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SO-23-The contribution of cultural resources to the resilience and regeneration of inland areas

Cultural participation in inland areas

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Abstract

Culture represents a key determinant of well-being and is essential for resilience and regeneration of local communities. The purpose of the paper is to apply recent analytical tools for evaluating the relationship between cultural services and cultural participation in the inland areas of the Country, as a possible support for evidence-informed policies.

The paper proposes an analysis of cultural service infrastructures and cultural participation profiles in inland areas, using data collected by the National Statistical Institute (Aspects of daily life survey; Museum census, various years) and the experimental classification of functional territorial areas adopted by Istat in 2015 (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2015) and 2018 (Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018).

The experimental classification identifies seven major groups of local systems, which share similar demographic structures, population properties, settlement patterns, and economic and occupational characteristics. The groups are The Cities of the Centre-North, the Widespread City, the Green Heart, the Southern Urban Centers, The Territories of Hardship, the Inland Mezzogiorno and The Other South.

The majority of those territorial groups belong to the broader inland category of inland areas. They may be useful for a finer appreciation of the dynamics of inland areas in their composition and variety, including resilience and regeneration and the varying levels of well-being of their communities.

The proposed exercise will describe statistically the profiles of cultural participation that characterize each territorial inland group, as measured by their consumption levels and intensity of individual activities, like book reading, museum, theatre, concerts, and cinema going, and synthetic indexes.

On the cultural supply side, the paper will analyze how the Italian museums and cultural heritage sites (about 5,000) fall within the different functional territorial areas, and offer elements about their nature, organization, and activities, as well as other indicators to measure the cultural intensity and vibrancy of each of them.

1. Statistical analysis and functional geography of local systems

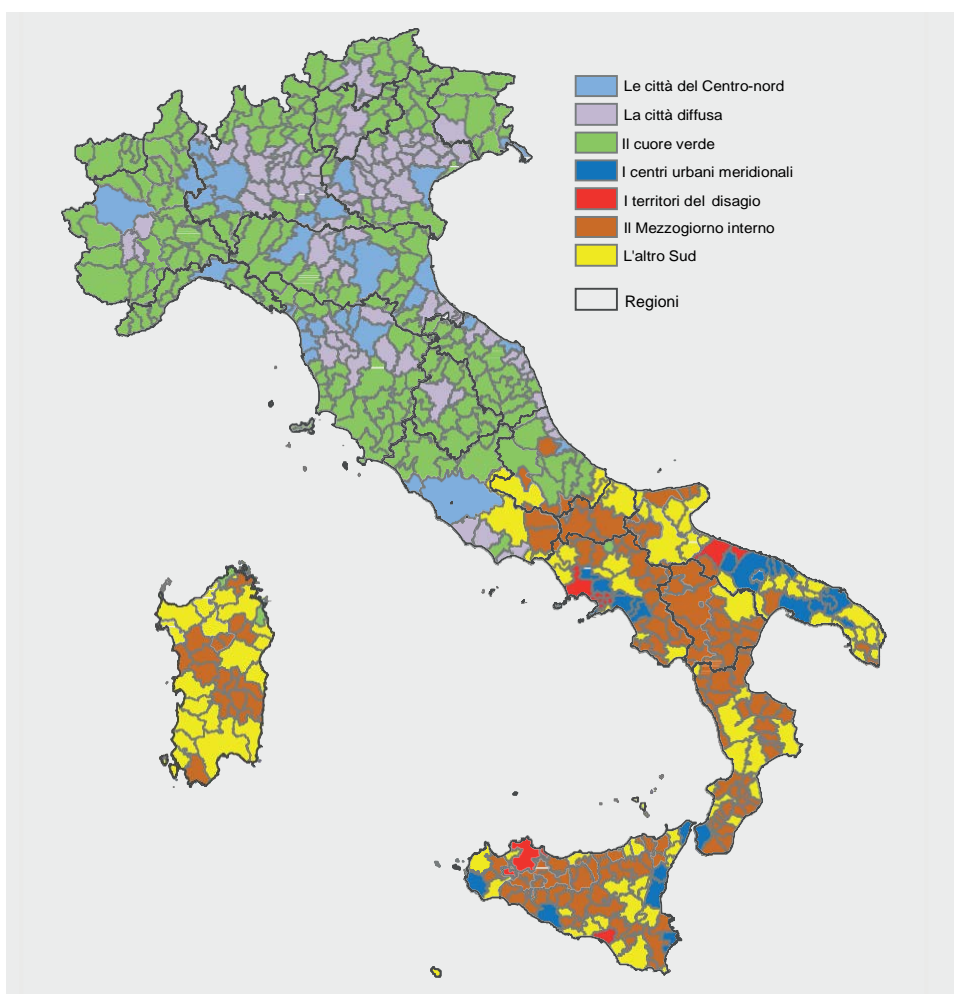
Statistical analysis methodologies applied to the functional geography of local systems highlight seven groups of local systems, homogeneous with respect to the demographic structure, population dynamics and forms of residential settlement.

Based on their characteristics, Istat has labeled those groups as follows:

- Northern and Central Towns,
- the Widespread City,
- Green Heart,
- Southern Urban Centers,
- Lands of Hardship,
- Inland *Mezzogiorno*
- The Other South.

Fig.1 shows the geographical distribution of the functional local systems.

Fig.1. Groups of local systems based upon socio-demographic and residential characteristics - Years 2011 and 2014



Istat, Rapporto Annuale 2015.

The first three groups are largely composed of systems from central-northern Italy, the other four almost exclusively include local systems in the South (with the exception of some in the lower Lazio).

