

ESPON



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Italy, A strategy for inner areas
(EU Presidency 2014)

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// ESPON Seminar

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□ The legacy of the Trio Presidency and ...

In the framework of the conclusions of the EU Luxembourg Presidency (2015) and the Trio Presidency Programme, Italy was engaged to develop the issue of the **Inner peripheries**

The Background...

Art 174 EU Treaty *«particular attention shall be paid to rural areas, [...] regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps [...] with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions»*

TA2020 stressed the **place-based approach**

8th Cohesion report *«Certain smaller cities, towns and villages provide access to a wide range of public and private services»*

Performing the mandate

- The programming period 2014-2020 was the policy framework to develop the **Strategy for «Inner areas» (SNAI)**: the Italian way of «*Inner periphery*»
- Main aims: **counteract demographic decline and depopulation**, creating new **income opportunities** and **ensuring accessibility to essential services** (local public transport, education and social/health services)
- It was coherent with the objective of an integrated and **place-based approach** (TA2020), stressing a «**Territorial approach**» in investments, to face the issue of territorial disparity and unbalance (particularly North/South) by:
 - ✓ addressing the geographical and territorial unbalance feature instead of GDP and economic indicators as used so far
 - ✓ finalizing different EU funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD,ETC), public and private resources, and RRF, adopting a project oriented and tailored approach

Inner Areas and the SNAI Strategy 2014-2020

- «Inner Areas» according to the **Partnership Agreement 2014-2020**
 - ✓ Fragile territories, far away from main centres (at least 20 min. travel time) lacking of supply of essential services (public transport, postal services, healthcare, education).
 - ✓ Endowed of environmental resources (water, agriculture, forests, cultural landscapes) and cultural heritage (material and immaterial), constituting a complex territorial mosaic, result of the dynamics of the various natural, social and economic systems
- They are classified according to the following categories:
 - ✓ **intermediate, peripheral and ultra-peripheral.** those areas furthest from the primary and advanced essential service poles.

