

Preface

The crisis of the public debt and the banking one that have shaken our world over the last decade have made us particularly sensitive to Ratings. In Italy there have been moments of spasmodic, and rightly worried, expectation on the eve of the issuance of judgments on our financial reliability by the “big”, like Moody’s or Standard&Poor’s. We were right to be worried, although many times the Rating failed to anticipate enormous problems at the country or enterprise level. But we should be even more interested in a Rating concerning our Public Administrations, their efficiency and transparency, the spending capacity and the one of providing services, the sustainability of corporate activity and the relations with citizens.

As the dinosaur of the Public Administrations has been upset by cuts and reduction of resources, it has been invested in a mountain of conferences and proposals for reform and modernisation. In recent years the debate has been centered on spending review and digital transformation, with the result that the reduction in public spending remains a mirage and digitalisation is laboriously progressing.

This Report is merciless in reminding us that in the Europe of 28 we cover the twenty fifth position, not even remotely competitive with the big countries of the Union. The Public Administrations, according to the Report, is at the limit of “organizational bankruptcy”. It does not have a large amount of employees, but the professional figures are old and inadequate. The amount of legislative and normative production suffocates its linear progress, the transparency launched with important laws has not turned into a positive leverage with citizens.

But to really change, there is the need to know clearly, to measure our Administrations with an effective evaluation model. The Foun-

dations provides, in this Report, the Rating of our Regions based on an evaluation grid on six macro areas: budget, governance, personnel management, services and relations with citizens, contracts and relationships with suppliers, environmental impact.

The result is an analysis and a complete report card of our Regions that unfortunately gives us back what we had already partly sensed: that there are two Italys, that the one in the North is much different in results from the South. But with a few surprises: for instance that, next to Lombardy, the top of the ranking is taken up by Tuscany. And that also in the South there are very different situations.

It is worthwhile to take a close look at the rankings. And especially they should be studied by who is in charge of the reforms destined to change the face of our Public Administrations. So that the time of slogans and improvisation can finally come to an end.

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