The group labeled *Northern and Central towns* includes the local systems of some of the major cities (Rome, Milan, Turin, Bologna, Florence, Genoa, Venice, Trieste, etc.). It is the most

populous aggregate: 18 million of individuals, equal to about 30 percent of the Italian population. The 34 systems of the group (908 municipalities, about nine percent of the national territory), present a demographic structure typical of urban settlement models and an equally recognizable dynamic. The population is concentrated in the regional capital (on average 53.3 percent of the inhabitants reside, against a national value of 44.1 percent). The local systems of the group are characterized by older population (old-age index is 165.6, compared to national average value of 148.7), with few children (less than 19 under the age of 4 for every 100 women in fertile age, against 21.2 national average), small-sized households (single-person households are 35 percent). Despite the elderly demographic structure, the population change is slightly higher than the Italian one (+5.2 percent against +4.3), thanks to a larger foreign population. The attractiveness of *Northern and Central towns* stems from their labor market conditions: employment rate (40.9 percent) is four points higher than the national average, female and total unemployment rates and precarious employment are lower (17.9 against 21.7 percent). These characteristics of metropolitan cities extend to their neighboring systems, integrating them into a single socio-demographic reality.

The second group is the *Widespread City* (94 local systems), featuring a loose territorial settlement model. It represents one fifth of the Italian population (12 million), with 1,552 municipalities (about 13 percent of the territory). The local systems of the group are concentrated in the Northeast, in the Lombard-Emilian Po Valley area and along the Marche, Abruzzo, and Pontine coasts. The average demographic size of the aggregate systems (about 130 thousand inhabitants) is smaller than the *Northern and Central towns*; the population is more dispersed over the territory (less than one third of the inhabitants live in the capital cities) and the density of the extra-urban areas (almost 40 inhabitants per km²) is more than double compared to the national average. This distribution of places of residence, typical of a high soil-consuming settlement pattern, generates massive commuting flows daily. The population structure of the *Widespread City* is younger than the *Northern and Central towns*. Their salient feature is the labor market performance, with all indicators better than the national average, associated with more entrepreneurs (4.2 per cent compared to the average of 3.4 per cent). These conditions attract substantial flows of foreigners (on average ten percent of the resident population, the highest incidence among the territorial systems), who contribute to the overall population growth (+11.1 in a decade).

The Green Heart, the third system in size, has explicit rural connotations. Approximately ten million people reside there (mostly in the Center-North) and it is the largest in terms of number of local systems and municipalities (212 and 3,180). These local systems have a particularly low population density (less than 90 inhabitants per km²) and rural features (low incidence of inhabited areas and a high proportion of non-urban areas). From a demographic point of view, the *Green Heart* shows an imbalance towards the elderly population classes. About 60 percent of the population lives in municipalities other than the capital and commuter flows are consistent. Labor market indicators perform better than the national ones, in particular unemployment rates (the total and the female rates are at least four percentage points lower than the national average). On the other hand, the population of the group has grown less than the national average during the last decade, also due to a comparatively lower contribution of the foreign population. *The Green Heart* includes six groups of rural local systems: the mountain

areas of the Alpine area, with a strong tourist vocation coexist, areas with relevant historical and cultural heritage and high-quality agricultural production, the tourist districts of central Italy and those characterized by seasonal tourism, like the Pre-Alps, the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, western and eastern Liguria.

The other four groups include almost exclusively southern local systems. Two of them, *Lands of Hardship* and *Southern Urban Centers*, have a predominantly urban characterization.

Lands of Hardship applies to a few southern urban centers (Neapolitan conurbation, urban area of Palermo and, in Apulia, the local urban coastal systems north of Bari) associated with highly critical socio-economic conditions, in particular education level of the population and the labor market. In these systems, on areas that are not very large, a very high proportion of the population is concentrated (over 4.8 million inhabitants, with a record-high density, on average 1,240 people per km²), comparatively younger and with a strong prevalence of large households. Although these are urban contexts, the presence of foreigners is particularly low. *Lands of Hardship* is the only urban group that does not grow in terms of population: settlement density (18.3 percent of the surface is built, a value over three times higher than the national average) does not allow for further expansion margins. Therefore, room for population growth can only be found in the hinterland areas.

The *Southern Urban Centers* differ from those in the North and Centre. The group is made of 26 systems, including those of Caserta, Salerno, Taranto, Brindisi, Messina, and Catania, a total 4.7 million inhabitants, with a comparatively younger age structure than the Northern and Central towns. The population is almost entirely concentrated in the consolidated urban areas (96.2 percent live in the cities and almost half in the capital of the local system). Urban sprawl is very limited. The systems are characterized by low dynamism in terms of demographic and propensity of residents to commute. The labor market shows employment rates below average, higher unemployment rates and precarious jobs, especially for women. The *Southern Urban Centers* appear static and, in a global context of strong territorial competitiveness, incapable of managing their past dominating position.

The *Other South* is the group of the South with the greatest potential. It aggregates 93 systems (a total of 990 municipalities) with a demographic base of 6.8 million residents, dispersed in small rural or coastal towns. The *Other South* includes subgroups, each with a strong geographical connotation: one mainly concentrated in Sardinia, in the southern provinces of Apulia, in the marine areas of the two coasts in the province of Catanzaro and Sicily, as well as some of the capitals of the South with a high historical and cultural character (Avellino, Benevento, Matera, Cosenza and Ragusa). The other group is almost exclusively composed of Sicilian systems of the Etna hinterland, Apulian of the Capitanata and Ionian Calabria. In a demographic context characterized by forms of traditional family relationships and large households, the population structure indices show for this second group a higher incidence of young population and a better active population turnover index. The indicators of the labor market of the *Other South*, although comparatively worse than the national average, in particular due to unemployment levels, appear to be better for some parameters than other groups in the South: in particular, female unemployment is lower and the share of entrepreneurs is higher. As the systems of the *Other South* are located in areas of high naturalistic value and rich of historical and cultural heritage,

still largely untouched by excess constructions, this group could be defined as the "South that hopes".

