



TOWARDS THE LISBON TARGET



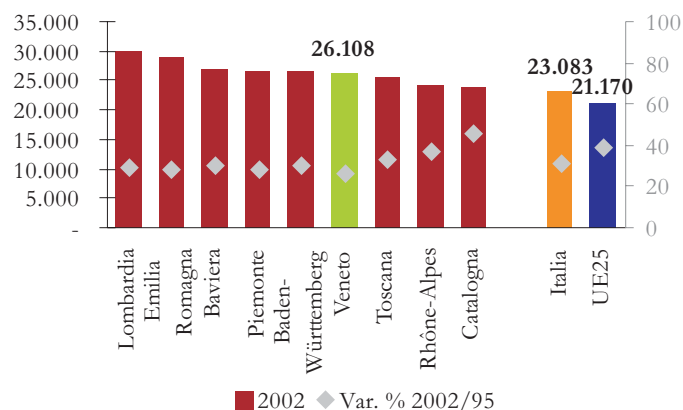
In defining priorities for a European Union that could compete with the United States and other world leaders, European political leaders who gathered at the Lisbon summit in March 2000 established the strategic objective of becoming "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion". This great prospect was translated into concrete objectives and deadlines to reach completion approximately within ten years. The need to adopt a global strategy of intervention with coordinated and integrated actions in the economic and social sectors was recognised; pointing out that for a sustainable economy it is essential to modernise the European social model by investing in people and combating social exclusion. It is fundamental to aim at boosting the value of young people, an increasingly rare resource, who are currently having difficulties integrating into the society they inhabit and planning their future, but it is also important to aim at the growth of older people, who already have great potential and abilities; to promote equal opportunities between genders in various sectors, particularly

promoting women's entry into the labour market, which is greatly facilitated if supported by an adequate family support structure.

We have been regularly monitoring these objectives, which are measured and updated annually by the European Council, since 2000. In this edition of *Statistiche Flash* we present some significant calculations and a summary of the progress made in achieving these objectives in Italy, the European Union, the Veneto and in eight other Italian and European regions: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Rhône-Alpes, Catalonia, Lombardia, Piemonte, Emilia Romagna and Toscana. This report derives from an in-depth analysis, contained in the 2006 Statistical Report to be published shortly, in which a benchmarking study we carried out in 2003 was updated in the event of the drawing up of the regional development programme "The Veneto at the beginning of the new millennium - European benchmarking". This study was produced in order to continue creating parameters for assessing the situation in the Veneto in comparison with other Italian and European regions.

Wealth produced

GDP per capita per region, values in euro (at current prices) and % variation on 1995, (PPP)* - Year 2002



All the regions compared have developed economies with high incomes and generally quite similar social dynamics. Italy is traditionally compared with Germany, France and Spain. The regions selected for the present statistical comparison are the richest regions of those countries and the regions with which the Veneto has already collaborated in various ways. Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg account for 17.4% and 14.8% respectively of Germany's national GDP, Catalonia is the most important Spanish region with an 18.3% share of the national GDP, Rhône-Alpes accounts for 9.5% of France's total GDP. Within Italy, the regions in the north with the highest ratio of regional GDP to national GDP were selected: Lombardia, 20.6%, which is the only region outperforming the Veneto with 9%, followed by Emilia Romagna, 8.8%, Piemonte, 8.5% and Toscana, 6.7%.

GDP per capita in European regions - Year 2002
Values in euro

