



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER IL CONSIGLIO DEI COMUNI
E DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA

DIALOGUE ON COHESION POLICY

AICCRE

REPORT event,

SICILIA 19 aprile 2018, Castello di Carini, Carini, (PA).

Report Activity

Agenda of the event

Eleonora Rappa - Consigliere Nazionale AICCRE

Eleonora Rappa presents the "Dialogues on Cohesion" initiative, underlining the importance of cohesion policy and of the funds that concretize it for all local administrations. She invites those present to contribute to the discussion on post-2020 programming.

Giovì Monteleone - Sindaco del Comune di Carini

Giovì Monteleone brings greetings from the Municipality. He underlines that as an it is difficult to manage the bureaucratic procedures that the European funds system requires. On the other hand, he highlights how the resources available are an important stimulus for administrations, who have to do their best to present projects that respond to the actual needs of citizens.

Carla Rey - Segretario Generale AICCRE

Carla Rey frames the Cohesion Dialogues within the project supported by DG Regio to promote the knowledge of cohesion policy and the benefits it contributes to determining. She mentions the different funds that feed cohesion policy. Explain how the post 2020 planning is in question and how the consistency of these funds cannot be taken for granted but should be defended.

Lelio Cusumano - Editorialista «Giornale di Sicilia»

Lelio Cusumano emphasizes the role that cohesion policy can play in reducing the disparities in development that exist between different European regions. From an employment point of view, for example, he indicates how much could be done in favor of the south regions, using those funds appropriately, generating important investments. He does not hide the difficulties



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that remain, including poor liquidity and skills shortages in the region's workforce, but draws attention to the lines of funding related to the competitiveness of companies, which can be important tools for the development and revitalization of the economic fabric.

Vincenzo Falgares - Dirigente Generale Programmazione Regione Sicilia

Vincenzo Falgares opens his speech by thanking Aiccre for his commitment on the front of the promotion of a correct perception of the EU by the citizens. He recalls how the mission of the 2014-2020 program, which contributes to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart growth, took the form of 11 thematic objectives (from the strengthening of the R & D sector and the competitiveness of enterprises, to the support of employment, to the promotion of and enhancement of environmental and cultural resources). He therefore presents the 5 funds that have fuelled the programs: ERDF, ESF, FEARS, FEAMP and FC.

Addressing the issue of the necessary complementarity between European resources and state resources, and emphasizing the downsizing of the latter, he introduces the Development and Cohesion Fund, the main financing instrument available to Sicilian institutions.

He illustrates some critical aspects of the present programming: on the one hand the mechanism initially only reimbursed and on the other the barriers to entry constituted by the procedures linked to the signing of the partnership agreement (not before 9 months have elapsed since the approval of the program), after which the ROPs had to be approved (not before 6 months after the signing of the partnership agreement). He enters the main thematic objectives, bringing some data on the resources invested and the main initiatives funded.

Recalling the theme, introduced by Carla Rey, of the need to bring citizens closer to European policies, he remembers how the region has invested in communication activities, with a new site and an important presence on social media. He therefore presents an initiative organized in collaboration with the journalists' order, consisting of 6 days of training on European themes and with the establishment of a biennial prize for dissemination concerning them.

He concludes hoping that European resources could be increasingly perceived as an ordinary component of the life of the territories, without limiting the debate to the issue of spending.

Vincenzo Di Dio - Università di Palermo

Vincenzo Di Dio opens the session dedicated to the concrete projects carried out in the Sicily Region, reporting on the R & D project of which he was scientific responsible: NewCAB



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ELARC. The project set itself the objective of studying and creating an innovative electric cabin prototype, which will be developed and marketed to guarantee an optimal, economical and safe dispatching of electricity, also from the point of view of electromagnetic pollution. It is therefore evident that the realization of the prototypes, the positive tests and certifications obtained on them and their consequent commercialization is the expected result and at the same time the final positive validation of the project results. The project was funded by the OP ERDF Sicily 2007-2013.

