



**RURITAGE**  
Heritage for Rural Regeneration

## Agroecological innovations

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Valladolid 'Training Workshop'

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# LOCAL FOOD



Agroecological innovations  
to increase the resilience  
and sustainability of  
mountain livestock farms



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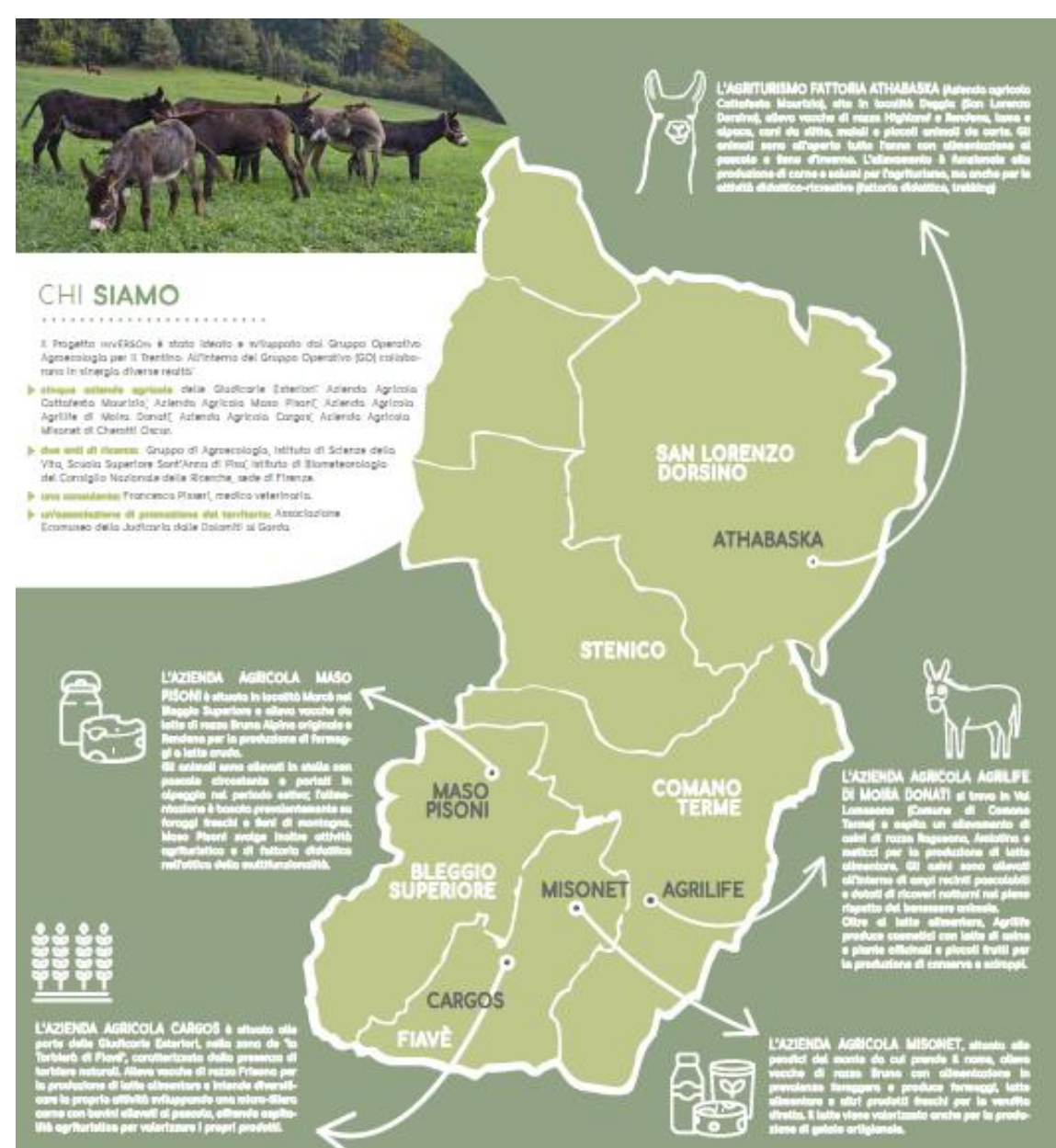
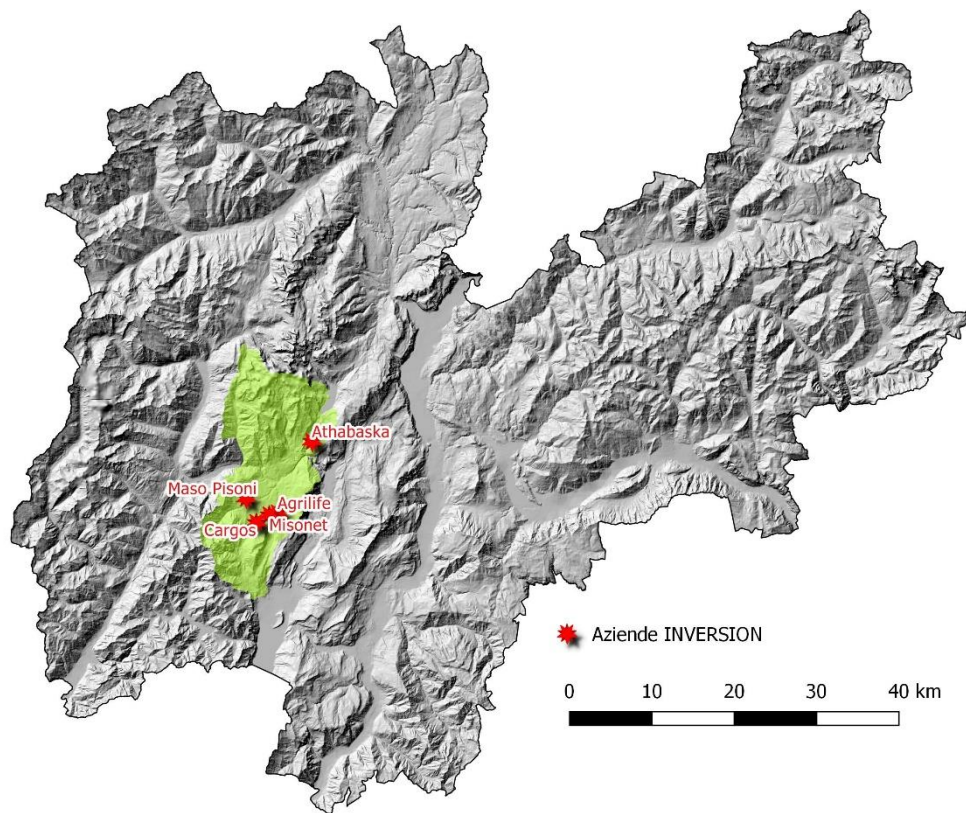
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# Where did it all begin?