The *Inland Mezzogiorno* is the least dynamic of the groups. With 1,112 municipalities, it includes 140 local systems belonging to three related groups, one along the Apennine peninsular ridge between internal Lazio and Lucania, one in Calabria and Sicily (especially in inland areas), and one in Sardinia. It totals about 4.1 million inhabitants, with a very low density (about 74 inhabitants per km²), who live for almost 85 percent in inland areas. In *Inland Mezzogiorno* the relationship between the population in the urban centres and that of the extra-urban areas is unbalanced in favor of the latter. It includes territories that have been depopulated for decades (-3.1 per cent in the last year alone, and a share of unoccupied houses of more than 60 per cent). The population is structurally old and the labor market appears asphyxiated, unstable and scarcely orientated towards commuting.

Istat's exercise helps refining the notion of *inland areas*. Indeed, the *Green Heart* and the *Inland Mezzogiorno* fall in the category in full, but their characteristics are very different. In the following sections, I will try to look at those differences from the perspective of cultural heritage. I will start from the *supply side*, with a brief description of how museum services are distributed among the different functional geographic groups, and then turn my attention to cultural participation patterns of people belonging to those areas.

2. Cultural services: an approach per functional areas

Citizens' cultural practice presupposes accessing a plurality of places and services, public and private, such as libraries, archives, theaters, museums, cinemas, concert halls, art galleries, and, of course, schools and institutes of artistic education. The territorial distribution of these facilities is highly diversified. A significant share of museums, libraries, historic buildings and ancient monuments or theaters (sometimes, true masterpieces, some of which are also in miniature), owe their origins to the presence of courts, grandeur and patronage of emperors and kings, popes and aristocrats, religious devotion and popular love for music and theatre, little and big collectors and scholars. Those places enlivened the cultural vibrancy of urban centers, dating back to the communal age, which mark most of the northern and central regions of the country, especially coastal and lowland regions. The South, partially because of frequent inaccessible geographies, the heavy legacy of latifundium, and lower intensity of cities until the second post-war period, boasts archaeological sites and places of worship, cathedrals, churches and sanctuaries, sometimes rocky or isolated, and historical political buildings, more concentrated in the capitals.

Services of more recent origin and more markedly commercial, such as cinemas, bookshops, newsstands, have spread and then, often, drastically reduced or reorganized in correspondence with the profound demographic and economic transformations that have characterized the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first, and that over time have configured the catchment areas, as well as the transition to the digital age.

Only two sets of cultural places, service providers, are widespread throughout the territory: libraries and museums. Equally composite in terms of ownership and management (both can in

fact be public or private, in any case non-profit-making), equally variable in size (of collections, employees or number of users), equally open to the public, libraries and museums differ by stage of maturity of the network in which they are organized. Libraries have long since shared registry offices, procedures and standards, although not all of them are part of the national library system. Museums, by far a less homogenous universe, are since last year the object of a national system construction process.

Unlike libraries, Italian museums, although distributed throughout the country (more or less in one municipality out of three), do not yet have system characteristics and cannot yet be considered a real national network. However, their widespread presence, their organization, the services offered and the activities they carry out, in addition to being at least local forms of cultural network, present interesting potential for the future, also for their impact on well-being and health and for the contribution, increasingly frequently recognized also by international literature, to the strategies of cultural welfare and active aging.

Today, in Italy, we are able to access an open, updated, complete and geo-referenced statistical information only about museums. Data on reading libraries will remain inaccessible, until the completion of the first census survey promoted by Istat in Fall, 2018, together with the Ministry of Cultural heritage and the Italian Regional Administrations¹. Because of this, I will only consider museums as an example of cultural services covering the entire territory.

The survey conducted by Istat, MiBACT, Regions and Autonomous Provinces identified 4,976 museum institutions open to the public and operating with reference to the year 2015: 4,158 museums and galleries, 282 areas and archaeological sites, 536 monuments or monumental complexes. By a large majority (64.1%), these institutions are public, mainly municipal (43% of the total); those that belong to the State are 439, that is less than 9%, but include places of great attractiveness, such as the Colosseum, the site of Pompeii, the Uffizi Gallery, for which alone they registered, in the year under consideration, more than 47 millions of entries, out of a total of over 110.6 million. This total includes tourists, both Italian and foreign, as well as residents. The entry registration methods do not allow to reliably determining how these components are distributed, although it is logical to suppose that in the museums with the highest number of tickets sold there is a preponderance of tourists compared to the local public. Data on cultural participation investigated by Istat through the survey Aspects of daily life, while on the one hand provide some indications on the habits of Italian residents, do not distinguish however between visits that take place in the context of tourist experiences and visits with different motivation. On the one hand, we do know that about 19 million people residing in Italy, over 5 years old, have visited museums or exhibitions at least once a year; we do know that 15.3 million went to monuments or archaeological sites. On the other hand, we do not know if they visited in their own region, or in a different region, or even in another country. For the purposes of our reflection, therefore, the possibility of considering museums, archaeological areas and monuments as an at least potential network of cultural services will rely on the characteristics of these institutions, rather than those of their users. The regions with the largest number of institutions, which account for 30% of the total, are Tuscany (548), Emilia-Romagna (477) and

¹ <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/217094>, <https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/230564>.

