

**FOCUS DOCUMENT ON REGIONAL CHARACTERIZATION  
OF MEDITERRANEAN SPACE**



## 1) Introduction

This FOCUS DOCUMENT is seeking information about main problems in the regions involved in the OTREMED project. The FOCUS DOCUMENT could be composed by 11 principal chapters (referring to the 11 pillars deriving from PIC.RM Project) The Aim of the Focus document is to individuate (focus) the main typical dynamics and problems related to the 11 pillars affecting the participating regions of Otremed project; this brief description should be drafted in a common format for all partners to describe their specific point of view, in a bottom up process of characterization of Mediterranean Space.

During the first Boe meeting held in Rome on 11/03/2011 the methodological approach of Otremed Project setup among partners during the last months was presented.

The results of Boe meeting are the following ones:

**1. Territorial diagnostics.** This is the starting point for the preparation of the *MED Territorial Model*. It can be prepared from ESPON documents, but not exclusively. Territorial characterization should be prepared on the basis of "*Minimum Common Denominators*". They are represented by a limited set of indicators that would enable comparison of MED territorial characteristics with other macro-regions in Europe and with the European Union.

**2. Vectors.** Vectors are guidelines that will be used for the creation of the spatial vision of MED. Vectors have to define key topics. The starting point for the definition of topics is the qualitative assessment of the system of indicators that are used to define 11 development factors/competitiveness challenges of the MED territory defined in the previous PIC.RM project.

According to selection of indicators the most interesting topics are defined by using multi-criteria analysis (alternatively, DAFO/SWOT analysis). The selection of topics (and indicators representing them) needs to be verified with ESPON and other documents and in regions.

**3. Elaboration of indicators.** Final selection of indicators defined in MED territorial diagnostics and in selected topics. They will be used for the creation of the strategic observatory system.

**4. Spatial vision.** The next methodological step is *ex-ante* evaluation of future spatial vision. The next operational step is to define the "*Minimum Common Denominators*". and to propose a list of vectors.

In order to get information about regionally-specific spatial problems from all partners, a simple and short questionnaire have to be prepared together with short methodological explanation of this phase.

The questionnaire should include information about the most important topics in each region and their content. The questionnaire should gather information and data about known literature and projects/work that has already been done and territorial plans dealing with the studied issues. Maps and other information and data should be collected as well.

In addition, after the discussion among experts, some recommendations were presented:

- One of the main priorities of the Otremed approach is to help Regions to develop a common vision for Mediterranean Macro Region
- This implies that the effort has to be addressed toward a common characteristic problems that are the questions to be pushed forward in a euro Mediterranean strategy.
- Few pillars of strategic nature, not diagnostic

These priorities should lead to a "dynamization" of the regional Mediterranean space. (Marie-Ange Orihuela. CRPM)

The observatory should be based on the following components:

- data/indicators
- territorial trends
- TIA- Territorial Impact Assessment
- Spatial Vision, the real target of the observatory .

- The methodology should be as far as possible pragmatic, in order to harmonize different point of view.
- The observatory should comply with the strategic aspects to be implemented.
- It's important to build his own indicators, also based on multi-criteria analysis, in order to identify the strategic ones
- It's important to focus on few objectives clear and plain, that have to be within the chance to be reached.
- In any case guidelines or strategic vectors should be focused, in order to individuate the least common denominator , indicators needs an assessment; if they're not significant or not useful we need to go back to work on vectors.
- The final task of the observatory should be not only measurement tool but rather something useful to compose the spatial vision

(Joaquin Farinos - University of Valencia)

## 2) State of art of the job

As far concerns the development of characterization, as we explained in the last two documents sent, we crossed the Basic Criteria document with MED and Region 2020 and Espon 3.3 and by means of a procedure of assessment proposed to partnership, we accomplished a first hierarchisation of the factors and indicators put in the document.

1. Layout			
Summary of previous work and studies	Expected from 3.2 Coordinator	A study with an overview of MED and EU documents was carried out	Done
The 11 competitiveness challenges or territorial pillars elaborated in the PIC.RM project in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas.	Assessment and updating on regional and MED priorities was accomplished by means of systematization and hierarchization of factors and indicators documents delivered by Murcia Region	Questionnaire n.1 sent and analysed	Done
2. Comparative analysis stating the variety and complexities inherent in MED space.	The previous three steps led on a definition of Topics and vectors that will be the basis for the comparative analysis to be carried out in territories of partnership		Starts with focus document
3. Territorial diagnosis	Quantitative evaluation of results		To be elaborated after the Focus Document
4. Identification of current and expected Territorial Models	Scenarios on target models		
5. Identification of the proposed Territorial Model	Target model selected by an agreement among partners		

### 3) Glossary

In Basic criteria document, many concepts are defined, here we propose a smart glossary to put in logic order the concepts to be used in the further steps.

#### **Priorities and aims**

Are identified in Basic Criteria Document as the 11 Pillars: for each priority a specific aim is reported as relevant strategy, according to Lisbon and Goteborg documents. Priorities and aims are rather referred at the whole European Level and a "characterisation of Mediterranean area is reported in the by identifying some aims

	Priorities	EU Aims
1	<i>Revitalization of the urban system</i>	urban revitalization is a shared challenge for the competitiveness of European cities
2	<i>Research and Development hot spots</i>	Research and development activities and well-educated and trained human capital are potential factors for regional development.
3	<i>Urban / rural relationships</i>	strong regional integration of functional urban areas and their surroundings
4	<i>Access to transport</i>	Problems relating to the overloading of transport corridors and congestion are also increasing. Given this, a small increase in transport (especially in urban agglomerations) could be considered an improvement in quality of life and the environment.
6	<i>Access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)</i>	The diversity of telecommunication cultures provides a development opportunity for both Europe as a whole and the individual areas. Heterogeneous telecommunications cultures could be conceived as a comparative advantage
6	<i>Energy sustainability</i>	<i>Some European countries are heavily dependent on energy (Luxemburg, Cyprus, Malta, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Italy and Portugal). Oil depletion and the increasing demand for power by emerging economies will have significant consequences for territorial development by causing an increase in the cost of energy in the future.</i>  <i>With this outlook, the development of renewable energy sources is not only key to resolving environmental problems, but also important for guaranteeing safe supply and reducing energy dependence.</i>
7	<i>Prevention of disaster-related risks</i>	<i>The fight against climate change and risk prevention are areas that are clearly trans-European and require common policies and strategies.</i>
8	<i>Sustainable use and management of natural resources</i>	<i>Natural resources are major potentials for the economic development of many regions. Balance between correct use and protection is essential for</i>

		<i>preserving these potentials</i>
9	<i>Sustainable use and management of cultural resources</i>	<i>Cultural resources are an important element for quality of life in each region. Moreover, the concentration of cultural assets is a strong attraction in each area. The strong economic pressure exerted by tourism can alter the cultural identity of the territory</i>
10	<i>Sustainability of regional economic development</i>	
11	<i>Governability, social participation and quality of life</i>	

<b>3.1. REVITALISATION OF THE URBAN SYSTEM</b>		
AREAS	TOPICS	MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS
Territorial model	- Population development and distribution	- Total population (number of inhabitants) - population density (no. inhabitants / km <sup>2</sup> ) - birth rate - death rate - population distribution by groups of age and sex - population ageing rate (population > 65 years old / population < 15 years old) - percentage of immigrant population

### **Thematic Areas**

For *Thematic Areas* we intend the areas of in the Basic Criteria Document reported t in the first column of each pillar; this theme was elaborated in a comparative analysis between the *Areas* of the Basic Criteria Document, that are grouped according to the 11 pillars and Programme MED Space and the Regions 2020,

This comparison leads to shift the themes from a descriptive approach toward a problematic vision more close to the areas/aims ; in other words: how this theme affects a typical problem or dynamic in the MED Regions? And what are the problems related to MED SWOT and Region 2020 Document? The result was a number of thematic areas that are more or less directly to MED SWOT analysis and Regions 2020 document.

### **Key topic**

Key topic should highlight the main problems and dynamics related to the single thematic area. Each region should assess the actual relevance and influence of these dynamics in his own territory and verify on the basis of indicators the level of intensity.

### **Target**

Target is intended as the perspective of improvement that each region try to reach in a mid term period (2020). On the basis of these target Regions should programme their own specific development policies

### **Vectors**

As introduced in Boe meeting, Vectors are logic patterns to individuate regional and macro.- Regional Spatial vision-

Geometrically speaking, vectors are the oriented distance between a starting point (key topic) and a specific objective to be reached (target) the distance indicates the strategy to be put in action; the length x axis could be the time needed to reach the target, the y axis should be represent the means (actors, financial resources, rules and agreements...) utilised to reach the target

## Indicators

Indicators are figures that measure the dimension of the key topic and the quantification of target to be reached within an enhancement policy

## Spatial vision

Spatial vision is the composition of different vectors in a coherent and harmonized spatial framework that could be seen and discussed

The following table illustrates an example of how the questionnaire acts:

For example - 1. A Scheme of relationship between thematic area and vectors

Thematic Area	Key Topic	
	Problem	Target
DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION	Population decline	Sustain to young people

} **Strategic Vector**

## Relevancies and competitiveness measurement

Beside each key topic we ask furthermore to add to the answers a quanti-qualitative evaluation by means of two charts, Relevance and Status/trend charts:

### Relevance

The first one deals with the relevance of the problem against the competitiveness European policies: this aspect should reflect possible common strategies of development or enhancement in the Mediterranean Macro - region and policies /financial resources to be allocated at regional scale.

Please mark a score from 0 to 5

0 - not relevant

1 - less relevant

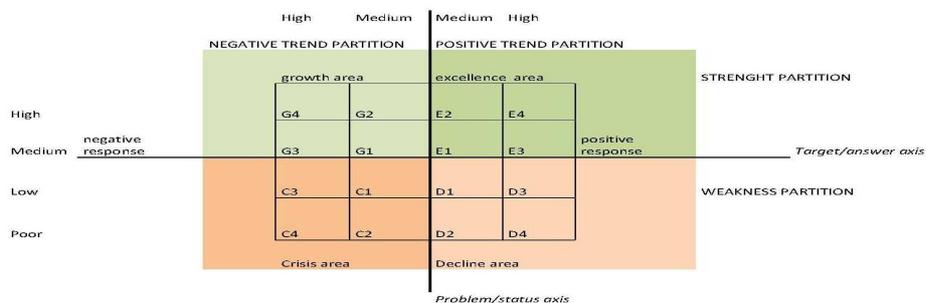
2 - relevant

3 - very relevant

### Status/trend chart

This questionnaire provides at the end of every key topic a chart aimed at returning a synthetic overview of the current situation both static and dynamic, of specific topic, as explained below.

We ask to put a mark (X) in the proper square according to the level you retain the most closer to your answer.



The criteria used to draw the chart are the following ones:

### Axis

x axis represents the trend situation: the right side indicates an higher level of policy response to the topic

y axis represents the status condition: the upper side indicates an higher value of performance.

**Partitions**

**Strenght**

The upper partition defined by the x axis of the scheme indicates that the key topic can be considered a point of strength; put the mark in this partition if you consider your region has a good level of performances or this topic represents a point of strength or excellence.

**Weaknesses**

The upper partition defined by the x axis of the scheme indicates that the key topic can be considered a point of weakness; put the mark in this partition if you consider this key topic as a relevant problem or a negative situation affecting your region.

**Areas**

Areas are synthetic places where you retain your region is placed as far as concerns the key topic analyzed.

E Excellence area regions with positive values of performances and positive rate of variation

E1	Medium level of positive performance, medium level of positive variation
E2	High level of positive performance, medium level of positive variation
E3	Medium level of positive performance, high level of positive variation
E4	High level of performance, high level of positive variation

B Balance area regions with positive values of performances and negative or steady rate of variation

B1	Medium level of positive performance, medium level of negative variation
B2	High level of positive performance, medium level of negative variation
B3	Medium level of positive performance, high level of negative variation
B4	High level of performance, high level of negative variation

D Decline area regions with negative values of performances and positive rate of variation

D1	Low level of performance, medium level of positive variation
D2	Poor level of performance, medium level of positive variation
D3	Low level of performance, high level of positive variation
D4	Poor level of performance, high level of positive variation

C Crisis area regions with negative values of performances and negative rate of variation

C1	Low level of performance, medium level of negative variation
----	--

C2	Poor level of performance, medium level of negative variation
C3	Low level of performance, high level of negative variation
C4	Poor level of performance, high level of negative variation

## 4) Questionnaire

### 1 Revitalisation of the urban system

#### **THEMATIC AREA 1A**

#### **DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

This thematic area intends to focus on the dynamics of the regional population in our regions: number of inhabitants and the photography of immigrant flows are probably the most significant indicators to understand the degree of vitality of Mediterranean regions.

#### **KEY TOPIC 1a.1 Demographic change and population distribution**

This topic deals with the problem of the population density and growth and their and spatial distribution in the region.

#### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

What percentage in the last 10-15 years have attested to the population growth in the region? Is it possible to identify demographic phenomena of decentralization or concentration?

On the basis of an accurate analysis of demographic data from ISTAT, comes out that in Sicily Region, in the last 10-15 years, population has slightly reduced. Present population is about 5 millions of inhabitants and the loss of population is about 2%. Besides recently in almost all coastal areas some concentration of people took place with a particular grow for more attractive centers as it happened in hinterland of Palermo and Catania. Less strong it happened for provinces of Ragusa, Messina, Trapani. This phenomenon is connected to reduction of population of inland areas that has been observed in some villages as for Madonie Mountains.

#### **Target/ Answer** Population policies (max 1500characters)

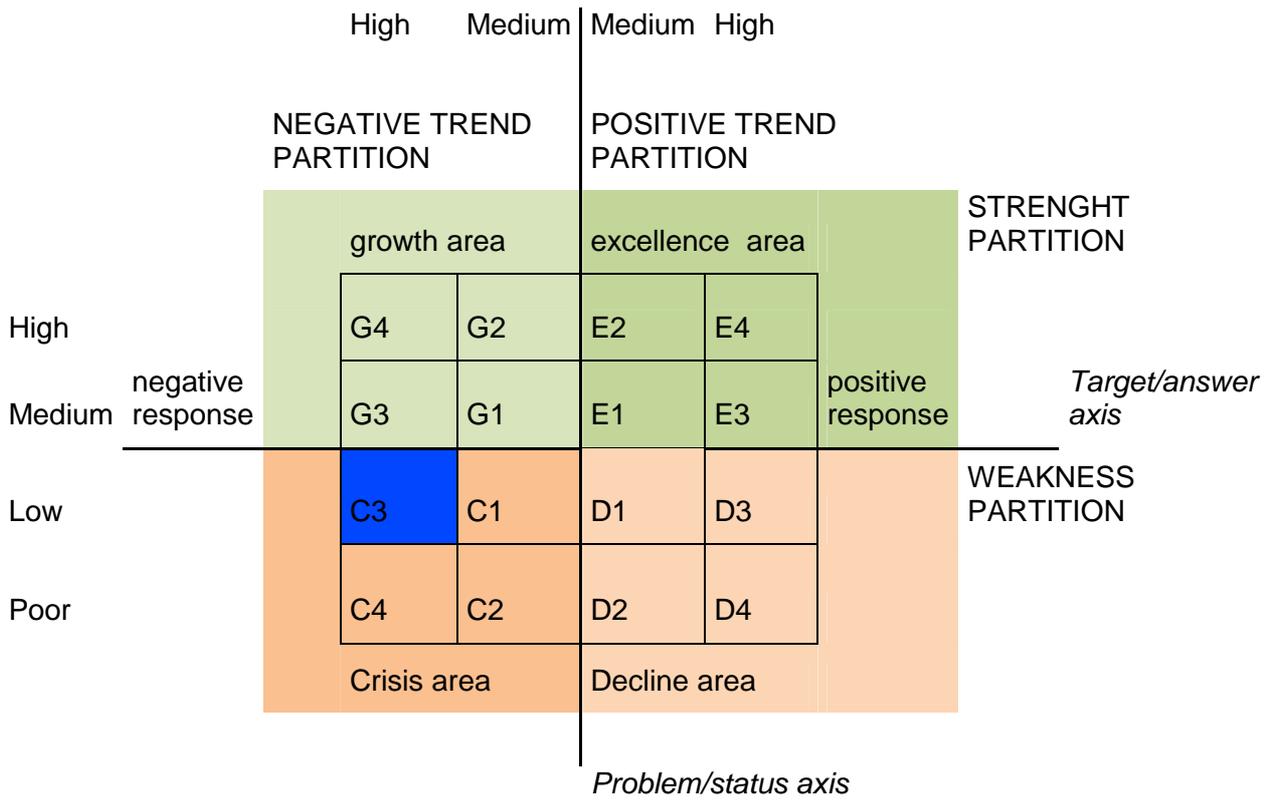
There are effective policies in place for the management of population dynamics? (social housing, support to weaker sector of population, etc ...)

Sicily Region Administration is improving some attractive poles as Catania e Palermo causing a further growth of population living in hinterland of two cities. Politics to better the balance are few and not effective.

There exist some actions in the POR 2007-2013 documents for rehabilitation of peripheral areas (i.e. in ERDF – Op. Obj. 6.2.2) or as OP FSE actions in which are promoted policies to improve work conditions and training offer adequate to support ageing population.

#### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



High    Medium | Medium    High

**KEY TOPIC 1a.2 Population growth and aging, critical mass**

The ageing of population tends to reduce increasingly the percentage of active population within regions. This trend causes problems related to the collapsing of rural economies or weaker areas that have a low density of population.

**Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

Is there an increase in elderly population in the region in recent years? What is the total population of people aged over 65 years?

Population over 65 years old in Sicily Region, in respect to whole nation presents an ageing index a little bit lower; only in the last years a decrease of growth and a growth of elderly people has been note, so that their values are similar to those of the remaining part of the country. All this demonstrate that there exist a tendency to growth of elderly population that regards mountain areas as those of Madonie, Nebrodi and Peloritani. Number of elderly people is of 850.000 on a total of 5 millions of inhabitants.

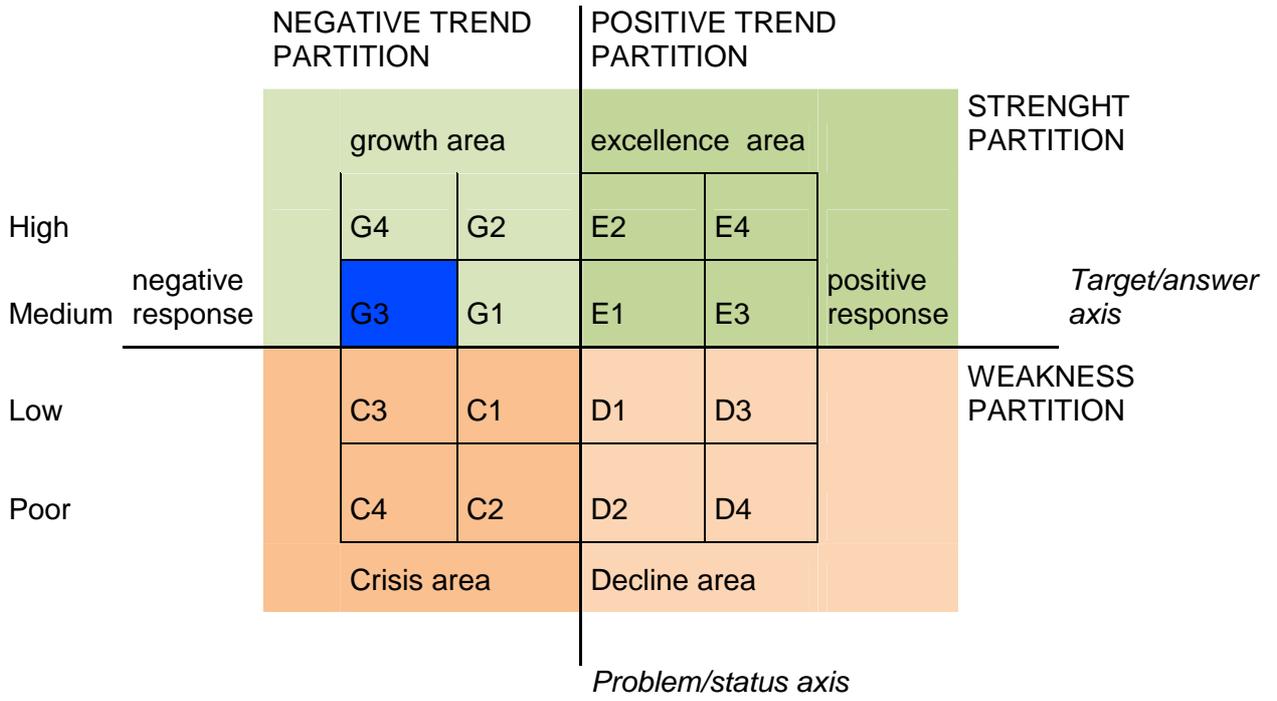
**Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

Are there social policies for the elderly? Are there effective steps to maintain a fair distribution of population in the territories?