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# Where did it all begin?

*Mountain livestock has been affected by a dramatic **reduction of farms** number and an increase in **intensive livestock systems**.*

*In 2016 a small group of **young farmers** of Giudicarie Esteriori valley, felt the **need to change** their approach to farming to be able to face socio-economic and environmental changes.*

***Agroecology** was identified as the keystone.*



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# Where did it all begin?



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# Context

*The reference area is "**Giudicarie Esteriori**" valley (South-western Trentino, north-eastern Italy). It is part of **UNESCO Biosphere "Alpi Ledrensi e Judicaria"**.*

***Agriculture** plays still an important role : in 2010 there were 1440 agricultural holdings (ISPAT-ISTAT data, 2010). **Livestock farming** represents the primary agricultural activity.*

***Tourism-Agrotourism** is a key sector for the local economy.*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nvdlZ07n2I>*



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# Context



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# The challenges we faced

*The **average age is constantly growing**. The young population groups are outnumbered by middle-aged groups.*

*In some cases, **young people move away** looking for work. Youth and people over the age of 45 who are unemployed are the social groups hit hardest by the economic and financial crisis.*

*At the end of 2018 in the Province of Trento the **unemployment rate is 3,1%** (ISPAT-ISTAT data, 2018).*



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# The treasures *(i.e. capitals)* we already had

- *Cultural Capital: **tangible** (archaeological sites, castles, paintings, traditional rural architecture) and **intangible** (food tradition, traditional knowledge in agriculture as a source of cultural identity)*
- *Natural Capital: UNESCO **Biosphere Reserve** “Ledro Alps and Judicaria. From the Dolomites to Lake Garda”, Adamello Brenta UNESCO **Global Geopark**; **Ecomuseum** of Judicaria from the Dolomites to Lake Garda*
- *Social Capital: **Traditional skills** in agriculture*
- *Human Capital: **Cooperative movement***