Piedmont (427). More than half of the national archaeological areas (52.8%) are concentrated in the South, with one in three (32.6%) located in Sicily or Sardinia.

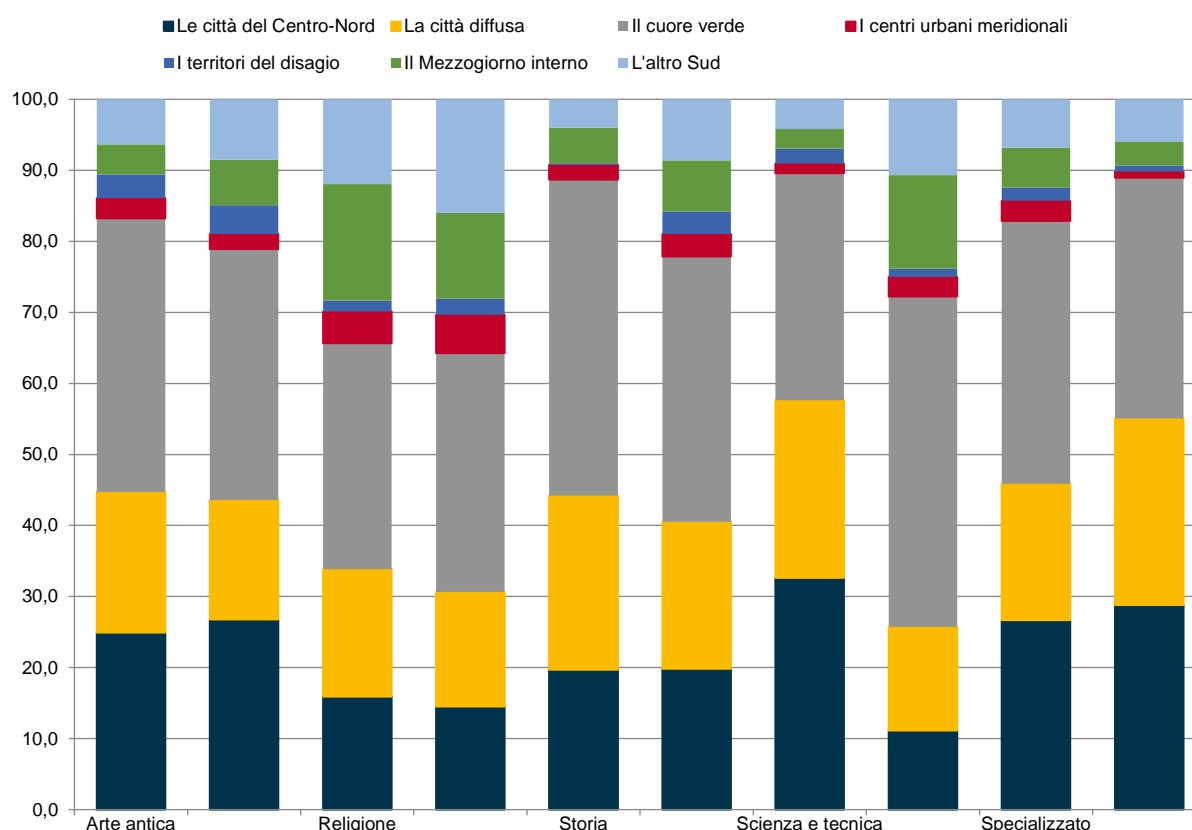
The 37.7% of museums are located in the territories of the *Green Heart*: small to very small structures, among which the collections of ancient art prevail, an expression, often of enormous value, of the territory, and collections of testimonies of rural and rural civilization. The 20% of the museums are in the *Northern and Central towns*, where large institutions are concentrated, in the *Widespread City* around 18%. The shares are lower than 10% in *The Other South* (9.5%) and *The Inland Mezzogiorno* (8.9%), and even lower in *The Southern Urban Centers* (3.3%) and in the *Lands of Hardship* (2.7%).

The 50% of archaeological areas and sites is equally distributed between the *Green Heart* and *The Inland Mezzogiorno*, 16.7% in the *Other South* and about 15% in the *Northern and Central towns*. The highest ratio between the number of museums and municipalities (1.1) are in the *Northern and Central towns* and the *Lands of Hardship*; in *The Southern Urban Centers* 0.7; in the *Widespread City* and in the *Green Heart* is 0.6; finally, in *The Inland Mezzogiorno* and in the *Other South* just 0.4.

In relation to the resident population, in the *Green Heart* there is a museum for every 3,200 inhabitants; in *The Inland Mezzogiorno*, one for every 3,500; one every 6,200 or so in *The Other South*, one every 7,600 in the *Widespread City*, while in the *Northern and Central towns* there is a museum for every 19,400 inhabitants, in *The Southern Urban Centers* one for every 20,500, and in the *Lands of Hardship* one of almost 40,000.

Museum offer appears to be specialized geographically by type of collection. In the *Green Heart*, 46.5% of the exhibition sites of an ethnographic and anthropological nature are distributed, 44.4% of the historical ones, 38.5% of ancient art in the country. The *Inland Mezzogiorno*, with less than 9% of museums, boasts substantial amounts in the sector of religious collections (16.4%) and ethnographic and anthropological collections (13.2%), while the museums of *The Other South* constitute 9.5% of the national total, hosting 16% of the archaeological sites (Fig.2).

