



# **CENSIS Report and Italian Society**

*Villa Vigoni 17 March 2008*

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# A long story in Italian society

- Censis Research Institute 1964 – 2008
- Censis Foundation 1973 – 2008
- More than 1,000 projects
- Hundreds of clients, public and private
- Acknowledgement of quality and tradition

# Principal areas of research

- *Education*: school, university, life-long learning, training evaluation.
- *Labour market* and organisation, underground economy, professions, representative bodies and associations.
- *Welfare* policies, including pensions and social policy, *Healthcare* system and lifestyles.
- *Local development* and economic processes, economic districts, entrepreneurial strategies.

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- *The territory, environment, territorial policies, real estate and local institutions.*
  - *Cultural policies and models, with special reference to the family, children, young people, the elderly, women and migrants, Mass media and communication processes.*
  - *Information and communication technologies, innovation processes and e-government.*
  - *Security, social impact of legal policies, deviance, unauthorised migrants flows, trafficking of human beings.*

# Main Issues addressed

- Living conditions and demand
- Processes and results of policy-making
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Management of public policies
- Role of institutional bodies, enterprises, associations and families

# Censis annual Report on the Social Situation of the Country (1966 – 2008)

- To summarise the year's researches
- To explore new trends
- To adopt an interdisciplinary approach .....
- .....and a cross-sector approach
- To overcome the weakness of existing data
- To communicate and gain trust
- To produce evaluations and recommendations

# A traditional Structure

- General Considerations
- The year's phenomena
- 8 sectoral Chapters (same as above)
  
- **Each sectoral Chapter:**
  - \* Themes of the year
  - \* Phenomena of the year
  - \* Statistical indicators

# 2004-2005 Censis Reports Flat batteries and “concave curvature”

- Growth mechanisms in slow motion (output, culture, expectations)
- Little accumulation (social capital, infrastructures, training)
- “Glocal” bases and localisms for quality of life

“Spaghettizzatevi!” (Go the Italian way, FAZ)



# 2006 CENSIS Report

A “small silent boom”

Driven by a minority

But... a long way from  
political choices  
(rhetorical involution)

# 2007 Censis Report Boom continues, but society suffers

- Niche economy, high market segments, relocalization of production
- Southern Italy remains outside
- Social differences become bigger
- Economic vulnerability of families grows
- Low political participation

- The majority remains vulnerable, left to its own devices, resigned more than nasty, its underlying apathy today being perhaps the most clearly defined feature of our society.
- Development cannot percolate through society, both because it does not turn into a social process and because society seems to settle into a widespread apathy that is an anthropology without a past or future. This reality is ambiguous, a fuzzy sociological and political profile, flat and de-totalized, that does not lend itself to interpretation.

- If this interpretation holds, innovative cultural offerings should support individual adventure and promote an increase in relational exchanges. This supply can only come from new active minorities:
  - scientific researchers and technical innovators, orienting themselves towards humanity's adventure and biological potentials
  - those who, following today's ambitious industrial minority, experience a sense of personal adventure in international relations (young people studying or working abroad, professionals ready to explore new markets, of all sorts of tourism workers, etc.)

- those who opted to live in local communities with high living standards
- those capable of forming relationships with immigrants as a means of increasing integration and social cohesion
- those who persist in believing their religious experience can respect both personhood and the complexity of development on various levels
- those who have chosen to belong to collective structures (groups, movements, associations, unions) as a way of searching for meaning and social cohesion.

# An “electronic” and “Bourbonist” country

**Innovation** in terms of consumption,  
quality of life, aggregation,  
internationalisation

**Traditionalism** in terms of productive  
localism, the family, red tape, conflict  
within the institutions

# A dense society and local welfare

- ✓ “Risk” equals “danger”
- ✓ Local social cohesion
- ✓ Non-economic factors of development
- ✓ Corporate social responsibility

# Moving on with social demand

**Generating  
confidence**

**The social  
sphere, a  
bonding  
agent and  
springboard**

**Technical-  
political  
function**