He focuses on the figure of the lead agency: a private company. He raises the risk that projects could be born in universities, about calls. Instead, it hopes that European funds could be increasingly available to companies, helping them to overcome the challenges they face.

He emphasizes how similar projects are very useful for promoting collaboration between the public research sphere and the sphere of private companies, with the benefit of both, and for developing new products.

However, identifying a negative aspect of the experience, he indicates how the private companies involved in the project have chosen not to participate in the new program due to the many difficulties encountered, especially on the bureaucratic front, which remains a topic to be addressed.

Giuseppe Maria Amato - «Rocca di Cecere Geopark Soc. cons. s.c.ar.l»

Giuseppe Maria Amato reports on the project linked to the UNESCO Geopark Rocca di Cerere, which launches a new methodology, that of a holistic approach to the theme of nature conservation: geotourism as a promotion of the territorial identity, synthesis of the geological, ecological and resources cultural heritage and as a new tool for sustainable local development. The Geoparks were born around 2000 and since then have multiplied, spreading all over the world. The Geopark is an initiative that looks deep into the territorial heritage, in search of a balance between the conservation of nature and cultural heritage on the one hand and the economic development of the territories.

Marcello Monacò - U.T.C. Comune di Castellammare del Golfo

Marcello Monacò presents the project to enhance the Borgo di Scopello, in its double role as an agricultural village on one side and a maritime village on the other. At the center of the project was the recovery of the Tower of Scopello and the surrounding area, for which the Superintendency's contribution was invaluable. He indicates how the tower has been restored



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to its original state, making it an observation point on the Gulf of Castellammare. Structures dedicated to local agricultural products have been created, as required by the call.

He underlines how this intervention has given impetus to tourism and consequently to the economic fabric of the territory, which has been enriched also from the social point of view.

Irene Cavarretta - U.T.C. Comune di Castellammare del Golfo

Irene Cavarretta reports on a redevelopment project for an area of the historic center of the Municipality of Castellammare. In addition to an extraordinary maintenance intervention, it was decided to focus on re-launching that territory, rethinking its public transport in a key to sustainability, pedestrianizing a large portion, paying attention to social dynamics and promoting tourism, thanks to the discovery of ancient grains. The conditions were thus laid for the establishment of new private economic activities, which have made the area a central element of the economic and tourist life of the municipality.

Fabio Impastato – Architetto, libero professionista

Fabio Impastato presents the redevelopment of the "Regina Margherita" Villa Comunale, part of the Palazzo Crociferi complex, an ancient convent built in 1659 together with the church of S. Maria degli Agonizzanti and located near an area of historical and architectural interest in the historic center of Castellammare del Golfo. The design intervention was conservative and was part of a general urban redevelopment project: it consisted of the functional adaptation of "Villa Margherita" through the redevelopment of public spaces in the historic centre that presented degraded areas, poor social cohesion and economic vitality. The intervention was a stimulus for the local community to regain possession of the communal spaces, giving life to various cultural activities. The data provided by the Suap of the municipality testify how the public investment has also stimulated private individuals to start new commercial and receptive activities.

Simone Cusumano – Ing. Capo U.T.C. Comune di Castellammare del Golfo (TP).

Simone Cusumano presents the reality of the Municipality of Castellammare and refers to the administration's commitment to finding resources for the development of the territory, which has resulted in the participation in over 30 projects related to the cohesion policy.



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He summarizes the results obtained thanks to the various projects, including those presented previously, emphasizing in particular the increase in tourist accommodation facilities and cultural and social initiatives.

Debate from the public:

Domenico Targia – Dirigente Regionale

Domenico Targia intervenes to underline how a criticality of the programming is the fact of having passed from attention to the final objective to attention to the procedure, imposing a bureaucratization to the managing bodies that pays onto the projects and that is perceived as a source of inefficiency.

