



GAL



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Newsletter by LAG Valcamonica e Valdiscalve

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What happened to LAG Vallecamonica Val di Scalve in these months? Which activities have been performed, which projects have been closed and which are the news and progresses going on? Also this Lagnews aims to keep users and citizens updated on the evolution of interventions promoted by the Lag, focusing on the works in progress but, mainly, reporting the most meaningful activities we fulfilled.

In this number, while the opening is dedicated to the new, just published web site, we decided to concentrate specifically on the Cooperation project. The project involves Italian and European Lags, exchanging best practices, advice and suggestions in order to foster mutual improvement – through each one experience – others' interventions and projects. In particular, in the internal pages of newsletter we report the new appointment held at Reggio Calabria at the beginning of May and the visit of one of the responsible of the Scottish Lag to our forests, to learn our methods of woodlands management.

The President – Walter Sala

The new site www.galvallecamonica-valdiscalve.it is on line



After some years of “honored service”, the old Lag web site “retired”, replaced by a new portal totally renewed in contents, graphic, logics, technological/management structure and information publishing. This total review was necessary because the previous site belonged to an old conception of web portal, and above all to give space to new needs of communication and interaction required by the current Lag ctivities .

First of all, the home page has been renewed: its graphics is the same as the one of the other territorial portals like the Adamello Park and the Taste of Vallecamonica web portals, in order to

promote all the area in coordination and give an esthetic uniformity to the web sites of the Valle Camonica public administration.

In the home page, the big picture of the background, representing the area of activities of the Lag, stands out, and it could be constantly updated.

We dedicated the central part –well highlighted – to issues that the user is mainly interested to: the itineraries' section, interventions, news. As for "Itineraries" – this section has still to be implemented – we decided to publish the new routes as the Lag Actions will be defined, like the trail Borno-Ossimo-Lozio, Edolo-Monno, Chestnut and Wine Roads, the Adamello Bike that, bridging from Ponte di Legno to Trentino, leads to the discovery of old communication trenches and remains of the First World War. This will be the most innovative part of the site, with trails maps, the description of routes, places, points of interest, images and all the useful information to know the itineraries, as well as the tourist packages proposed. All information will also be downloadable, so that one can print the information needed for his trip.

High importance has been given to three interventions-working strategies of the Lag: Chestnut routes, Wine route, forests/environment and Integration and promotion; we dedicated to each of these four themes a section of the web site, where we will publish the activities sheets and the achieved projects. Each internal section will include pictures and information needed to understand the objectives we tried to achieve and the tools implemented. In the new web site a big area will be devoted to the news, in order to keep on updating users on the last activities of the Lag in the territory, on meetings and proposals.

By the upper menu the user can access to the mostly informative part of the web portal, and learn the organizational structure of the Lag: administration and company organization, the project, the Local Strategy, interventions and measures. We choose to dedicate a specific space to applications (not only Lag's ones, but also other authorities') and publications (by Lag, Mountain Community Council, Region and other subjects if interesting), as well as to Cooperation. As for Cooperation, we will report about the project that involves Lag Vallecamosica Val di Scalve cooperating with both Italian and European Lags in the Landsare project (we wrote about it in the last edition of LagNews). In this section we'll publish updated information about partners' meetings, the evolution of the project and the activities we carry on. By the new web site it will be easy to register to the newsletter service and access to the new Facebook page of Lag. In order to get more user friendly and reach an increasing number of people, Lag decided to be also present on the most famous social network with a dedicated page, where we can inform an unlimited number of users. The Lag web portal, finally, could be also surfed in English, therefore being in touch with all the world. What else, visit us and leave your comments, for the new web site of the Lag is always growing and improving: the address is www.galvallecamosicavaldisalve.it .

GOING South to meet the partner Lag Batir and continue cooperation



A second meeting was held on 7th and 8th May in Reggio Calabria to develop the project "Landscape Architectures in European rural areas: a new approach to the local development design". Our Lag, together with Italian partners *Oglio Po terre d'acqua* (Cremona), *Oltrepò Mantovano* and *GardaValsabbia* and European partners *Lag Flechtinger Hohenzug* (Germany) and *Lag Highland Leader* (Scotland) met the new partner *Lag Batir* – which joined the group after the first meeting held in Paspardo last July 2012 – but above all they renewed the project commitments, strengthening the

management capacities of territories and facilitating the implementation of transnational activities reflecting the single strategies of local development.

The program of the two-days steering committee included in sharing activities, lesson learning and experiences and a visit to the Reggio territory, in particular to areas where the Lag Batir worked by its Local Strategy. On Tuesday 7th the President Antonio Alvaro, the Director Fortunato Cozzupoli and the responsible of the technical-scientific committee Claudio Marciandò introduced Lag Batir and its area of activities. The presentation was followed by interventions by partners from Scotland, Garda, Oltrepò Mantovano, Valcamonica and Oglio Po area. Another session was devoted to the discussion of the draft of the guidelines, a document resulting from other templates issued and presented by each single Lag and created by an expert of the area, this draft will be used to summarize transnational activities to be implemented. Moreover, we identified some project issues to be shared, relevant to “Protection, planned conservation and tourism enhancement”. In the afternoon, the group visited the area of the low Tirreno, having the chance to see the landscape with its olive trees and forests, in particular in the Gioia Tauro plain, the Borgo Antico olive trees Plain, in Cittanova, stopping in an ancient mill and in the castle of saint Giorgio Morgeto. The next day, May 8th, the group worked on to the issues of environmental law restraints and territorial planning, and the Lag Batir introduced its local stakeholders. In particular, we focused on different areas’ experiences, going through best practices of each partner. Then the group visited the Violet Coast, the Taureani Park, the olive tree rock, the terraces of Bagnara and the village of Chianalea of Scilla. Now the work will proceed in the single Lags – also with short meetings among some partners – to implement the guidelines that have been shared in the working sessions of Reggio Calabria. The third meeting of the steering committee is foreseen for the end of June in Germany, specifically in the Saxon Region, in the area of the Lag Flechtinger Hohenzug. In September, then, partners will meet again in Scotland, in the land of Lag Highland Leader.