Balancing policies on demographic distribution are not almost present in Agenda of policies of Sicilian Region. Between different programs there exists only an action in order to improve work and training conditions adequate to support ageing population.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



**KEY TOPIC 1a.3 Immigration/ Integration**

This key topic deals with the process of migration flows of incoming and out coming people in the territories. This trend has an internal face (regional shift) and external (people coming from other region or countries). Another issue is related to the degree of integration (steady presences and job integration, supplies, instruction, etc...).

**Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

With regard to migration (in and from) affect population dynamics?

The provinces in which there is the biggest concentration of foreigners are those of Palermo and Catania respectively with values of 25.5% to 22.2%. In Sicily in 2004 there were 65,331 registered residence permits (about 15,000 in the previous year), or 2.9% of the national figure. This increase is due to 2/3 to men, for reasons more related to research work, in relation to women seems, however, that the reasons most frequently coincides with the family reunification (in 50% of cases). However, in the new immigration scenario women are protagonists, not only women who follow her husband and who are looking for domestic work but also women with a migration project self: must be noted that the level of education of immigrant women is on average, very high, as evidenced by data from the last Census, and that, therefore, would require a more focused strategy for integration and retraining.

About migratory movements the best opportunities for work regard the food industry as well as trading. Improving of work opportunities and social integration are facilitated by the local strong social network.

Reading the ISTAT data, it is possible to detect the movements of migrants within the region; but if you read the data from the Ministry of Interior is possible to understand the phenomenon that adversely affects and concerns the development of a territory is that of illegal immigration. This is particularly present in the region that has several sites (Lampedusa, Trapani and Caltanissetta) who repeatedly jumped to the national news for recurring riots and clashes. At the same time there are phenomena of emigration of young people with high levels of education resulting in depletion in the supply of skilled workers.

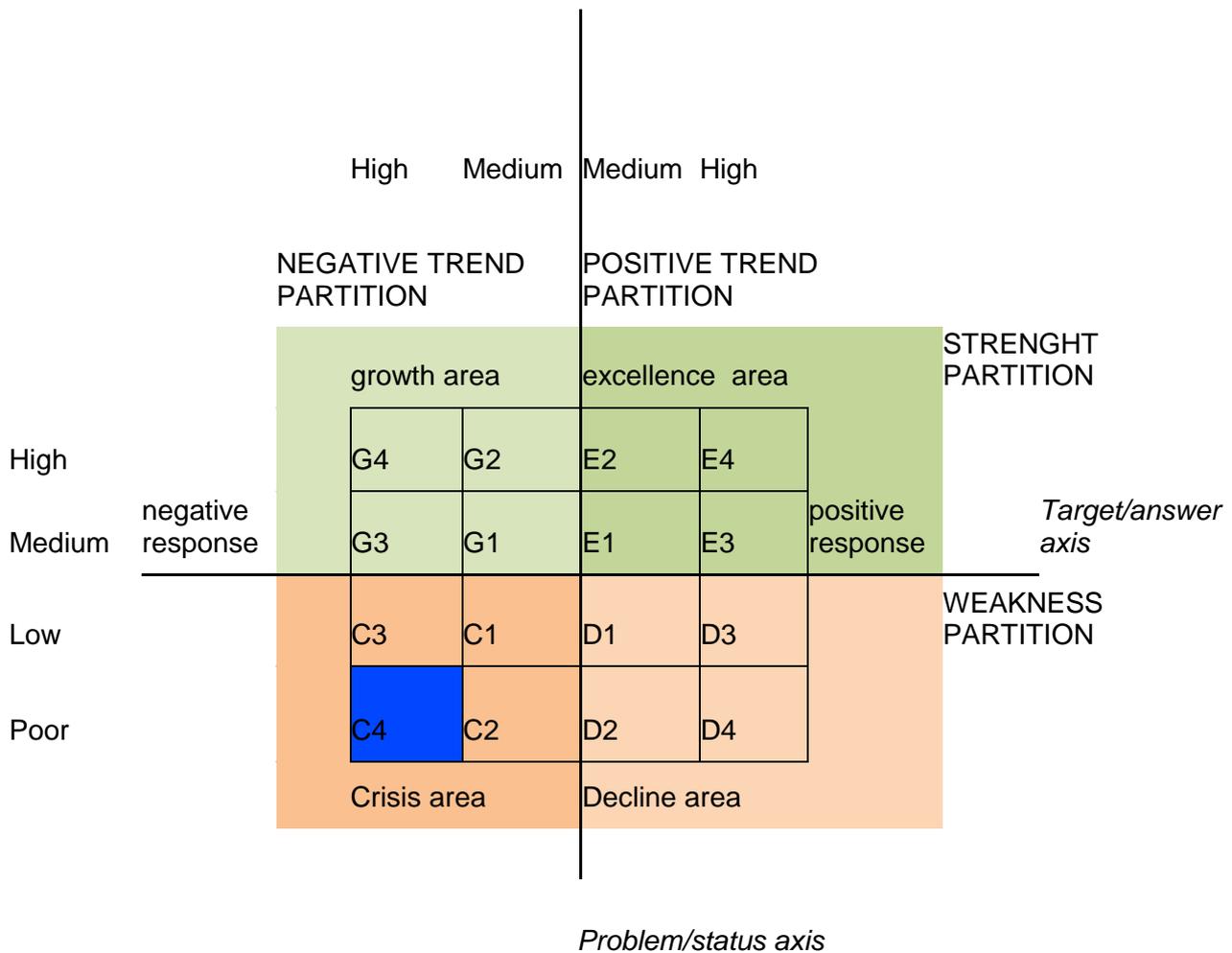
**Target / Answer** (max 1500characters)

What are the acceptance and integration policies (home, work, facilities) for immigrants?

The programs adopted by the Sicilian Region provide some measures to promote the integration of immigrants. In this sense, there are measures such as: "the implementation of active and preventive policies for work with particular attention to the development perspectives of the territory and to specific target groups, particularly migrants," or/as "strengthening the economic integration of migrants, increasing their economic participation in the labor market." About illegal immigration, Sicilian Region, adopt laws issued by the National Government despite the actions over time have produced ineffective and insufficient effects to curb and control the phenomenon of illegal immigration.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **THEMATIC AREA 1B**

### **PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT**

This thematic area is somehow linked with the rooting of population in the territory. This seems to be a typical character in Mediterranean space: the permanence of traditions and lifestyles' distributed in particular areas has an high degree of resilience toward the economic and spatial modifications. Nevertheless, profound changes are incurring in some areas where the economic structure modifies the settlement functions.

Some settlements tends to become poles of activity, where commuting people go to work, some areas are turning in "basin areas" where residents are mainly metropolitan areas commuters, some towns or villages lost inhabitants in absolute value, in some villages houses are utilized no longer as first houses (resident houses) but are used as second houses or vacations houses.

### **KEY TOPIC 1b.1 Rooting, coherence and distribution between settlements and inhabitants**

Rooting should give the idea of the relationship between residents inhabitants and settlements, the main

indicators are dimension of settlements, inhabitants (workers, resident people, commuters).

**Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

The distribution of the residences in the region, what kind of attitude configure it? What are the territories in which those who lives, works and owns the house? There are areas where the prevalent phenomenon of second homes or real estate is used for non-residents (tourism, work?). These phenomena, if it is important, are concentrated or spread over the territory?

The offer of the real estate market is concentrated mainly in three metropolitan areas and along the coast of Sicily. These areas continue to present a density index of housing for residents with the highest value, although the data show that the major metropolitan municipalities (Palermo, Catania and Messina) have, over time, lost population in favor of neighboring municipalities. In fact the data is confirmed by commuter flows into and out of these three municipalities. It shows how the three municipalities, attract more than 80% of daily flows incoming while have a low outgoing flow value such as 30%. This figure shows that in the surrounding municipalities, live a large percentage of the population working outside the municipality. Another significant finding for understanding the spatial distribution of housing in the Sicilian Region is on second homes that are concentrated, with high values, along the coasts, but inland areas of the island are those with high indices on the number of empty dwellings.

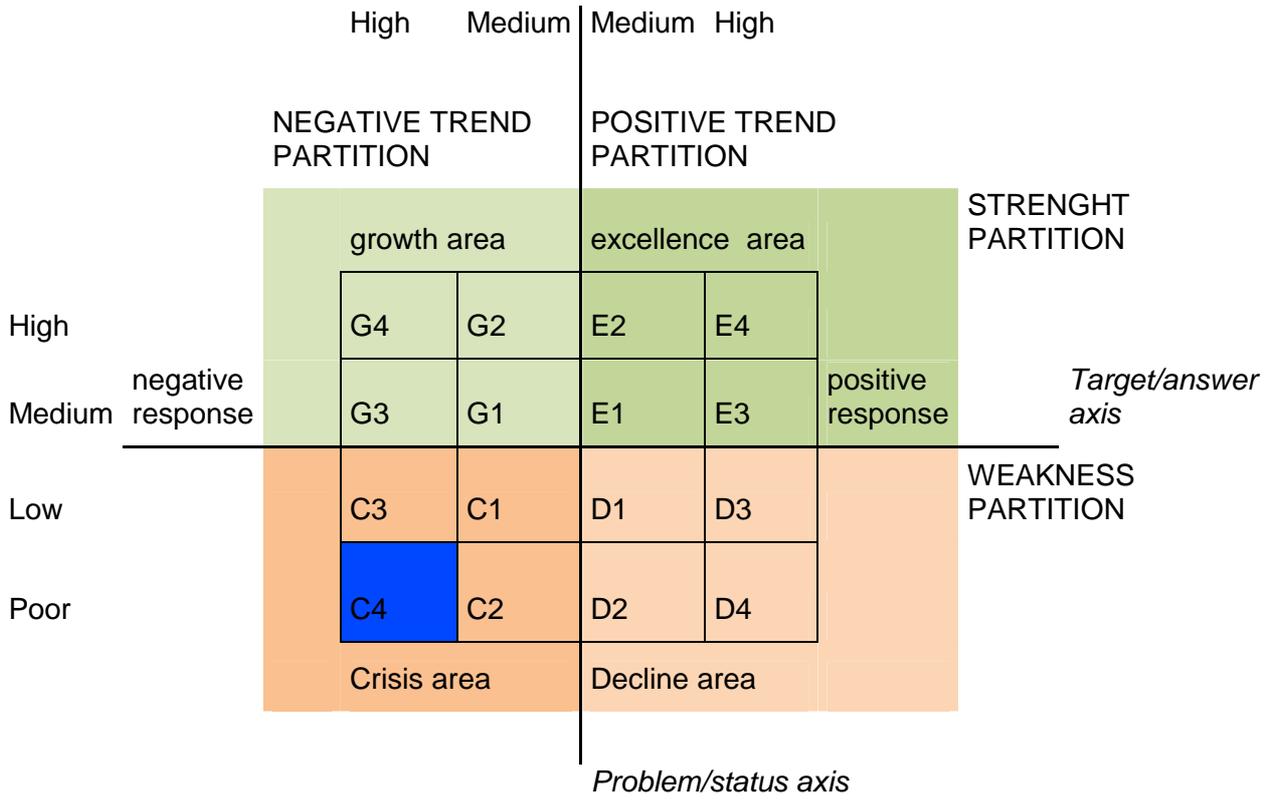
**Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

There are special policies to encourage residences of some areas of the region?

Regional policies do not provide interventions to the territorial balance; however, actions to improve services and infrastructure, in the main poles of attraction, are found, as it happens for the municipalities of Palermo and Catania, where the phenomena of increasing gentrification already take place.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **THEMATIC AREA 1C**

### **WEALTH**

Wealth is a basic thematic area for the evaluation of the degree of development of a region.

This type of assessment has to be done not plainly in absolute value, since the information to be significant must be crossed with other indicators. In the Mediterranean space, threshold of poverty or level of richness are related to the different traditions economies and way of life and are not equal in the same region. More significant seems to be the spatial distribution of GDP related to the settlements and density of population and their territorial distribution.

#### **KEY TOPIC 1c.1 Spatial wealth distribution in the region**

Spatial wealth distribution and its trend is important to understand if some urban systems, within the region, are moving toward its own regeneration.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

How is distributed wealth (municipal or provincial GDP) within the region? What is the ratio of GDP over the past 30 years and the eventual distribution in the territories - type (metropolitan areas, small towns, rural areas)?

The last fifteen years show a slight increase in GDP per capita of the Sicilian Region. GDP almost never manages to score greater than or equal to those registered in the country or in Convergence Objective Area. Only in the last five years, the values recorded in the Region of Sicily are greater of the national data and the Convergence Objective Area. The provinces of Ragusa, Siracusa and Palermo present higher ranks of GDP per capita, while the province of Agrigento is in last place.

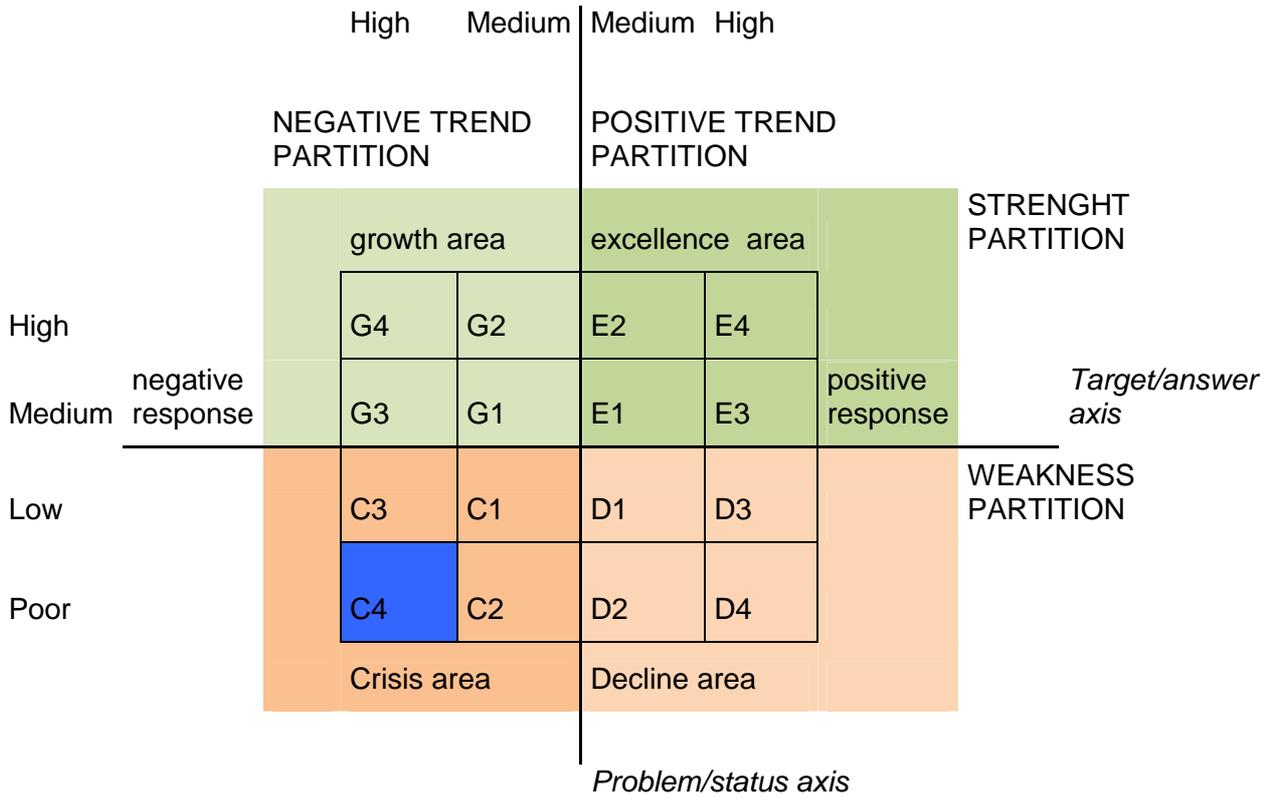
##### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

What is the effectiveness of policies to encourage the development promoted by the regions?

The programs adopted by the Sicilian Region provide a few actions for urban development. Insufficient incentives for business development that operates in the enhancement of environmental resources and natural. Policies are not sufficient to revitalize the fishing industry and the food industry.

##### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



## **THEMATIC AREA 1D**

### **LAND USE/ DISPERSED GROWTH**

This area deals with the process of anthropic modification present in the region; the land cover, the use of soil needs to be analyzed together with the settlement model and the type of functions present in the regions.

#### **KEY TOPIC 1d.1 Urbanization and soil consumption degree and settlement models**

A key topic in the analysis of the settlement is related to the MUA, morphological urban areas: (see ESPON Project 1.4.3).

How the settlements are structured and are growing? What is the settlement model, what are the modifications of traditional form of settlements and the contemporary ones? Planning strategies are going toward a preservation of traditional models of settlement, or new models are promoted and pushed on?

#### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

What is the context of urbanization and the rate of sprawl? And where there were main phenomena of sprawl? What are the most common settlement models (e. g. concentrated, diffuse, scattered along the main lines, ...) and what issues are related?

Sicily region presents a devastating picture for what concerns the dynamics of urbanization; this is, of course, a phenomenon linked to the consumption of soil. In the last years the rate of land consumption has slowed, but this did not stop to reconstitute a bleak picture. The absence of controls and regulations has certainly encouraged the spreading of the phenomenon of illegal building. Urban development in the absence of plans, promoted the development of settlement patterns as the sprawl, with strong urban concentration around the more important cities. This chaotic development is found in almost all coastal areas of the island instead of inland in which there exist concentrated models with phenomena of isolation.

