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*Francesco Bilancia*

## **Essays and Articles**

**Differentiation and Inequalities: Asymmetric Regionalism in the One and Indivisible Republic (p. 19)**

*Laura Ronchetti*

The public debate on “autonomy”, concerning the «additional special forms and conditions» of autonomy allowed by the third paragraph of art. 116 of the Constitution, reflects the serious misrepresentation of the constitutional idea of autonomy. The latter is confused and made to overlap with independence, separateness, self-sufficiency from the rest of the Nation, instead of being correctly understood as self-government in the awareness of the interdependence among the entities of the Republic as a whole.

**The Right to Health Put to the Test of Differentiation: Autonomy, Organization and In-Equality (p. 37)**

*Alessandra Pioggia*

In Italy, regional differences in health protection are explained by regional health systems' differing degrees of efficiency. Although this is a key factor, it is not the only one. There are deeper differences regarding the idea of service, the concept of health need, how to take care of patients and other similar features. Differences in these areas depend on organizational choices and affect the way we think of the health service, individuals' health needs and even society and its well-being. The danger is that, in addition to different regional health systems, different definition of health rights may emerge and having a much more serious impact on the equality of a fundamental right such as that to health. To

avoid this, politics and society need engage in a discussion about the function of the public health service.

### **The Implementation of the Principle of Loyal Cooperation in the State-Regions Conference Practice (p. 69)**

*Francesco Del Prete*

The Italian State-Regions Conference plays a central role within the system of inter-institutional liaison, proffering regular, systematic and steady exchanges between the State and Regions. These exchanges are based on the principle of loyal cooperation, which is required to perform the consultative process that culminates in the definition of public policies that affect the competences of regional autonomies. Although required by law, this collegiate body appears to be devoid of well-defined rules that would otherwise determine and regulate its activity. Instead, it assumes a function that is largely defined through practice. An analysis of the debate that actually takes place in the Conference highlights the political value of loyal cooperation and its ability to affect the major political-institutional strategies. Additionally, analysis also points to the significance that the Conference has assumed within institutional dynamics through the setting of the Conference of the Regions where inter-regional exchange plays out. The political strength attained by the State-Regions Conference brings into question the suitability of this venue to achieve a balanced exchange between centre and periphery through shared solutions in order to enact legislative choices of interest for the involved territories.

### **The Internationally Relevant Activities of Italian Municipalities (p. 101)**

*Giacomo Biagioni*

The essay examines the existing opportunities provided by the current constitutional framework for Italian municipalities' activity that puts them in contact and achieves forms of cooperation with similar bodies of other systems. It therefore analyses the assumptions, characteristics and legal basis of the so-called activities of mere international impor-

tance carried out by municipalities, as well as the mechanisms of cross-border cooperation based on supranational instruments.

### **Notes and Comments**

#### **A Battle of Tweets: Social Media, Public Administration and Politics (p. 121)**

*Edoardo Celeste, Stefano Rossa*

The essay critically analyses the role of social media as a communication tool for state bodies and, especially, politicians performing institutional functions. The first part of the text examines how the Italian Digital Administration Code and the domestic legislation governing state bodies' communication regulate the use of social media. The second part analyses a set of issues, which have recently emerged in Italian and Us case-law, relating to the use of social media by politicians performing institutional functions. The text highlights a growing discrepancy between existing legislation and social reality and argues that case-law has so far played an important role in interpreting domestic legislation in light of the needs of the digital society. In conclusion, the essay encourages adoption of technologically neutral and flexible legislation, is capable of offering appropriate guarantees when social media are employed in an institutional context.

#### **The Youth Guarantee: from the National Programme to the Territorial Dimension of Employability Policies (p. 155)**

*Lorenzo Ciapetti, Renata Lizzi*

Youth Guarantee (YG) is a policy programme aimed at tackling youth unemployment and the problem of employability of young Neets. Yg trial testing in Italy has had the merit of putting the youth issue on the political agenda, providing an immediate response to the emergency of youth unemployment, thus contributing to redesigning active employment policies. The first part of the article traces the evolution of Yg in Italy and focuses on the difficulties of implementation and, especially, the challenging context of intergovernmental relations, which led to the redefinition of policy design and highlighted the importance of the

territorial dimension. The second part, referring to vocational education and training policies and local experiments under a flexible governance method, proposes a policy-making perspective based on examples of networks and inter-sectoral combinations of new pathways to employability. The final part develops reflections for designing youth employability policies.

### **Inclusion of “Non-Citizens” through Urban Regeneration (p. 187)**

*Annamaria Bonomo*

An issue unquestionably dominating political and legal debate in recent years is the social integration of foreigners residing on State territory. Local authorities, due to the greater proximity of institutions to inhabitants and to the autonomy granted them in developing inclusion policies, are once again the ideal venue to seek out new answers to the challenges posed by integration policy. The aim of these brief notes is to investigate whether the involvement of foreigners in the actual execution of general interest activities – by means of subsidiary practices for regeneration of common urban goods, in which the criterion of legitimacy is structured according to membership in a local community (rather than citizenship), based exclusively on the representation of the territorial interests – represents a testing ground for new and effective means for integrating immigrants (not citizens, but regular residents) in the actual exercise of administrative action.

## **Regional Observatory**

### **Smart Cities and Smart Lands: The Urban Agendas of Italian Regions (p. 207)**

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### **Limiting Soil Consumption in National and Regional Legislation: the Policies of the Veneto and Emilia-Romagna Regions (p. 251)**

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