Meeting, knowledge, opportunity



Contribution by Mirko Cominini, member of the Lag Valcamonica board, who participated to the meeting in Reggio Calabria.

Following a script designed to merge the traditional twinning method and the convention work, Lag Batir (Basso Tirreno Reggino) hosted us and other Italian and European Lags. An opportunity to refine the cooperation agreements among local bodies, with the participation of the staff of relevant structures and local decision makers. I joined the group as representative of the Lag, I found it a very interesting experience and the meetings will of course foster further developments, which will guarantee a constant method of cooperation among areas different and far away, but similar. The two intensive days allowed us to discover a land affected by many social/economic problems, but eager to revive, above all thanks to new generations. My mind is full of the memories of such a beautiful land and by the resources exploited along the centuries, which allowed the Basso Tirreno Reggino to compete with its excellent agricultural products.

Nevertheless nowadays there are less opportunities, due to some market logics not duly supported by protection policies at national and European level. Above all, the old aged olive tree cultivations, which not only fostered the local economy but also shaped the landscape. A local debate arised on environmental protection as a tool for the land management, as well as on the opportunity of its conservation, trying to balance landscape and economy aspects. Also the coastal area, really amazing, is really fragile and not really exploited, while it could guarantee a considerable economic with a good promotion and management. The analysis of these problems reminds me the same uncertainty in our area, for we also are not able to abandon some loosing economies and favour other ones which can be better adapted to our context equally beautiful and fragile: the work of our Lag has to follow this direction and give voice to new sustainable economy.

From Scotland to learn the Valcamonica woodlands management



How do you manage woodlands and forests in Vallecamonica? By this simple question Steve Robertson, project manager of the Lag from Highlands – Scottish area located at north west of the region –started the visit that allowed him to know the Valley and learn the forestry management system currently used in the area by the Mountain Community Council. The responsible managers of the Agriculture and Improvement sectors of the Mountain Community Council, respectively Alessandro Putelli (also coordinator of the Lag) and Gian Battista Sangalli, explained the collective management, throughout the 6 forestry consortia coordinated by the Mountain Community Council, of local woodlands that cover about the half of the Valcamonica area (66 of the total 127 thousand hectares). Unlike what generally people think, the partner area of the North Europe is not so prosperous: many pastures are in fact invaded by invasive species like the arboreal rhododendron, that is quickly spreading and impoverishing the soil; moreover the management of forests – almost disappeared after the deforesting between the two World Wars – is almost totally owned by private subjects, with different problems in planning and interventions coordination.

For this reason the “Valcamonica model” is interesting for Scottish technicians, in particular the associated management of topsoil through forestry consortia, joined by all Valcamonica Municipalities (except one) and the creation of a local market for the woodland working process and the district planning, done for example by the Forestry Strategic Plan, that is going to be ready in the next months. The field visit enabled to show the forestry of the Valle dell’Allione, with the relevant consortium, the woodlands between Cimbergo and Paspardo and the lower Valley woodlands, particularly the Chestnuts of Artogne. In August there should be a second meeting with a wider group of Scottish members, in order to deepen some issues also from a most practical point of view.

Some actions ...already completed

Tourism operators “back to school”: the training program to integrate tourism and local culture

Lag Vallecamonica Val di Scalve financed, under the 331 Measure, a program of training seminars especially dedicated to operators of tourism sector (hotel, restaurant managers, shop keepers and tourism enterprises, volunteers of local associations and informative offices), but open also to citizens. The Cultural District of Valle Camonica organized thematic seminars to deepen the knowledge on historical, cultural, environmental, receptive, traditional and local production heritage (of the Valley). Meetings provided new skills and tools needed to improve the receptive activity and tourist hosting. Vallecamonica is more and more looking for a new touristic identity and this appointments helped to give to sector operators new tools for promotion, giving a new image and a new offer of services, increasing also their consciousness about the opportunities of the area and the tourism

raising from the Valley. The Seminars – coordinated by Luigi Bandera and Aurora Rafone of the Vallecamonica InfoSchool Service- were held at the offices of the Enterprises Incubator of Cividate, at the City of Culture in Capo di Ponte and at the Adamello Park House in Vezza.



The chestnut route – An example of woodlands integrated management

Chestnut trees play an important role in Vallecamonica heritage. While in the past they had been cut without paying attention to specific forestry planning strategies, now these trees are main actors in a huge strategy of local development planned by the Mountain Community Council together with the Lag. By recovering the chestnut forests areas, stakeholders activated an important action that integrates efforts by local authorities, private owners involvement and local associations' activities and ideas for tourism and quality of life. All different actors are dedicating resources and initiatives to enhance chestnut (tree and fruit) at different level, activating a development process that touches food production (thanks to the Chestnut consortium, which produces different kinds of local products like chestnut

our, biscuits, cakes, beers and local restaurants offer particular dishes with chestnut), environmental educational activity for schools, tourism packages on local tradition and products. By focusing on opportunities related to chestnut trees, the area designed a route to welcome business activities, tourists and environmental protection. For more information click on www.galvalcamonicavaldiscalve.it



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