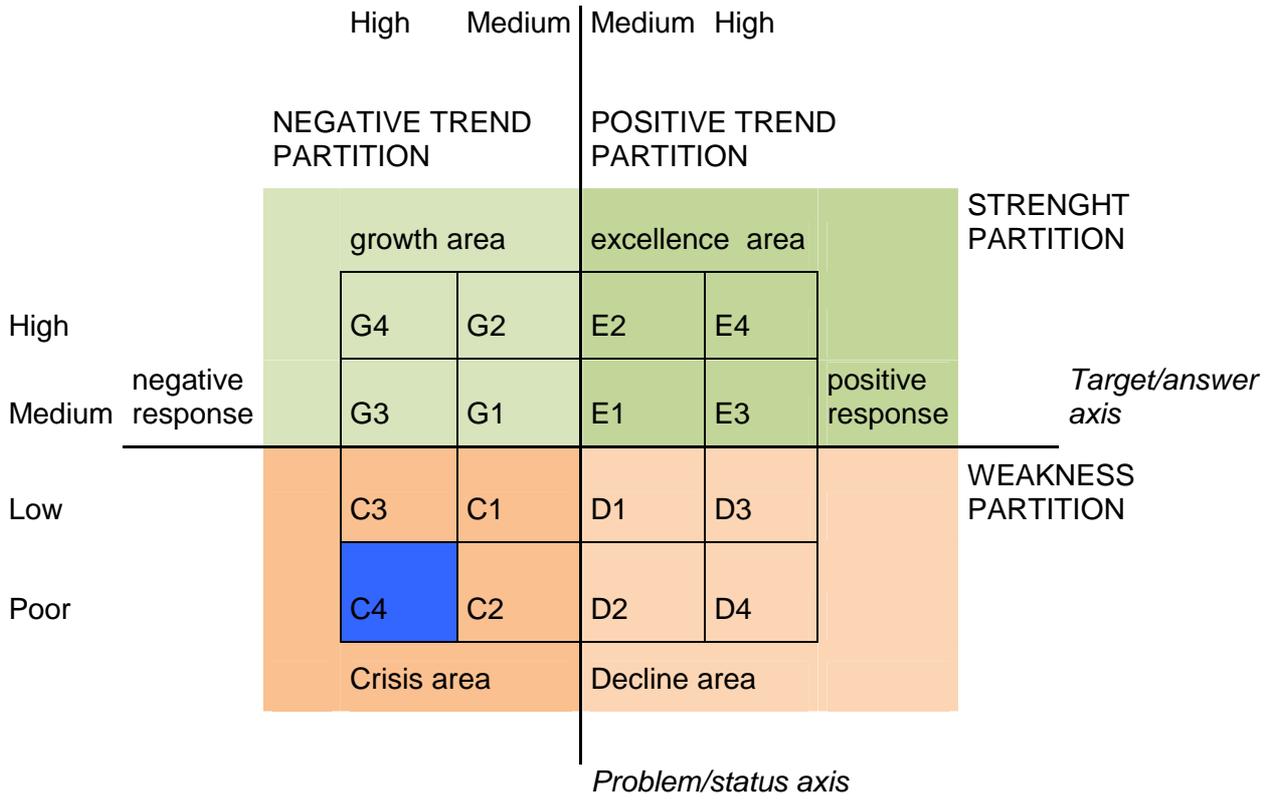
#### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

There are some special restraint policies or addressing changes?

The regional policies look at to the maintenance of the building stock and land-use planning through the processes of regeneration. The Region is implementing actions to improve the quality of life in rural areas. There are ongoing actions to contrast the phenomena of land consumption through conservation and improvement of rural heritage.

#### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**





## **THEMATIC AREA 1E**

### **INCREASE ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS**

Easy, quick and economic accessibility to information and different places of the living space is undoubtedly a way to increase quality of life and modernization of a region, mobility on great urban areas that have lack of public transport infrastructures or morphologic constraints can constitute big problems in some areas; in other cases the unequal access to urban services or the difficulty to reach the workplace or the main hub of greater accessibility can be a strong bottleneck to the efficiency of a settlement.

#### **KEY TOPIC 1e.1 Accessibility at different levels**

This key topic wants to frame the main issues related to the system of accessibility and mobility in the urban systems of region, with regard to territorial and extraterritorial connections.

#### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

What are the main problems related to accessibility in urban systems? What are the difficulties in the physical-morphological level?

One of the main causes related to the accessibility of urban systems is due to the development, that is not always regulated by the action plans and that determine a not organic growth of the territories. These trends were compounded by a chronic deficiency of infrastructures system many times determined by the difficulties related to physical aspects of the territory.

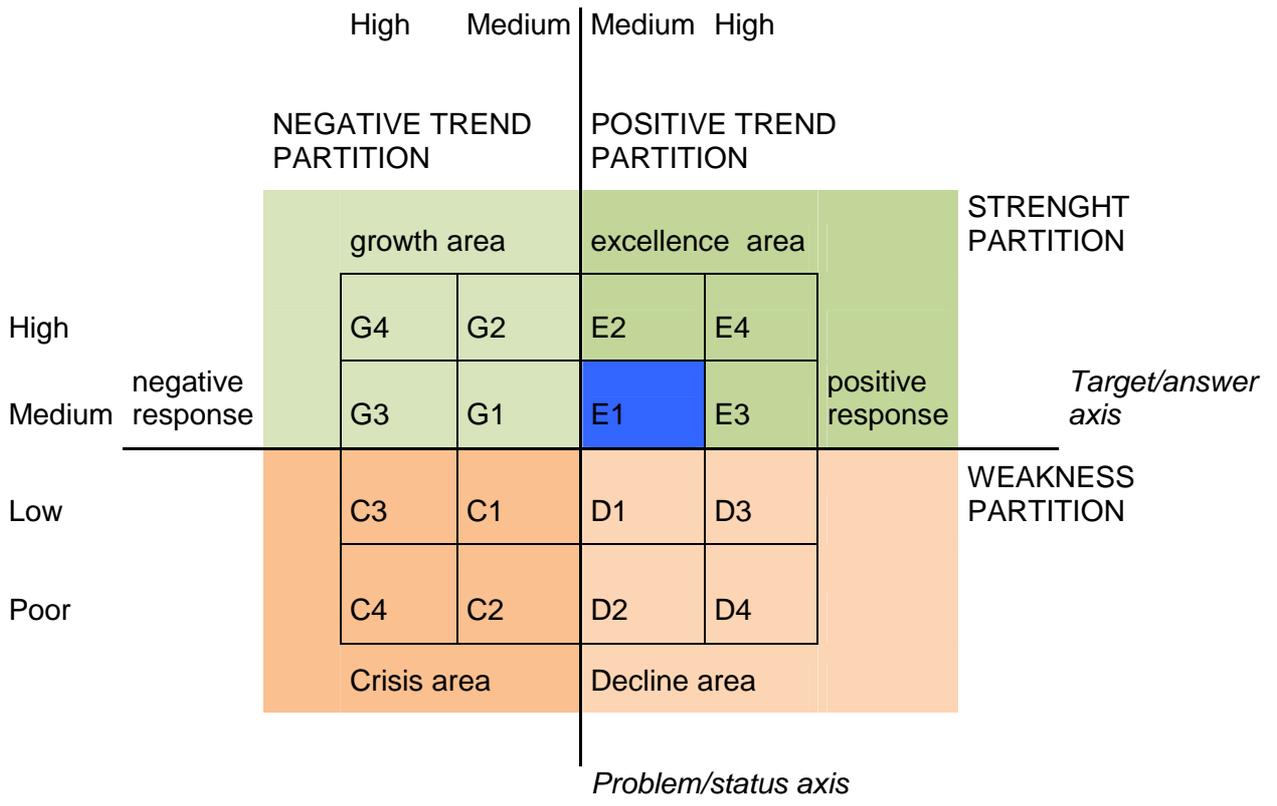
#### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

What are the policies to improve accessibility or to reduce the need to displacements?

The Sicilian Region with the new program is trying to make up for the lack of infrastructures upgrading rails and roads or building new ones. Sicilian Region planned to improve services at regional and local scale in the most disadvantaged areas. The Region Administration is funding the construction of new infrastructure and services in the areas of industrial development in craft and existing contexts.

#### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **THEMATIC AREA 1F**

### **IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE**

The offer of public services and equipments, their accessibility, affordability and capability to match the public needs is an important component in the complex concept generally identified as quality of life.

This concept is the result of a interaction of a huge number of components, some of them difficultly measurable; nevertheless, the rate between number of inhabitants and the basic supply and the cost and the quality of services can be considered as a basic factor.

#### **KEY TOPIC 1f.1 Basic Services and Supply for the Population**

In the Mediterranean space, we have to consider than in some countries, the lifestyles and traditions draw a different portrait of needs of people; anyway, health and instruction can be considered as constant basic-indicators.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

Is satisfied the supply of equipment and services across the country present at the regional level?

There is a lack of allocation of infrastructure in Sicily with a peak for railway system. The distribution of services at both regional and local scale is satisfactory in the centers of attraction or gravitation but it is inadequate especially in small and medium-sized towns.

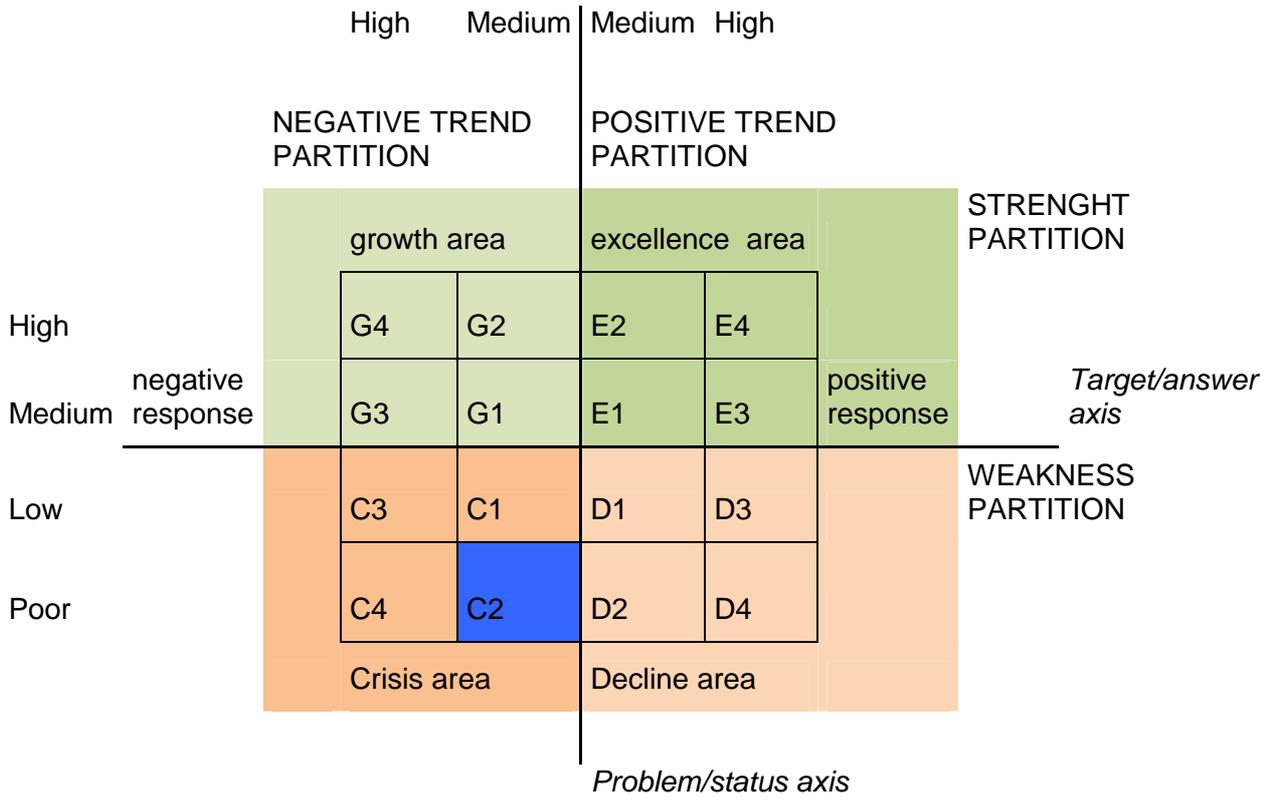
##### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

What is the effectiveness of policies undertaken to improve services to existing or new? Are there programs or projects / investments to improve the quality of life?

Many of the regional programs have planned goals and actions aimed at improving the infrastructure system of the Sicilian territory. There exist actions to improve the ports system, railways and road network. One of main goals is to promote the interconnection between the networks and the main nodes at both territorial and urban scale. All this supported by the creation of interchange parkings and a dense network of public mass transport. There is funding to support services at tourism entrepreneurship, the strengthening of industrial districts and business groups for the implementation of common services. Finally the Region has provided measures for the strengthening of regional health centers. The policies described here are not intended to improve the balance between territories properly served and infrastructure with weak areas. Therefore the main poles of attraction will increase their rank while medium and small towns are more and more isolated.

##### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## 2 Research and development

### THEMATIC AREA 2A

#### ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Education, culture, high level formation seems to be linked to economic development when they contributes more or less directly to the full employment and the economic equilibrium of a region. The question is how and how much research and formation institutions can give a contribution to the regional economy.

#### KEY TOPIC 2a.1 University, Higher Education Centers, Public and Private Research

The goal of this key topic is to shed light on the real synergy and matches between academia researches with the world of work. Too frequently there is a disconnection between en the two world and their effects with the entire system of social and economic development of a region.

#### Problem/ Status (max 1500characters)

Is efficient the transfer of training and education for the development of the labor market? Is there agreement between the dynamics of university education and the socio-occupational? In that way an institution of research interacts with the regional economy?

Statistical data on university education in Sicily show a 2% increase in membership in the academic year 2004-2005 over previous year 2003-2004 academic year. The increase in subscribers in the first year is 7.3%.

From analysis of training needs comes out a not complete coherence between university education and professional training needs required by enterprises; on another side there is a contradiction / inconsistency as people the comes out from university not always satisfy needs of companies the work in Sicily region that sometimes require a very specific expertise. Actually enterprises requires a training totally compliant to their needs in order to get the maximum of benefits, while the training of university is oriented to give students a wide cultural level that can guarantee the possibility to work in different sectors.

Regarding the investment in human capital, there is a limited effectiveness of policies to promote the strengthening integration between the systems of education and training and the world of work. There is a good action related to professional training courses, which have showed a positive performance, resources provided, and students trained in the previous programming. In the previous programming period 1, 5% of the population has benefited from professional training courses IFTS (ISTRUZIONE E FORMAZIONE TECNICA SUPERIORE) and of the title of specialization, with a success education rate of 62.5%.

#### Target/ Answer (max 1500characters)

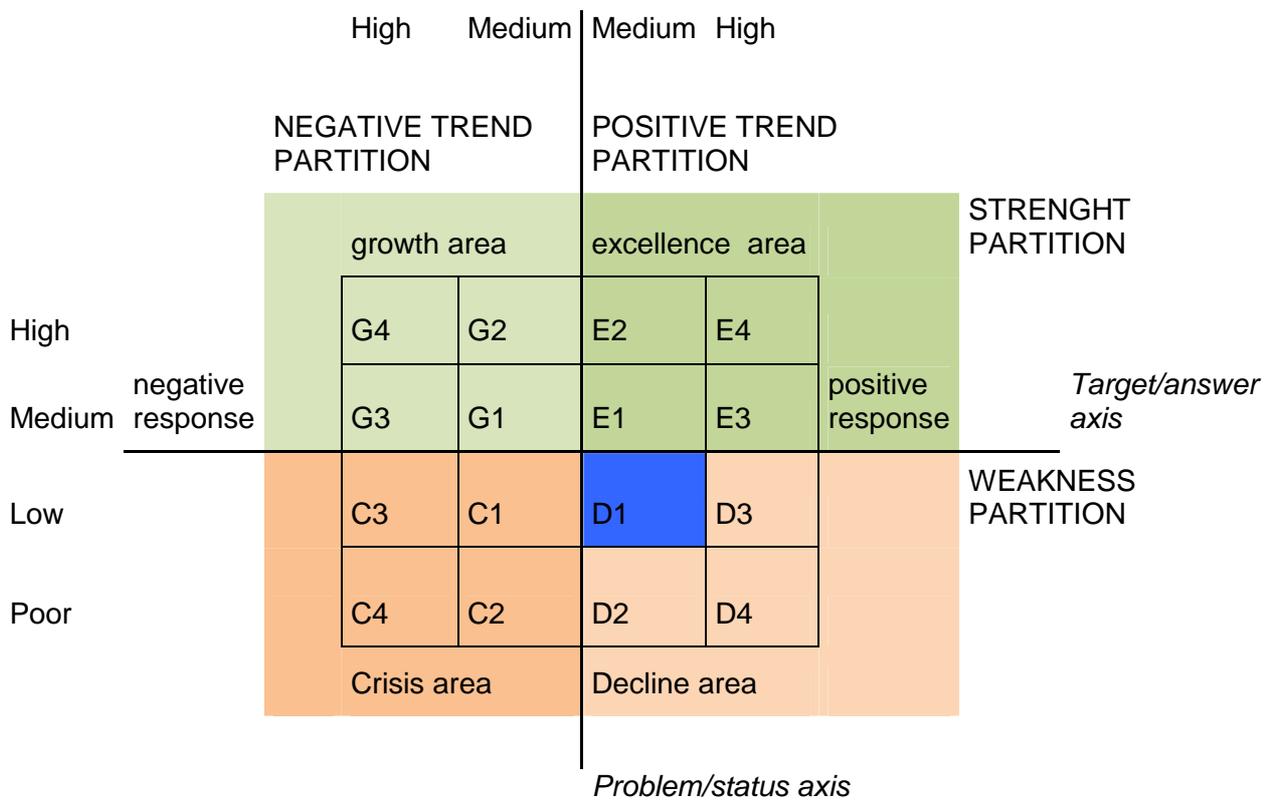
Are there policies to make the region more attractive for investment and creation of new business? Are there support policies in respect of universities and research institutions? If you can indicate one or more best practice.

The Operational Programme OP-European Social Fund at priority axis IV - Human Capital - I2 has the specific objective: to increase access to education and training, vocational and tertiary education, improving the quality through operational objective I2.1 and improving quality of service orientation of individuals within the system of educational offer and provision. With the objective I2.2 paths of higher education are potentiate as an alternative to university studies in connection to the need expressed by local production systems. Besides the specific objective L of the same program aims to create networks between universities, research, technological centres, world of production and institutional with particular attention to the promotion of research and innovation and with the operational objective of strengthening local networks for L1 promotion and transfer

innovation and research, adapting to the needs of the local production system.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **THEMATIC AREA 2B**

### **MATCHING**

Which are the real synergy and matches between academia research with the world of work. And the regional economy.

#### **KEY TOPIC 2b.1 Cooperation**

The goal of this key topic is to shed light on the real cooperation between academia research with the world of work.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

What are the problems of efficiency in cooperation between higher education, applied research and the economy?

The business sector in Sicily, in many cases has given rise to interesting phenomena of local aggregation of strategic specific sectors but has not yet reached a level of development to meet the specialized needs of employment. This determines migration outflows that affect the working and graduate population that has increased significantly in recent years. In some regional areas, there is an increasing demand for skilled labour, by poles and enterprise of high-intensity of investment in the knowledge capital, that mostly regards only a few degrees than others.

##### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500characters)

Are there policies to support business and enterprises? Are there elements of excellence as technological parks, innovation centers that can stimulate policies in competitive development?

The operational Programme (OP ERDF) at priority axis 4 (Dissemination of research, innovation and information society) with 2 sp. Ob. "to promote and foster collaboration between the research system and enterprises". This ob. aims to promote and support industrial research and technological innovation for production chains, technological and manufacturing districts. Another specific objective strengths, through the use of technology, the competitive capacity of the system of small and medium-sized enterprises. The axis 5 (Business development and competitiveness of local production systems) with 2 ob. specifically consolidates and strengthens the business sector in Sicily, encouraging the growth of SMEs by size, development of clusters and the constitution of business groups, facilitating access to credit and strengthening existing clusters with the redevelopment of industrial and productive areas toward the quality improvement and the overall competitiveness of the enterprise system and enhance the ability of Sicilian firms to expand into and outside the extra regional and international markets.

##### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**

High    Medium | Medium    High



### 3 Urban- rural relationship

#### **THEMATIC AREA 3A**

#### **CRISIS OF RURAL**

This thematic area wants to deal with the overcome conflicts and the crisis in rural areas and the dichotomy between urban and rural areas and the transformation in the regional rural economy and wants to understand the perspectives of policies relating to the revaluation of the rural world.

#### **KEY TOPIC 3a.1 Settlement Model**

This key topic is to return to the great scenery differentiation between the different settlement patterns and their consequences in terms of economic efficiency and competitiveness of contexts.

#### **Problem / Status** (max 1500characters)

What is the pattern of rural settlement in the region? What are the relationships between rural settlements and urban areas?

