

## **Introduction**

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This second issue of IJPP, which starts with a reflection of Leonardo Benevolo about the job of planners, is entirely dedicated to the presentation of some case studies in the region of Campania. These represent challenging contexts characterised by weak planning in an area where decades of neglect, illegal building activity and lack of any effective public spending policy have created favorable conditions for the development of illegal planning practices.

What emerges from the cases presented is a socio-political context with a poor perception of the role that planning could play as one important element for development.

The authors have centred their attention on the difficult processes that have characterised their plans rather than the results and outcomes of their work as planners. What clearly emerges from the papers is the importance of the relationships between public and private actors who determine these processes. In the case of Acerra for example, a municipality of considerable complexity because of both its important historical heritage and environmental decay and abandonment, only one plan has been produced since World War II, in 1982. After that, the process for a new plan was started in 2008 but the years since have been characterised by two different administrations, both of which have ended up in compulsory administration.

The plan for Monte di Procida, where a careful analysis and reconstruction of landscapes has been carried out, has contributed to highlight heritage values which make up the quality of development in an administrative context which used to consider the Plan to be merely a tool for building regulations.

In Pompeii's plan, the dualism between the government and the dominant role of the Curia brings out the complexity that exists even between public actors. Despite this, it is an example of good management of such relationships by local planners. The same is true for the case of the Urban Implementation Plan for the Neapolitan neighbourhood of San Giovanni a Teduccio. Here, the plan tries to find new solutions to the somewhat counterproductive duality between port activities and the need for urban regeneration, crystallized in the difficult relationship between two strong players, in this case the municipality and the port authority.

From some contributions, a sort of bitterness emerges about the ways in which different stakeholders and public policy makers have been unable to cooperate and make land use decisions. This is the case of the plan for the five municipalities affected by the construction of the high speed train station in the outermost suburbs of Naples.

Despite their variety, the cases presented in this issue share common problems and challenges which have to do with the procedures set out by regional regulations that often delay the whole process of plan approval. Therefore, there is a need to understand why the intentions for innovation and renewal of planning practice are still affected by great slowness.

In Campania, only in 2004, a new regional planning act was passed, more than twenty years after the previous one (L.R. 16/04). Out of 551 municipalities, there are only a few dozen municipal urban plans approved under the new regional act. Most of the municipalities have a planning instrument with an average age of almost twenty years and many regulate their planning activity by means of the *Programma di Fabbricazione*, building regulations which were introduced by the national act of 1942.

In such a context it is of great importance to deepen and compare the significant experiences that are beginning to take shape. For IJPP this is a commitment which cannot be ignored.