The planning of structural funds in Italy 2000-2006

The resources assigned to Italy in favour of the structural interventions in the planning period 2000-2006 amount to 74,5 billions of euros thus getting to a sum twice as big as the one allocated by means of the community contributions alone.

The financing of the interventions comes from community contributions (30,4 billions of euros) and national ones (30,8 billons of euro) in a practically similar quantity, while private contribution is definitely less relevant (13,3 billions of euros).

In Italy the Department for Development Policy is responsible of the coordination for structural funds: the department was part of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, today it is controlled by the Ministry of Economic Development.

The Department for Development Policies carrries out numerous tasks:

- It is the Managing Authority of the CSF (Community Support Framework)
- It is the Managing and Payment Authority of the NOP (National Operational Programmes) ATAS
- It is Payment Authority of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) NOP, ROP (Regional Operational Programmes) and SPD (Single Programming Document)
- It coordinates the implementation of the NOP, the ROP and the SPD
- It acts as a control unit to guarantee the correct working of the system

In the period 2000-2006 the distibution of the structural funds in Italy followed this outline:

- For Objective 1 we have had a CSF managed by the MEF, 7 NOP managed by the MEF and by other Ministries and and 7 ROP for the southern regions
- For Objectives 2, 14 SPD for the central-northern regions
- For Objective 3 a CSF and a NOP managed by the Ministry of Welfare and 14 ROP for the central-northern regions

In the years 1994-1999 as for Objective 1 there had been 50 initiatives approximatively, 70% of the funds had gone to the central administrations and the remaining 30% to the regions. Moreover a NOP was present on Environment.

In the years 2000-2006, again for Objective 1, there were 7 NOP and 7 ROP and a good 70% of the funds has gone directly to the regions while NOP for Environment has disappeared.

The 7 NOP managed by central administrations are:

- 1. Research, new technologies and higher training
- 2. Education
- 3. Crime control
- 4. Local development
- 5. National Transportation
- 6. Fishing
- 7. Technical assistance and system's actions (ATAS)

The 7 ROP concern the following regions:

- 1. Basilicata
- 2. Calabria
- 3. Campania
- 4. Molise
- 5. Apulia
- 6. Sardinia
- 7. Sicily

The financial endowment for Objective 1 has been 50,8 billions of euro, of which 21,6 from community resources, 18,2 billions from national resources and 10,9 billions from private resources.

The new planning cycle 2007-2013

The three new objectives will be: Convergence (251 billions of euro) - Competitiveness (49 billions of euro) - Cooperation (7,8 billions of euro) for a total of 308 billions of euro.

Italy will benefit of 28,8 billions, Bulgaria of 6,6 billions.

To be more precise the distribution of the funds for Italy will follow this outline:

Convergence (+phasing out Basilicata)
Competitiveness (+phasing in Sardinia)
Cooperation
21,5 billion euro
6,3 billions of euro
846,5 millions euro

To these allocations 8 billions euro of the FEASR (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) must be added.