The figure of human intervention that modifies the condition of natural environments in the Region of Sicily shows that for the provinces of Trapani, Palermo, Catania, Siracusa and Ragusa, the share of anthropic surfaces is above average. Areas subject to man intervention are in the south coast and along the coast of Messina. Human intervention with less intensity is found in central Sicily (thanks to the presence of natural parks and Nebrodi Madonie orography and Sicily). The rural settlement model that develops around the centres is characterized by single-family housing mixed with agriculture. This phenomenon occurs in continuity with the coastal urban areas and decreases more and more you enter the hinterland of the region. The municipalities are divided into urban (with a density greater than 150 inhabitants per square kilometre) and rural (with density below 150 inhabitants per square kilometre). According to the types of rural areas in OECD urban areas are 13 in Sicily, rural areas with intensive agriculture and specialized stretch of 22 municipalities representing 10.1% of the Sicilian land area, intermediate rural areas are about 44.5% of the regional and rural areas with problems of development are represented by a total of 133 municipalities of which 96 mountains and 37 hills (central Sicily).

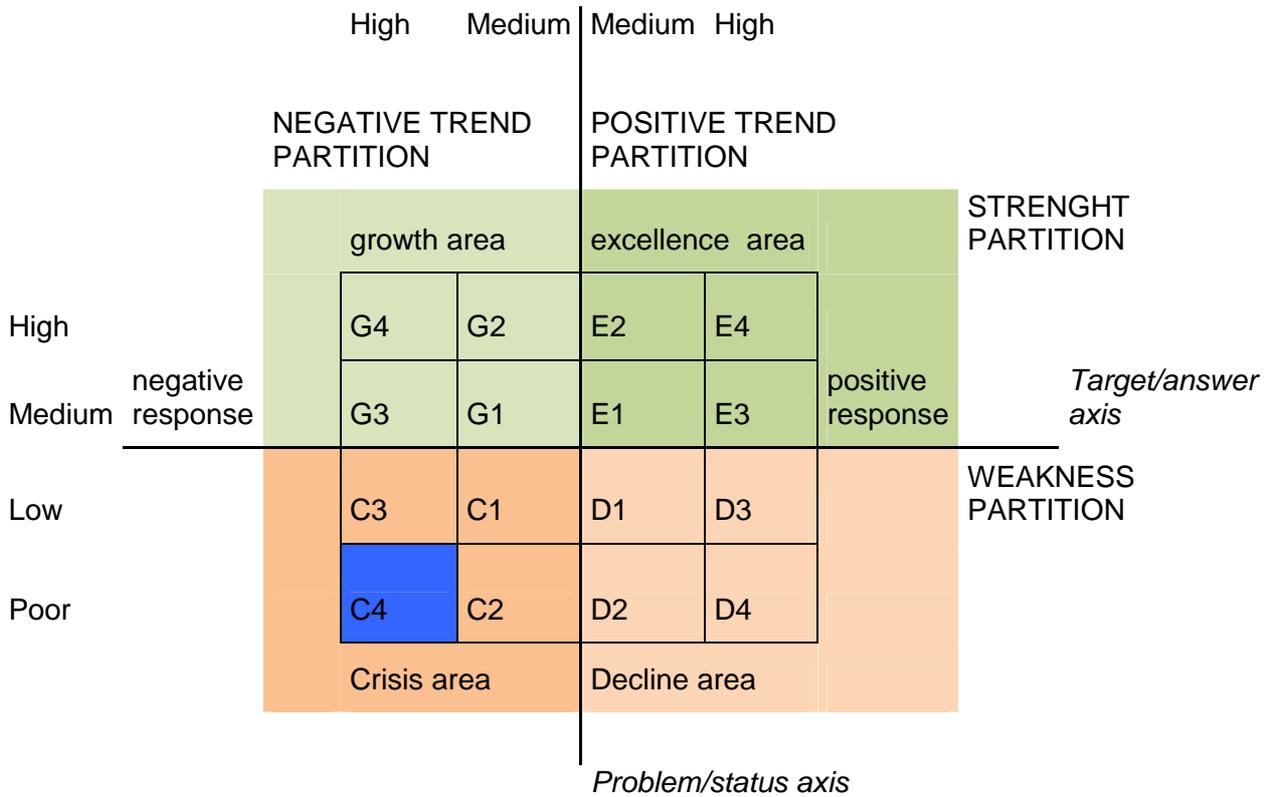
#### **Target / Answer** (max 1500characters)

Are there policies to contain urban sprawl and possible contributions to enhance the natural and rural heritage?

There are not policies that specifically indicate the goal of containing urban expansion but the RURAL REGIONAL PLAN reports the measure 3.2.3 "Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage" and measure 3.2.2 "Village renewal and development". Also the OP ERDF at measure 3.1.4 indicates the extent of "promote the cultural enhancement and use of marginal areas and rural sites and facilitating the recovery of the most valuable historic- architectural buildings, the strengthening of contextual factors, local identities and promotion of the territories, including through the creation of local cultural systems"

#### **Other**

Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2



## **THEMATIC AREA 3B**

### **STRENGTHENING OF FUNCTIONAL AREAS**

The studies rely on the European space are high in urban centers (FUA-Functional Urban Areas) as the main drivers of regional development, the Fua also are typically representative of the realities Mediterranean. The strengthening of Functional Areas does not seem necessarily linked to issues of traditional functional excellence, but focuses on issues of local identity and culture of places. This topic can give a more detailed analysis of the relations of specialization and complementarity between the Fua of the Mediterranean area.

#### **KEY TOPIC 3b.1 Economy of Small and Medium Urban Centers**

The phenomenon of small and medium urban centers is one of the unique aspects of the Mediterranean area, to know them, enhance and strengthen those means to highlight their crucial role in the regional economic sector.

#### **Problem / Status** (max 1500characters)

Which are the functional interdependence between the economy of rural areas and the economy of urban centers? What are the main point on which functional areas are based on? Is there coherence between Fuas in Espo studies and your region?

In the Region of Sicily it exist the highest density of rural population (over 45 inhabitants/km) in respect to other European regions. Rural areas with intensive agriculture, and specialized are located with continuity around the urban centres of Trapani, Ragusa and Catania. Catania is the only one of them, FUA Representative for number of inhabitants, knowledge, gravitational area and functions of the executive centre. In Sicily there are 3 centres with population between 250,000 and 1 million inhabitants (Palermo, Catania and Siracusa). Palermo and Catania are the decision-making centre and local centre of knowledge of European significance. From the tourism sector, estimated in number of beds, Palermo and Messina are the major attractive centres (15,000 to 50,000 beds) followed by 6 and 12 regional centres of local attraction.

#### **Target / Answer** (max 1500characters)

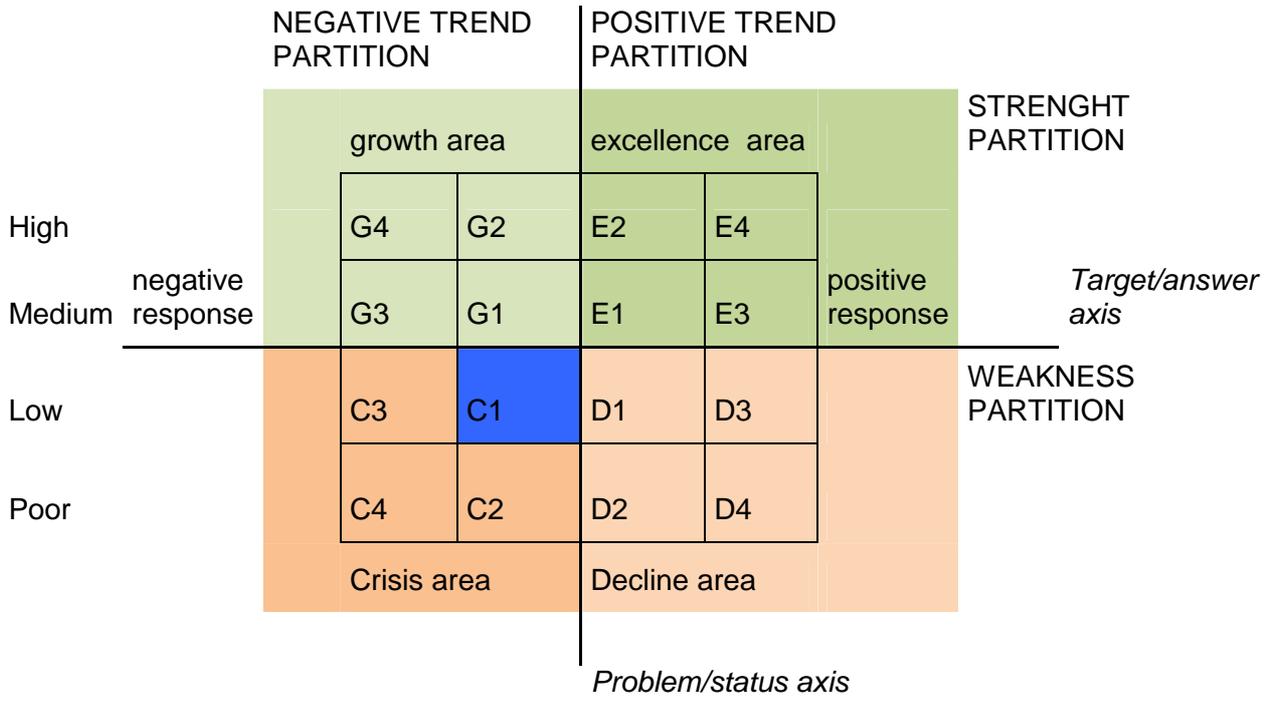
Are there policies to support small and medium sized cities? Does your region focus on some skills (e.g. culture, food and wine,...)?

Policies to support small and medium-sized towns in Sicily are mainly aimed at developing the skills of the tourist centres by encouraging creation of new enterprises. The RURAL REGIONAL PLAN encourages the creation of new farms and rural centres of commerce through the installation of essential services and information and communication technology networks. The skills on which points are mainly related to food and wine, and use of rural routes also restoring hiking trails and educational tours.

#### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**

High    Medium | Medium High



## 4 Access to transport

### **THEMATIC AREA 4A**

#### **FREIGHT SUPPLY AND PUSH AREAS**

Compared with accessibility corridors defined by major European transport networks (TEN Network) both land and sea, the Mediterranean region are measured by the need to connect in an effective and sustainable in these areas through the interface more or less extensive. The area is the ability to push a region to connect to an infrastructure hub or urban according to the time of 45-minute. The regions should ensure that the degree of accessibility, with isochronous path of influence, of goods on their territory

#### **KEY TOPIC 4a.1 Freight Supply**

Talking about freight supply network means a touch of the crucial aspects for a competitive development of a region. Especially in the Mediterranean area this assumes greater significance and some delicate touches on the dynamics of supply and demand of the regional logistics system.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500characters)

What is the relationship between the system of regional accessibility and the trans-European backbone network? For example, nodes connecting the European and international level (ports, airports, rail interchanges). What is the level of connection to these areas? If possible, draw a summary of the zones of influence in strategic pole for 45 minutes of productivity (*push areas*).

The centres more predisposed to connect to the network are located along the Ionian coast near Catania area, where it has the highest density of urban population as along the northern coast of Sicily. The PUSH area is identified around the major FUA (Palermo, Catania, Messina and Syracuse) and along the main communication routes of region. The nodes of the main international connection are not sufficiently connected to the network. The railway is offered by about 26% of the supply of local public transport. The Sicilian railway line stretches all the way for 1,400 km of which 636 single tracks electrified and 148 double-tracks electrified. There are ongoing measures to increase the capacity of the railway network. The total of ports is about 283.1 compared with a national average of 100 and is strongly influenced by passenger traffic. There is a satisfactory number of airports and runways but indices indicate they are below the national averages for services such as parking facilities. As for the logistics infrastructure, there is a particularly acute shortage of intermodal centres that makes Sicily similar to other southern regions with a value of 1 compared to 100 nationally and at a given amount to 156.1 in the Centre-North.

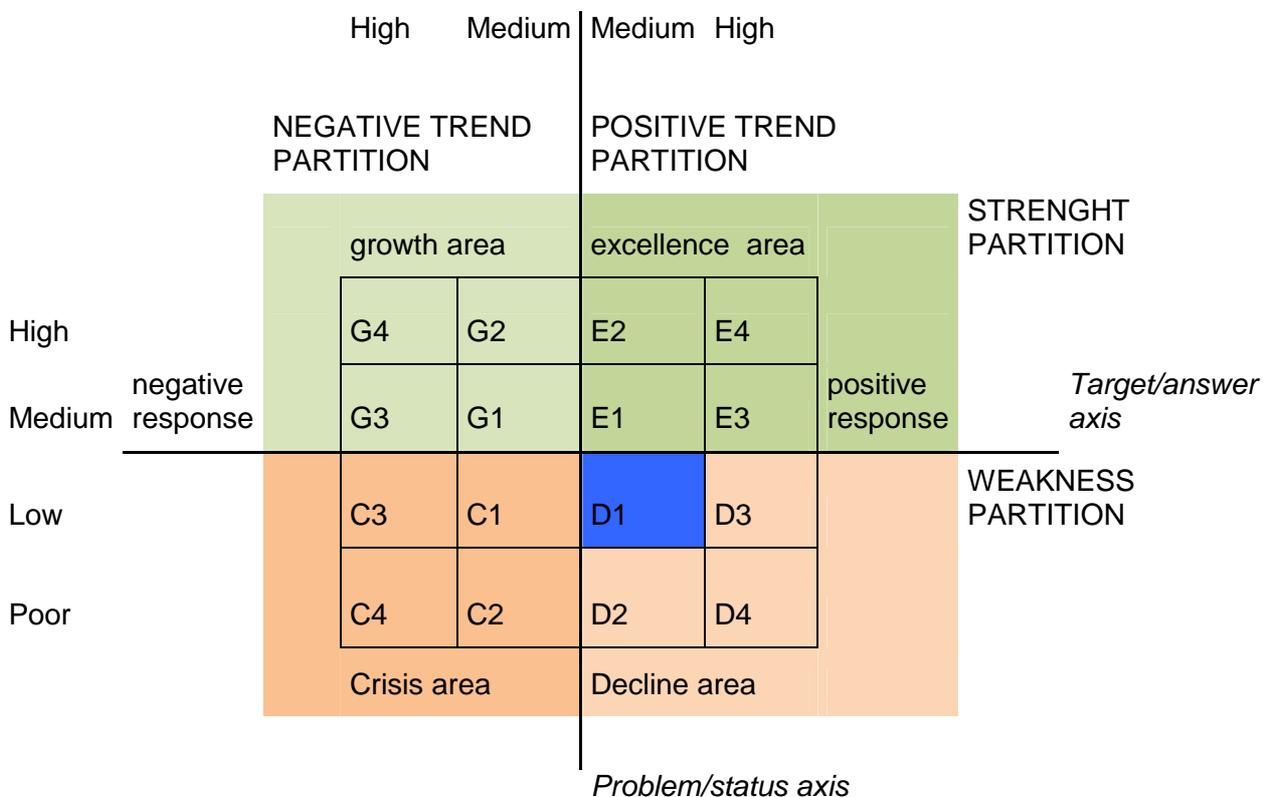
**Target/ Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there investments in multimodal logistics platforms?

The multimodal platform of Catania is the regional investment that Sicily has focused on, with special instruments. In the province of Palermo, the policies indicate the transfer of the commercial port of Palermo at the industrial port of Termini Imerese. The axis 1 of the operational Programme (OP ERDF) is entirely dedicated to the improvement of networks and connections for mobility and in particular to complete, qualify and functionally enhance the network of rail and road transport to improve accessibility and enhance the competitiveness of the territory and the provision of infrastructure nodes that can to encourage intermodal transport goods and people.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **THEMATIC AREA 4B**

### **PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND PUSH AREAS**

Compared with accessibility corridors defined by major European transport networks (TEN Network) both land and sea, the Mediterranean region are measured by the need to connect in an effective and sustainable in these areas through the interface more or less extensive. The degree of accessibility of people to large urban nodes or infrastructure determines the level of competitiveness of a region. This network is determined by the accessibility of the European level (airlines, railways and waterways), but also for collective transportation systems and metropolitan areas.

#### **KEY TOPIC 4b.1 Passenger Transport Supply**

The supply of passenger transport, with the transport of goods, one of the crucial aspects to define the degree of competitiveness of a region, the better able to offer higher returns will not only economic but also the image of an area in against the European and global scenario. With this topic we want to understand if there are weak nodes within the transport network.

#### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

At the regional and metropolitan level the main infrastructural urban pole of accessibility of passenger transport (cities, business districts, cultural centers, ...) are efficient? What are the catchment areas of these poles of attraction? (briefly define the land areas of influence (*push areas*)).

In Sicily it is prevalent private transport (67.7%) compared to public transport (32.3%) made with 6.5% for the rail system and 25.8% on the road system. In the urban service more than 50% of passengers transported in the Sicilian capital, while in the service of suburban the highest passenger is in the provinces of Palermo and Enna that cover more than 60% of the total suburban traffic. The catchment areas can be defined according to employment areas as evidenced by the index developed to ISFORT for understanding the degree of accessibility of the territories. The index of accessibility to transport nodes of a single SLL takes values between 0 and 100. The average value of accessibility of SLL for Sicily is equal to 58.2 compared to an average figure of 57.8 in the Convergence regions and 59.5 in the national average.

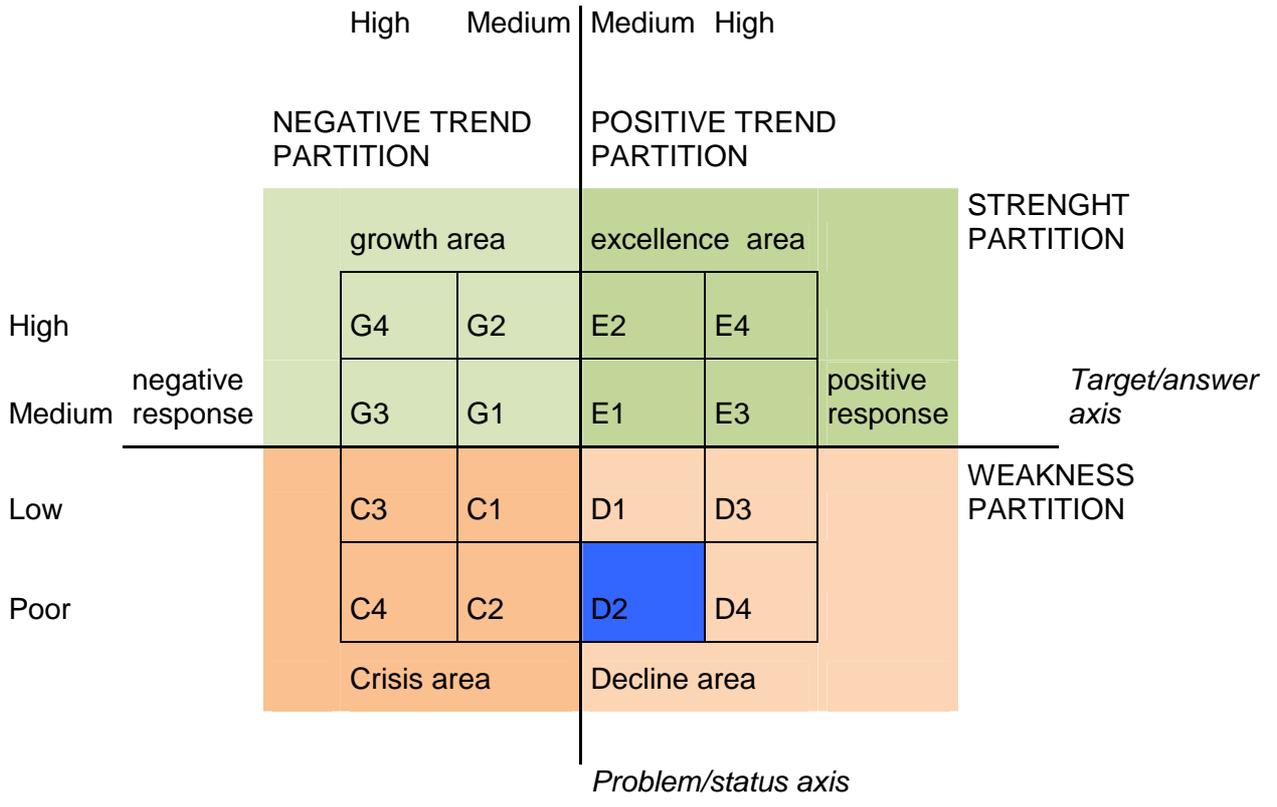
#### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there investments in multimodal logistics platforms?

