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Regional Disparities and Regional Development:
From Scientific Research to Policy Recommendations

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**REGIONAL DISPARITIES AND SOCIAL COHESION POLICIES. THE CASE OF
THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BARI (ITALY) [DISPARITĂȚI REGIONALE ȘI
POLITICI DE COEZIUNE SOCIALĂ. CAZUL ZONEI METROPOLITANE BARI (ITALIA)]**

The role of Regions appears reconfigured by the “reshaping” of national States. Besides, under a sub-regional scale, forms of governance have been launched, redefining a new territoriality. In Italy, the role of the Regions and Cities is more and more important in the decision-making processes of the territories, and it is also characterized by the recent establishment of the metropolitan cities, but still not geo-politically defined. There is, in fact, a constitutional reform process through the region’s reorganization legislative autonomy and strengthening of local governments. In this context, some areas are characterized by social unrest that includes new forms of poverty, urban malaise and marginalization, due also to the financial and economic crisis whose signs of recovery are still very weak.

The problems highlighted tend to localize in “vast areas”. This attributed a fundamental role in social policies to regions and metropolitan cities through forms of complementarity, but also of competitiveness.

In the European Union the programming decisions, considered the policy of development and cohesion also at the local scale. The 2014-2020 EU programming cycle, in fact, has defined the main role of metropolitan cities, but also of cities and internal areas.

The contribution will analyze Puglia, region of southern Italy, and the metropolitan area of Bari, the regional capital, in order to verify policies concerning the social field, both through “strategic planning” and launching the so called “smart city” experience. In the metropolitan city, indeed, there is already an orientation towards the “social innovation” to address the issues of social cohesion and inclusion, consistent to sustainable development

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**SÁTORALJAÚJHELY – SLOVENSKÉ NOVÉ MESTO: LIVING IN STATE-
BORDER DIVIDED TOWNS UNDER CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES**
*[SÁTORALJAÚJHELY – SLOVENSKÉ NOVÉ MESTO: TRĂIND ÎN ORAȘE DIVIZATE DE
FRONTIERE STATALE ÎN CONTEXTE VARIABLE]*

The united Sátoraljaújhely was seat of the big Zemplén County until 1918. In 1910 it had a population of 20 thousand. The town was developed as administrative and market centre on the Hungarian-Slovakian language border. In the Trianon Peace Treaty (1920) a new state border was formed between Hungary and Czechoslovakia, in the middle of Zemplén county and in the territory of Sátoraljaújhely. Between 1938 and 1944 the two settlements were united again. In the first years of period of state socialism in Hungary and Czechoslovakia border was totally closed, but in the 60’s a border crossing point was open. Sátoraljaújhely in Hungary has a population of about 15 thousand, and it is a relatively developed market town with a big hospital and secondary schools. The population of Slovenské Nové Mesto is about 1100, and a relatively underdeveloped settlement. After the common EU membership of Hungary and Slovakia (2004), the two settlements have nearly united functionally on the level of everyday life.