

Calabria Regional Council's Contribution

to the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and

“Doing Less More Efficiently”

Suggestions with regards to:

- ✓ **task (a):** *How to better apply the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality in the work of the Union's Institutions, notably, the preparation and implementation of Union legislation and policies.*

In the context of the first Task Force objective, it would be worthwhile to reflect on the current **application of the principle of proportionality**. A deeper reflection about the adequate balance between policies objectives and territorial interests would be useful.

It may be highlighted that European policies targets have a macro-regional dimension; and the consequence of excessively prescriptive EU legislation on the various regional areas is not always favorable and/or effective, especially in policy areas such as agricultural, fishing and tourism policies. For this reason, it demonstrates the need to focus on the potential territorial impact of legislative proposals early in the process, in order to anticipate and resolve potential difficulties in the implementation and reduction of administrative burden.

A desirable outcome would be that the principle of proportionality was measured on the value of the regional differences and characteristics.

A recent concrete example on the potential compression of territorial vocations and traditions caused from overly detailed European legislation, can be demonstrated through the regional law of Calabria n. 41/2017 of 7 November 2017: Regulation to support the use of traditional locals for aging (that modifies the regional law of Calabria n. 5/2004 of 23 February 2004 "Regulation for the identification of traditional products or traditional process to make products based on milk), which had been contested, because it infringed upon the REGULATION (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.

- ✓ **task (c):** *The identification of ways to better involve regional and local authorities in the preparation and the follow up of Union policies.*

In the matter of the third Task Force objective, it would be useful to use more selective information on the proposals of European legislation and policies from the UE Institutions; notably, considering any effects of the regulations on the territorial areas, as well as the potential obligations and administrative costs for the firms and both local and territorial authorities.

Focused and detailed information may also foster an effective incentive for stronger involvement of the local and regional authorities, and more intense participation of institutional, economic and social partnerships; notably on the last point, during the institutional activity related to the subsidiarity control mechanism, a lack of selective information from Stakeholders may perhaps be observed.

- ✓ **task (b)**, *The identification of any policy areas where, over time, decision making and/or implementation could be re-delegated in whole or in part or definitively returned to the Member States.*

In the matter of the second Task Force objective, it highlights **the need of a “lightened” regulation for a better implementation**; therefore, it could be effective not a deregulation process, but rather a greater flexibility (reducing targets, deadlines or requirements) and simplified rules.

With particular regard to COHESION POLICY and regulations on the European structural and investment funds, it underlines the need of less legislation to ensure greater flexibility, in order to eligibility of expenditure, de-commitment procedure, designation of managing and certifying authorities and audit.

The simplification of rules on eligibility and expenditures is an important step for better implementation of European territorial programmes, but there are several examples of measures to enable real simplification that would include 1) reinforcement of the use of simplified cost options, 2) provide more pre-defined options, and 3) demonstrate greater availability of simplified cost options, which would more accurately reflect the expenditure patterns, project structures and increased specific thresholds.

Regard the objective of cohesion policy - *to reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions* – infrastructural differentiation among regions should be taken into account. Also, the achievement of European programmes goals by reward rather than penalty should be encouraged.

Along this line, excessively detailed regulations may be ineffective because of the reduction of flexibility for local and regional authorities. Moreover, such policies may also create unnecessary administrative costs.

Considering all of the above ideas, the most critical point is the possibility for territorial authorities to **allocate funds more flexibly** (especially for infrastructural programming), and to strengthen reward mechanisms in such policy areas as Environment, Research and technological development and Social policies.