

Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 255

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Organisations	Università IUAV di Venezia, Italy
Country	Colombia
Region	South America
Title	Leading The Governance Of Mountain Area Projects. Insights From Italy And France.
Keywords	Place-Based Policy, Inner Areas, Multi-Level Governance, Local Institutions, Institutional Capabilities
Type	List Of Focus Session
Focus Session ID	24

>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Abstract

The aim of this paper would be to inquire how local institutions in mountain areas are capable of leading an integrated territorial project implementation process through comparing two study cases between Italy and France.

This approach is part of a broader debate about researching better policies for marginal places. There is a renovated interest, in Italy and the rest of Europe, from “New mountaineers” (Dematteis, 2011) on repopulate the mountains as well as an interest from public (but not only) initiatives to bring to the center the marginal areas (Carrosio, 2019).

It seems to be generally accepted the multi-governance model propose by the place-based approach «which the responsibility for policy design and implementation is distributed between different levels of government and special-purpose local institutions» (Barca, 2009, pag. 66) as a way of managing local development in mountain fragile areas. Even though, local institutions partly in charge of implementing this kind of policies have different past experiences and capabilities which determinate their performance.

The Italian case-study regards the Bormida Valley project area. It's one of the pilot areas of the recent place-based experimental policy “National Strategy for Inner Areas” (SNAI). It provides some insights on how a background of local partnership impacts over the implementation of the SNAI project.

The second case-study is a cross-border alpine project (ALPi del MEDiterraneo) between France and Italy. In this case, project leaders are on a higher regional/medium level. ALPIMED strategies are oriented to strength governance in a wider cross-border region while SNAI case has a clearer relation with the European Cohesion Policy approach.

The paper will illustrate insights product of a close look at both cases-studies implementation processes, particularly from observing and interacting with the professional in action. It will be possible to parallel the role of the professionals in charge of leading institutions, whose acting like reflective practitioners (Schon, 1984), redirect actions during the implementation process.

Finally, the paper looks to contribute to the cohesion-policy governance through a little analysed perspective: the relevance of individual capabilities of project leaders on strengthening governance networks.

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