

# The Regions

Italy was deemed to be a “regional State”. It is not a unitary State like France, nor is it a Federal State, like the United States or Germany. It was something in the middle, not unlike Spain.

The Italian regional system has undergone a complete upheaval with the Constitutional law no. 1/99 (about the Regional Statuto and about the regional electoral system) and then, even more deeply, with the Constitutional law no. 3/2001 (about the legislative, administrative and tax power of the Regions)

## Part 2, title V of the Constitution

There are twenty Regions, of which five are special and fifteen are regular. All of them have a regional Council, elected by the people, a regional government (called the Giunta) and a regional President who, following constitutional law no. 1/99, is directly elected by the people.

# The Statuto

The regular Regions have their own Statuto (a frame of government for the Region), approved by the national Parliament but proposed by the regional Assembly, which regulates its internal organization. Constitutional law no. 1/99 has changed art. 123 of the Constitution such that the Statuto must now be approved only by the regional Council, and the national Government may challenge it before the Constitutional Court within thirty days of its approval

# Article 117 of the Constitution

Article 117 listed the seventeen different fields in which regular Regions had legislative authority; these were, however, always “within the limits of fundamental principles”, set forth in national laws. Constitutional law no. 3/01 has now changed art. 117, introducing the rule of residual power to the Regions: it now lists the seventeen fields in which the State has exclusive legislative authority and another list of eighteen fields in which the State and Regions have concurrent authority. Any other field is subject to exclusive legislative power of Regions

# Regional laws

Constitutional law no. 3/11 has now changed the procedure for approval of regional laws, eliminating any prior control by the National Government: they are now voted by the Regional Council and enter into force after publication on the Regional Bulletin