**Characteristics of selected indicators**

- measurability
- visibility
- importance in public debate
- relevance for public actions

**Conditions to set binding targets**

- identification of the chain of responsibilities to attain the objective
- cooperation with regional decision-makers

**Tools to support the delivery of results**

- Participated decision-making to gather information on how to improve local public services from different levels of Government
- Incentive scheme for visibility and political commitment
- Information on progress available during implementation
- Transparency of the mechanism
- Engagement of citizens

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Measurable objectives for essential services

New challenges for regional development policy 2007-2013
Southern Regions in Italy show persistent disparities with Northern Regions both in terms of economic growth and in the availability of services to citizens.

Italian regional development policy 2007-2013 includes explicit targets on the provision and quality of essential services. Targets are set at minimum standards equal for all Southern Regions.

Eleven indicators measure the provision and quality of services in:
- education
- child and elderly care
- water service
- urban waste management

3 billion euros are assigned to eight Southern Regions if quantified targets are met in 2013. A share of the funds is assigned in 2009 on the basis of the improvements from current situation.

Targets are ambitious but achievable.

Measurable objectives for essential services

**Education**

- Improve students' competence, reduce dropouts and broaden population's learning opportunities
- **How?**
  - Reducing the early school leavers from today's 26% to 10%
  - Reducing the percentage of students with poor competency in reading from today's 35% to 20%
  - Reducing the percentage of students with poor competency in mathematics from today's 48% to 21%

**Child and elderly care**

- Increase the availability of child and elderly care to favour women’s participation in the labour market
- **How?**
  - Increasing the percentage of municipalities with child-care from today's 21% to 35%
  - Increasing the percentage of children in child care from today's 4% to 12%
  - Increasing the share of elderly beneficiary of home assistance from today's 1.6% to 3.5%

**Urban waste management**

- Protect and improve the quality of the environment, in relation to urban waste management
- **How?**
  - Reducing the amount of urban waste landfilled from today's 395 kg per head to 230 kg per head
  - Increasing the percentage of recycled urban waste from today's 9% to 40%
  - Increasing the percentage of composted waste from today's 3% to 20%

**Water service**

- Protect and improve the quality of the environment, in relation to integrated water service
- **How?**
  - Increasing the percentage of water distributed from today's 63% to 75%
  - Increasing the population served by waste water treatment plants from today's 57% to 70%