The OP ERDF indicates the improvement of circulation of goods and people, reducing the mobility by private car in urban areas, expanding the public transport and mass transport through optimizing the supply of intangible networks in particular creating and enhancing the interchange parking modal transportation connected to the local public transport network.

#### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## 5 Access to information and communication technologies

### **THEMATIC AREA 5A**

#### **ENTREPRISSES**

The globalization of markets has created crises in tissue production linked to regional and local economic systems of small scale. The persistence of local productive activity is related to the degree of response to the new dynamics and new balances. Among the tools available to businesses show we are able to interact and participate in over the local network and access information quickly in order to change the structure or market strategy.

#### **KEY TOPIC 5a.1 Degree of Internationalization and Transfer of Technology**

The transfer of technology acts as a real engine of technological development: in fact, this transfer allows you to properly exploit the technologies that are available, accelerates the process of internationalization and goes to diversify production to the markets that they have a higher value added.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

What is the degree of internationalization and technologizing business? What are the critical in the business upgrading? Which are the territories with more vitality?

The manufacturing sector, in Sicilian Region, is characterized mainly by SMEs which show a low degree of internationalization and low technological innovation, even if they are in an increasingly global market in which intangible factors plays a crucial role. From the results of the statistical analysis, capacity innovation performance of Sicilian enterprises, in the period 2002-2004, showed a situation of delay with respect to the central and northern regions and the national figure. Enterprises that have introduced product innovations and / or process amounted to 20.4% from 30.7% nationally figure to 21.1% and the Convergence area. One of the major problems, besides the low degree of technological applications, it is mainly the existence of some marginal areas, where broadband coverage is not present or insufficient to ensure a consistent service and quality. Costs too high for the construction, difficult geo-morphological conditions and excessive dispersion of the population are the main obstacles to the diffusion of ICT. The territories are the most vital and competitive in the metropolitan area of Catania, where there are companies operating in the fields of research and technological innovation, the metropolitan area and the area south-east of Palermo in Sicily.

##### **Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

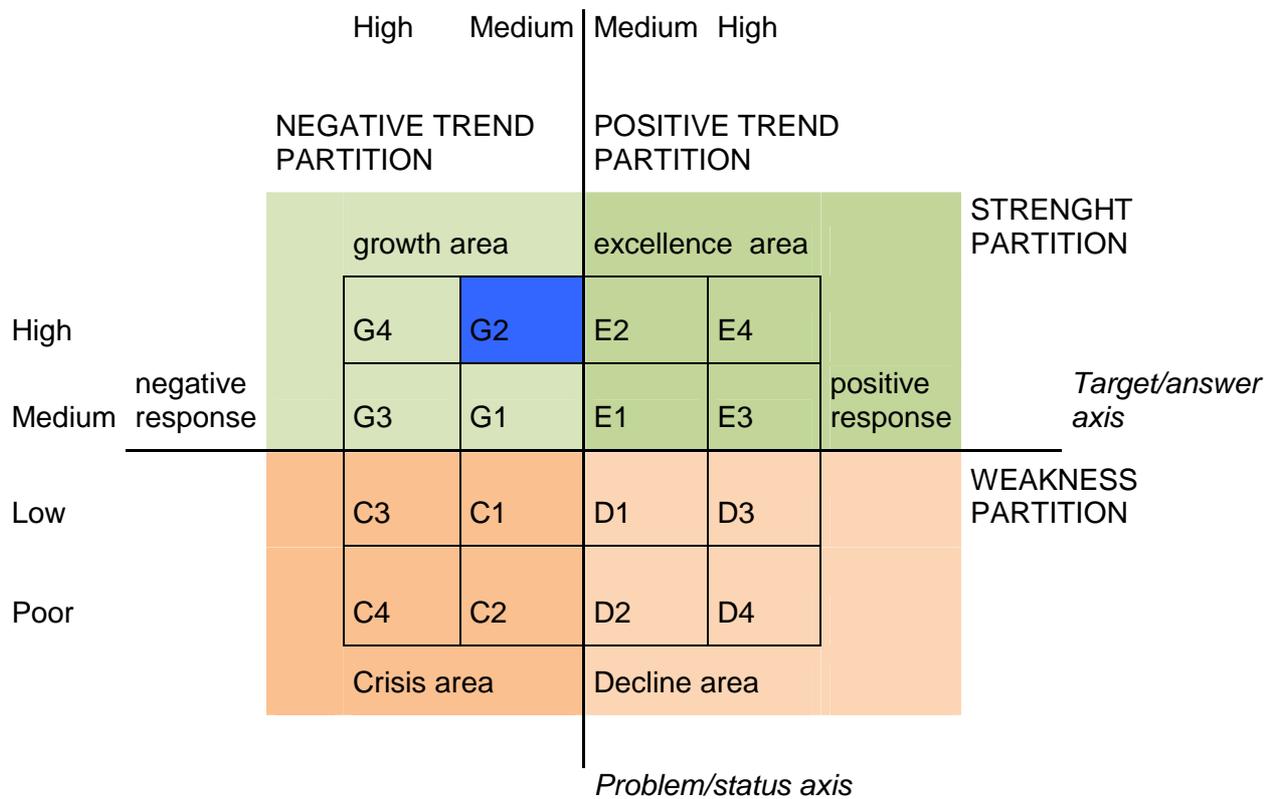
Are there supporting policies to the internationalization of enterprises and their technologizing?

The policies proposed in the operational programs of the Sicilian region aim to overcome the technological gap. The OP ERDF 2007-2013 in these matters are addressed in the axis 4 (Dissemination of research, innovation and information society) and the axis 5 (business development and competitiveness of local production systems). Axis 4 has as its objectives: "to promote and encourage collaboration between the research system and business promoting cooperation and technology transfer, mainly in manufacturing technology clusters and introduce innovations in SMEs, consortia of enterprises and industrial districts" and "Strengthening ICT through the use of the competitive capacity of SMEs and the system to increase the benefits to citizens resulting from the dissemination of ICT". The axis 5 (in particular objective 5.2) designed to "enhance the ability of firms to expand into markets outside the Sicilian regional and international". In the OP FSE 2007-2013, the same issues are addressed by priority axis 1 (Adaptability) and axis 4 (Human Capital). The specific objectives of this axis are designed to "develop policies and services to anticipate and manage change, promote competitiveness and entrepreneurship" and "Creating networks between universities, research technological centers, institutional and productive world with particular attention the promotion of research and innovation". Finally, in the RURAL REGIONAL PLAN are provided "measures aimed at restructuring and developing

physical potential and promoting innovation" (axis1: Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry),  
 "Measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas" (Axis 3 : Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of  
 the rural economy).

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **THEMATIC AREA 5B**

### **SOCIETY**

Access to information for urban residents, but especially the weakest areas in the Mediterranean is a key factor for the development and social inclusion. Computer networks from this point of view play a crucial role in many regions have invested in telecommunication infrastructure to increase the spread and access to information and related services (e-government).

#### **KEY TOPIC 5b.1 E-Government Diffusion**

This topic aims to highlight the importance of how it should be guaranteed access to all online services as a *conditio sine qua non* for the spread of e-government and transparency in the information.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

Is it well-distributed computer network in the region? Is guaranteed access and transparency of documents and information to citizens?

In Sicily, the ISTAT 2006 survey shows that a social divide is apparently concentrated; it has been observed low utilization of new technologies by households. In fact, as regards the degree of Internet use between families of Sicily in 2006, recorded lower levels than most of the southern regions (23.4%, compared to a given area of 23.8 Convergence %) and still below the national average which stands at 35.6%. With regard to the percentage of households that possessed Internet subscription in 2006, Sicily was ranked among the last places at a rate of 26.6%, less than 28% of Convergence and 35.6% nationally. Another useful indicator of the degree of technological infrastructure concerns the Sicilian territory covered by broadband access, according to the ISTAT survey on ICT in Public Administration in 2005, was 37% compared with a national average of 36% and an average of the Regions convergence of 40%. If we consider the Sicilian municipalities with a population less than 30,000 inhabitants we can see an impact of broadband networks reached only 32%. The delay stems from several factors including the level of ICT infrastructure still inadequate and insufficient development of advanced online services (or interactive). Your access to and transparency of documents and information currently not provided at all, in fact, much of the information of public interest are likely to become accessible only by a small number of insiders: the very opposite to the objectives of transparency set by EU policies. In the region the adjustment is happening more slowly than in most developed countries, foreshadowing the coming years, the risk in the absence of additional policy, a widening gap in the quality of public e-services. In the absence of these additional policies, therefore, it is easy to imagine a scenario of gradual enlargement of the digital divide, especially in areas where they already are at present the most obvious market failures and where the future is foreshadowed to structural causes (evolution socio-demographic and weakness of the productive fabric) the major constraints.

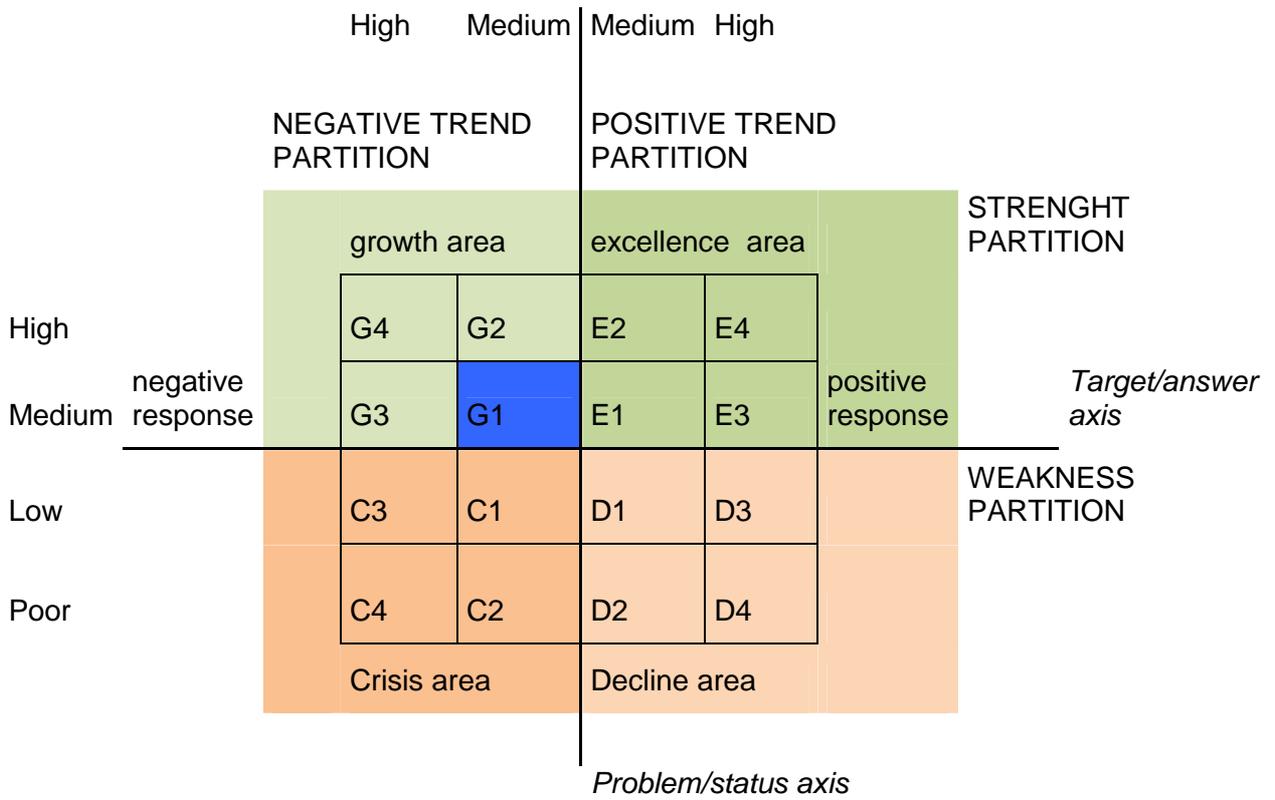
##### **Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

What are the policies to overcome the *digital divide*?

The Sicilian Region, through the policies of the 2007-2013 program (OP ERDF (FESR), ESF (FSE) and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN), wants to streamline the supply of transport assets across networks, improving and developing information systems for users and strengthening, through 'use of ICT, the competitive capacity of SMEs, and enlarging the system of benefits for citizens. There will also be incentives for access and dissemination of services related to the use of ICT, with particular reference to the need to overcome the phenomena of digital divide and regional disparities between urban and rural inland areas. In addition there is a significant improvement of the conditions of legality and transparency of the PA, such as to increase the governance, institutional capacity and technical assistance. Some policies also aim to workers' adaptability to new forms of innovation, promoting individual learning. They are provided also measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas by creating networks of information and communication technology (ICT).

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



## 6 Sustainable energy

### THEMATIC AREA 6A

#### DEPENDENCE ON ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GAP

The concept of sustainable Energy is based on the production and consumption of Energy in such a way that will be a social, environmental and economic sustainable development. Economic growth tends to be accompanied by increased growth in energy demand, this aspect involves some challenges as making sure future generations have enough resources, keeping under control the negative impacts energy production and consumption have on environment.

#### KEY TOPIC 6a.1 Energy Demand and Diversification

One of the most important goals for Europe is to diversify energy sources to become independent of foreign sources of supply and make the best *green* resources. The EU, in fact, has among its most important goals as reducing gas emissions by 2020 and then to diversify energy sources. Diversifying also means investing in alternative sources and this topic explores the coverage of regional needs and its effective diversification.

##### Problem/ Status (max 1500 characters)

What is the energy needs of the region? What form of satisfaction? What is the degree of energy dependency on non-renewable sources? What are the sources used to meet energy needs?

What is the regional energy efficiency? In the long term the region will be able to support the demand for energy required?

About the consumption of electricity in Sicily, industry (42.8%) is the sector that consumes ever more kWh, followed by domestic use (33.7%), from the Tertiary (27.1%) and finally by Agriculture (2.3%). The weight of the industry is in decline offset by related service sectors and domestic purposes. In terms of tonnes of oil equivalent in 2004 there is an increase in the total amount of 12%, involving all economic sectors except agriculture. The methane gas is present in Sicily for both domestic consumption and for warming although to a lesser extent than other Italian cities. Is given to the use of electricity where the service is more fragmented than the rest of Italy. Should be noted that the 21 million cubic meters in Sicily passed through the pipeline from Libya to Algeria and only 16% is consumed within the region. There is also a constant surplus of electricity compared to regional needs (about 15%). The confirmation of the regional energy balance, in terms of final consumption, the prevalence of petroleum products (64%), electricity (19%) and natural gas (and growing), with a market share of renewable energy still remaining (2, 5%) which tends to increase, although it is strongly delayed compared to the values of the convergence (7.2%), the share of 16.9% on the whole of Italy and finally to the values observed in the EU25 (13, 9%). Same profiles exist about regional electricity consumption covered by renewable sources. Therefore, the path towards achieving the Lisbon target (25%) is very difficult.

##### Target/ Answer (max 1500 characters)

Do region or state provide particular forms of investment and / or facilities for the use of new forms of energy? What kind?

Are they provided special incentives for alternative energy? What kind?

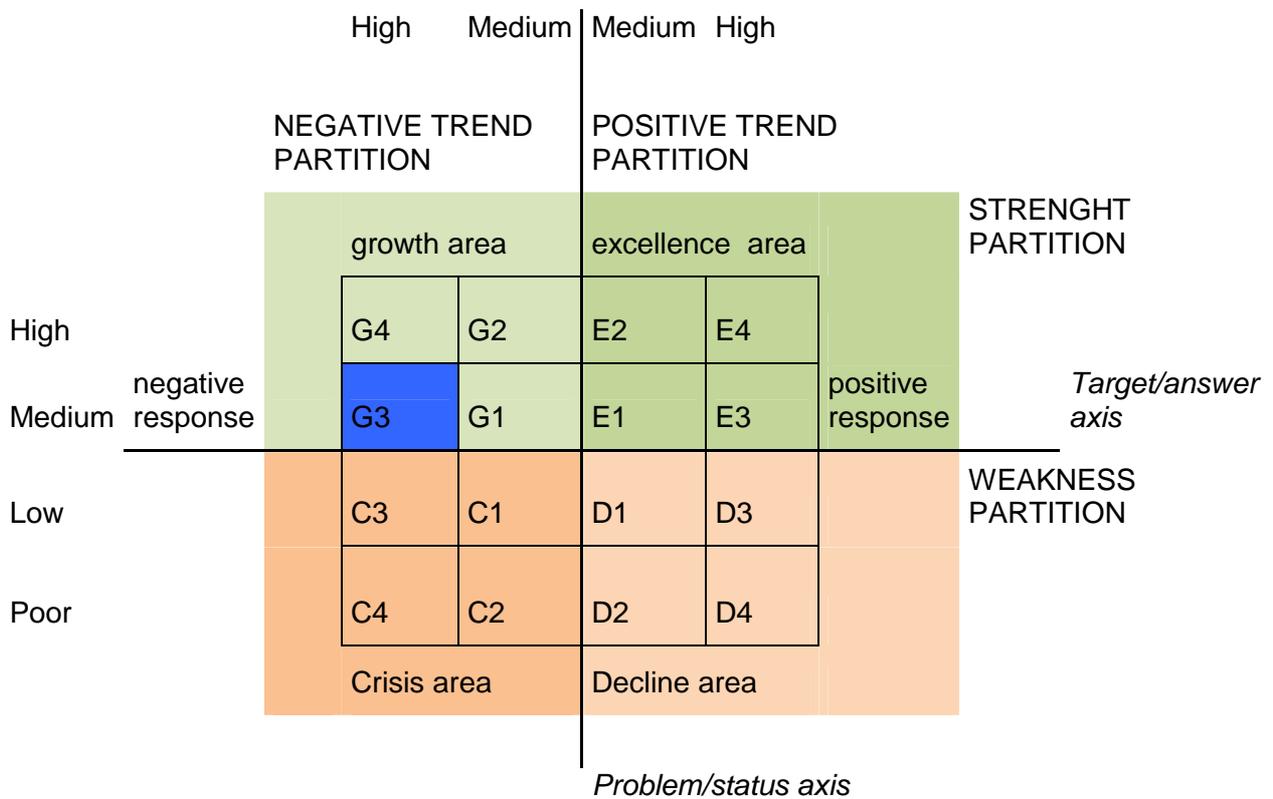
Are there special policies to overcome any problems with the unsatisfied demand of energy?

The the Sicilian Region by of the 2007-2013 program (OP ERDF and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) promote the dissemination of renewable energy sources by promoting the rationalization of energy demand, adjusting and monitoring the production facilities and distribution networks. It also encourage the production of energy from renewable sources by activating productive sectors of energy technologies, agro-energy and biofuels, and supports the increase in end-use energy efficiency and reducing emissions of climate-altering and promotes

the adjustment and completion of distribution networks with the activation of methane monitoring systems for transmission networks and distribution of electricity and gas. With regard to rural areas, measures are envisaged for the production of renewable energy.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## **7 Disaster related risk prevention and management of natural resources**

### **THEMATIC AREA 7A**

#### **PROTECTION AND PREVENTION POLICIES**

Preventing the risks presented by natural disasters must be an integral part of territorial planning on both regional and local scale to achieve proper territorial development.

