

LEADER



Alto Adige
Liguria
Calabria
Sicity
Sardinia



Study Visits and Leader/CLLD Approach

“Good practices”
for local development

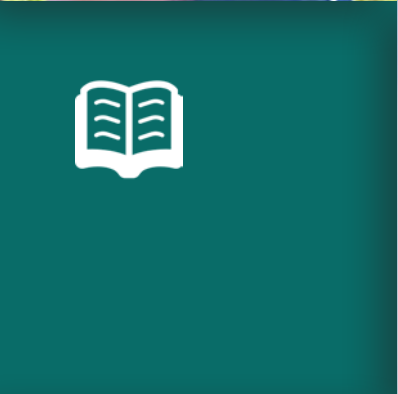
Study Visits



Expected outcomes

- Validation of a list of “good practices” to transfer and develop within the local strategies;
- Improvement of Leader/CLLD support to innovation by the implementation of pilot and/or cooperation projects;
- Dissemination of procedures and tools in favour of evaluation and self-evaluation among LAGs;
- Identification of themes supporting the rural development at local level in the next programming period.

It's a set of study visits organized by the National Rural Network within the activities in support of the Leader approach with the aim of sharing concrete experiences of resilient territories with other Leader/CLLD stakeholders; the study visits identified intend to give evidence of rural areas that have contrasted depopulation and impoverishment of local resources (environment, landscape, historical heritage); that have diminished the social marginality (youngsters, women, elderly, unemployed, immigrants, people with disabilities and other vulnerable sections of population); of territories that have empowered the local economy and improved the management of public funds in favour of the collectivity.



Themes of the study visits

The Italian Leader Support Unit has identified some “good practices” with reference to the following themes:

- Smart communities;
- Ecosystem services;
- Sustainable tourism;
- Social agriculture;
- Social integration of immigrants and refugees;
- Biodistricts.

Not all the experiences identified belong to Leader projects: they are geographically and **thematically defined**, they pursue an integrated (eg. the creation of networks of public and private local actors) and multisectorial approach (eg. the connection of different economic sectors); they generate collective outcomes (direct and indirect economic benefits for local population).



About the organization

The Study visits are organized according to the following formula:

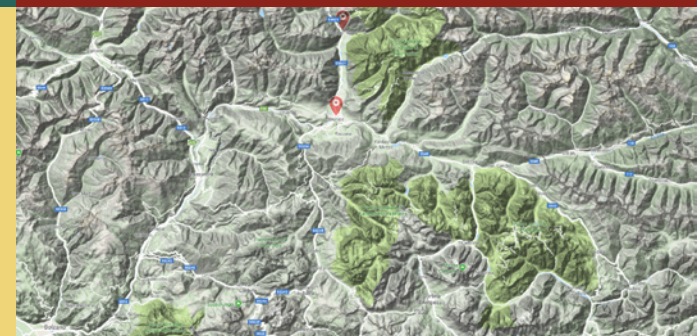
- **Theme:** real protagonists of the experiences describe problems faced and solutions found about the specific theme of the study visit;
- **Length:** two/three days including the field visits;
- **Participants:** limited number of participants;
- **Agenda:** highlights about legislation, methodology and technical issues for the implementation of innovative local and cooperation projects.

During the study visit a cooperation session (cooperation coffee) gives the participants the opportunity to share and exchange experiences and information; furthermore, a laboratory about methodology and tools for the evaluation of local projects is scheduled at the end of each visit.

Smart Communities

In Südtirol (Alto Adige) several municipalities (the municipality is the smallest administrative unit in Italy) cooperate to face the numerous challenges of a mountain area in risk of depopulation: thus, starting from the sustainable use of natural resources, such municipalities have been collaborating to diminish CO2 emissions, produce renewable energy and sensitize people about energy and environment issues. Adopting the integrated approach, the municipalities have operated the energetic renovation of the buildings for public purposes, of the private houses, of the enterprises (included tourist businesses) and of the mechanic systems; they have worked for the improvement of provision and disposal process; the diffusion of smart street lighting and sustainable mobility and the implementation of activities in favour of environmental education.

The study visit, organized in collaboration with the LAG Val Pusteria e ISM Südtirol, is located in Brunico (a municipality which is 100% sustainable) and Campo Tures (the first Italian municipality with the energy efficiency certification “Comune Clima”). During the visit, the participants will have the opportunity to visit energy-efficient buildings (certified by Casa Clima), district heating plants using biomass, hydro-electric power station, thermal solar systems-photovoltaic, wind and biogas systems; examples of energetic renovation of historical buildings, etc.



