

The weaknesses of regional identity (p. 435)

*Roberto Segatori*

*Italian Regions are facing one of the most important changes in the 150 years of Italian national history. Two laws obliged regions to redefine their role and powers: the reform of the Section V of the Italian Constitution and fiscal federalism, on one hand; the increasing UE pressure (Delors I and II, Agenda 2000, plan 2007-2013) to adopt more rigorous criteria in defining regional cohesion and development projects, on the other hand. Italian regions are now at the very centre of a huge process aimed to verify the regional political class self-consciousness and the sense of "regional" belonging of citizens, moving from a recent survey which estimates the incidence of that consciousness below 15% in effectiveness and in efficiency of regional public spending. The essay aims to develop these different research issues.*

Italian regionalism forty years later: the Emilia-Romagna case (p. 469)

*Luciano Vandelli*

*The essay describes the different seasons of regionalism through the institutional story of Emilia-Romagna. Since the first steps of Italy as a nation, through the long transition period between the approval of the Italian Constitution and the effective institution of regions, and even more during the fulfilment of regionalism, Emilia-Romagna has always been characterized by its dynamism and its "perspective view", due to the peculiar civism of its citizens, that promoted and fostered a social approach, in a wide sense, to reforms. Even if conflicting signs are emerging from its bottom, Emilia-Romagna still participates to the debate and to the fulfilment of the constitutional reform of Title V and of fiscal federalism with the same spirit.*

Fiscal federalism and regional differences in Italy (p. 495)

*Brunetta Baldi*

*This article brings evidence on the main differences among Italian regions with respect to public expenditure, financial resources and tax revenues. These differences portray, on the one hand, the asymmetrical institutional status of ordinary regions (RSO) vs. special regions (RSS) and, on the other,*

*the North-South cleavage. Within this framework, the article outlines the ongoing controversial reform that aims at fiscal federalism in Italy.*

The Brazilian federal pattern: story, legal framework and financial resources (p. 517)

*Marcelo Figueiredo*

*The essay analyses the Brazilian federal framework, its characteristics and its peculiarities, dealing with three main issues: the story of Brazilian federalism, its current legal framework and its financial system. As a whole, the essay offers many interesting data that will enable a better comprehension of the complex Brazilian situation.*

Does it really exist a “right” to good administration? (Preliminary critical notes about the (ab)use of the word “right”) (p. 543)

*Lucio Pegoraro*

*The article first analyses the various meanings of the word “right” in common and legal discourse, as well as in the domestic and comparative context. More specifically, it underlines that the concept of “subjective right” does not necessarily imply its normative qualification. Second, the article argues the inexistence of a “right to a good administration” because a (good) public administration is the premise of the organization of society and of the State, and this need actually translates into more specific and limited provisions regarding rights (e.g. information, citizens’ right to take part to public administration procedures, etc.). However, legal doctrine can construe a wider conceptual class in order to include those more specific situations deserving protection under the formula “right to a good administration”. The latter is sometimes also accepted at a case and statutory law level.*