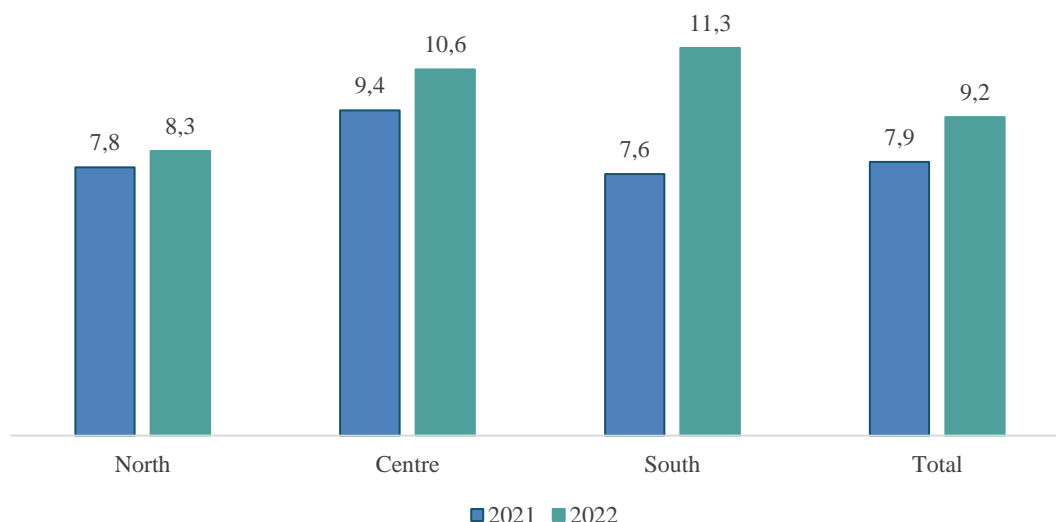


The analysis of expenses allocated to IT systems and statistical programming recorded within the budgets of Local Authorities<sup>1</sup> provides a picture of a country that seems to have become aware of the importance of digitalisation for the functioning of the administrative machine.

Indeed, on average, Italian Municipalities allocated just under 8 euros per citizen in 2021 for the Programme under consideration, while this amount exceeded 9 euros per citizen in 2022.

The increase in per capita expenditure for this function, albeit with varying intensity, is common to all territorial aggregates: during the two-year period under review, in the North it increased from 7.8 euros to 8.3 euros per citizen (+6.1%), in the Centre from 9.4 euros to 10.6 euros per citizen (+12.6%), and in the Municipalities of the South from 7.6 euros to 11.3 euros, with a double-digit relative increase, close to 50% (see the following figure).

**Average per capita expenditure for digitalisation (euros)**



\* Value not available for 3.238 Municipalities

Source: Administrative Capacity Index – Data reprocessing on OpenBDAP (2021) and ISTAT (31.12.2021) data

\*\* Value not available for 2.986 Municipalities

Source: Administrative Capacity Index – Data reprocessing on OpenBDAP (2022) and ISTAT (31.12.2022) data

<sup>1</sup> The indicator, sourced from the Public Administration Database, refers to the data reported in the financial statement for the fiscal year of interest, specifically the total current expenditure related to Program 08 Statistics and Information Systems, which is included within Mission 01 Institutional, General, and Management Services (commitments).

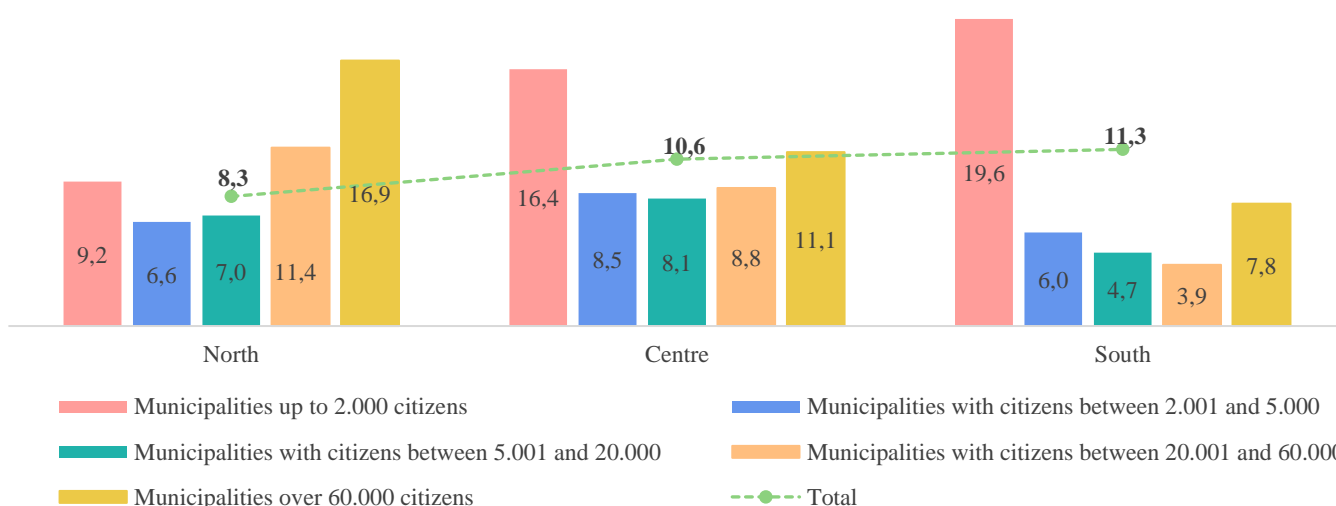
By restricting the scope of observation to 2022, the last year for which data were published at the time of the analysis, demographic detail is added to territorial one, to trace common patterns or possible peculiarities.