Fig.2. Typological prevalence of cultural sites per functional geographical areas



(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018)

As for visitors, in 2015 the *Northern and Central towns* exceeded 63.4 million, with a notable detachment compared to the territories of the *Green Heart* (14.2 million) and the *Widespread City* (11.3 million). Museums, sites and monuments of the *Lands of Hardship* reach 8.1 million entries; the *Other South* nearly 6, the *Inland Mezzogiorno* 4.3 and the *Southern Urban Centers* 3.3 million. To represent the different pressure of these figures in the territories, the average number of visitors per municipality of the *Northern and Central towns* is close to 70,000, in the *Lands of Hardship* municipalities 67,000, over 14,000 in the *Southern Urban Centers*, over 7,000 in the *Widespread City*, almost 5,500 in *The Other South*, 4,400 in the *Green Heart*, 3,600 in the *Inland Mezzogiorno*. A minority of cultural sites, equal to 4.2% of the national total, although regularly open to the public, report that they had no entry in the previous twelve months. To this small group belongs 48.4% (93 units) in the territories of the *Green Heart*. In contrast, the 11 structures that have exceeded one million entries each are almost all contained in the *Northern and Central towns*, with the exception of two, one in the *Green Heart* and one in the *Lands of Hardship*. The distribution of the 110.6 million entries recorded in 2015 is useful to add elements to the profile of the museum offer in the various territories. On a national level, a museum, monument or archaeological area out of five counts no more than one visitor per day. In the *Green Heart*, the share of this size class reaches about 21.3%. A high number of small and very small structures characterizes the *Green Heart* and the *Widespread City*: more than 70% and 63.2% of the institutions, respectively, have registered no more than 5,000 entries. In the *Lands of Hardship*, the percentage of places with more than 10,000 admissions per year is 41.3%. In the *Northern and Central towns* it is 36.4%.

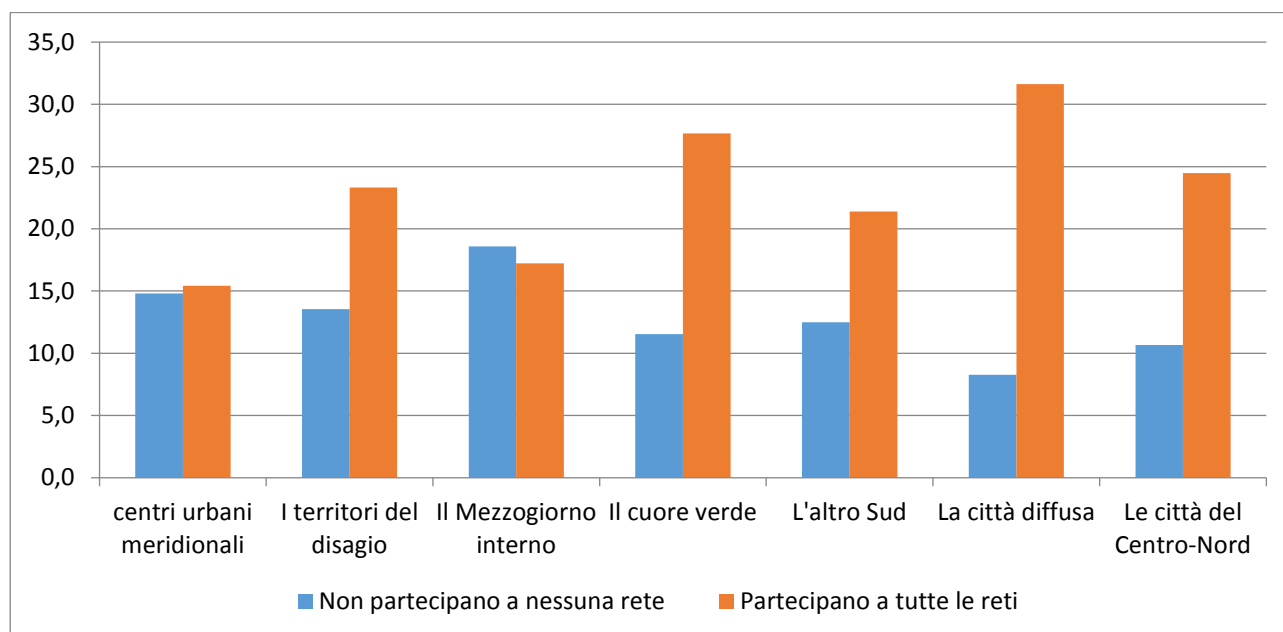
The number of employees allows completing the representation of the dimensions of Italian museums, confirming the widespread and pulverized model, with few large institutions. According to surveys, in 2015, just over 20,000 people worked in museums, archaeological sites and monuments (one for every 5,300 entries), to which must be added about 7,500 operators of external companies, about 800 young people of the national civil service and about 250 trainees and interns. The 22% of the structures did not have the exclusive use of any employee (for the most part, museums belonging to small municipalities, which are managed by staff assigned also to other tasks). These museums without human resources of their own are concentrated above all in the *Green Heart*, where they reach 31%. In Italy, most institutions, that is, 58.3%, have no more than five employees, while facilities with over 50 operators are just 47, or 1.2%. The *Southern Urban Centers* and *The Inland Mezzogiorno*, together, do not reach 12% of the staff working in the cultural heritage open to the public. In the *Northern and Central towns*, 17% of museums exceed 11 operators, while in the *Lands of Hardship* that this category reaches 35% of the local offer.

