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Institutions, social capital and distributive dynamics in development policies in Calabria*

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Abstract. The paper analyses the impact of the Integrated Territorial Projects on local development in two areas of Calabria. The Integrated Territorial Projects consist of a set of integrated interventions that are aimed to promote local development. To achieve this objective, integrated planning seeks to promote an adequate mobilisation of the economic and relational resources operating on a local scale. Development thus becomes a social construction connected to the endogenous capacity of public and private actors to promote synergistic actions on a local scale, thereby enhancing local resources and skills, social capital and institutions. The paper examines in the two experiences studied the concrete implementation given to development policy based on governance. The analysis is oriented to understanding if local political and economic stakeholders have developed relational networks that are able to promote effective intervention strategies and connect them with the real potential present on a local scale to support self-sustaining development processes. In the case study discussed, limited regulation capability in local political institutions has caused two effects on decision-making processes: an equal distribution of resources among the participants and the temporal concentration of public expenditures.

Keywords: Governance, Development policies, European Cohesion Policy.

1 Introduction

The paper analyses the dynamics activated in Calabria by development policies based on governance. Governance is «a new style of government, distinct from the hierarchical control model and characterized by a remarkable level of cooperation and interaction between state and non-state actors within mixed public/private decision-making networks» [1]. Two Integrated Territorial Projects (ITP) implemented in Calabria during the 2000–2006 programming cycle were used as objects of analysis to examine the outputs and outcomes induced by this new policy regulation method.

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