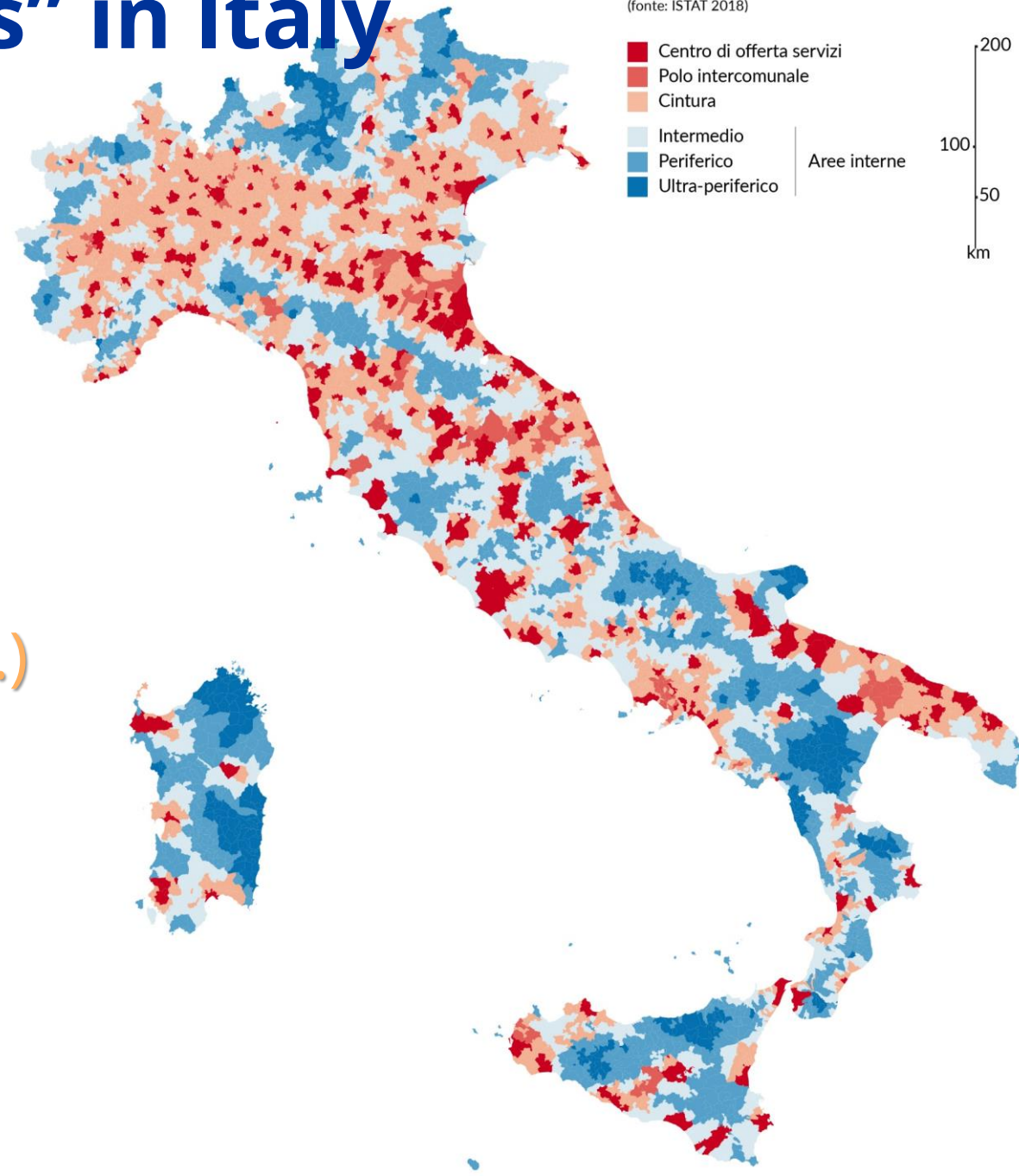
The weight of “Inner areas” in Italy

Classification of «Inner areas»

- Intermediate
- Peripheral
- Ultra-peripheral
- over 60% of the national surface
- 52% of IT municipalities (n. 4,108)
- 22.7% of population (13 Mil. Inhab.)

Geography of the municipalities

- Mountain n.1,874 (48.9%)
- Hills n.1,625 (42.4%)
- Plain/other n.609 (8.7%)

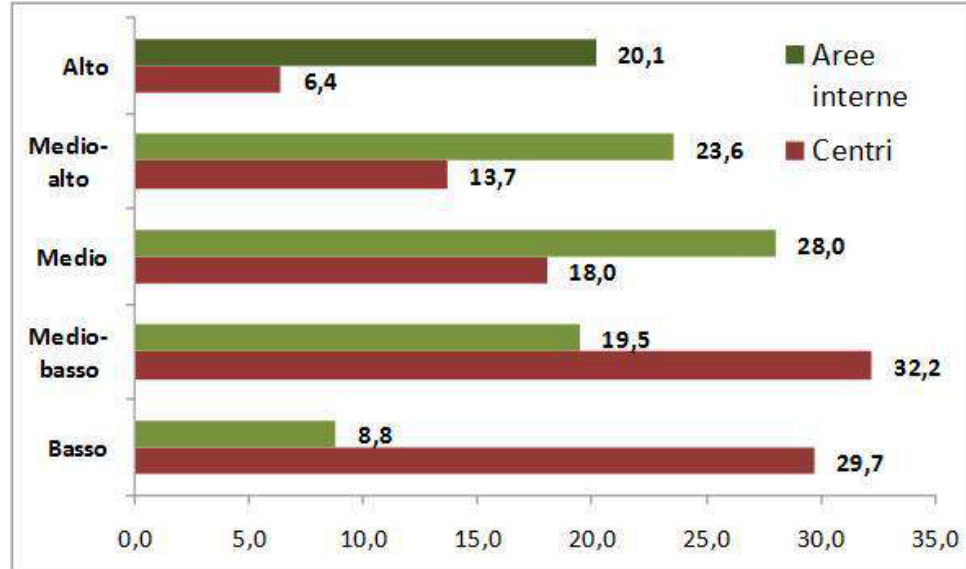


The SNAI Strategy to select pilot areas

- ❑ The methodology consists of two main steps:
 - ✓ Identification of the poles, according to a criterion of capacity to offer certain essential services
 - ✓ Classification of the remaining municipalities into 4 typologies: peri-urban areas; intermediate areas; peripheral areas and ultra-peripheral areas based on distances from the poles measured in travel time
- ❑ The strategy is implemented by a Framework Programme Agreement (APQ), by the Central Administrations, Regions and territories concerned for implementing the Strategy :
 - ✓ providing for the adaptation and enhancement of essential public services as preconditions for enabling the socio-economic development of territories
 - ✓ supporting local development projects that can induce the reactivation and regeneration of hidden territorial capital