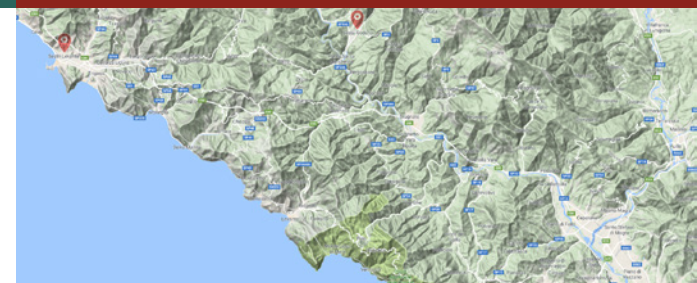
Alto Adige (Südtirol)

A model for sustainable development: the Biodistrict of the Val di Vara

The Biodistrict is an agreement between farmers and public administrators for the sustainable management of resources, according to the principles of organic farming and agro-ecology. An example of this development model is the Val di Vara Biodistrict a non-profit association made up of 90 members plus the local farms. This biodistrict started in the mid-nineties in Varese Ligure with the conversion of the milk and local beef supply chains into organic farming; the municipality has empowered such initiative by implementing a local development project based on the recovery of the historical center, the use of renewable energy, the green economy and promoting the lifelong environmental education for farmers and the local community.

Thanks to the success of the initiative, neighbour municipalities have followed the footsteps of Val di Vara and have supported the enhancement of the chicken supply chain (the black rooster of the Val di Vara), the start-up of cultural initiatives (festival of organic farming and good energies) and, in 2014, the constitution of the biological district, according to the indication in the Regional Law no. 66/2009.

During the study visit, organized by the NRN-Leader Support Unit in cooperation with the Biodistrict of the Val di Vara, the dairy cooperative Val Di Vara and the meat cooperative San Pietro Vara, which are the backbone of the entire journey undertaken first by Varese Ligure and then by the Biodistrict, will be visited. In addition, local businesses will be visited, such as the Cimabue farm that carries out therapeutic-rehabilitation activities based on animals care and small maintenance activities of the vegetable garden and orchard.



Liguria

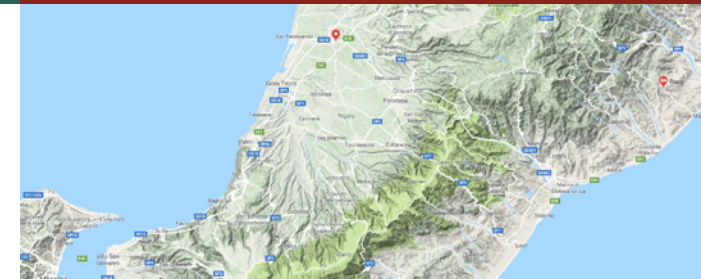
Immigration and marginal rural areas: the intercultural and legal community of Camini and Rosarno

Calabria

The Municipalities of Locride area have been working for several years to promote the inclusion of immigrants and the spread of a culture of legality. In these areas, several interventions have been carried on encouraging the professional and social integration of new residents and by the creation of welcoming structures (residential, health, etc.).

At the same time, to build up a welcoming community, various actions were implemented with the aim of contrasting prejudice and illegality. Today Camini and other Locride villages (Riace, Stignano, Caulonia) are now vital communities thanks to the immigration policies that have offered hospitality to many applicants, coming from different countries, integrating them into the society and including them in the labour system by the implementation of small handcraft businesses. This allowed to keep primary services alive, such as the school.

Thanks to the contribution of the local cooperatives, in fact, important socio-economic objectives have been achieved, such as: the creation of a certified organic supply chain (SOS Rosarno, I frutti del sole) with the regular employment of immigrants, pursuing the binomial, not always respected, biological- fair; the creation of a network of purchasing groups (ContadinAzioni); etc...



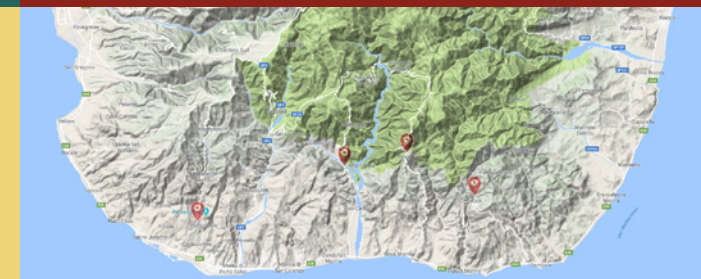
The Network of sustainable hospitality in the Grecanic area

Calabria

The need to protect the cultural, historical and biological heritage of a territory motivate the growing interest of European, national and regional policies towards sustainable tourism. In fact, such resources are unique and are fundamental for tourist appeal and for the economic development of rural areas. An example of sustainable tourism of quality and success can be found in the Grecanic Area where the concept of experience was associated in addition to the cultural offer; it was conceived to let people rediscover the times of nature, of living in archaic places, far from the frenetic pace of cities.

