

EDITORIAL

Fiorella Dallari

This issue can be considered a special issue, first because the contributions included are on the same subject: the cultural itineraries. Furthermore authors propose their issues on their mother language (however the english translation will be published by this year). After all these considerations were presented to the 33rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Italian Association of Regional Science (AISRe) in September 2012 at the University of Tor Vergata in Rome.

During the conference under the theme: "Institutions, Local Networks and the Country System: the governance of local – national relations " a session has been dedicated to the governance of local and national relations, specially to the European Cultural Routes as a model of development and valorisation of cultural property system (coordinated by Silvia Beltramo and Paolo Rizzi). Among many participants, E. Zabbini has already published her contribution (AlmaTourism, vol.3, no.5, 2012, pp.59-80), while in N.7 are proposed four essays dedicated to the cultural itineraries of the Council of Europe, organized by geographical disposition and from general to particular.

The first, work of E. Berti, deal with the topic of the new paradigms of territorial development with a methodological contribution to the study and design of cultural routes, developed within the Council of Europe to monitor the practical implementation of a route recognized by the Council of Europe and to assess the practical results in the areas affected by the project

Cultural itineraries are analyzed by considering their nature of complex territorial systems and they are intended as a cultural complex and inclusive good, through the understanding interactions with the landscape while changing the socio-economic and cultural crossed context. In this sense, the cultural itineraries are potential axes for the crossed territories useful for a conscious approach to the landscape project based on the local endogenous resources.

Starting from Piemonte region, the western door of Italy since ancient times, S. Beltramo reflects upon the relationship between cultural routes and networks of knowledge, on which identities and the enhancement of the natural and cultural European heritage have formed. She wonders about the strategic value of transnational cooperation, able to implement a network within different territories in a background of cooperation and travel experiences, both economic and cultural.

In this framework the importance of European projects come out as a vital focus for the local authorities able to support policies for the development and the

identification, by the European Council, of many ancient streets and paths along the Piemonte region.

The following two contributes are respectively in the Milan area of Lombardia region (M.Morazzoni and M.Boiocchi) and in the western and southern Veneto (L.S. Rizzo, R.G. Rizzo, A. Trono). The subject are the cultural and religious routes, which are implementing a strong protection of the territory, promote sustainable tourism, alternative and conscious, and also facilitate the authenticity through the contact with the local culture and the enhancement of contextual factors full of originality.

The territorial planning through the itineraries is therefore a good practice for sustainable development, such as the 100 km of the "Road of the Abbeys", where faith, art and nature are integrated in the Greater Milan. The same is for the 300 km from the Veneto region which "talk" about environmental/cultural/culinary diversified frameworks. In the center are located the sanctuaries, a path with its sub-paths processed through GIS. The main itinerary links them trying to connect the studied areas using a variant to the ancient Via Romea, subject of study and recovery such as long distance route.

The section dedicated to the notes and to the reports is also focussed to itineraries, from projects devoted to the connection between Taranto and Brindisi of the South Via Francigena, to the itineraries following the Leonardo da Vinci travels, till to excursions in the Italian Geographic Society which in recent years has re-started to organize travels with the participation of the members, in most part geographers but also historians, archaeologists and territorial researchers. It has been also included the report of a history seminar on the theme of fashion that took place in Brazil during last June in collaboration between University of Bologna, University of Sao Paulo and the Federal University of Goiás. This in order to start some practice of "quality of life" and local development.

This issue presents some significant experiences and best practices, which have been drawn up and implemented in the region territory in the last years. These topics may contribute to the debate and to the general consciousness of the management and development of sustainable tourism and local development.