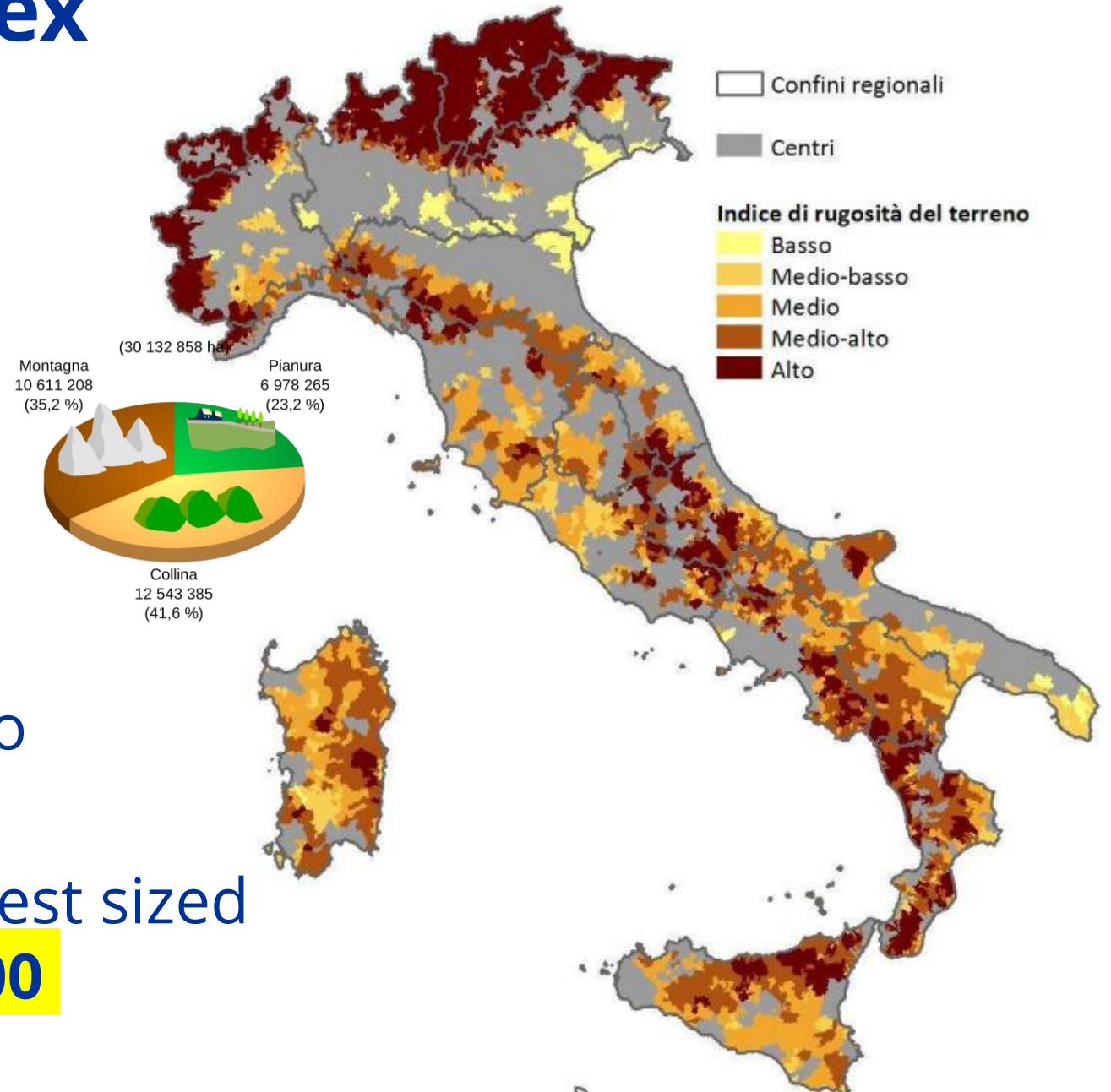
Land Morphology Index

Percentage share of population by LMI



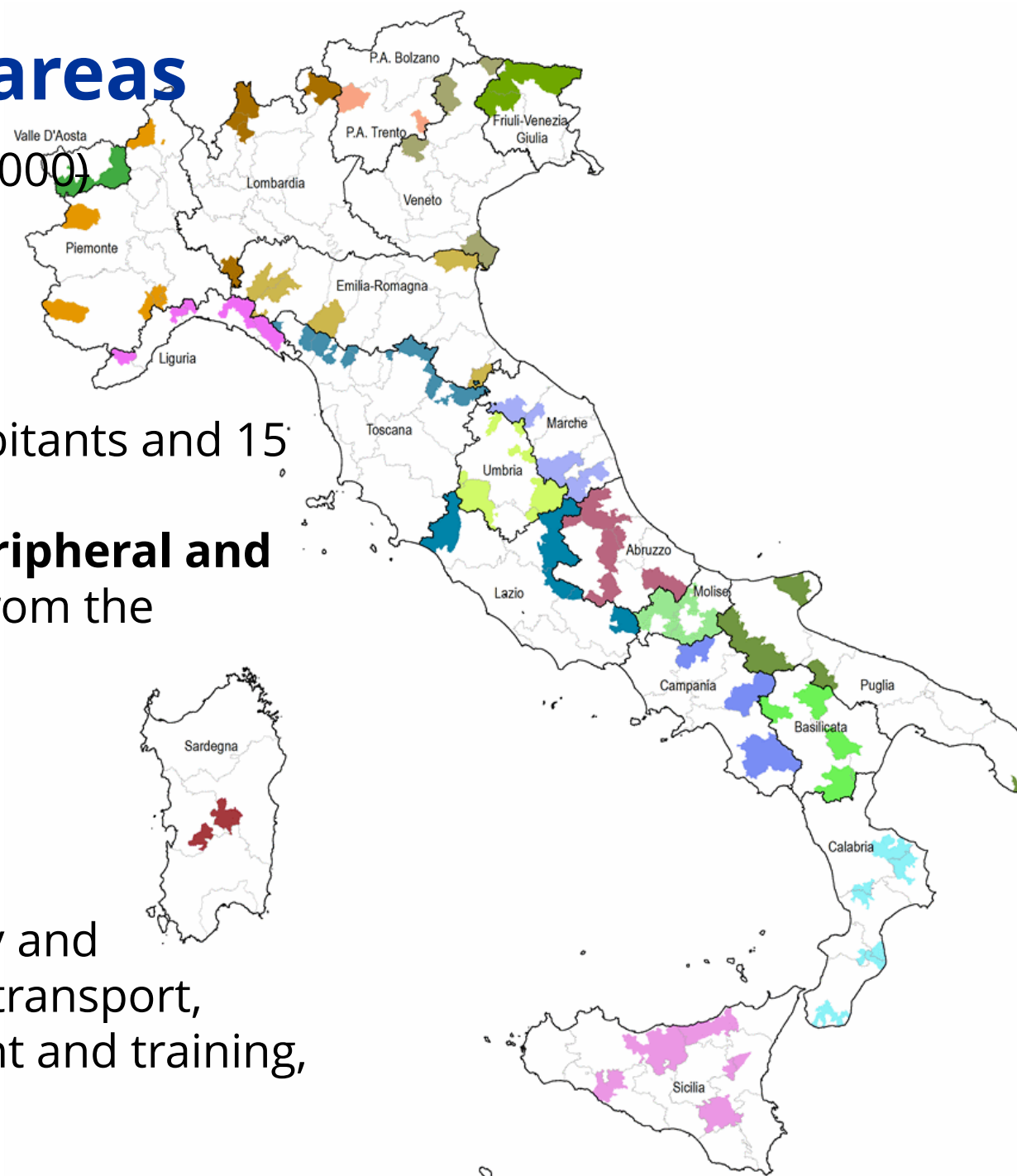
- Municipalities belong mainly to **mountain** and **hill** areas
- They are composed of the lowest sized of the S&M sized towns: **≥ 5,000 inhabitants**

Indice di rugosità dei comuni classificati come Aree Interne



72 Pilot areas

- Total budget: 1.179 billion euro (National €591,000)
 - 1,060 municipalities (13.4%)
 - 2 million inhabitants (2020) (3.3%)
 - 51,000 Km2 (17% IT)
- Each **pilot area** has an average of 27,081 inhabitants and 15 municipalities;
- 57.8% of the municipalities are classified as **peripheral and ultra-peripheral** (about 50-70 minutes away from the nearest urban centre)
- **Typology of interventions:**
 - ✓ **Services of general interest 44%**
Local Mobility, Health, Education
 - ✓ **Local development 56%**
Agriculture and farming, forestry, PA efficiency and transparency, renewable energy, enterprises, transport, digital infrastructure and services, employment and training, nature, culture and tourism, territorial safety



Programming period 2021-2027: what's going on...

