

For an Industrial Rebirth in Italy: the possible contribution of the relationships between Universities and Territories

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Italy is still one of the countries with the highest rate of industrial presence in Europe. The big crisis of 2008, however, had heavy effects on the reduction of the industrial tissue, especially, but not only, in the South. The effects of the crisis are wide and still present, also because they merge with the prosecuting decline of the employment capacity of the Italian big enterprise systems and with the difficulties of adaptation to international completion in various industrial districts. In sum, in Italy is strongly present the issue of the European Industrial Renaissance raised by some recent documents of the European Commission. Maybe, more modestly, the issue of an industrial rebirth, conceived as an embedding of renewed and new capacities of making industry and as a recovery of quality employment (in the industries and in the connected chains of production) of the national territories. In this presentation we will present a viewpoint that looks at the contributions that might come to such a rebirth from positive and systemic relationships between universities and territories: for the professional development of innovation platforms on a metropolitan, regional and national scale, but first and foremost for the reproduction of fundamental cultural and entrepreneurial attitudes and the reconstruction of feelings of belonging to the local based on trust on private and collective productive investments open to the global challenges.