

Cover Page

The City

Photo Impressions

Social Key Figures

Economic Key Figures

Physical Key Figures

The Target Area

Photo Impressions

Strengths &
Opportunities

Weaknesses and
Deficits

Previous Strategies

Remaining Problems

Local Support Group

The City of Siracusa

Distretto socio sanitario



Cover Page

The City

Photo Impressions

Social Key Figures

Economic Key Figures

Physical Key Figures

The Target Area

Photo Impressions

Strengths &
Opportunities

Weaknesses and
Deficits

Previous Strategies

Remaining Problems

Local Support Group

Siracusa: Some photographic impressions



Cover Page

The City

Photo Impressions

Social Key Figures

Economic Key Figures

Physical Key Figures

The Target Area

Photo Impressions

Strengths &
Opportunities

Weaknesses and
Deficits

Previous Strategies

Remaining Problems

Local Support Group

Siracusa: Social Key Figures

- One of the most ancient cities in the Mediterranean region (inclusion in the World Heritage List UNESCO)
- Population: 130.000 inhabitants
- Classical past, Arabic influences, Baroque monuments
- The oldest part of Siracusa is Ortigia with its typical lanes and buildings
- The demographic make up of the area is very young, with individuals under the age of 15 years representing 17.3% of the total population, while the elderly represent almost 15.1% - among the lowest in the Italian peninsula.
- 14,6% of unemployment on 389.330 inhabitants in the province (2007). About 18% in Siracusa.
- 2584 foreign citizen, representing the 2,09% of the population

[Cover Page](#)[The City](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Social Key Figures](#)[Economic Key Figures](#)[Physical Key Figures](#)[The Target Area](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Strengths &
Opportunities](#)[Weaknesses and
Deficits](#)[Previous Strategies](#)[Remaining Problems](#)[Local Support Group](#)

Siracusa: Economic Key Figures

- Agriculture and heavy industry are the leading activities of the Siracusan economy. More widespread entrepreneurial initiatives, however, are found in the agricultural sector which represents 29% of the total economy.
- Unfortunately, one of the biggest petrochemical sites in Europe is located in the industrial areas of Siracusa, Melilli, Priolo and Augusta, and provides more than 80% of employment in the Province.
- The role of artisans in the local economy is marginal, either because of the limited income generated by such craft activities, and/or because of the unwillingness of businesses to invest in these areas.
- The sectors in which an expansion of the workforce is needed to create higher employment levels in a short space of time are: traditional crafts, tourism and the (advanced) tertiary sector.



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Cover Page

The City

Photo Impressions

Social Key Figures

Economic Key Figures

Physical Key Figures

The Target Area

Photo Impressions

Strengths & Opportunities

Weaknesses and Deficits

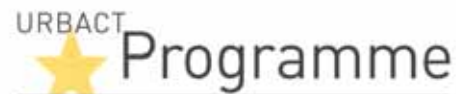
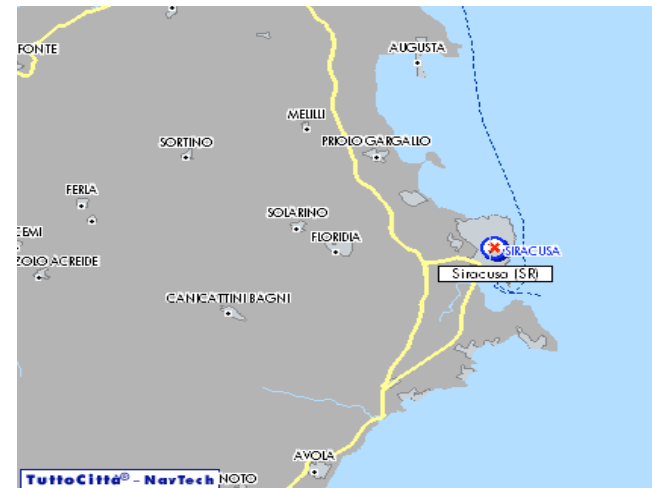
Previous Strategies

Remaining Problems

Local Support Group

Siracusa: Physical Key Figures

Siracusa is a historic city in southern Italy, the capital of the province of Syracuse. The city is noted for its rich Greek history, culture, amphitheatres, architecture and association to Archimedes, playing an important role in ancient times as one of the top powers of the Mediterranean world; it is over 2,700 years old. Syracuse is located in the south-east corner of the island of Sicily, right by the Gulf of Syracuse next to the Ionian Sea.



Siracusa: Physical Key Figures

- Syracuse today has about 130,000 inhabitants and numerous attractions for the visitor interested in historical sites (such as the Ear of Dionysius). A process of recovering and restoring the historical centre has been ongoing since the 1990s.
- There is a railway connecting the city to Catania (in the north and Cassibile to the south)
- The most expansion of the city in terms of population and economic growth has been in the 90'



- In the modern day, the city is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site along with the Necropolis of Pantalica.

