

ABSTRACT_ Implementation of the National Irrigation Plan for Southern Italy

The audit assessed the Implementation of the National Irrigation Plan for Southern Italy (2005-2016).

It stressed that the progressive reduction of the financial resources and the issue of ensuing regulations from the Interministerial Economic Planning Committee, relating to the works that had originally been planned, were not in line with the objectives set out by the law, which supposedly was meant to tackle a vast-scale national emergency; moreover, the Plan suffered from lack of an adequate strategic outlook

The most problematic issues identified in the audit activity concerned the fragmentation of competences on one hand (while the central government directly operates for Central and Northern Italy area, a specific body, Agensud, is responsible for the Southern area of the country) and the lack of a unified vision of objectives on the other.

A joint programming could have been highly valuable in reducing fragmentation of the planning effort, leading as it would to a pooling of a critical mass of skills, knowledges, and financial resources.

Eventually, on the contrary, the implementation of the National Irrigation Plan has been carried out with several and substantial differences concerning the procedures and time frames between the Centre- North and the South of the country.

The Corte dei conti recommended to guarantee the uniformity of the procedures adopted, to ensure transparency and singleness of the levels of government involved, with a view to simplifying the administrative and financial management of the procedures; to strengthen controls over the implementation of the Plan by increasing the number of on-the-spot checks and establishing objective criteria for assessing the effectiveness and quality.