

Abstract: A new index of quality of life for the “Strategic Project” of the Province of Rome

The economic crisis we are still passing through can be considered as the result of the contradictions of a development model that has not always been able to combine the economic growth to the improvement of the quality of life of the populations. Indeed, the crisis is aggravated by the increasing of the economical and social inequality in the development countries (see OECD, *Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keep Rising*, December 2011).

The inequality rising and the challenges related to the climate changes make ever more necessary to elaborate a new sustainable development model. In this context, the European urban, metropolitan and regional areas can assume a very significant role in order to identify the essential instruments to imagine a new, open, society where the economic growth could be associated to different forms of welfare and redistribution of the economical and social opportunities. The local public administrations must update their instruments to sustain the challenges of a new global competition where the quality of the environment, the model of society and the cultural assets are all essential factors of the international competitiveness.

For these reasons, since 2008 the Province of Rome, the local public authority of the biggest Italian metropolitan area, has chosen to elaborate new instruments useful for planning the development of its territory in the next years. The elaboration of the General and Territorial Provincial Plan (to protect the environment and the natural sources), the Energetic Plan, the Water Plan (Piano di Bacino), or some project as the Provincia-WIFI (free internet access against the digital divide), show how some subject (environment, recycling, green economy, innovation technologies, etc...) are part of the cultural background of this administration.

In order to keep all these different plans connected in a general view of the future of our area, the Province of Rome has elaborated a new Strategic Project (Progetto Strategico della Provincia di Roma). The Strategic Project is the central plan that keeps all the other initiatives and instruments connected on few main axes: environment, green economy, innovation, cultural assets, sustainable development, welfare and solidarity.

In this context, the analysis and the research for a new index of quality of life is one of the main part of the Strategic Project. This new index - if integrated with the traditional macroeconomic data - is indeed the best way to understand the real needs of the metropolitan area, its workers, its enterprises and its families. At the same time, the new index of quality of life can be a great help to identify the strategic target where allocate our investments and balance choices and to improve the assets and the values of the six roman local sub-system. It's a new and different way to see the urban area, useful to elaborate – mostly during this economical crisis – new strategy for the development of all the metropolitan system and to restrain the inequality rising in the population.