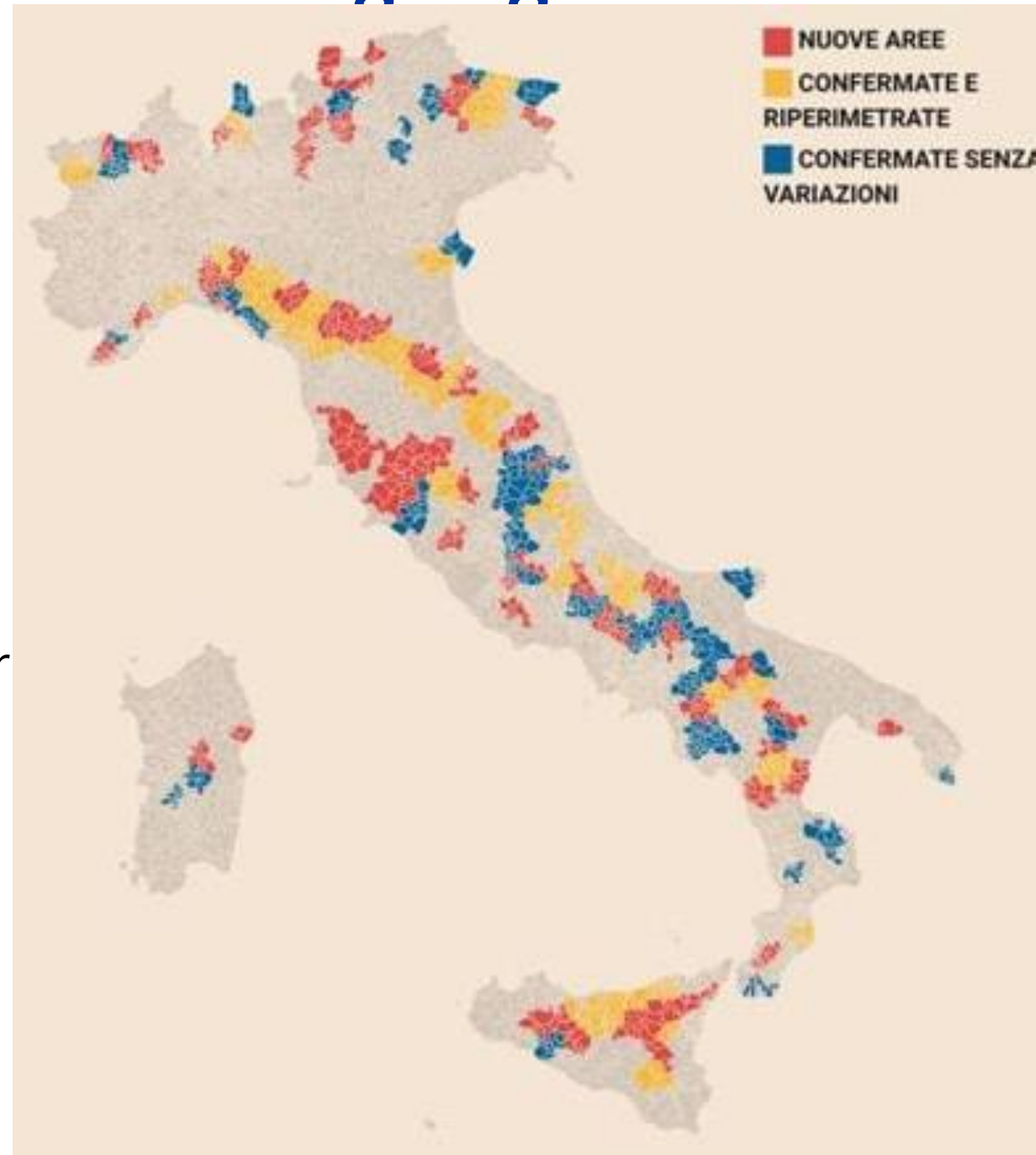
- Programming period 2014-2020: main criterion was remoteness of the centres
Two main focuses: improving public services (health, education, mobility) and economic development and employment
- Programming period 2021-2027: main policy reference PO 5 «*Europe closer to citizens*»
 - 1) The long-term character of the SNAI strategy is confirmed giving continuity to the 2014-2020 Strategy (selection)
 - 2) **Enlargement of areas** based on the 2014-2020 method; adoption of sectoral/thematic measures without the obligation to provide for an Area strategy; **stressing the socio-territorial features** (identity/geomorphological system, demography, organisation and performance of services, capacity and willingness to associate, population and number of associated municipalities (**qualitative parameters**))

