia and Sardinia. At NUTS 3 level we notice a homogeneous distribution of high values

<sup>7</sup> In particular, the analysis focused on the Interreg Europe 2014-2020 programs, while for the Interact, Mediterranean, Sea Basin ENI CBC and Italy ENI CBC projects it was not possible to find any data.



**Figure 7.** Cross-border and transnational cooperation (NUTS 2, NUTS 3). Source: authors' elaboration.

in many provinces of North-west and North-east, which border with France, Austria and Slovenia (fig. 7). The Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano have low (Trento) and medium-low (Bolzano) values at NUTS 2 level, while for NUTS 3 they both have high value. The provinces of Northern Lombardy and Verbano-Cusio-Ossola have low values averagely, probably for the low involvement of Switzerland in European cooperation projects. For what concerns Interreg projects, for example, Italy is involved in 185 projects, France in 78 projects, Austria in 22 projects, Slovenia in 56 projects and Switzerland in 3 projects (Interreg Europe, 2019). In general, we notice a high level of cooperation for metropolitan cities and capitals of regions involved in international projects. This is largely due to the automatic attribution of projects involving regions to their capital cities. The provinces of Sardinia, in particular Sassari, the Metropolitan City of Cagliari and the Provinces of Olbia and Nuoro, are characterised by high or medium-high level of cooperation.

#### 4 Some conclusive remarks on place-based and territorial evidence of Inclusive Growth indicators

The maps discussed in this piece document the extreme diversity of performances between Italy's regions and provinces. Due to their strict connection, there is general correspondence between the map of women employment and that of nurseries, with a clear divide between regions and provinces of the Centre-North and the Mezzogiorno. In both cases there is a distinct area of medium-high and high levels between Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria and Marche. Other

northern regions generally perform high or medium-high, particularly Piedmont and Lombardy. At NUTS 3 level the only Northern provinces with high values in both the maps are Monza Brianza, the Autonomous Province of Trento and Valle d'Aosta. The Mezzogiorno is averagely low, with some exceptions both in the South and in the Islands. Provinces of Abruzzo and Molise are higher than average in both the maps, while Sardinia shows a fair number of high and medium-high indicators. The maps of trust in institutions show similar trends for what concerns national and European elections turnout, while regional elections are different. Although less evident than in the case of women employment and nurseries, even in this case there is a North-South divide. Political participation at European and national elections has been averagely high in regions, provinces and metropolitan cities of the North-east and the Centre, with transregional continuity of high performances between Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria and Marche. A similar continuity is shown in the maps of regional elections, although in this case Tuscany and Emilia Romagna are characterised by low levels of turnout. In addition, there are analogies between the regions of the Centre and those of the North-east, particularly Emilia Romagna but also Veneto and Trentino-Alto Adige. The analysis of territorial distribution of some indicators of Inclusive Growth has demonstrated the importance of comparing different data and linking them to their territorial context. In this sense the cartographical representation of territorial phenomena appears of crucial importance for an immediate analysis and cross-reference of data. In addition, maps are powerful means to communicate and demonstrate the distribution of socio-economic indicators, as well as the effects of specific policies. While data

distribution at regional (NUTS 2) level can offer a general view of the situation, detailed analysis of limited areas, notably provinces and metropolitan cities (NUTS 3) is of crucial importance in order to relate specific performances with the territorial dimension of the areas under examination.

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