The key player of this study visit is the LAG Area Grecanic, which, within the Leader II Community Initiative, supported the initiatives already started at the local level, financing small restructuring interventions and thus contributing to the recovery of the villages and the development of widespread hospitality. The LAG financed the opening of two catering points as well, one in Bova managed by the San Leo Cooperative and the other one in Pentedattilo, managed by the Pro Pentedattilo Association. In 2001 the establishment of the Agency for the Development of Sustainable Tourism in the Grecanic Area, "Pucambù" (that in greganic language means somewhere) was promoted and the Ethno-Music Festival Palariza was launched in 1997; nowadays, the festival is one of the most important cultural attractions of the whole Grecanic area.

This study visit, organized by CREA in collaboration with the Pucambù Agency will give the participants the chance to discover the activities implemented and still in progress in the villages of Bova and Palizzi and Pentadattilo, directly introduced by the promoters of sustainable tourism and the LAG itself.



Eco-system services

Sicily

Eco-system services provide several goods and services: food, water, wood, fiber, oil and other raw materials; they influence climate regulation, air and water quality, soil formation, waste assimilation capacity, natural risk-mitigation. Furthermore, eco-system services provide non-material benefits such as: heritage and cultural identity, aesthetic values (cultural services), provision of habitat.

Such variety of services, together with the payments of eco-system services, generate a mechanism affecting positively the utilization of natural resources and influencing the development of the local economic system. LAGs play a strategic role in the definition of the most adequate service for ecologic purpose, in the definition of the trade value, in the involvement of local actors or, in the connection between providers and users of the service offered.

The set for this study visit is Sicily, in particular the areas included in the LIFE+ MNG project; the project lead to the identification of eco-system services and the definition of the PES standards. During the visit, thus, the participants will visit some of the places quoted above, like the “Bosco di Ficuzza” and the area of Madonie, the LAG’s area. The LAG Madonie, in fact, which cooperate for the realization of the study visit, has elaborated the strategy of internal areas as well, with specific interventions for the development of eco-system services.



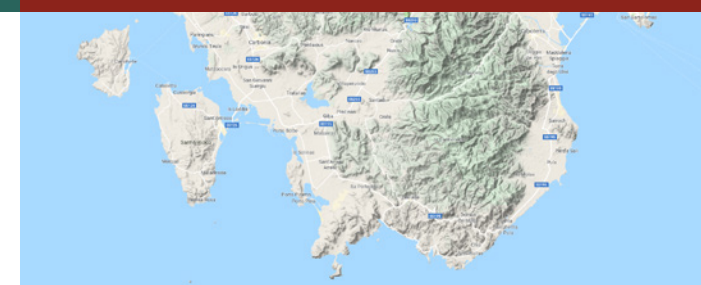
Social agriculture in support of local welfare

Sardinia

By social agriculture we mean the set of agricultural and related activities aimed at promoting social and labor inclusion actions, useful services for daily life, and educational activities in support of medical therapies. In recent years, the great interest towards these innovative practices has led to the approval of a national law, the Law no. 141/2015, which provides some guidelines about the types of activities and operators that can be recognized as professionals, the National law gave the professionals the general framework besides the regulatory/legal references already established at regional level.

Social agriculture offers socio-health, training, recreational services to the community and favours the job placement for individuals with weak bargaining power; it provides services at more sustainable costs than offered in the classic welfare models and at the same time it facilitates the creation and consolidation of significant relationships among the local stakeholders, contributing to social cohesion.

During the study visit, organized with the support of Lag Sulcis, the participants will meet the protagonists of the Agrisocial project and of similar initiatives such as “The social garden of Giba”, promoted by the municipality of Giba (in the Southern Sardinia) and some social cooperatives; furthermore, some local businesses working as social farms will be visited. In addition, the guests will meet directors and managers of the ASL (Local Agencies for Health Services) involved in the activity.





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www.reterurale.it/leader20142020

www.facebook.com/leader1420



National Rural Network development programme 2014-2020

Managing Authority:

Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry and Tourism policies

Two-year Plan 2017-2018 CREA Centre of Policies and Bioeconomy

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