Programming period 2021-2027: what's going on...the

«Agenda del controesodo»

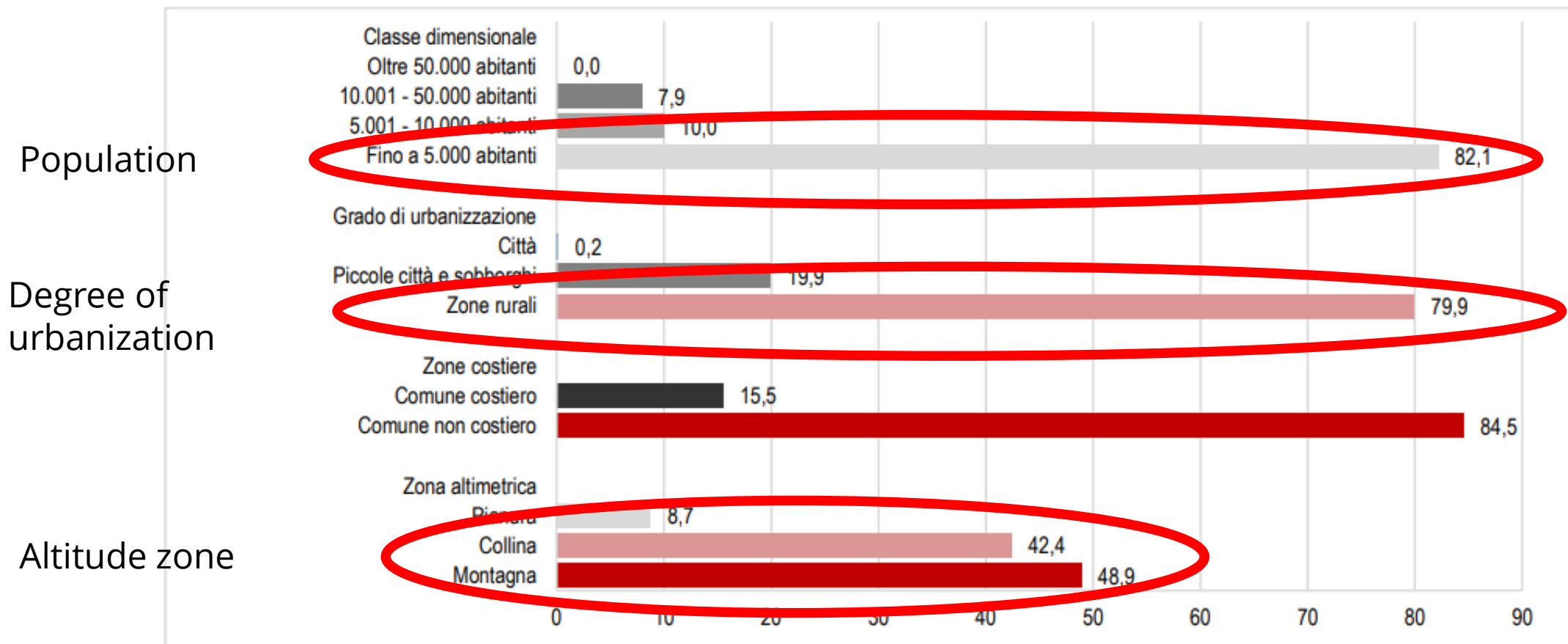
- The SNAI Strategy 2021-2027 currently envisages 39 areas. Others will be added later. The following area are included
 - ✓ 56 new 2021-2027 Areas (764 m. 2,056,139 inhab.);
 - ✓ 37 Areas 2014-2020 that confirmed (549 m. 977,279 inhab.)
 - ✓ 30 Areas 2014-2020 with a new perimeter (556 m. 1,324,220 inhab.)
 - ✓ the '**Minor Islands special project** (35 island municipalities, 213,093 inhab.)