Almost half of the museums (around 46%) are part of organized museum networks or systems that include other museums, or similar institutions, for sharing human, technological or financial resources. The 57.2% of institutions have formal collaboration and partnership relationships with other cultural institutions in the area, such as research projects and joint initiatives with libraries, universities, cultural centers, etc. A little less than half, 45%, is included in inter-institutional agreements for the development of the territory, and 52% have joined, in the last five years, networks or museum systems of their territory. The majority (63.1%) of the structures are included in tourist itineraries, sometimes as promoters. The 12% of museums do not take part in any of the above interactions and collaborations just described, while more than one quarter, 26%, participate in all of them.

In the *Widespread City*, the 52% of organizations are part of organized networks or systems, 50.7% of inter-institutional agreements for the enhancement of the territory, 61.5% adhered to local museum networks and systems and 71.2% are included in or were promoters of tourist itineraries. The 64.4% of the facilities of the *Northern and Central towns* have established formal partnerships and partnerships with other cultural organizations.

Elsewhere, connections and collaboration is weaker, as in the *Southern Urban Centres*, where less than 27% of museums and other exhibition institutions are part of networks and less than 33% are included in local museum systems. In the *Inland Mezzogiorno*, the share of museums that collaborate with other cultural subjects is 45.1%, those with agreements with institutions is 40.1% and those in local tourist itineraries just under 57%. The highest share (19%) of isolated institutions is in the *Inland Mezzogiorno*, while the highest share of museums included in territorial collaboration systems is in the *Widespread City* (32%). Figure 3 shows participation (and non-participation rates of the various Italian territories).

Fig.3. Museums and cultural sites included in cooperative networks (2015).



(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018)

In 2015, almost 18,000 volunteers had provided their services in support of cultural sites, more than 15,000 of which in the *Northern and Central towns*, the *Widespread City* and the *Green Heart*. In some territories, the number of volunteers far exceeds that of employees: in the *Green Heart*, over 6,800 volunteers supplement the activity of less than 3,800 employees; in the *Widespread City*, volunteers are close to 4,000, while workers do not reach 3,000. A minority of museums, 39%, in 2015 did not resort to volunteer personnel. Lack of such support network characterizes 51% of the museums of the *Lands of Hardship*, 45% of those of the *Inland Mezzogiorno*, and 41% of those of the *Green Heart*.

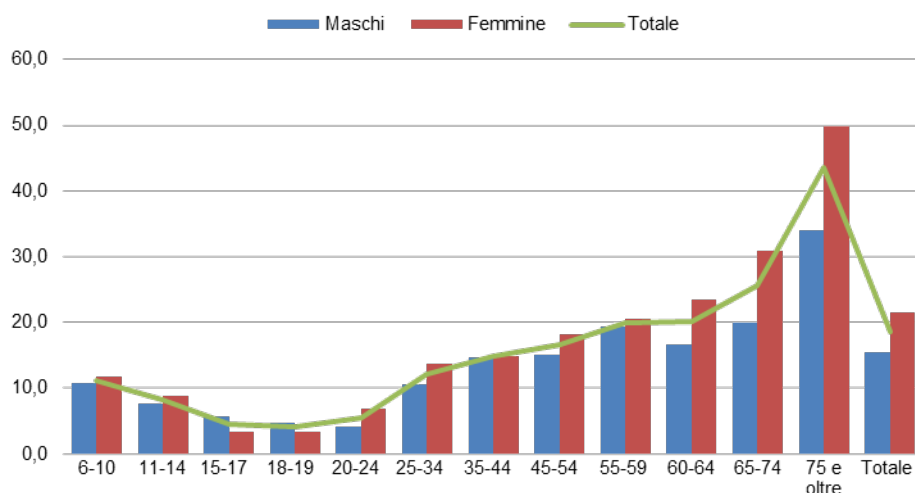
Cultural participation

In 2016, 66.3 percent of the population aged 6 and over devoted their time, at least once in the previous 12 months, to entertainment and shows outside the home²; 40.5 percent read books (not including those read for school, university or professional reasons), and 43.9 percent read newspapers at least once a week. The share of citizens who, during the same period, did not carry out any cultural activity, however simple and occasional, is 18.6 percent. Total non-participation of women is higher (21.5 women vs. 15.5 men). Rates vary with age: total cultural inactivity, minimal among young people, grows considerably among adults, starting from the age of 25. Cultural non-participation peaks after the age of 75 (43.5 percent), much higher for women (49.7 percent) than for men (34.0 percent). For a substantial share of citizens, art, heritage and, in general, culture represent a set of poorly attractive activities, which are

² Visiting museums, exhibitions, archaeological sites or monuments, or attending concerts of classical or other music, or theatre performances, cinemas, sporting events or dance venues.

practiced especially when one goes to school or university, but do not take root and they abandon as they age.

Fig.4 Total non-participation in cultural activities. Gender and age groups. 2016



(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018)

In 2016, in Italy, only 28.3 percent of adults aged 25 and over³ expressed a strong cultural participation (Tab.1). Practice and cultural consumption vary considerably depending on the socio-demographic characteristics of the adult population. Women are slightly more active than men (28.8 percent against 27.7) are. People with higher education are more active than those with lower qualifications are: from 63.5 percent of those with a university or post-university degree, to 35.2 percent of those with a university degree high school diploma, up to 10.7 per cent of those with a middle school diploma. The territory also influences the levels of participation: residents of the *Northern and Central towns* express the highest cultural activity (37.3 percent), while the lowest levels are those of people living in *The Inland Mezzogiorno* (16.4 percent).

Adults with a less assiduous cultural practice, but who nevertheless took them away from home, are 19.7 percent, this time with a higher share among men than women (20.9 compared to 18.7 percent).

³For adults, the data only concerns people without serious physical or mental limitations, to exclude the effect of disability on participation levels, particularly pronounced for the older population.