#### **KEY TOPIC 7a.1 Natural hazards and environmental restoration measures**

This topic is about the knowledge of potentially dangerous natural phenomena and how the application of qualified human resources can significantly increase the effectiveness of prevention from natural hazards and response capabilities in planning and management of restoration and environmental rehabilitation.

##### **Problem / Status** (max 1500 characters)

What are the most relevant natural hazards (landslides, droughts, coastal erosion, hydrogeological, ...) in the region? Which of these risks are related to human activity and how many in relation to the environment?

In the region the most relevant risks of natural character include: landslides, droughts, desertification, coastal erosion, hydrogeological imbalance, seismic risk and volcanic eruptions. Regarding the issue of hydrogeological imbalance, were approved Hydrogeological Plans (PAI) for the 107 watersheds. 21,249 landslides have been registered and of these 8, 3% is indicated as the area is dangerous in terms of geomorphological and hydraulic, while areas at risk affecting 2.16% of the regional area. The vulnerability of the region in relation to hydrogeological disasters is determined mainly by the lithology outcropping of land, consisting of approximately 70% clay component of soils prevalent or significant geomorphic characteristics of the territory often characterized by a fairly rugged terrain and a system basin consists mostly of water courses with torrential regime. The risks associated with human activity rather concern the pollution of water bodies, difficulties in the disposal of waste, chemical pollution of the area, woodland fires, explosions and leaks of toxic substances within the petrochemical.

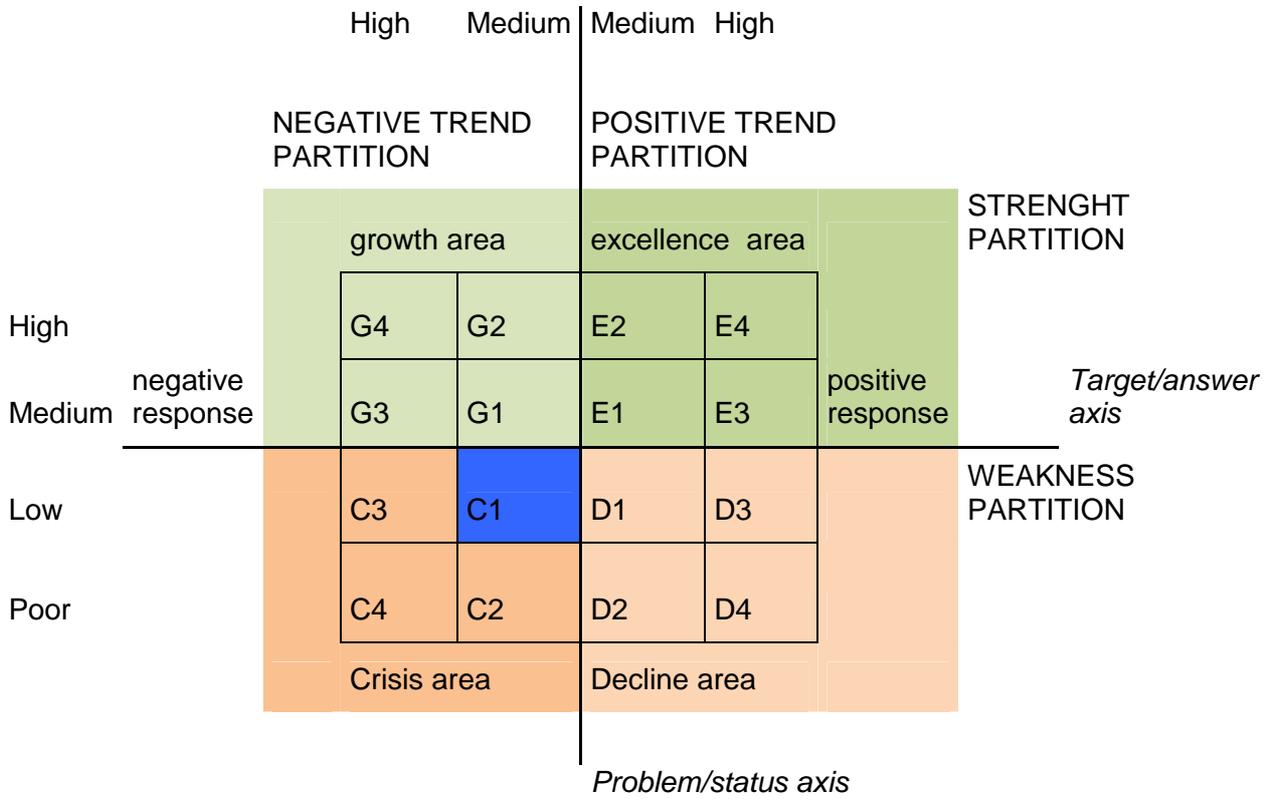
##### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there regional policies to prevent and protect against natural disasters and risks? Are there political and environmental restoration measures?

One of the objectives of the Sicilian Region, the 2007-2013 program (OP ERDF and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) is the efficient use of natural resources by implementing the plan in the field of hydro-geological risk, seismic, volcanic, industrial and environmental plans and implementing prevention risk of both anthropogenic and natural. Other objectives relate to the implementation of priority infrastructure projects approved under the PAI, civil protection and planning for the prevention and mitigation of risks, including integration of specific actions to RURAL REGIONAL PLAN of Sicily. It is also envisaged the implementation of remediation of contaminated sites, commissioning, operational safety and environmental improvements, with priority given to sites with plans for the characterization and investigation under the planning legislation. With regard to agriculture and forestry objectives are to: afforestation of agricultural land, afforestation permanent multifunctional afforestation of non agricultural interventions afforestation with native species including shrubs, with a protective purpose to be carried out on uncultivated land in areas at risk erosion, desertification and hydro; restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions, protection of forests against fires, and defense from the hydrogeological imbalance and erosion, reforestation of areas damaged by natural disasters or fire-resistant species with these adversities, improve, enhance and restore forest ecosystems (in the aspects of forestry, landscape and wildlife) with special reference to woodland and plants typical of the island.

Other

Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3



## **THEMATIC AREA 7B**

### **ECONOMY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Investments in the environment and natural beauty are a pillar of a development model and the recovery of the natural heritage not only sees a cost to be incurred in the most regions, but also a real economic recovery plan, in terms employment, according to a criterion of sustainable development compatible to the environment itself.

#### **KEY TOPIC 7b.1 Nature Resource and Economics**

This topic aims to address this theme of nature as a resource and a value to be protected but also from an economic cost for the region. In short, what role nature plays in more complex frame of managing of a region.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

How many protected areas are in the region? Is efficient their management or is it a cost to the region, how much the environmental protection weighs on regional economy? Is there a "culture" of environmental management? Is the resource "nature " one of the pillars in the regional economy? If so, how the resource "nature" plays this role. Describe one or more best practice.

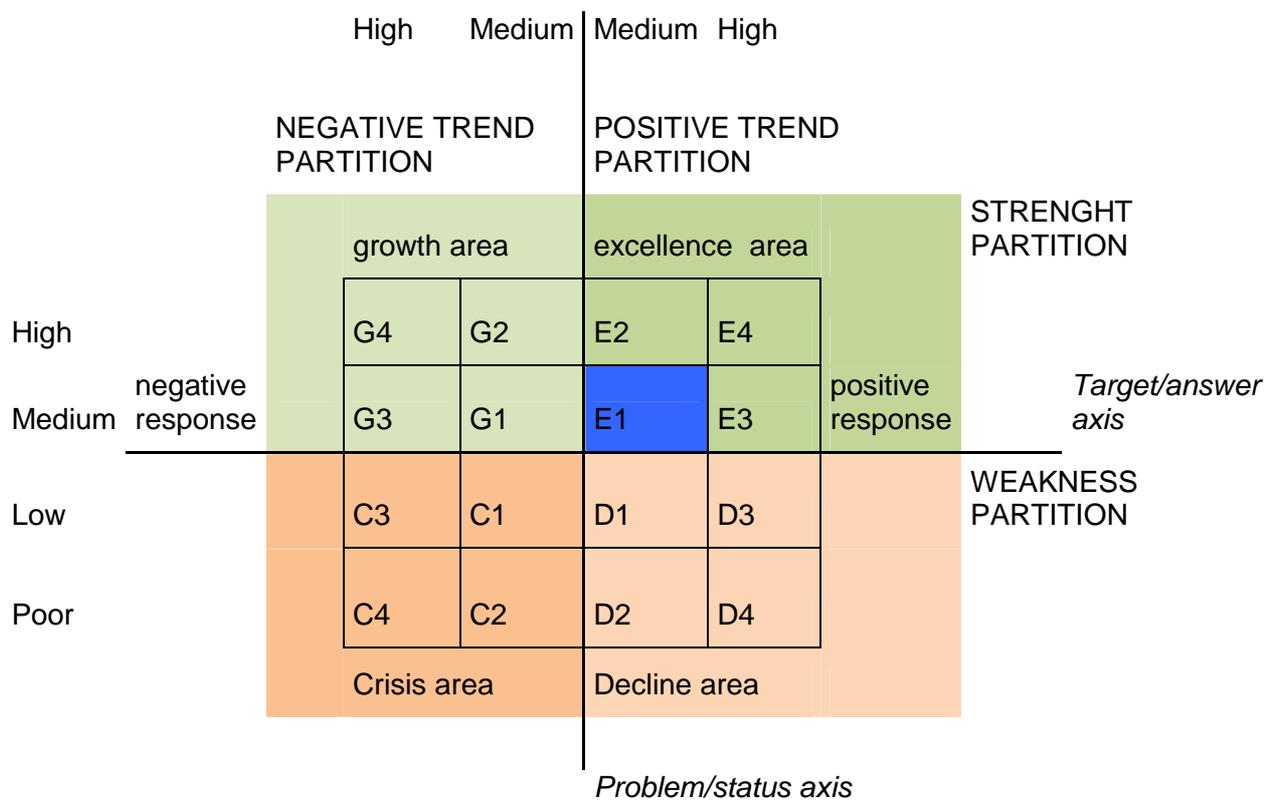
The natural resources in Sicily offer variety and richness and today are not yet properly exploited, used and protected. Prevention, even if taken into account, has difficulty assert itself, while you continue to heal the damage already produced. The Sicilian territory is covered by 8, 6% by forests, for a total of 222,409 hectares with a forest of natural origin amounted to little more than 3% of the regional area. To date, 76 nature reserves have been established land and four regional parks. The current extension of the protected area amounts to 270,988 hectares, equivalent to about 10.5% of the total regional area. The conservation of natural heritage is made in Sicily and with the establishment of regional protected areas, parks and nature reserves, through the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, which aims to ensure the restoration of a favorable conservation status in relation to types of natural habitats and species protected at European level. Under the Directive "habitat" in the the Sicilian Region have been identified 218 sites of Community Importance (SIC), of which 14 are Special Protection Areas (ZPS), identified under the "Birds Directive". Were also identified, in 2005, another 15 SPAs with a total area protected, including parks and reserves, to 502,618 hectares. Sicily also includes 14 IBAs (Important Bird Areas), which occupy a total surface of 442,401 hectares. Most sites fall within the province of Messina and Palermo. It should be noted that to date have not yet been defined for specific management plans for Natura 2000 sites, but many SICs and ZPSs, falling in the regional protected areas, are still subject to regional legislation for protected areas and standards of planning regulations. Finally, we note the absence of a culture of environmental management and natural resource today is not one of the cornerstones of the economy of the Region, except in cases such as the park Nebrodi.

##### **Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there special policies or programs for improving management of protected areas and what can be reported success factors?

The policies that the Sicilian Region is implementing this regard, according to the 2007-2013 programming (OP ERDF and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN), are intended to ensure the appreciation of cultural identity and landscape and environmental resources for the tourist attraction and development; improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, improving the environment and the countryside. In particular, we want to strengthen the ecological network Sicilian, favoring the development system and the promotion of high natural areas and preserving bio-diversity with a view to sustainable economic and social development and sustainable, and enhance wildlife value and identity territories, encourage the development company that operates in the enhancement of the environmental and nature-related tourism promotion and spread, consistent cones models and management plans and conservation of Natura 2000 sites in parks and reserves, increase the tourism offer integrated regional marketing and promotion of cultural identity through the promotion of landscape and resources - environmental.

<b>Other</b>
<b>Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3</b>



## 8 Management of cultural resources

### THEMATIC AREA 8A

#### ECONOMY AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural investment is an important element of a development model and the recovery of heritage not only as a cost to be incurred in respect to the legacy of the past, but a real program of economic recovery, even in terms of employment, according to a criterion of sustainable development and compatible to the environment and the important historical and cultural dimensions of our own region.

#### KEY TOPIC 8a.1 Policies for land protection

Managing cultural resources and their protection policies of historical heritage are basic for the developing policies in Mediterranean space.

##### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

What is the scope of your cultural heritage? What are the problems related to the management of maintenance and management of cultural heritage?

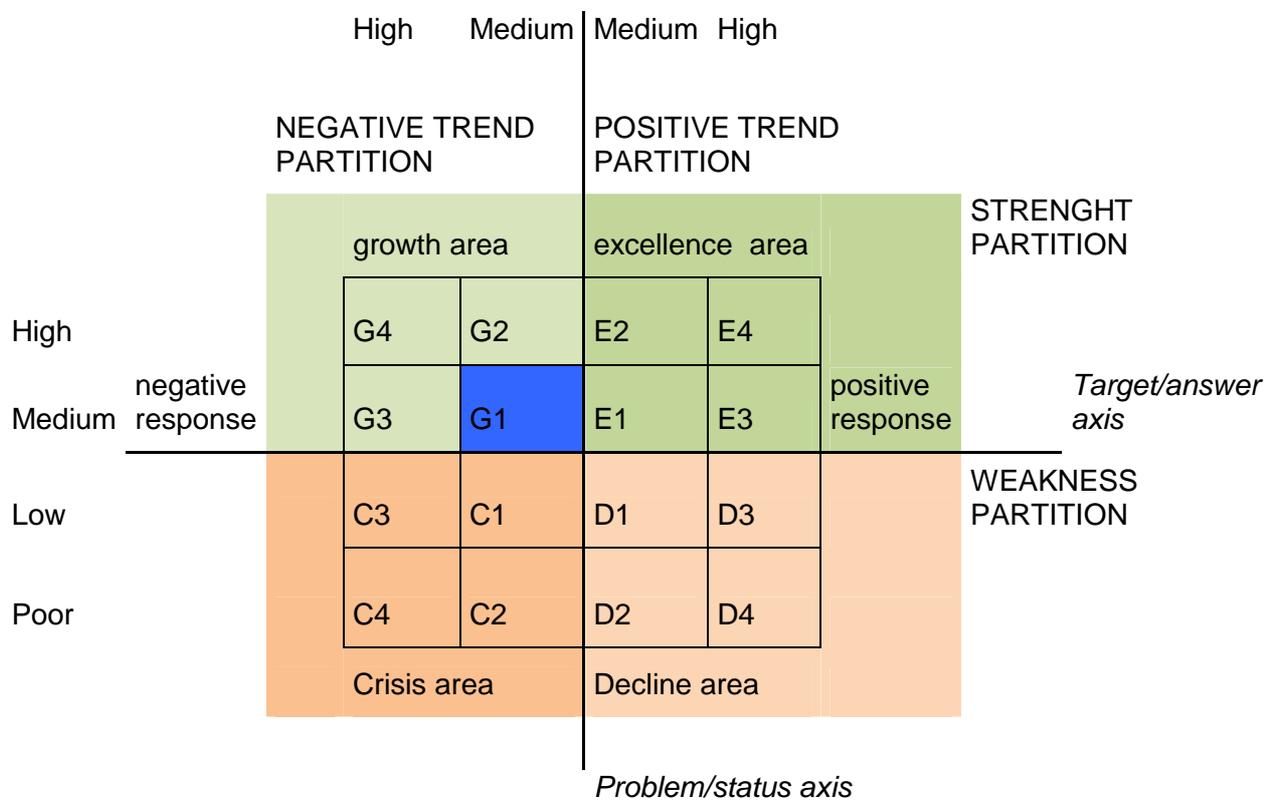
Sicily offers an allocation of significant cultural heritage, is characterized by the presence of several centers of interest, is a large common heritage, often do not know, and located in inland areas. With regard to the enjoyment of cultural activities, we observe that in Sicily in 2004 spending of the public for theatrical and musical activities amounted to 25,242,966 euros (+2.8% over the previous year) and was up 5.1% share of spending throughout the country. With regard to cultural tourism, the urban dimension is particularly important. In Italy as in Sicily tourist presence in the cities of historic and artistic interest in recent years have experienced a decrease. The flows are generally distributed among all the provinces except Caltanissetta, Catania and Ragusa, from which there are low volumes. The data also confirm the well-known territorial divide between the Centre-North and Southern regions in connection with the offering of culture, but Sicily stands at higher positions within the Convergence. The large regional heritage of cultural, historical and archaeological remains somewhat poorly protected, managed and very much less used to promote a stable and sustainable development. The problems of operating and maintenance concern: the lack of coordination and dialogue between the public bodies concerned, the lack of qualified personnel for the management of sites, the lack of an integrated system of cultural resources and the steady decline of funds for the management.

##### **Target/ Answer** (max 1500 characters)

What are the main protection policies of cultural resources of the region and the development model which related to it? Describe the main actions and objectives.

The Region of Sicily, according to the 2007-2013 programming promotes policies aimed at protection of cultural resources (OP ERDF and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) by means of appreciation of cultural identity and scenic resources - the environment for attracting tourists and developing, implementing measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas. The main objectives and actions aimed at enhancing heritage and cultural activities to increase the attractiveness of the territories to strengthen social cohesion and improving the quality of life of residents, promoting skills, the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, encouraging the development and system integration with tourism services, in order to increase the attractiveness of the territories; Fostering cultural development and use of marginal areas and rural sites and facilitating the recovery of the most valuable historic buildings - architectural the strengthening of contextual factors, local identities and the promotion of the territories, including through the creation of local cultural systems.

<b>Other</b>
<b>Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2</b>



**KEY TOPIC 8b.1 “Culture” Resources And Economy**

This topic aims to address this theme of culture as a resource and a value to be protected but also from an economic cost for the region. In short, what role culture plays in more complex frame of managing of a region.

**Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

Is the resource "culture" one of the pillars in the regional economy? and what 's economy is based on the correct use of cultural resources. If so, what are the forms that comprise, for example: Expo, or other. Describes one or more best practice.

Cultural resources, although it is included among the cornerstones of the economy of the region is now poorly protected and enhanced. In fact, the region is characterized for the presence of territorial areas with significant cultural importance and landscape that are capable of generating, if properly organized, cultural and economic development. The territorial characteristics of these areas are an attractive element for high flows of visitors, if properly directed, can lead to positive impacts on levels of employment and social cohesion.

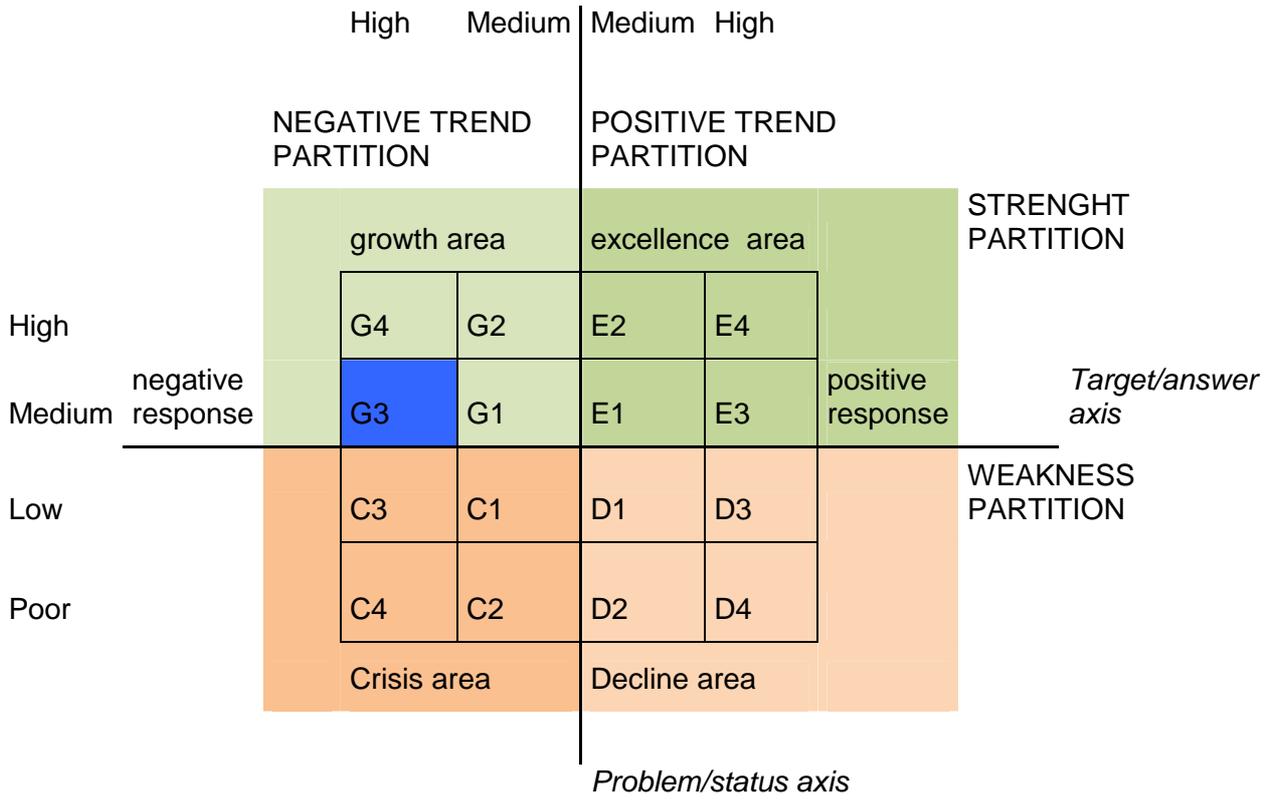
**Target/ Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there special policies or programs for the promotion and enhancement of heritage?

The major programs and policies aimed at the promotion and enhancement of heritage such as the appreciation of cultural identity and landscape and environmental resources for the tourist attraction and development, measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas. In particular, the 2007-2013 program (OP ERDF and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) provides for the enhancement of cultural heritage to increase the attractiveness of the territories to strengthen social cohesion and improving the quality of life of residents, the promotion, qualification, protection and conservation cultural and historical heritage, fostering the development and system integration with tourism services. there are actions that involve the strengthening of productive sectors connected to the heritage and cultural production and support of innovative management processes of cultural resources. It also aims to promote cultural development and fruition of marginal areas and rural sites and facilitating the recovery of the most valuable historic buildings - architecture, the strengthening of contextual factors, local identities and the promotion of the territories, including through the creation of local cultural systems.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



## 9 Sustainability of regional economic resources

### THEMATIC AREA 9A

#### SUSTAINABILITY OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Sustainability of regional economic development, disappearance, resilience and reorganization process in many countries the civil society and the economic and social organization were not able to understand clearly and consequently to react and to adapt their structure to the processes of globalization, innovation and modification of economy.

That implies an increasing dynamic of marginalization of territories: some processes of adaption to the existing economic structure to the globalization (resilience) or radical change of local economies more or less spontaneous (reorganization) or increasingly death of the economic activity (disappearance).

#### KEY TOPIC 9a.1 Employment Dynamics

Occupational level of employees; unemployment and unsteady job is a crucial problem, it measures the starting point of the abovementioned process of economic modification.

#### Problem/ Status (max 1500 characters)

Describe, also using graphs or tables, the relationship between the employed and unemployed, also indicating the sector of employment and age groups. What is the level of insecurity?

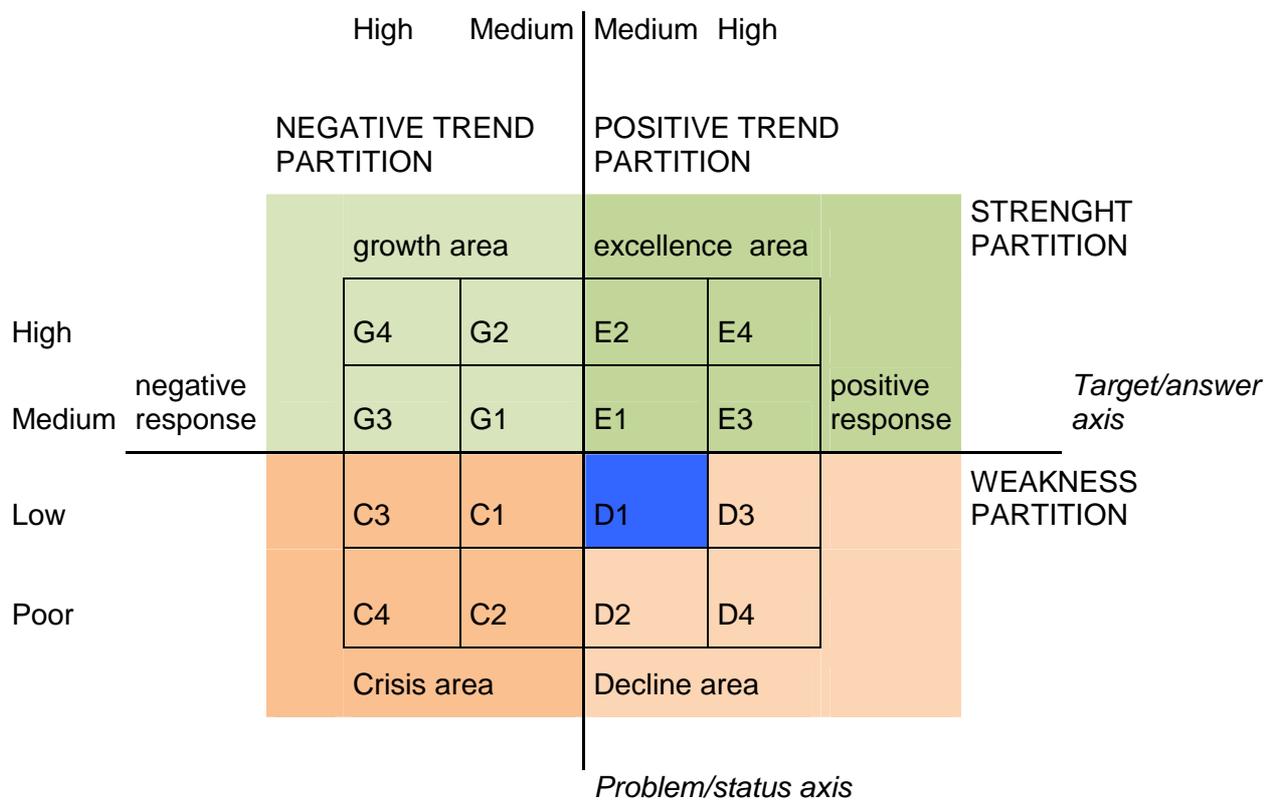
The levels of employment and unemployment show that in recent years there have been some improvement before the advent of the crisis has seen a slowdown in Sicily on the way to positions closer to the average value of the Convergence regions. The employment rate in Sicily rose by almost 4 percentage points from 41.5% in 2000 to 45% in 2006. This performance compares favorably to the trends offered by the Convergence regions. Appear far from Lisbon targets that are set equal to 70% for total employment and 60% for female employment. And interesting to note that Sicily offers an overview of employment in relation to the age of the population between 55 and 64 (34.4% in 2006) more positive than the national values (32%) and the values of Convergence area (33%), but still far from the values of the EU (42.5%). Employment is primarily in tertiary education (especially for women), with an incidence of undeclared work among the highest in Italy and a wide spread of atypical and precarious forms of employment. The region shows high levels of part-time work and temporary employment, as well as irregular work, which also affect the male labor force. The fragility of the regional labor market is also evidenced by the significant incidence of undeclared work. The rate of irregular employment of Sicily is among the highest in Italy (26% in 2003). The illegal workers are found mainly in Sicily in the agricultural sector (42.4%) and in construction (33.1%), followed by industry excluding construction (24.7%) and, finally, by services (23, 4%). The unemployment rate rose from 24.1% in total in 2000 to 13.5% in 2006, making it far from European standards. The young men and women continue to present critical conditions in the labor market in Sicily, with unemployment rates of 39% and 17.8% in 2006.

#### Target/ Answer (max 1500 characters)

What are the perspectives for regional initiatives to address the possible problem, even under the current global economic crisis?

The 2007-2013 program (OP FSE and FEP) seeks to respond to any problems trying to develop and support the adaptability of workers and individual training, developing systems and regional strategies that facilitate access and participation in services training, focusing on workers 'weaker', increasing employability through policy effectiveness and efficiency in the labor market and seeking to reduce disparities associated with it. They are also policies aimed at social inclusion and improving human capital (networking between universities, research centers, technology, world), the promotion of initiatives and networks on an interregional and transnational cooperation, with particular focus on exchange of good practices. We also want to put aid on economic compensation (in respect the adaptation of the Community fishing fleet), measures to promote awareness and develop human capital and aid for young farmers.

<b>Other</b>
<b>Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3</b>



**KEY TOPIC 9a.2 Business and Enterprises vitality**

The regional business is facilitated by the creation of new businesses linked to substantial and widespread application of development policies. But in contrast, are concentrating their concerns that there could be the difference between the enrollment of new openings and closures, especially Small and Medium Enterprises even more so in areas of weakness such as craft. Knowledge of these data, the vitality of enterprises in the regional landscape, allows us to capture some specific characteristics, such as the slow exit from the economic crisis.

**Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

A brief description of the balance of enterprise deaths, the health of companies in the region and the main vital or in crisis areas.

The evolution of the business in the Sicilian decade 1991-2001 shows a significant increase of 17.2% in the number of businesses, less, however, by almost 7 percentage points below the national figure. Analyzing the data by sectors, has seen a decrease of employees in the commercial sector. Extending the analysis over the last three years industrial Census (2002-2004) there is a consolidation of the growth process of the business. At the sectoral level, the best results were obtained from the building (+14%), trade (+7%), from the hotel and catering sector (+16.5%), while less pronounced is the dynamic industry in the strict sense (+3.6%). The mortality rate of businesses around the country is 7.4% and is more pronounced for Sicily 8.9% showing a greater difficulty in terms of survival and growth for the business fabric of the island. The trend in birth rates is slightly more pronounced than the national level (8.3%), compared with a national average of 7.7%. Looking at the evolution of companies active in Sicily in 2000-2006, there was a growth of active enterprises (6.1%) and a substantial invariance of manufacturing firms, mining and transport. As in the downward trend (by about 10%), agricultural enterprises still account for just under 28% of the business. As for the other sectors, there has been growing more favorable than the national average for class of trade, tourism, education, and financial services. Growing in line with national trends, are business services, health, housing and social services. In recent years, have emerged in the territory of sectoral crisis phenomena, mainly in the traditional textile and clothing (the province of Caltanissetta and Enna), petrochemical (provinces of Siracusa, Caltanissetta and Messina) and automotive (province of Palermo), affecting most of the region and involving, including induced production, about 10,000 work units.

**Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

What are the perspectives to repair any problem, even under the current global economic crisis?

Under the 2007-2013 programming (OP ERDF, FSE, FEP and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) is seeking to work on consolidating and strengthening the entrepreneurial Sicilian, encouraging the growth of SMEs by size, development of clusters and the formation of business groups, facilitating the 'access to credit and strengthening existing clusters with the redevelopment of industrial areas and productive, in terms of improved quality and overall competitiveness of the enterprise system. This will also include strengthening of Sicilian businesses in markets outside the region and international development policies and services to anticipate and manage change, promoting competitiveness and entrepreneurship, the creation of networks between universities, research centers, technological, institutional and productive world with particular attention to promoting research and innovation, developing new markets and promotional campaigns; measures aimed at restructuring and developing physical potential and promote "innovation, measures to diversify the rural economy and strategies local development.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



**KEY TOPIC 9a.3 Structure and Dimension of Enterprises and Economic Framework**

Knowledge of the composition of the productive in order to identify possible problems within the framework of the regional economy.

**Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

How the regional productive is composed of (e. g. average size and industry, No. of employees)?

The production structure of the region, relative to the value-added sectors in 2004, is characterized by low weight of industry in the strict sense of the Italian average (11% of the total added value compared to about 23% nationally and 15% of the South ) and a greater presence in the services sector (78% vs. 69% in Italy and about 75% of the South), construction (6% vs 5% and 6% at national level in the Southern) and agriculture (4.9% in line with the South and more than 3% in Italy). As regards the structure of firms, the Sicilian manufacturing is strongly characterized by predominant role of small and medium enterprises. In 2004, the number of companies with at least 20 employees in 2001 is 11, 6%, while the share of firms with 50 employees is equal to 3.2%, indicating the lack of large enterprises in important sectors . In manufacturing, the local units with more than 250 employees are present only in some sectors of heavy industry (oil refining and chemical industry, metal production, transport) and electrical machinery.

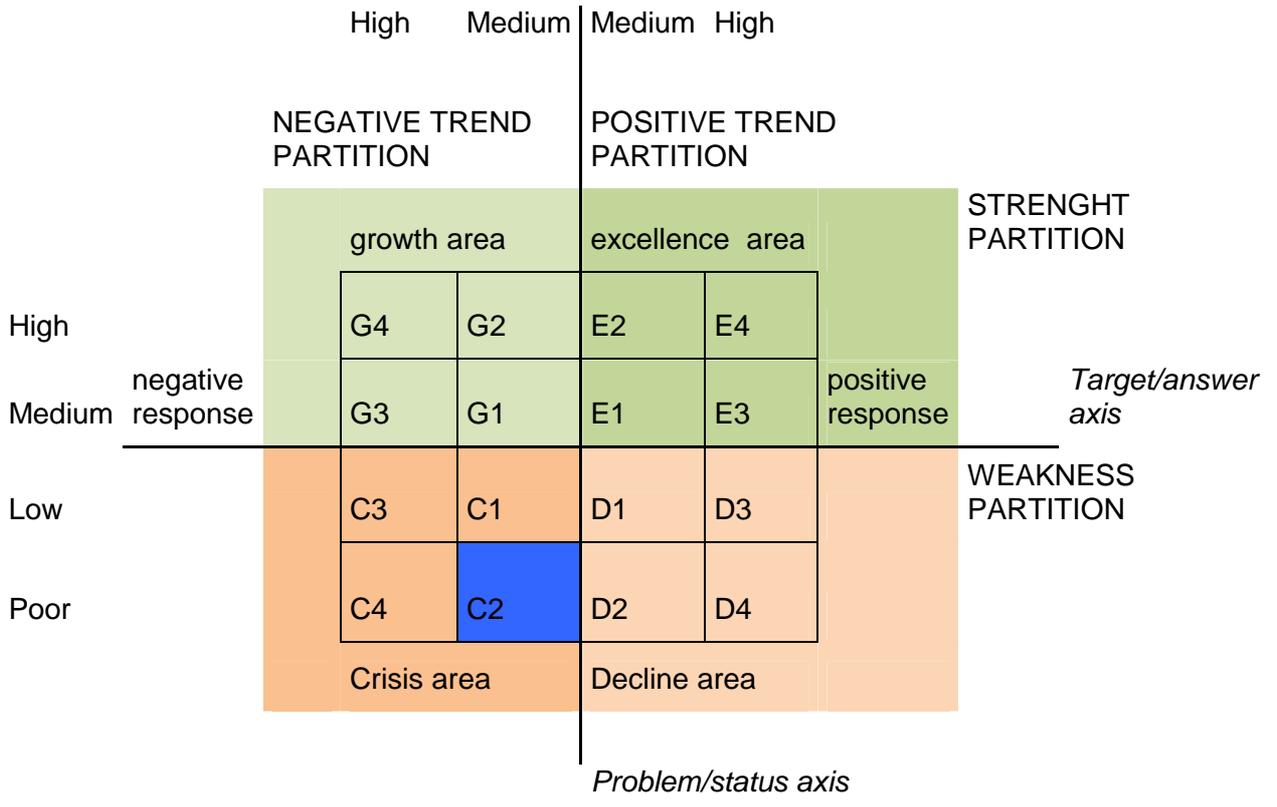
**Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there policies to stimulate enterprise, what are the results?

The firm incentives are characterized by the dynamics that emerge through of the 2007-2013 programming (OP ERDF, FSE, FEP and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) while to know what were the results must still wait until they have had effects on the territory. The policy concentrates especially on business development and competitiveness of local production systems, seeking to consolidate and increase the Sicilian entrepreneurial, encouraging the growth of SMEs by size, development of districts and the formation of business groups, facilitating 'access to credit and strengthening existing clusters with the redevelopment of industrial areas and productive, in terms of improved quality and overall competitiveness of the enterprise system. You also want to promote competitiveness and entrepreneurship and implement measures to adapt to European policies (especially with regard to the policies for the fisheries sector) also improves the fishing industry, agriculture and forestry.

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



## 10 Governance

### **THEMATIC AREA 10A**

#### **POLICY CAPACITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Efficacy and Effectiveness of Public administration means the driving capacity of Public Administration at regional and local level.

Efficacy can be considered the capability of defining development or asset objectives based on a shared vision and to implement effective policies and to put in action these objectives

Effectiveness, can be seen as the efficient use of financial resources in policy making and the capacity of attraction and utilization of public and private resources and investment (including EU Funds)

#### **KEY TOPIC 10a.1 Capacity of Public Administration**

EU funding spending and utilization.

EU funding should be utilized to help the regional economies to implement policies of development based on auto-sustainability principle: activities, partnerships, projects started with EU funding should be permanent and supported by local economic dynamics rather than a plain direct support to activities that stops when the funds are exhausted.

#### **Problem/ Status** (max 1500 characters)

Is the Public Administration efficient in terms of regional policy implementation? Is the relative spending power of the Structural Funds efficient?

The efficiency of public administration is closely related to a structural improvement of regional and local management capacity, especially as regards the functions of planning and assessment as well as its ability to promote and implement quality community services. In this sense, the strengthening of administrative capacity assumes a growing importance in the new programming cycle for 2007-2013 and is therefore an essential precondition for improving the effectiveness and thus enhance the impact of structural funds. In particular, this concept translates into an effective increase of efficiency of the regional government to overcome the delay of the Sicily than in other regions. The spending capacity of structural funds for 2000-2006 showed that Sicily has not been able to use the funds provided in whole and could not use all the current programming cycle.

