

New vulnerabilities and new administrative *governance* strategies

Climate change, Sars-Covid-19 pandemic and finally the global consequences of the war in Ukraine have, as is well known, determined an unprecedented “aggression” on the political, economic and social order of the States forcing many Governments to take equally unprecedented “defense” measures. Unlike other decision-making processes that traditionally connoted the democratic life of a country, however, the repercussions in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of public policies cannot be “abstractly” tested and, so to speak, in the “vitro” of consolidated models: if anything, they always need to be “pratically” tested in the heart of the experience. The task of defining the “aims” of public intervention as well as the contextual means to achieve them within a unitary framework – often mediating between conflicting and opposing social demands – still remains an integral (if not primary and salient) part of every political-administrative management.

The public measures implemented have inevitably been dictated by a not short, so to speak, “acute”/“extraordinary” phase and have thus opened a more or less wide range of effects on citizenship: some effects more direct, foreseen, desired and desirable; others effects, unfortunately, indirect, unforeseen and, above all, absolutely unwanted and undesirable (including an uncontrolled and hateful increase in the rate of inequality in the access to fundamental rights, especially among weaker and severely exposed sections of the population).

In a situation of first “normalization”/“ordinariness” – like the present one – the program proposes an investigation divided into three logically-chronologically distinct (yet mutually interfering) phases: respectively, a preliminary recognition, a consequent strategic proposal and a final disclosure.

In the first place, the goal is an all-out recognition of the new economic and social vulnerabilities (already emerged, or still in the process of emerging, for example in terms of health protection and prevention, freedom of domicile and employment) as well as of traditionally already pre-existing and endemic vulnerabilities: which were further aggravated precisely in the light of the aforementioned and much compromised national and international framework (think, without claiming to be exhaustive, of the traditional gap that still dramatically afflicts women’s condition in the public and private life of the country, the situation of the sick in health facilities, of the elderly in retirement and private homes, of able and disabled children, of those who survive below the poverty line, etc.).

In line with the chosen measure (no. 3. “PA Doctorates”) and after reconstructing the legal domestic (constitutional and sub-constitutional) and supranational framework of reference, the primary objective of this research program will be to develop a strategy that involves public administrations at every territorial level (especially, but not limited to, regional and infraregional) and aimed – on grounds of merit – at integrated development and promotion of greater social inclusion of the most disadvantaged and suffering categories.

On the other hand, the “degree” of protection of the value of autonomy/freedom that public intervention must guarantee is very different (and could only be) depending on the context conditions: a more pervasive protection is in fact required in an “ordinary” situation; a much less stringent protection is instead required every time the public intervention necessarily has to deal – and, therefore, balance itself – with equally deserving values of constitutional significance such as, above all, the solidarity/responsibility one (introduced by art. 2 of the Constitution both in its individual and collective dimension).

At this stage, the training and research path that the PhD student will have to carry out in Italy and abroad (especially in Spain) at the same time will therefore be fundamental: the goal will be to highlight similarities and differences between the Italian and Spanish approaches to social inequality and inclusion (as well as to identify a minimum common denominator between national and foreign intervention). The research proposal then aims at a critical rethinking of the traditional decision-making models of administrative governance, from the point of view of methodology: this original approach will have to examine the different fields of knowledge not in an isolated and asphyxiated way but in their constant mutual dialogue and fertilization under the sign of the widest multidisciplinary.

Thirdly and lastly, this project will have to end with the decisive activity of sharing and disseminating the results achieved: this evidently to facilitate the publicity of the approaches of the comparative survey carried out that is more inclusive and transparent.