

UL2L  
Interreg Europe



# UMBRIA REGION



Regione Umbria

Regional Directorate for Agriculture,  
Environment, Energy,  
Culture, Cultural Heritage and Entertainment

Department of forests, mountain, natural systems, wildlife

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In Our office we develop :

- proposals for the definition of landscape's guide lines.
- studies and research aimed at enhancing the regional landscape.
- programs, projects and planning for the landscape assets and rural architecture
- programs, projects for the culture and knowledge of the landscape.

At the end we manages European Community funding, such as those from the POR ERDF and the rural development plan



## REGIONAL POLICIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES



Umbria, a region in central Italy, is a territory of nearly 8500 km<sup>2</sup> that is prevalently hilly and mountainous, and strongly characterised by natural and rural landscapes. Cultivated land and pastures occupy almost half (47%) of the regional territory, and wooded areas occupy about a third.

Until the middle of the last century, agriculture was the predominant business activity in Umbria, when it employed 56% of the economically active population. While it continued to be a rather vital sector over the following sixty years, the number of employed fell to under 5% due to the depopulation of the countryside. In recent years, however, this trend has begun to change. The traditional “green” characteristic of the region endures, referring both to its natural environment and the diffusion of its agricultural production in which businesses play a clear territorial and environmental role, particularly in the marginal areas.

Umbria still retains in many areas the design and texture typical of the rural landscape of central Italy, with a good readability of the relations of contiguity between city and countryside, other landscapes, however, have been the object of the processes of transformation that partly modified the original characters.





Terni

PERUGIA



It is possible in these contexts to find two distinct phenomena: on the one hand the progressive depopulation of internal areas, with the abandonment of forms of land management, microeconomics, traditions, public services, historical memory; on the other, forms of disintegration of cultural identity and loss of historical functional and perceptive relationships between city and countryside.

Surely the problems to be faced in a landscape that has very dense cultural historical values and a management of transformations that has privileged above all the protection and conservation of some naturalistic areas and historical cities is the added value and diversity that the Umbria Region can bring , in comparison with the other partners, in the UrbanLink2 project. Several transformations, either under way or expected to take place, characterise the risk factors for the Umbrian landscape in terms of abandonment that is often associated with the progressive growth of natural vegetation, simplification of the landscape mosaic, ecological fragmentation, demographic evolution and the use of land inherent in generalised human dynamics.

These continuous transformations, which are also underway in Europe and around the world with different characteristics, have determined the necessity of carefully addressing the issue of those peri-urban, residual and interstitial, ambiguous and undefined areas, which are the result of the processes mentioned above when not adequately governed. They take on such importance above all because they are close to historic cities

that require specific policies of recovery, qualification and management that value them as environmental, social and economic resources. It is this need that has brought the Region of Umbria over the past few years to commit to numerous preparatory studies and analyses of planning and programming tools, as well as become involved with various European projects of cooperation with different partners so as to share their experiences along these lines. The interregional projects L.O.T.O. (Landscape Opportunities for Territorial Organisation) and PAYS.DOC “Buone Pratiche per il Paesaggio” (Good Practices for the Landscape) have, in fact, had the objectives of identifying Mediterranean landscapes, enhancing local experiences and determining the tools for the proper management of landscape transformations, just as the project PAYS.MED.URBAN has done, thus compounding the results and experiences with PAYS.DOC and turning its attention to questions of peri-urban landscapes and suburbs. It is also thanks to this work that the Region has been able to implement plans and programs through orientation, guidelines, resources and instruments of development and management for these landscapes in transformation. These research activities have given wide space to participation as an essential means for revealing the local dimension and perceptual aspects of the phenomenon, based on a coherent plan with the European Convention on landscapes. Among these activities, the Interreg IV 2007/2013 Hybrid Parks project was very important, with which Umbria, thanks to the comparison with the other partners, started to activate actions and policies related to the urban and

peri-urban agriculture themes, with repercussions on the territory purposes of local development.

With resources coming partly from the Rural Development Plans 2014/2020 and from EU funds, projects have been financed in large peri-urban areas of 10 municipalities that are under construction and that the Umbria region presents in the UrbanLink2 project as good practices also because they have positive effects. in the policies that derive from the Hybrid Park project which is one of the main references of UL2L.

