

The data used in this analysis come from the Census of Industries and Services developed by ISTAT in 2011. These data provide a very detailed information at municipality scale on the characteristic of firms and employments that could be sufficient to characterize municipalities in terms of productive structure.

The Census data are available at the municipal level for 352 sectors ATECO 2007 (at different levels of aggregation for Sections, Divisions, Groups), by size class (15 classes), by type of legal form (12 types) and other features. For our purposes we have used data on total employees for municipality for each sector ATECO 2007 (with a selection of 120 areas in the levels of aggregation among the three available).

The analysis is conducted on seven Italian regions Campania, Emilia Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Apulia, Sardinia and Veneto because they are the regions that have the most peculiar characteristics throughout the country in terms of length of coastal territory, number of coastal municipalities and ratio between coastal areas and hinterland areas.

This work provides a complete and updated map on the characteristics of the coastal municipalities and economic areas they belong. It also provides a consistent and clear indication on the human pressure and the possible environmental impact on the coastal areas of the regions object of study.

In this way this paper might be considered as an useful tool for implementing policies that reduce the environmental impact and the exploitation of areas largely populated which turn out to be the coastal areas.

2. THE REGIONS UNDER ANALYSIS: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN COASTAL AND NON-COASTAL MUNICIPALITIES

The main population data are available in Table 2 and are based on the data of the Census of population and housing of 2011 carried out by ISTAT.

Campania is made up of 551 municipalities, 60 of which are classified coastal. These cover a small part of the entire region, that is 13% corresponding to an area of 1748 km². However, in terms of population there lies more than 38% of the population (2,153,646). Then, Campania is characterized by a high population density, 421.83 / km², which increases to 1214.32 inhabitants / km² if only data relating to coastal municipalities are taken into account. Emilia Romagna consists of 348 municipalities but only 14 are classified as coastal. These cover a small part of the entire region, that is the 7% of entire territory corresponding to an area of 1523 km². In terms of population no more than 12% of the entire population (506,031) lies in those municipalities. Nevertheless, the Emilia-Romagna region is characterized by a high population density in the coastal municipalities, 332.21 inhabitants / km².

Friuli-Venezia Giulia has 218 municipalities, 9 of which are classified as coastal. In terms of area they cover only 6% of the entire land of the region (434.30 km²) but there reside a population of 24% of the total (288,490). Note that Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in contrast to the other two regions that make up the area of the northern Adriatic (Emilia Romagna and Veneto) is