



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

REGGIO CALABRIA

22.05.2024

24.05.2024

MEDITERRANEA UNIVERSITY

**Networks, Markets & People for transitioning settlement systems.
Communities, Institutions and Enterprises towards post-humanism epistemologies and AI challenges**



The European Cohesion Policy as an «agent of change». The institutional impact of the Regional Operational Programmes in Calabria (2000-2020)*

Flavia Martinelli¹ [0000-1111-2222-3333] and Maria Grazia Buffon²

¹ *Mediterranea* University, ArTe Department, Reggio Calabria, Italy
f.martinelli@unirc.it

² *Mediterranea* University, ArTe Department, Reggio Calabria, Italy
mariagrazia.buffon1@virgilio.it

Abstract. In this contribution we present some findings from the National Research Project (*PRIN-Progetto di rilevante interesse nazionale*) on 'Regional policies, Institutions, and cohesion in the South of Italy, financed by the Italian Ministry of University and Research and carried out between 2020 and 2023 by the University of Reggio Calabria, the University of Naples, the University of Catania and the University of Bari [1]. In particular, we focus on the impact of the 'regionalisation' of the European Cohesion Policy, starting in 2000, with the introduction of the ROPs-Regional Operational Programmes 2000-2006 for 'Objective 1' regions, under the direct responsibility of Regional Governments. Three cycles of regional programming have now been completed (2000-2006, 2007-2013, and 2014-2020) and it is possible to attempt a long-term assessment of their impact. Here, we will concentrate on the *institutional* impact the three ROPs have had in Calabria, a region of Southern Italy, leaving aside the overall socio-economic impact of EU expenditures, which is the object of a forthcoming publication [2].

Keywords: European Cohesion Policy, Local development governance, Calabria.

1 Introduction

Calabria is historically among the poorest regions of Italy. Its very peripheral geographical position (at the very tip of the Italian peninsula) and its rough morphology (pre-vaillingly mountainous, with little natural ports), together with a protracted feudal land tenure system, have hindered its primitive accumulation and its subsequent integration in the capitalist development of the country.

*This paper was developed in the context of the Italian National Research Project - PRIN 2017 'Regional Policies, Institutions and Cohesion in the South of Italy' (Project code 2017-4BE543; website www.prin2017-mezzogiorno.unirc.it), financed by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research from 2020 to 2023.