Table 1. Persons aged 25 and over by levels of cultural participation by age group and some socio-demographic characteristics. 2016

	TOTALE			25-64			65-74			75+		
	Partecipazione forte (a)	Partecipazione saltuaria fuori casa (b)	Non partecipazione totale	Partecipazione forte (a)	Partecipazione saltuaria (b)	Non partecipazione totale	Partecipazione forte (a)	Partecipazione saltuaria (b)	Non partecipazione totale	Partecipazione forte (a)	Partecipazione saltuaria (b)	Non partecipazione totale
SESSO												
Maschi	27,7	20,9	37,0	30,0	23,3	35,7	24,8	16,3	36,1	14,6	9,1	47,8
Femmine	28,8	18,7	40,4	33,5	21,5	35,0	21,9	14,8	46,7	11,3	8,1	62,1
TITOLO DI STUDIO												
Laurea o più	63,5	18,4	9,8	63,4	19,2	9,9	68,0	14,0	7,4	57,3	10,7	11,7
Diploma superiore	35,2	24,9	27,7	35,3	26,3	28,3	37,3	18,2	22,8	30,8	11,7	25,2
Licenza elementare o media	10,7	16,1	57,4	12,0	19,5	56,1	11,5	14,7	53,6	6,2	7,7	64,9
CLUSTER TERRITORIALI												
Le città del Centro-Nord	37,3	20,7	28,9	41,4	22,6	26,1	30,9	17,8	31,5	20,4	12,4	42,2
La città diffusa	30,5	20,4	32,7	33,7	22,6	30,3	28,3	17,9	31,8	11,7	8,4	50,4
Il cuore verde	27,4	19,5	35,2	31,7	23,4	31,4	22,3	14,0	35,3	12,6	7,3	53,0
I centri urbani meridionali	19,0	18,8	52,5	22,8	21,3	46,5	12,4	16,0	63,0	2,6	6,3	78,5
I territori del disagio	20,7	19,0	54,2	22,7	20,8	51,5	17,4	17,3	56,4	5,5	3,6	77,5
Il Mezzogiorno interno	16,4	17,7	56,6	19,3	21,8	50,0	13,5	7,9	67,1	4,8	6,3	80,4
L'altro Sud	20,2	18,9	50,4	23,6	22,1	45,8	11,1	11,1	60,9	6,9	5,0	70,6
TOTALE	28,3	19,7	38,8	31,8	22,4	35,3	23,3	15,5	41,6	12,6	8,5	56,2

(a) percentuale di persone che, nei 12 mesi precedenti l'intervista, hanno svolto tre o più attività tra: recarsi almeno quattro volte al cinema; almeno una volta rispettivamente a teatro, musei e/o mostre, siti archeologici, monumenti, concerti di musica classica, opera, concerti di altra musica; leggere il quotidiano almeno tre volte a settimana; leggere almeno quattro libri

(b) percentuale di persone che, nei 12 mesi precedenti l'intervista, hanno svolto una o due tra le seguenti attività svolte fuori casa: recarsi almeno quattro volte al cinema; almeno una volta rispettivamente a teatro, musei e/o mostre, siti archeologici, monumenti, concerti di musica classica, opera, concerti di altra musica.

(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018)

In the 25-64 age group, the most active culturally reach 31.8 percent, with a difference of 3.5 points for women. The shares of those who have chosen activities outside the home is 22.4% of people in this age group, with men outnumbering women (23.3% against 21.5%). Among adults, people with lower educational qualifications remain on the margins of cultural participation.

The share of strong participants among adults of active age is above the average in *The Green Heart* and *the Cities of the Center-North* (+4.3 and +4.1 percentage points compared to the average 25- 64). For the occasional activity, the advantage of adults of this age group is maintained even in the usually more culturally depressed territories (+4.1 points in the *Inland Mezzogiorno* and +3.2 in the *Other South*), with levels similar to the national average.

Among people between 65 and 74 years old, strong cultural participation is 23.3 percent, with males exceeding females by 3 points. Graduates' figure in this age group reaches 68 percent, plausibly by virtue of the fact that their habit of greater cultural activity benefits from the time left free by retirement. Among those over 64, the proportion of those who perform occasional cultural activities at home falls to 15.5 percent and the characteristics of the territory return to differentiate the *Center-North* and the *Widespread City* from the *Lands of Hardship* and the *Other South*, up to 10 percentage points.

After the age of 75, participation is further reduced: only 12.6 percent of the elderly carry out regular activities and 9 percent occasionally, still with an advantage for men, especially for strong participation (+4 points). None the less, the share of graduates who report at least three of the activities included in the indicator in the last 12 months remains high (57.3 percent). Just over a fifth of the over-75s of the *Northern and Central towns* have practiced arts and culture, 12 percent in the areas of the *Green Heart* and the *Widespread City*, between about 7 and 6 per cent in the *Other South*, the *Lands of Hardship* and the *Inland Mezzogiorno*, down to 2.6 percent in the *Southern Urban Centers*.

The 38.8 percent of adults are totally inactive. The proportion of people completely excluded from cultural practice peaks (56.6 per cent) in the *Inland Mezzogiorno*, reaches over 50 per cent in the *Lands of Hardship*, the *Southern Urban Centers* and the *Other South*. Rates are over 33

percent in the *Green Heart* and the *Widespread City*, and record the minimum, close to 29 percent, in the *Northern and Central towns*.

Museums and exhibitions and archaeological sites and monuments are deserted respectively by 69.2 and 74.0 per cent of adults, by 82 and 82.9 percent of the inhabitants of the *Inland Mezzogiorno* (Table 2).

