

**SECOND TAORMINA/ MESSINA CONFERENCE  
(ORGANIZED BY TAOBUK FESTIVAL AND VISION)**

**LA METAMORFOSI DI EUROPA<sup>1</sup>**



**EUROPE IN A POST PANDEMIC WORLD – ONE YEAR ONWARDS  
LOOKING FOR THE IDEAS TO CONTINUE THE DEBATE ON THE  
FUTURE OF EUROPE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**

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<sup>1</sup> Europa is the mythological Phoenician princess whose seduction from JOVIS gave birth to the kingdom of CRETE and to the idea of the WEST as civilization.

## **THE OTHER NEXT GENERATION EU AND...REFORMING REGIONAL COHESION POLICIES**

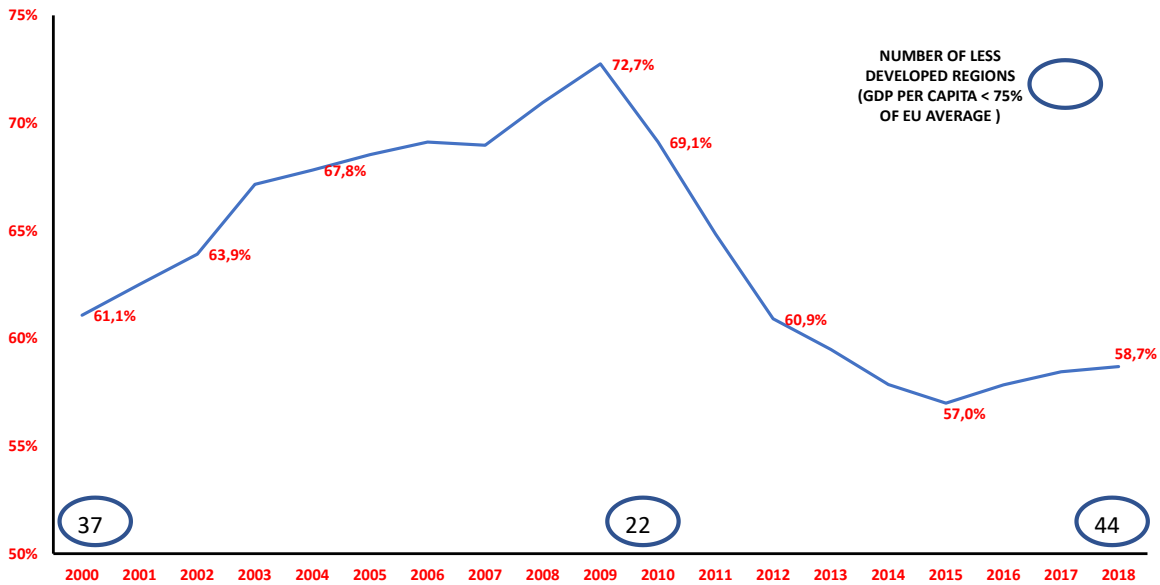
Much of the debate on the response of the Union to the Pandemic crisis has been absorbed by the implications of the new 750 billion EURO package called Next Generation EU. However, NGEU is only a part of a much larger multiannual financial framework whose total size is of 1,850 billion EURO to be spent in 2021 – 2027 programming period (which is almost twice the budget of 959 billion EURO that were made available to the Commission for the previous 2014 – 2020 period). In fact, almost one third of the budget of the Commission is dedicated to Cohesion Policies to be spent mostly in less developed Regions (like the ones of South Italy including Sicily) with the objective to reduce important gaps in growth and employment across the EU's territory.

However, statistical evidence suggests that in recent years the inequalities amongst regions have reverted their downward trend and they are growing<sup>2</sup> again.

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<sup>2</sup> As in a recent Vision paper mentioned by THE ECONOMIST <https://www.thinktank.vision/en/media-en/articles/you-can-keep-your-money>

## INCOME PER HABITANT AS A % OF EU AVERAGE OF THE LESS DEVELOPED EU REGIONS (EU 15)



SOURCE: VISION & VALUE ON EUROSTAT DATA

Which are the ideas to increase the capability of cohesion policies to reach their objective? Is the paradigm of smart specialization (the idea that each Region develop distinctive competitive advantage on the basis of its own characteristics) working? Could regional policies adopt the NGEU's philosophy to only pay member states when expected results are achieved?