A total of **124 project areas, 1,904 municipalities, 4,570.731 inhabitants.**



S&M sized towns and Inner Areas

FIGURA 1. COMUNI APPARTENENTI ALLE AREE INTERNE SECONDO ALCUNE CARATTERISTICHE TERRITORIALI
Anno 2020. Valori percentuali



Consideration on IT Inner Areas and S&M sized towns: a fluid concept

- **Europe's urban pattern** is characterized by a number of relatively small cities. About 70% of Europe's population lives in urban areas. About 66% of Europe's urban dwellers are in areas with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. This is considerably more than in other parts of the world. (ESPON, 2014)

**Italy is a Country of small & medium sized towns
41.2% of the population lives there
compared to 31.2% in EU**

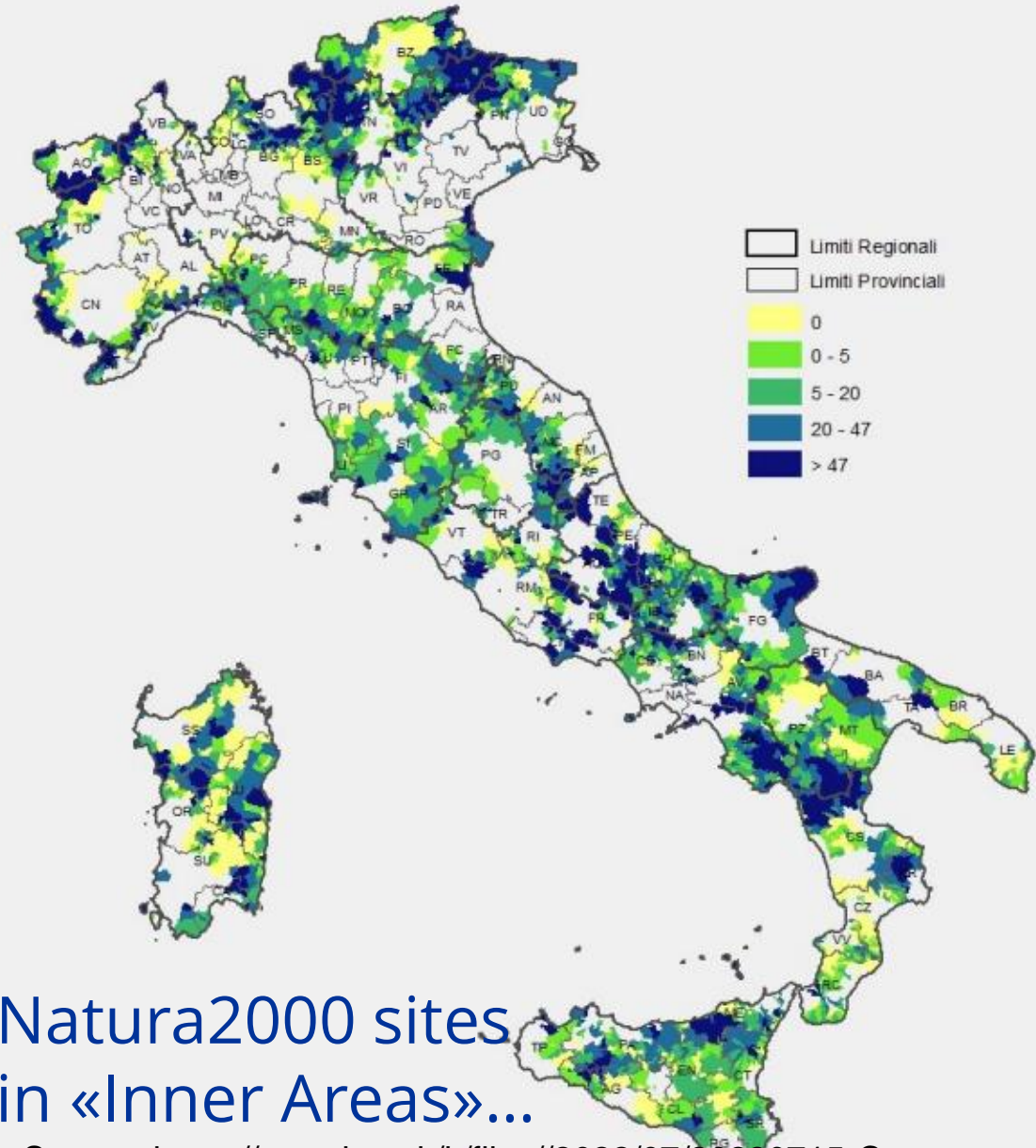
70% of Italian municipalities have less than 5,000 inhabitants and 10,068.213 inhab.; 25% are between 5,000 and 20,000 inhabitants and **only 5% have more than 20,000 inhab.**

The real potential of S&M sized towns

17% of popolazione (70% municipalities) is in charge of about 55% of territory.