## STAKEHOLDERS



In the UL2L project Umbria plans to work, through "design" laboratories, involved in the elaboration and implementation of the concerted action plans, with local institutional partners and socio-economic actors, professionals and associations with different backgrounds and experiences for a comparison on new uses and functions of public open spaces, especially in landscapes of proximity to urban centers, in relation to rural diversification, biodiversity, social inclusion and urban renewal. In particular, it intends to involve the 10 municipalities (Foligno, San Giustino, Spello, Trevi, Orvieto, Bevagna, Allerona, Todi, Pietralunga, Sellano) and the professional technicians who are carrying out projects relating to the redevelopment of peri-urban areas. The work program foresees a first meeting where the objectives and expected results of the project will be discussed, regular meetings with the different public actors will follow. The development of the action plan will be based on the results of the meetings and on the evaluation of international exchanges compared to examples and good practices. The group will build the guidelines for the design of the network of interventions developed at territorial level able to reduce the situations of deterioration

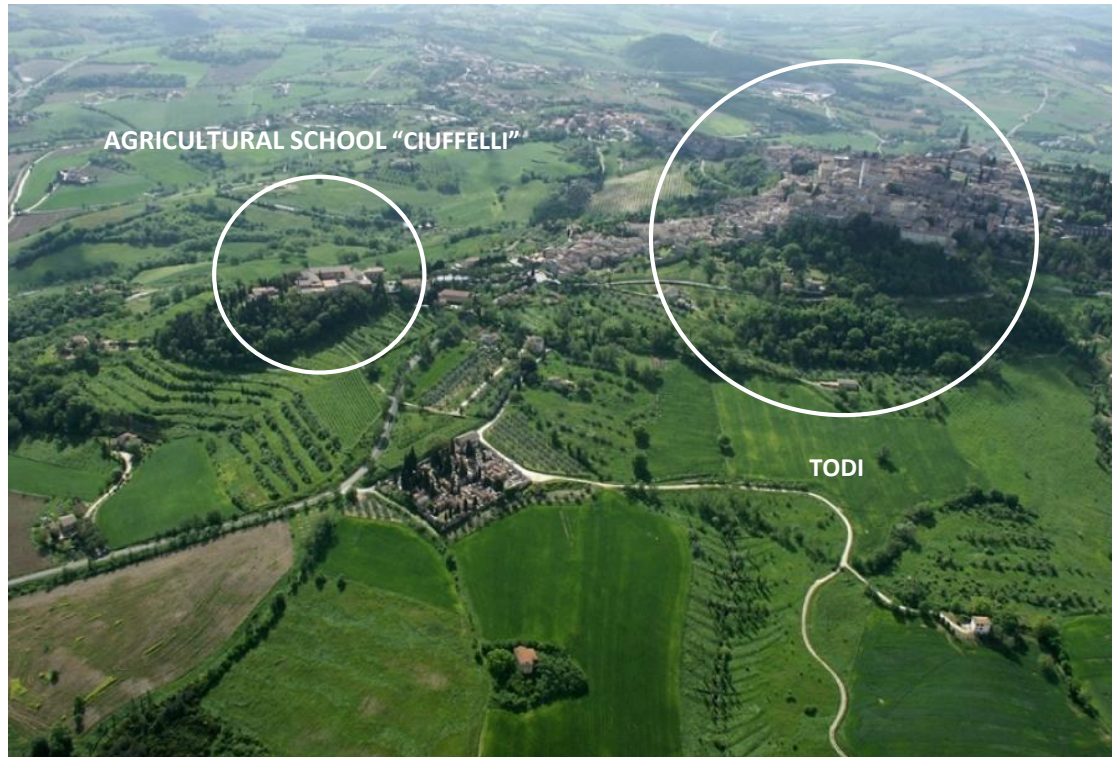


and trivialization detected, revitalize residual and marginalized tissues and territories, protect and recover signs and historical elements of the landscapes, enhance a formal and functional point of view of rural landscapes, defining an overview and strengthening forms of cooperation between local realities.

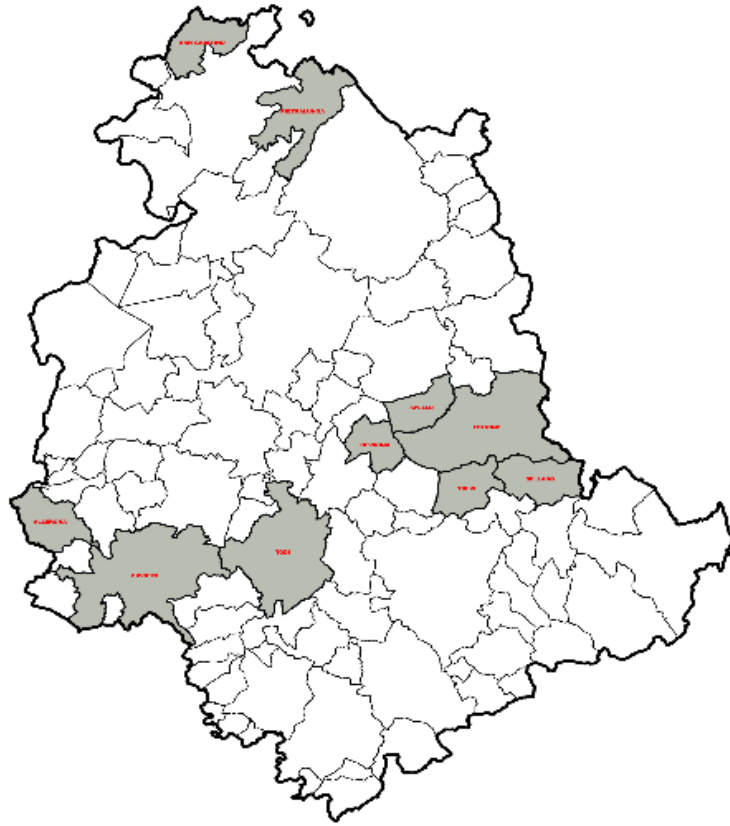
The work also intends to explore the opportunities, strengths and criticalities that such a complex process entails, in order to capture from the experiences underway useful indications to contribute to the improvement of the policies and programs of regional development of the future programming, on the theme redevelopment and enhancement of the rural landscape, in urban and peri-urban open spaces.

