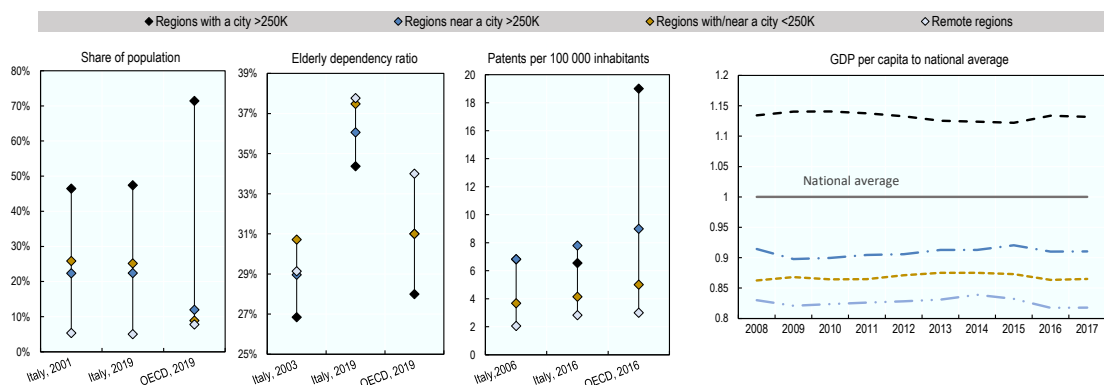


## Italy

### Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	Growth in employment 2008-2017 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing share (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	0.5 (0.7)	0.1 (0.9)	87 (92)	15.6 (18.5)	3.7 (8.0)
Regions near a city >250K	0.2 (0.3)	-0.4 (0.5)	79 (79)	24.8 (25.8)	3.3 (8.1)
Regions with/near a city <250K	0.1 (0.2)	-0.3 (0.0)	77 (71)	16.9 (22.7)	3.4 (4.9)
Remote regions	-0.1 (0.5)	-0.3 (0.2)	74 (73)	15.8 (17.9)	3.1 (4.6)

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Data for hospital beds are from 2018 and data for GVA per worker, GVA by sector and unemployment rate are from 2017. GVA and GDP are measured in USD PPP (2015). The OECD average by order in the table has been made with 33, 25, 26, 25, 19 countries with available data. Employment growth measured as employment in the workplace.

Source: (OECD, 2020<sup>[11]</sup>) OECD Regional Statistics (database). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

## Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

### Rural Definition

- ❖ In Italy, the Partnership Agreement (AP) for the 2014-2020 community planning proposes two territorial classifications.
  - Firstly, a national classification grouping municipalities in types of rural areas in relation to the analysis, monitoring and identification of some of the priorities of the rural development policy.
  - Secondly, the Partnership Agreement maps the inners areas in the country (territories characterised by being far from urban centres that supply adequate services, being rich in natural assets and cultural resources and having a diverse natural phenomena and human settlement processes). The criteria to identify these areas is the distance from a 'service provision Centre' (a municipality or group of municipalities able to provide a full range of secondary education, at least one grade of emergency care hospital and at least one Silver category railway). These definitions are analytical tools to support the definition of local

development strategies. Overall, the rural definition recognises mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas.

### **National rural policy**

- ❖ Italy has an explicit national rural policy to address depopulation of remote areas - The Inner Areas Strategy -outlined by the Stability Law (2014, 2015 and 2016) and the Budget Law 2018. These remote areas are the so called inner areas cover almost 60% of the whole national territory, hosting nearly 23% of national population and approximately 53% of Italy's municipalities. The Strategy pursues two complementary objectives: i) improving the access of Inner Areas population to essential services (education, healthcare, transport); and ii) promoting Inner Areas development by capitalizing on local assets and stimulating job opportunities.

### **Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge**

**Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the national level**

Ministries/Bodies (most important first)	Role
Presidency of The Council- Department for Cohesion Policy (DPC)	DPC is in charge of the whole Cohesion Policy in the country (that takes place through both National and Regional Programmes). It is responsible for the Inners Areas Strategy, in collaboration with Regions and Mayors Associations. The Inner Areas Strategy is a National Action introduced by Italian State in 2014 to reverse depopulation in small municipalities and in areas far away from poles capable of supplying basic services. DPC and the Ministry of Agriculture regularly coordinate for the implementation of Inners Strategy – through Comitato Tecnico Area Interne.
Ministry of agricultural, food and forestry policies and Tourism	-Represents both State and Regions at UE level (ie, negotiation on EU budget in relation); -Activates national co-financing counterpart by dealing with the Ministry of Economics and Finance -Coordinates and supports regional RDP Managing Authorities on horizontal issues such as EAFRD rules on expenditure eligibility, state aid notification, Integrated Agriculture (national guidelines) and cross-compliance
State-Regions Conference	Permanent Governance and implementation of the system
Technical Committee for Inner Areas strategy	Multilateral coordination and technical support. Governance of the National Strategy for Inner Areas. It is composed by a number of ministries and supported by higher education, research institutions and local authority representatives.

Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the **sub-national level** are autonomous regional agencies

### **Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms**

- Italy's rural development allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 2). Table 3 shows the main priorities of rural policy.
- The main delivery mechanisms of the rural development policy in Italy are dedicated grants programmes and contracts and agreements with local communities (The Inner Areas Strategy).

**Table 2. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy**

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	40%	40%
Social	25%	30%
Environment	35%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: "Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas".

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".

**Table 3. Relevant objectives in rural development policy**

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agricultural production	Rural development Programmes Measures : M4_investments in physical assets; M17_risk management ; M3_quality schemes for agricultural products and food stuffs; M11_organic farming, M13_payments to areas facing natural and other specific constraints; M8_investmens in forest area development	Grants and Subsidies
Environmental sustainability	Rural development Programmes Measures: M10_Agri-environmental-climate payments; Natura 2000 and WFD payments; M15_Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation	Subsidies
Service delivery	Rural development Programmes Measures: M7_Basic services and village renewal. M19_CLLD	Grant Public investments
Accessibility- via transport/ broadband	Ultra Broadband Strategy Inners Areas STRATEGY 15% of total investment – (within public services)	Grant Public investments
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	Rural development Programmes Measures: M6_farm and business development; 19)_CLLD 10% of SNAI	Grant

Note: These objectives are the ones with higher scores in the survey responses.

Source: OECD (2018), "Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries".