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Francesco Mantino is senior researcher at the Council for Research in Agricultural and Agricultural Economics-Centre for Policies and Bio-economy (CREA-PB). He has worked on research projects in the broad field of rural and regional development: structural changes, policy analysis, rural development strategies at local level, development of lagging regions and peripheral/mountain areas, evaluation of EU programmes, etc.

He has carried out research projects funded by several international organisations including the European Commission (funded by 7th ERFP, Horizon 2020, and ESPON programmes), OCDE, FAO and IFAD. At international level, he actively participated to several project missions in European Union countries and also extra EU (Armenia, Israel, rural policies in Latin American countries). At national level he has led the INEA's work on the reform of the EU Rural Development Policy and its implementation in Italy during four programming periods (1994-99, 2000-2006, 2007-2013 and finally 2014-20).

He was responsible of the team of the Italian Networks for Leader II and Leader+. He has worked as consultant of a broad range of Italian institutions: the Ministries for Agricultural and Forestry Policies, Budget and Economic Planning, Department of Tourism, and finally many Regional Authorities.

He is currently editor of the journal Bio-Based and Applied Economics and member of the Steering Committee of Eurochoices and author of many scientific publications, including six books as editor.