

Urban green areas Year 2011

In 2011, urban green areas were 2.7% of the territory of provincial capitals (more than 550 million of m²). 14.8% of the municipal area is included in protected natural areas while utilized agricultural areas (Uaa) represent 45.5% of the territory.

The average availability of urban green areas is 30.3 m² for each resident: the lowest values are found in the Centre area (23 m² per inhabitant) and in North-west one (24.3 m²). In the North-east area the average value is at least twice that of the Central and North-west ones (45.4 m² per inhabitant) and also in the southern part of the Country the value is comparatively high (37.1 m² among the cities of the South and 26, 7 m² in the Islands).

There are 43 provincial capitals with a "green profile" defined by the following characteristics: consistent allocation of urban green areas (19 cities) and in addition to this, above-average incidences of protected natural areas (11 cities), or areas designated for agricultural use (additional 11 cities), while only two cities have higher than average values for all three types of green areas.

In about 15% of the capitals the availability of urban green areas is equal to or greater than 50 m² per inhabitant, while in 17.7% it does not meet the threshold of 9 m² per capita.

About one-fifth of the cities has above average values both for density and for availability of urban green areas: among these Sondrio, Trento, Potenza and Matera. Low values of both indicators, characterize half of the capitals (almost 70% among those located in the South of the Country).

"Historic green areas" and "Parks, villas and gardens of uncommon beauty" (ie, the protected green areas from the Code of Cultural Heritage) represent about one-third of urban green areas; "verde attrezzato" (areas used for small neighborhood parks and gardens with children's playgrounds, equipped with paths, benches etc.) 15.9%; "aree di arredo urbano" (unpaved areas created for aesthetic or functional use, such as bike lanes, roundabouts, street trees, flower beds.) 9.4%; "Outdoor sports areas" 3.8%; "School gardens" 3.4%; areas of "Urban forest" 2.4%.

"Orti urbani" (urban gardens: small green areas owned by the municipality to be used for horticultural products for domestic use and leisure gardening) are a particular type of green that is spreading in cities (to be found in 44 out of 116 cities). In 58 municipalities, urban green areas include "Botanical gardens".

Tools for the planning and management of urban green are scarcely used by local administrations less than a fifth of the municipalities approved a “Piano del verde” (Plan for green areas) and 45,7% adopted a “Regolamento del verde” (Green areas regulation). Census of green areas has been carried out in 70.7% of cities; among the largest cities only Milano, Venezia, Bologna and Palermo have adopted all these instruments of green areas management.

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