



**Guidelines for the recovery
of abandoned areas
in the neighbourhood
of the borders with
Austria and Slovenia**



AlpCity Partner

Work Package

WP Coordinator

**Subjects involved
and their role**

Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (Italy)

Urban environment (WP7)

Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (Italy)

Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region – Central Directorate for Agricultural, Natural, Forestry and Mountain Resources – Mountain Department, which has managed and coordinated the whole operation and given technical and financial support to local authorities and stakeholders involved in the case-study.

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Local counterparts involved (for contact details concerning these counterparts, please ask the above-mentioned project manager and consultant):

- eight Municipalities of the “Canal del Ferro Val Canale” Valley:

Tarvisio, Malborghetto Valbruna, Pontebba, Chiusaforte, Dogna, Resia, Resiutta, Moggio Udinese;

- Gemonese, Canal del Ferro and Val Canale Mountain Community: this is an association of municipalities of the mountain territory grouping the above-mentioned municipalities.

**Spatial area
involved**

Val Canale and Canal del Ferro



Project budget	€ 50.000,00
Project purpose	The project started from the awareness that small public authorities (in terms of size, financial capacity and professional skills) have difficulties in facing complex inter-sectoral plans for territorial and urban enhancement. The regional authorities intend to provide local ones with the appropriate tools to enhance their development. A preliminary analysis of the endogenous resources and of the existing potentialities connected to the recovery – aimed at tourism or with productive purposes – of the abandoned areas was carried out in order to propose concrete solutions.
Project methodology	The method foresaw the collection of proposals and ideas developed on the local level, their comparison and transfer of the results to other partners. Some guidelines provide local authorities with an immediate tool that can be immediately used for the recovery of the dismantled areas.
Project activities	Implementation at local level of the activities related to the pilot case, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- preparation of a work plan;- drafting of guidelines on the recovery of abandoned areas near the borders of Austria and Slovenia due to the disappearance of borders including the related project financing;- the related data collecting is in progress and the First Progress Report on this activity will be presented by the end of May.
Achieved results	Involvement of regional and local authorities in collecting the data concerning the preparation of the guidelines. Setting up of a work group of experts. Carrying out a SWOT analysis. Preparation of guidelines including a general development plan.
Discrepancies between planned results and results achieved	There have been no discrepancies between the original plan and the expected results.
Instruments proposed, revised and finalised	An agreement with the University of Udine - Civil Engineering Department. Definition of the pilot-case plan.
Impact on the local environment, actors and stakeholders	The decision-sharing process has created strong awareness, at a local level, about the economic perspectives related to the recovery of abandoned areas and buildings.
Critical aspects	At the beginning there were problems in communicating and defining responsibilities between local authorities and the Central Directorate for Spatial Planning of Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region. It is too expensive for the local authorities to purchase the abandoned areas, because the owners (large public companies such as the Army, the National Railways Company, etc.) have fixed very high sale prices. In order to overcome this problem the European Awareness Scenario Workshop (EASW) has been suggested as the methodology which can help the dialogue together with local stakeholders' involvement in the programmes of sustainable development planning at a local level as well as in finding the financial resources to carry out the planned projects.
Lessons learned	Small local administrations (Municipalities, Mountain Communities, etc.) do not have the size and the financial resources for facing wide-scale problems as the one analyzed within this case study. Consequently, it is necessary to set up specific clusters at a local level, if possible supported by the Regional Authority, to really face complicated and wide-scale problems.



Transferability

The model, opportunely adapted, could be transferred to other areas of the region with similar problems. The following elements can be replicated:

- the integration of institutional and local ideas and their comparison with the Regional Integrated Plan for the area under examination;
- the use of the European Awareness Scenario Workshop (EASW) methodology;
- the formulation of project financing tools to carry out the selected ideas.

This is an original and innovative approach as far as the mountain area involved is concerned.

The development of a strong collaboration among local authorities and actors constitutes a strategy that can surely be repeated in and transferred to other territories with similar features.

Case study follow-up

The guidelines and the project financing plan that have been prepared should be an important planning tool delivered to local authorities for facing the problem of recovering abandoned buildings and areas so that, from this point of view, the case study should have a sure and positive follow up.

Common issues with other projects

The case-study can have synergic aspects in common with other similar experiences, in particular:

- within AlpCity, with the case studies carried out by Piedmont Region ("The renewal of abandoned mountain hamlets" and "To live in mountain areas") and Veneto Region ("Renovation and optimum use of abandoned rural buildings once used for production purposes");
- within other projects, like the sub-project (carried out by Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region within the Innoref Interreg IIIC Recover (Reconversion of rural villages as an opportunity for economic development) Project.

The case study has some common peculiarities with the case studies of Veneto and Piedmont Regions.

SSC Experts' comments and recommendations

The project was well described and its objectives, methodology and results well defined. The involvement of the University of Udine as scientific consultant guaranteed a methodological approach in supporting the municipalities concerned. The foreseen project model, the project financing model, the definition of guidelines are tools that can be transferred to other regions and at the same time can provide a real input for follow up activities. It is important to note that the project took into account previous studies and plans carried out in a fragmentary way trying to harmonize all contributions and integrate them. Furthermore the guidelines observe the master plan and the Regional Development Plan being complementary to these regulations. The project is in line with Interreg recommendations such as: participatory approach, dissemination activities, transfer of models at transnational level. The project was integrated in a wider "policy development" adopted by Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region; in particular there are several Interreg projects and initiatives dealing with the use of buildings for tourist aims.