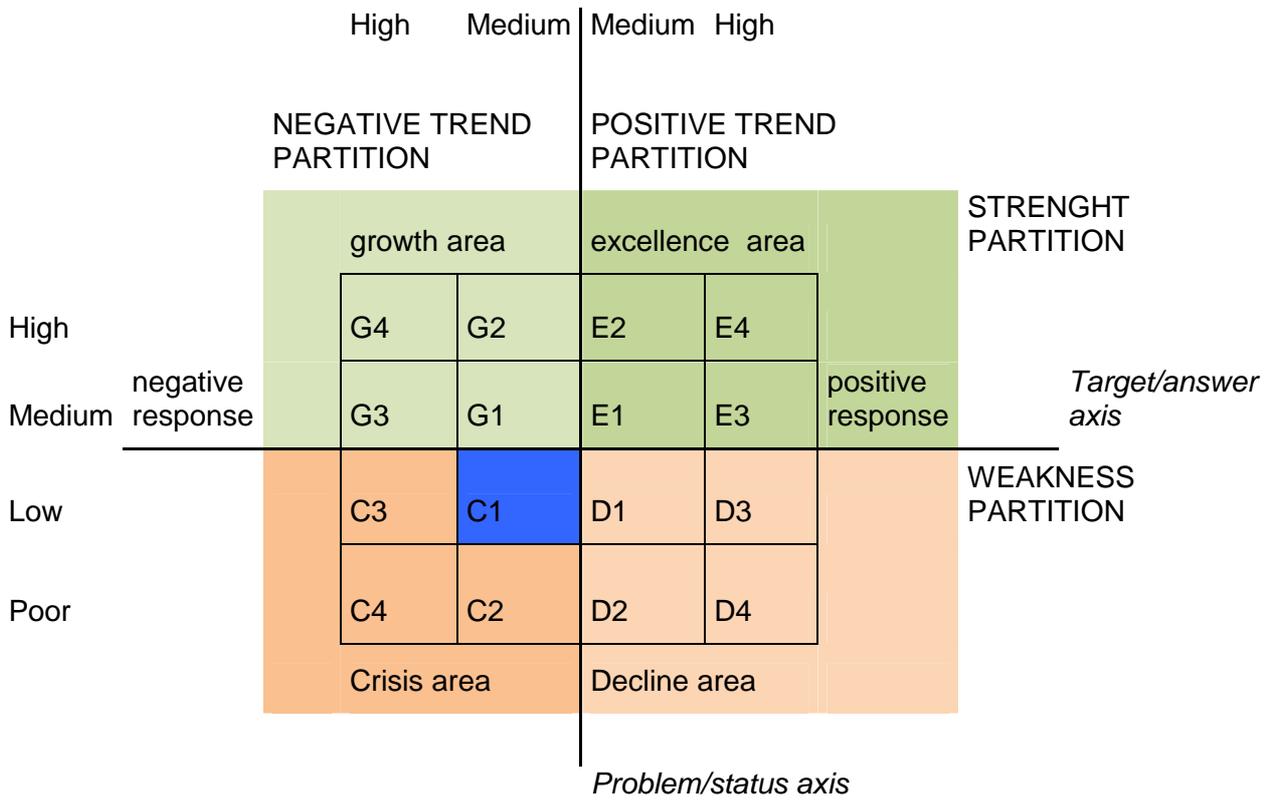
#### **Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there forms in which the Public Administration is able to attract investment?

The Sicilian PA (by OP, FESR and FSE) seeks to attract investments adopting policies that are able to enhance the technical capacity of land management through programs financed by the Structural Funds, developing technical assistance, assessment and monitoring in support of regional Operational Program and creating conditions favorable to the spread of culture, legality, efficiency and transparency in Public Administration. It also aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of regional planning through actions and support tools

#### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



**KEY TOPIC 10a.2 Services/supply provision by Public Administration**

Quality and typology of services provided by Public Administration needs an efficient and effective organization by Public Administration at different scale and competence degree.

Availability of places for nurseries, support for disabled people and young mothers and couples, student's facilities, bed place and time of waiting for medical services are indicators that help to understand this topic.

**Problem / Status** (max 1500 characters)

What is the efficiency which the Public Administration provides services?

The efficiency of public administration to provide structural and social services is inefficient, due to years of mismanagement and waste of economic resources, especially in the sectors of health, vocational training, waste management and public transport, removing Sicily by national and European standards. It seems more efficient and the quality of education at the University.

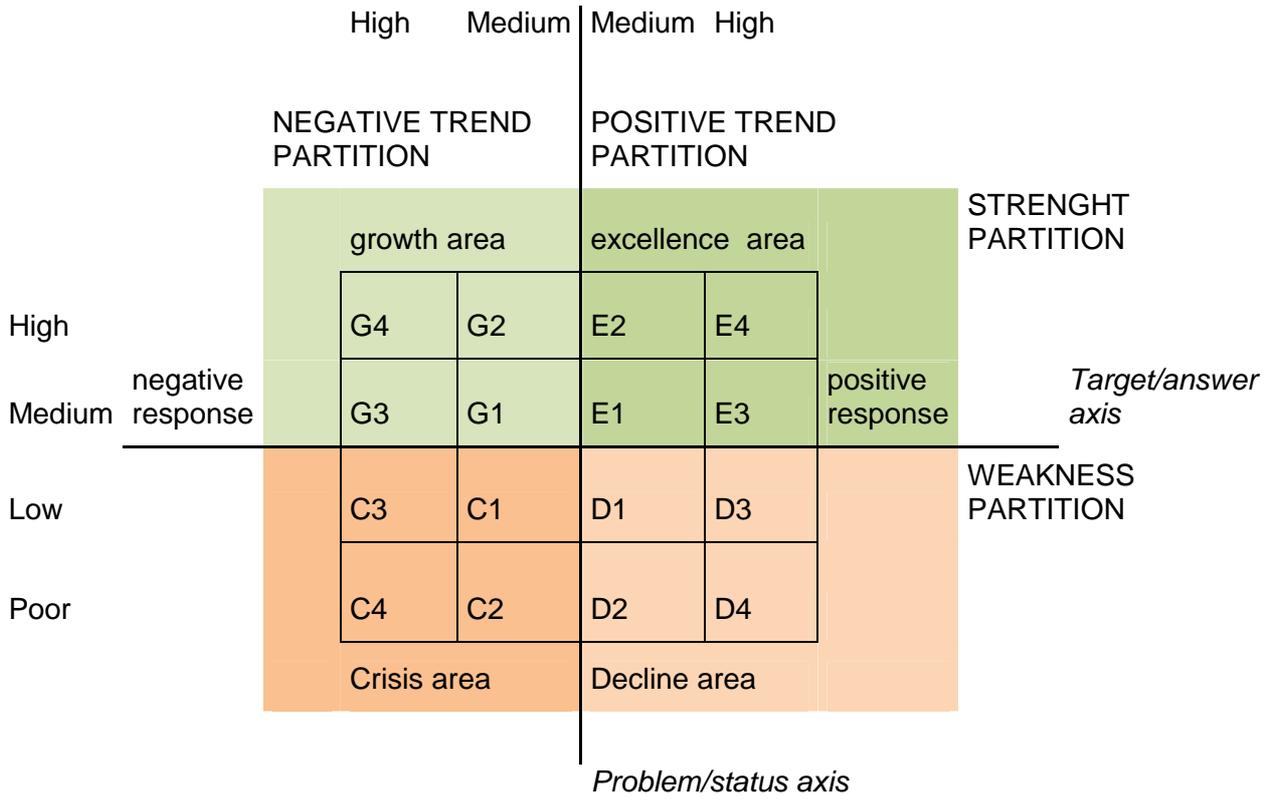
**Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there specific ways to provide services taken by the Public Administration?

Policies aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity and systems in the implementation of policies and programs and improving the skills of public administration staff, promoting lifelong learning and exchange of experiences (2007-2013 programming – OP, FSE).

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



**THEMATIC AREA 10B**

**PARTECIPATION AND SUBSIDIARITY**

Vertical and horizontal cooperation among different government levels, institutional democratic process in policy making.

**KEY TOPIC 10b.1 Efficiency of Public Administration**

Efficiency of public administration is considered necessary by EU to reach cohesion objectives, subsidiary and democratic participation needs that the representative bodies of citizens can access to decision by means of an inclusive participative process.

**Problem / Status** (max 1500 characters)

Are there problems related to efficient programming due to the fragmentation of responsibilities? How do you estimate the participation of different institutional levels for the formation of policy?

Among the main problems regarding the efficiency of the program finds the fragmentation of skills, poor coordination among public authorities at all levels, the lack of transparency, complexity of administrative procedures and a closure to the participatory processes. These problems make it difficult to design, implementation and assessment of policies. Furthermore, it is not very common the process of participation and involvement of different actors, institutional and citizenship.

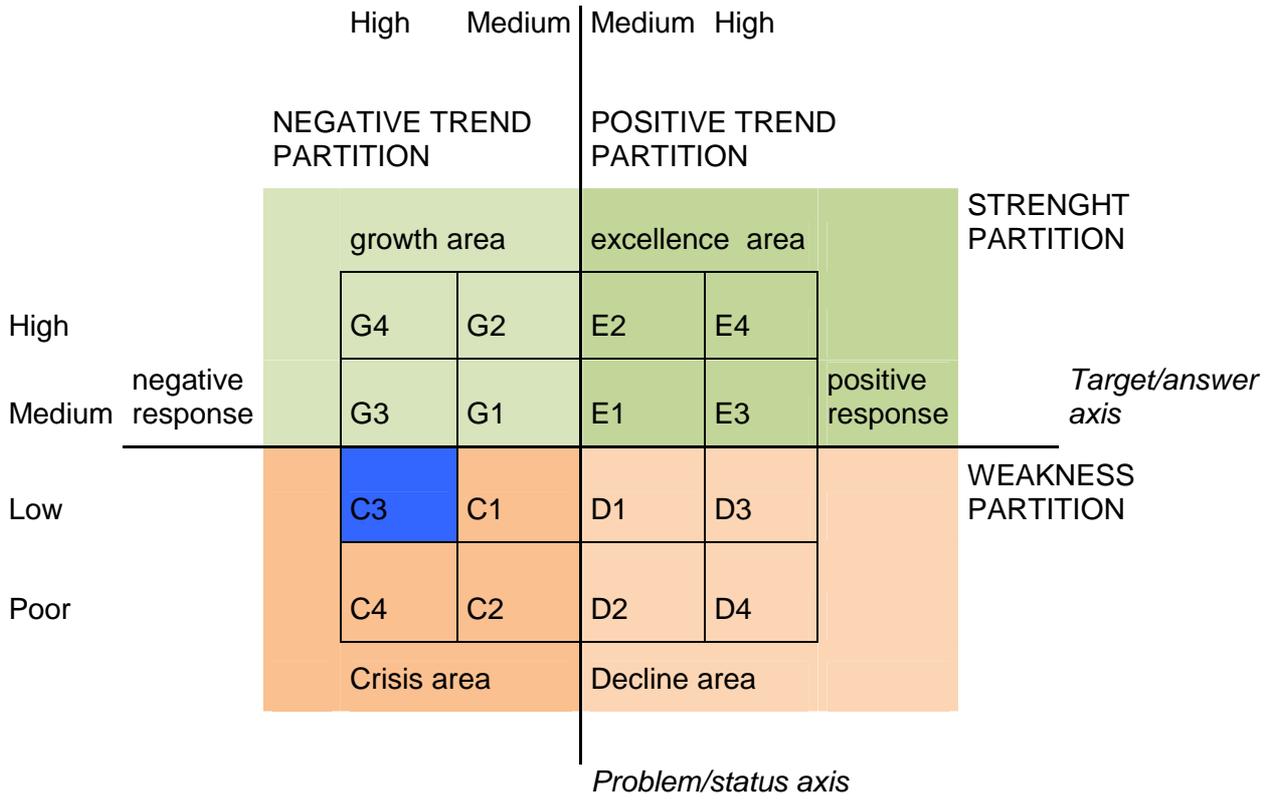
**Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Are there special incentives for forms of participation and subsidiary?

There are actions that involve capacity techniques for territorial management, program co-financed by the Structural Funds and the creation of environments favorable to the spread of law (2007-2013 programming - OP ERDF). In addition there are measures that can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the regional programming through actions and support tools to improve policies, planning, evaluation, regional and local levels, and to increase the governance of the territory (2007-2013 programming - OP FSE).

**Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 2**



# 11 Landscape Management

## THEMATIC AREA 11A

### LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The thematic area seeks information about good practices in the sustainable landscape management in which the regions are involved. This thematic area will be focusing on the implementation of European legislation relating to landscape management, the regional legislation framework, guidelines, standards on the landscape management.

#### KEY TOPIC 11a.1 Planning and policies framework

Institutional framework and responsibilities for landscape management in regional level.

##### **Problem / Status** (max 1500 characters)

Which European legislation and strategies have been implemented in relation to the landscape management in the regions? What are main problems affecting the landscape integrity and identity in your region?

The decree of the regional councilor for Culture and Environment No. 5820 of 8 May 2002 adheres to the principles enshrined in the European Landscape Convention, signed in Florence in October 2000. Thus, the region has reaffirm its intention promote and ensure the protection and enhancement of the landscape through the planning. The key issues affecting the integrity and identity of the Sicilian landscape concern the continued exploitation of the tourist areas most interesting from the point of view of landscape and natural growth of the building and the continuous use of land, mainly along the strip coastal, widespread interventions in the field of renewable energies (wind, solar) without careful planning, degradation of valuable artifacts typical of the rural landscape, and the abandonment of agricultural landscape.

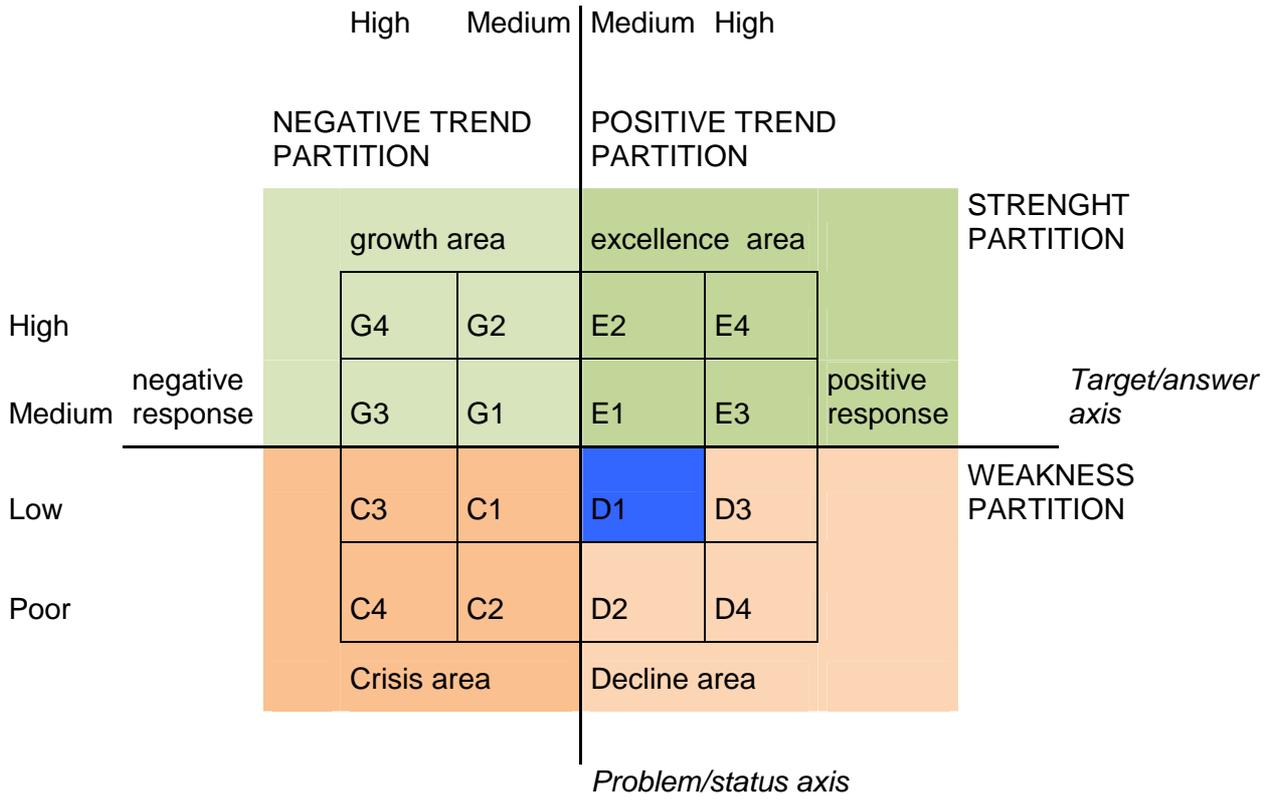
##### **Target / Answer** (max 1500 characters)

Which planning tools do you have to enhancement and protection of your regional landscape?

The policies of the 2007-2013 program (OP ERDF and RURAL REGIONAL PLAN) refer to the efficient use of natural resources and enhancement of cultural identity and landscape and environmental resources for the tourist attraction and development. In particular it want to improve the efficiency in waste management, supporting the creation of a productive sector in promoting recycling and environmental remediation and redevelopment projects of great impact, there is the intention of improving the ecological network Sicilian, encouraging promoting and preserving natural areas of high bio-diversity with a view to sustainable economic and social development and lasting. It also stresses the improvement of the environment and rural areas, through measures aimed at sustainable use of forest land, and the adoption of local development strategies. In Sicily, have been drafted "Guidelines for the Regional Landscape Territorial Plan", the Regional Cultural Heritage and Identity of Sicily, in 1999.

##### **Other**

**Relevance ( please indicate a score from 0 to 3): 3**



## 5) Conclusion

To identify the most critical aspects and elements of excellence, please return a list of aspects which are crucial

- 1 (1A.1) absence of effective policies for balancing population and the weaker;
- 2 (1A.2) aging processes present only in the inland areas and isolated;
- 3 (1A.3), the phenomenon of illegal immigrants should be monitored and managed with more effective policies and transparent;
- 4 (1b.1) phenomenon of gentrification strongly present in the main towns of the island;
- 5 (1c.1) the absence of political support for a balanced urban development;
- 6 (1d.1) unauthorized and building speculation contribute to a chaotic development of the territories;
- 7 (1d.2) lack of planning policies and planning processes;
- 8 (1e.1) of modernization of the main road and rail infrastructure;
- 9 (1f.1) strong imbalance between the allocation of services and infrastructure in coastal areas and inland areas;
- 10 (2a.1) demands skilled professionals; difficult availability of skilled workers;
- 11 (2b.1) migration of the population in possession of qualifications;
- 12 (3a.1) large occupation of land along the coasts and increasing abandonment of the common interior; lack of policies to limit the use of land;
- 13 (3b.1) the main points on which skills development centers are mainly tourism and food and wine;
- 14 (4<sup>o</sup>.1) main nodes, which are not effectively linked to the overall transport network, lack of rail capacity, centralized investments on multimodal platform of Catania;
- 15 (4b.1) prevalence of private transport on the public;
- 16 (5<sup>o</sup>.1) low level of innovation of SMEs and low-level technology Sicilian;
- 17 (5b.1) low use of ICT by households; incomplete broadband coverage in Sicily;
- 18 (6<sup>o</sup>.1) still favored the consumption of electricity compared to natural gas and other renewable sources;
- 19 (7<sup>o</sup>.1) the region is highly vulnerable in relation to geomorphological and hydrogeological risk; water bodies threatened by pollution and slope stability threatened by fire risk;
- 20 (7b.1) conservation of natural heritage is realized with the establishment of protected areas, lacks the culture of environmental management and proper use of natural resources;
- 21 (8<sup>o</sup>.1) too evident gap between the regions of north-central and southern Italy in connection with the offering tourist - cultural, poor or no management of cultural heritage is not adequately promoted and enhanced;
- 22 (8b.1) poorly protected and valued cultural resources;
- 23 (9<sup>o</sup>.1) Sicily offers employment for ages between 55 and 64 years primarily for the services sectors; frequent cases of illegal workers; young people and women are the population groups most at risk for the high rate of unemployment;
- 24 (9<sup>o</sup>.2) high mortality of enterprises, more and more companies will reduce agricultural growing areas of trade, finance and construction;
- 25 (9<sup>o</sup>.3) low presence of industry; predominantly SMEs; large companies are missing;
- 26 (10<sup>o</sup>.1) requires an improvement of management capacity within the Government, as the Sicilian Region has not been able to manage and spend the Structural Funds of the previous European programming;
- 27 (10<sup>o</sup>.2) Inefficient delivery of government services because of poor management;
- 28 (10b.1) poor coordination between the public and lack of transparency in the proceedings;
- 29 (11<sup>o</sup>.1) the most interesting landscape in the region are exploited for tourist purposes, and often threatened by the pressure building and renewable energy is not properly planned;