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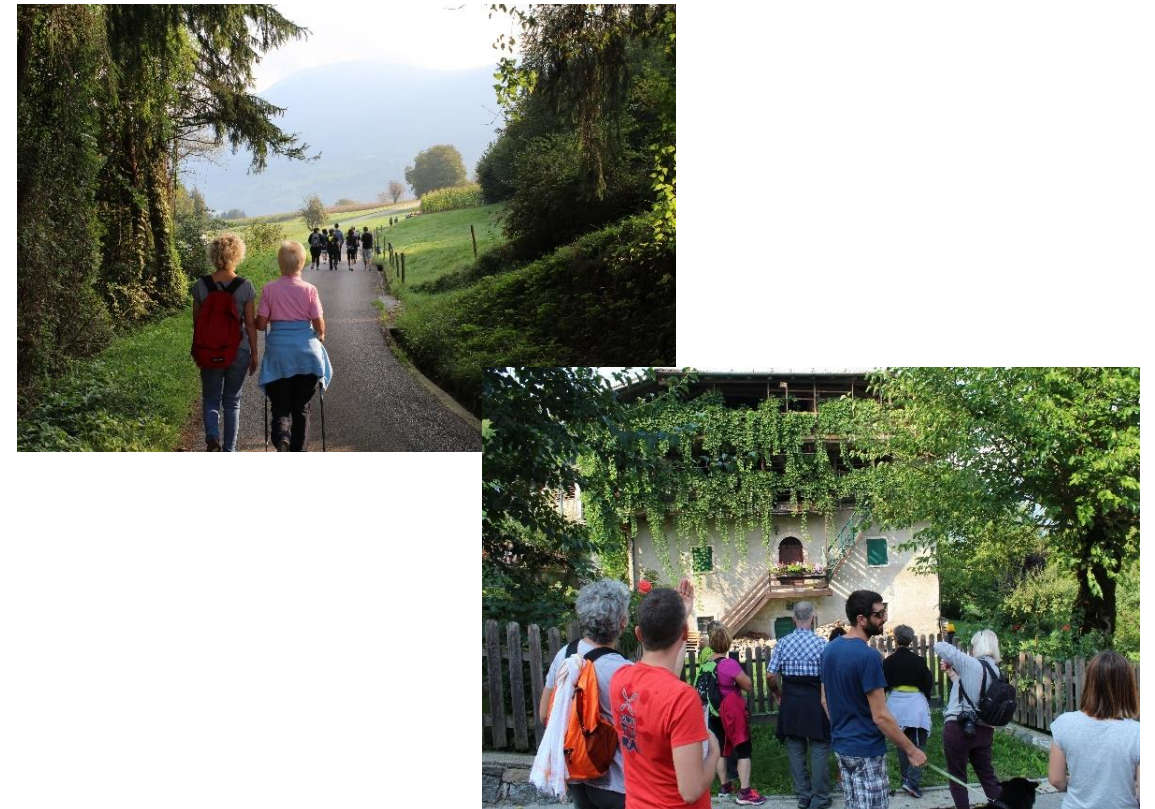
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# Some examples



Natural and cultural heritage



Social and human capital



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# Good practices / model actions

- ✓ ***Reverse** the intensive livestock production system to a more sustainable one*
- ✓ *Constitution of a **network of mountain livestock farms** interested in adopting agroecological innovations*
- ✓ ***Marketing** high quality and high value local products*
- ✓ *Face socio-economic and environmental changes to improve sustainability and **resilience** applied to mountain livestock farming through agroecology*



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# Key Drivers for Regeneration

➤ ***Environmental impact reduction***

➤ ***Natural heritage preservation***



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# Barriers encountered

- *Strong **intergenerational inter-farm conflicts** have precluded the formal association to the OG of some young farmers. Senior farmers didn't see the opportunity of evolving their conventional farm into a more sustainable livestock system.*
- ***Bureaucratic procedures** added complexity to the process.*



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# Our roadmap to success

- **Participatory approach** : local meetings with livestock farmers, experts and local associations interested in developing a sustainable mountain livestock system
- Formal constitution of **EIP-AGRI** Operational Group
- Financial **funding** to support the EIP-AGRI OG proposal (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), RDP 2014-2020, Autonomous Province of Trento)
- Adoption of agroecological practices in **focus farms**
- **Dissemination** of good practices



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# Capital Development & Knowledge Building

Capital	Initial	Developed	Obtained
Cultural	HIGH CULTURAL VALUE		BETTER SAFEGUARDING OF FARMING ACTIVITIES
Natural	HIGH NATURAL VALUE (UNESCO geopark and biosphere reserve; Ecomuseum)		BETTER SAFEGUARDING OF NATURAL LANDSCAPE
Built			AVOID INFRASTRUCTURE ABANDONMENT
Human	COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND COLLECTIVE PROPERTY RIGHTS	AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED	DIVERSIFICATION OF FARMS ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
Social	TRADITIONAL SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE	YOUNG FARMERS IMPROVED CAPACITY IN SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN LIVESTOCK SYSTEM	IMPROVED RELIENCE OF FARMS
Financial		FUNDING	
Knowledge Building	Technical assistance supporting sustainable mountain livestock farming		



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# What it looks like today



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# What it looks like today



Photo Benedetta Bressani



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# Thank you for your attention!

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