The highest per capita expenditures for statistics and information systems are found in the South and in the Centre, with values close to 11 euros; the lowest, below the national average, are in the North, where 8.3 euros are allocated per citizen.

In Central and Southern Italy, smaller municipalities with populations of 2,000 or fewer citizens show the highest amounts, particularly in the South, where they are double than those recorded in Municipalities with over 60,000 citizens. On the other hand, among Northern Municipalities, the bigger cities record the highest expenditure levels of the aggregate (see following figure).

It is conceivable that the higher expenditure in the Centre-South is due to the need to catch up on past spending gaps.

**Average per capita expenditure on digitalisation (euros)**

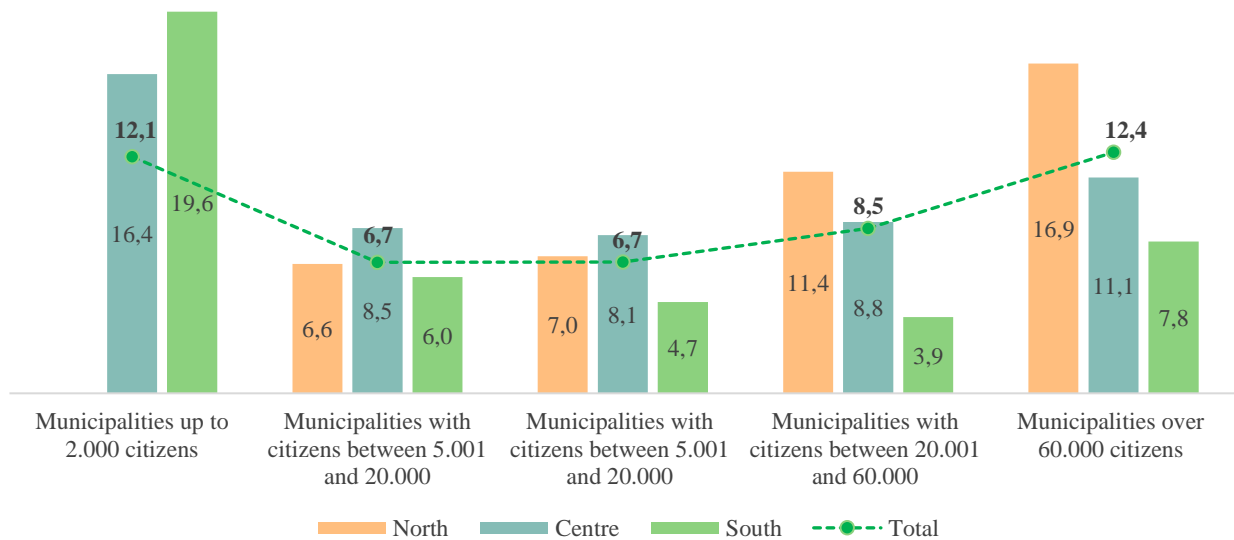


*Value not available for 2.986 Municipalities*

Source: Administrative Capacity Index - Data reprocessing on OpenBDAP (2022) and ISTAT (31.12.2022) data

The following figure provides a comparison of the spending behaviours of Local Authorities of different population sizes. A surprising similarity emerges between the smallest and the largest Municipalities: both show average commitments around 12 euros, while the amounts are significantly lower for intermediate-sized Municipalities.

**Average per capita expenditure on digitalisation (euros)**



*Value not available for 2.986 Municipalities*

Source: Administrative Capacity Index – Data reprocessing on OpenBDAP (2022) and ISTAT (31.12.2022) data