Of great interest for the development of the project is also the point of view of those who experience the landscape daily and enjoy it and those who, like the younger generation, will in the future "take delivery" and take care of it, with its values and its critical points and contradictions. Therefore, to grasp the perception and suggestions of the new generations it was decided to involve the students of an agricultural high school inserted in the periurban context of the municipality of Todi (one of the municipalities that is developing a redevelopment project) as a stakeholder, also by virtue of subjects studied and of the work that the students will carry out in the future, so tied to the practices of use and management of the rural landscape. The mode of involvement envisaged is that of the laboratory to be implemented through week extracurricular meetings,

to be held presumably from February to May 2019 at the headquarters, with the presence of a maximum of 15 students. The workshops will be managed by a facilitator through innovative and creative forms (with medium photos and video) aimed at stimulating narratives and visions useful for the construction of qualitative maps and future expectations with respect to the themes proposed by the project.



## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES



Among the most significant policies implemented in recent years, as already written, there are projects concerning redevelopment of green areas and abandoned peri-urban areas close to 10 municipalities. These are actions and interventions in large public areas.

In particular, these policies regard the promotion, improvement and dissemination of knowledge and practices related to agriculture in peri-urban and urban gardens.

In particular, the intention is to encourage a new way of thinking about traditional agriculture and thereby strengthen the ecological and landscape role even in urban and peri-urban areas in proximity to the historic centers so as to encourage various forms of cultivation that can be seen as individual and collective responses to the economic, environmental and social crises.

At the same time, several financial measures were made available



by the new European Program for Agricultural Funds (PSR 2014-2020) with the aim of supporting measures for sustainable development and strengthening of the potential of the rural areas in the region.

The proposal of these measures is intended to provide direct and concrete answers to the needs of the local communities, offer specific services, preserve and enhance existing resources and promote the responsible use of natural and cultural heritage with the purpose of integrating other productive sectors, based on a "plural" approach that is consistent with common agricultural policy. Thus, agriculture maintains its traditional aggregative function of political and institutional order, which has traditionally characterized the regional identity, allowing to set up hybrid spaces for development and support for the region's economic, social and environmental policies. The scheduled interventions, will be in line with the concept of "Hybrid Park" as they do not only concern the redevelopment and enhancement of green areas and neglected spaces within the urban fabric and landscapes in proximity to urban centres, but also foresee the implementation of social and community gardens, including recreational, educational, demonstrative and therapeutic services and infrastructures.

The project actions are:

- enhance the rural areas and open spaces with an increase in naturalness also in relation to their usability and the quality of the landscape;

- enhance the green infrastructures of the territory also in coherence with the regional ecological network;
- requalify and regenerate rural and suburban landscapes, open spaces and buildings, urban fringes, and periurban urban areas in order to improve the environmental, landscape and architectural quality of these contexts;
- requalify and regenerate the rural fluvial or lake landscapes from an ecological point of view;
- redevelop and / or mitigate rural landscapes along the infrastructural arteries of proximity to urban centers and villages;
- redevelop open spaces and degraded rural landscapes, including through the construction of new landscapes;
- recover traditional landscape assets, especially with regard to the spatial arrangement of land uses;
- restore or create elements of the landscape of ecological importance (rows, tree and shrubby hedges, linear agroforestry systems, wooded buffer strips, groves, isolated trees, etc ...);
- maintain and re-insert arboreal or shrubby elements along the edge of the fields, in the pastures and in the appurtenances of the rural buildings;
- renaturalize watercourses including minor hydrographic networks (canals, ditches, etc.);



For example in the pictures the Municipality of Foligno and San Giustino projects

- enhance the rural settlement and rural heritage through the recovery of complexes, buildings and significant architectural elements of value, testimony of the Umbrian culture and rural tradition;
- redevelop and enhance recent buildings and unused areas through recovery, reuse and re-cycle.