Annamaria Amitrano – Antropologo Culturale

Annamaria Amitrano intervenes to stress the importance of not being limited to the conservation of cultural heritage, but of their re-functionalization. It underlines the importance of defending and promoting paths of knowledge of the territory, even before favouring its fruition and economic exploitation.

Attilio Licciardi – Sindaco di Ustica

Attilio Licciardi emphasizes the importance of promoting initiatives such as the Cohesion Dialogues, which bring together the concrete results produced by European projects and a more general European culture. He resumes the theme of the critical issues of the present programming underlining how the efforts made by the ruling class sometimes come up against a complexity that is only partly justified.

Conclusion, recommendations and further steps

On. Nino D'Asero - Presidente AICCRE Sicilia

Nino D'Asero concludes by indicating some priorities for the future: overcoming the excess of bureaucratization; exploit the trend of an economic recovery that has become a reality even if there is not yet a clear perception; promote a culture of legality and a culture of productivity.



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Results/ expected results

A wide range of projects has been presented, illustrating not only the direct results, therefore from an urban point of view, but also the indirect impact, from a social and economic point of view. It emerged then that cohesion policy does not aim at the immediate result of the single project, but rather to generate development in the territories through different intervention channels. Criticalities were identified, and attention was given to the topic of communication. The awareness of the centrality of the dissemination of the results of cohesion policy, together with training initiatives for disseminators, is the basis for the future to better spread the role that the EU plays in fostering the development of the different regions.

Participants

Gender balance and mainstreaming: **n. 153 participants;**

n. 81 men, n. 72 women; (53% men, 47 % women)

divided into:

	WOMEN	MEN
- Local administrators	19	24
- Civil society	32	34
- Students	18	14
- Speakers	3	9

Communication strategy

Media coverage

- List of media
TELEOCCIDENT
PRESS OF TRAPANI
ISicilia.it
- Social media activities before, during and after the event (Tweets, Facebook, etc.)
 - TWEET event: n.16 more 121 retweets and "like"
ONLY views of our May 3 at 16.00 (so excluding retweeted) 14000 (fourteen thousand)
 - FACEBOOK: 4 POST, 1000 "like", 20 shares
 - 1 trailer and 11 interviews on the YouTube channel AICCRE available at:



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<https://www.aiccre.it/evento/evento-regionale-aiccre-sulla-politica-coesione/>

- Press Conference no
- Press release :
- Number of webpage views:
- News AICCRE website enriched with 25 videos, written interventions, slides (in implementation).

<https://www.aiccre.it/evento/evento-regionale-aiccre-sulla-politica-coesione/>

<https://www.aiccre.it/dialoghi-coesione-vi-tappa-sicilia/>

- Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9OnIE1ea5M&feature=youtu.be>
- Press clipping after the dialogue indicated and number of articles echoed by media
Press and agencies and television:
 - THE VIDEO SERVICE ON THE TELEOCCIDENTE
<http://www.teleoccidente.it/wp/2018/04/19/leuropa-e-il-futuro-seminario-dellaiccre-su-politica-di-coesione-video/>
 - CASTELLAMMARE DEL GOLFO: EXAMPLE OF GOOD EU PRACTICE (TELEOCCIDENTE)
<http://www.teleoccidente.it/wp/2018/04/17/castellammare-del-golfo-progetti-realizzati-esempio-di-buona-pratica-per-lue/>
 - EUROPEAN COHESION POLICY: AICCRE IN CARINI (TELEOCCIDENTE)
<http://www.teleoccidente.it/wp/2018/04/17/politica-di-coesione-europea-laiccre-a-carini/>
 - Community funds: AICCRE Sicily opens a debate on European cohesion policy (IISicilia.it)
<https://www.ilsicilia.it/fondi-comunitari-aiccre-sicilia-apre-un-dibattito-sulla-politica-di-coesione-europea/>
 - Castellammare, awarded three "exemplary" projects for the EU European Community (NOTE PRESS OF TRAPANI)
<http://www.alqamah.it/2018/04/17/castellammare-premiati-tre-progetti-esemplari-per-la-comunita-europea/>