Classical music concerts, unattended by 90.3 percent of the Italians, are deserted by 93.1 percent of those who live in the *Other South*. For concerts of other musical genres, the national share of non-participants stands at 78.9 percent, while it reaches 84.5 percent in the *Lands of Hardship*. In 2016, 80.0 percent of Italians have never been to the theater, but in the *Inland Mezzogiorno* that percentage is 87.9 percent. Cinema represents the most popular cultural consumption, but 51.6 percent of Italians never went there in 12 months, and in *The Inland Mezzogiorno* the share goes up even further, to 60.5 percent. Almost half of Italians, 48.7 percent, never opened a newspaper in a week during 2016. Non-readers are once again concentrated among the inhabitants of the *Inland Mezzogiorno* and in the *Lands of Hardship* (64.8 and 62.6 per cent respectively). As for the books, almost six Italians out of 10 have not even read one in twelve months (58.7 percent), 73.9 percent in the *Inland Mezzogiorno*.

Table 2. People aged 25 and over who have not had entertainment or entertainment outside the home in the last 12 months or have not read newspapers or books by territorial cluster. 2016

	Non hanno fruito di spettacoli fuori casa						Non hanno letto	
	Musei, mostre	Siti archeologici e monumenti	Concerti di musica classica	Altri concerti di musica	Teatro	Cinema	quotidiani (a)	libri (b)
Italia	69,2	74,0	90,3	78,9	80,0	51,6	48,7	58,7
Mezzogiorno	79,3	80,2	92,7	81,8	84,2	55,2	58,9	71,4
Le città del Centro-Nord	59,4	67,7	87,9	76,1	72,7	44,6	45,0	48,9
La città diffusa	66,1	72,7	89,7	77,6	81,0	51,9	43,4	54,0
Il cuore verde	69,9	74,7	90,4	79,5	83,0	56,6	41,1	56,1
I centri urbani meridionali	79,9	80,4	92,0	84,0	83,9	53,1	59,8	72,2
I territori del disagio	76,7	78,4	92,1	84,5	80,0	53,0	62,6	72,8
Il Mezzogiorno interno	82,0	82,9	93,8	79,8	87,9	60,5	64,8	73,9
L'altro Sud	79,8	80,0	93,2	80,2	85,8	54,6	53,4	69,5

(a) Almeno una volta a settimana.

(b) Negli ultimi 12 mesi.

(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018)

Citizens are involved in a plurality of relational systems, networks of different nature, composition, structure, in which they participate with variable intensity in different stages of life, owing to family structure, social condition, level of education, occupation and income, etc. Greater familiarity with cultural heritage, arts and activities is favored by the reinforcement of formal and informal networks: the family network for reading habits or cinema, the network of educational institutions and universities for heritage sites, theater, music. In turn, each network interacts with other networks (for example, that of libraries). To highlight how belonging to networks influences the cultural participation of adults, we have selected the relational profiles of people living alone or in couples without children (respectively 19.5 and 20.5 percent of Italian families), in order to exclude the pull (or, sometimes, push) effect of children on the parents' cultural activity.

Table 3. People aged 25 and over living alone or in couples without children for strong cultural participation, relationships and territorial clusters. 2016(a)

	Italia	Le città del Centro-Nord	La città diffusa	Il cuore verde	I centri urbani meridionali	I territori del disagio	Il Mezzogiorno interno	L'altro Sud
Persone sole	30,5	37,7	35,7	29,7	15,5	25,4	16,1	23,1
- di cui con amici e rete di sostegno	30,4	40,4	31,8	27,4	17,3	27,0	15,5	23,4
- di cui attive in associazioni	62,8	70,3	63,7	57,6	31,4	59,8	55,8	60,6
Persone in coppia senza figli	26,3	37,8	27,3	22,7	15,5	12,0	12,5	15,9
- di cui con amici e rete di sostegno	27,0	39,3	26,6	23,2	18,5	15,9	11,4	16,8
- di cui attive in associazioni	53,1	64,8	50,7	42,0	39,5	45,2	51,4	41,1

(a) single people: they declare that they have no friends, cannot count on a support network and do not participate in any form of association;
 people with friends: they have friends whom they meet at least a few times a month, cannot rely on a support network and do not participate in any form of association or political organization;
 people with a support network: they can count on a support network, do not frequent friends assiduously and do not participate in any form of associationism;
 people with friends and support networks: they have friends and can count on a support network, but they do not participate in any form of association;
 people active in associations: they carry out free activities in associations (volunteering, trade union, party, other associations).

(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica, 2018)

The analysis of cultural participation for different relational profiles, in different territorial contexts, shows the reinforcement action of the networks, which are effective even in those areas where the cultural activity of the citizens is much lower than the average national. This is the case for *the Southern Urban Centers*, where the minimum levels of culturally active population are reached (15.5 percent, both among singles and between people in couples without children). In this cluster, for people who actively participate in association networks, the distance to the national average is zero.

In a country where the adult population is poorly dynamic in terms of practice, participation and cultural consumption, and where variables such as gender, age, level of education and territorial belonging they define profound and permanent inequalities in the enjoyment of heritage, the arts and culture, the inclusion in networks of associative type is regularly accompanied by the raising of levels of cultural activity.

Women, the elderly, poorly educated people and residents in disadvantaged territories suffer from a widespread and progressive cultural exclusion, which intensifies with age. Networks seem to extend to those disadvantaged social components support to cultural participation comparable to the advantage deriving from the possession of the highest levels of education and residence in the most affluent areas of the peninsula.

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