Cover Page

The City

Photo Impressions

Social Key Figures

Economic Key Figures

Physical Key Figures

The Target Area

Photo Impressions

Strengths &
Opportunities

Weaknesses and
Deficits

Previous Strategies

Remaining Problems

Local Support Group

The Target Area: Some photographic impressions



[Cover Page](#)[The City](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Social Key Figures](#)[Economic Key Figures](#)[Physical Key Figures](#)[The Target Area](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Strengths &
Opportunities](#)[Weaknesses and
Deficits](#)[Previous Strategies](#)[Remaining Problems](#)[Local Support Group](#)

~~The Target Area: Strengths and Opportunities~~

Strengths:

- Provision of good practice and transferability of knowledge in sustainable urban development thanks to the Intermunicipal Forums
- There is a political will in the governments of the towns participating in new network (national and international)
- Technical support and coordination by settore politiche sociali
- Activities related to sustainable urban development such as Agenda 21
- Ascription to the Barcelona Process

Opportunities :

- Cultural change in the way the young unemployed approach the job market
- Cooperation among municipalities in the ReGov network with other URBACT partners



[Cover Page](#)[The City](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Social Key Figures](#)[Economic Key Figures](#)[Physical Key Figures](#)[The Target Area](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Strengths &
Opportunities](#)[Weaknesses and
Deficits](#)[Previous Strategies](#)[Remaining Problems](#)[Local Support Group](#)

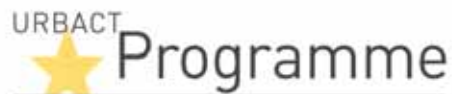
~~The Target Area: Weaknesses and deficits~~

Weaknesses :

- Lack of “social inclusion culture” and consideration of “rights” as “favours”
- Lack of self-organisation of the citizen
- Lack of economic resources
- Absence of the integrated concept in Sustainable Urban Development

Threats :

- No fulfilment of concrete actions, but only knowledge, forums, experiences and dialogues
- Loss of interest when the municipality carries out a project without funding for urban works and infrastructures



[Cover Page](#)[The City](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Social Key Figures](#)[Economic Key Figures](#)[Physical Key Figures](#)[The Target Area](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Strengths &
Opportunities](#)[Weaknesses and
Deficits](#)[Previous Strategies](#)[Remaining Problems](#)[Local Support Group](#)

The Target Area: Previous Strategies

- Search for active labour market policies which link economic and **social** objectives of welfare and work;
- extension of mixed market models of welfare involving new relationships between public, private and voluntary sectors;
- educational project for children;
- building of 7 schools for children.

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- promotion of closer collaboration and joint working between different agencies and actors (from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors) and between different levels of government;
- the need for new relationships between local, national and European action, which can enhance the contribution of local authorities and local initiatives while avoiding the dangers of an over-localisation of policy Responses.



Cover Page

The City

Photo Impressions

Social Key Figures

Economic Key Figures

Physical Key Figures

The Target Area

Photo Impressions

Strengths &
OpportunitiesWeaknesses and
Deficits

Previous Strategies

Remaining Problems

Local Support Group

The Target Area: Remaining Problems

The Province of Siracusa is marked out by a high unemployment level and by a reluctance to start up new entrepreneurial activities.

In the area of Grotta Santa, Akradina, S.Lucia there are still the following problems: micro-criminality, low /no education, drugs, bullism and small houses for big families.

The only area which is living a positive transformation is Ortigia, due to the baroch city centre (rebuilt and visited by many tourists every day)

At the moment the development of new businesses is very difficult, despite manifold attempts to set up a support network to aid economic growth. An essential step is needed to bring about a cultural change in the way the young unemployed approach the job market.

[Cover Page](#)[The City](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Social Key Figures](#)[Economic Key Figures](#)[Physical Key Figures](#)[The Target Area](#)[Photo Impressions](#)[Strengths &
Opportunities](#)[Weaknesses and
Deficits](#)[Previous Strategies](#)[Remaining Problems](#)[Local Support Group](#)

The Target Area: Local Support Group

National association of migrant families,

AUSL n. 8,

The Prefecture,

Social assistants,

U.S.S.M. of juvenile Justice;

Volunteers associations;

Family associations.

Moreover, the Regional Province's Department for Economic Development (DFED) in Siracusa intends to undertake initiatives to stimulate job creation in the territory.

The DFED's overall plan will take into consideration the absence of services in the Province specifically aimed at promoting training and employment opportunities for young people and the creation of businesses; moreover, the plan will also redress the lack of motivation and successful role models among young entrepreneurs.



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