This areas suffer from depopulation (-20% in the last 30 years). Remoteness ecc.

They have a great potential ...



Natura2000 sites
in «Inner Areas»...

Source: <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2022/07/20220715-Cartogrammi-AI.pdf>

from the SNAI experience, Inner Areas have great potential for a new development perspective



Importance of S&M sized towns (5,000 inhab) in term of territorial economy of scale for intervention: they can be local **hubs** for the development of remote areas
Help to activate critical mass, Skills of territory



Reinforcing the place-based approach: enlarging the concept of territorial/environmental capital, recognizing the **shadow value** of these areas for their plus socio-territorial value (protecting territory from landslides, territorial erosion...contribute to “green transition”, compensation of pollution to metro areas, guardian of protected areas, ensuring ecosystem services...)

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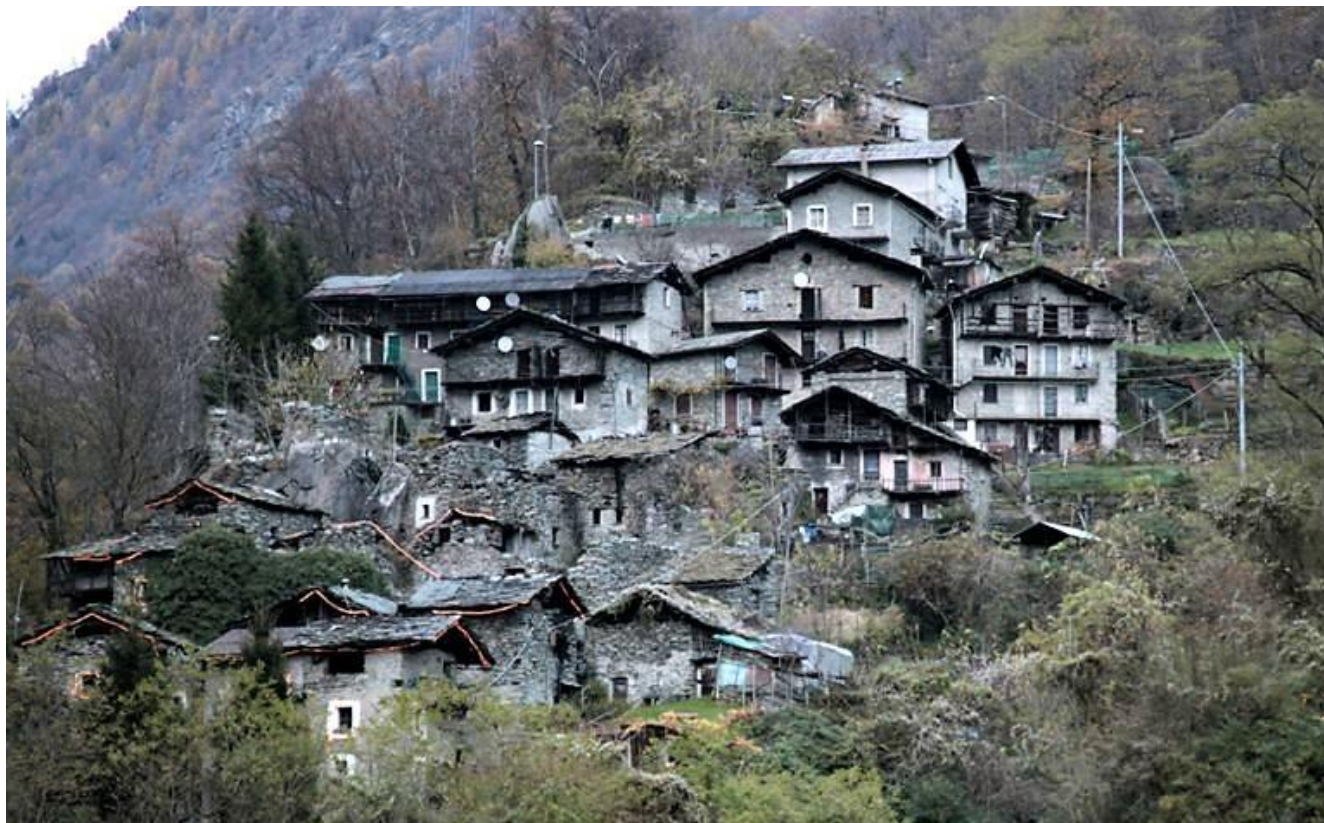


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Thank you for your attention!

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