

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)

PROJECT	
Participant:	[1] - [Consorzio Oltrepò Mantovano] ([COM])
PIC number:	[947456910]
Project name and acronym:	[Villages are the center of Europe] — [VillagesEU]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[3]
Event name:	[PANEL FOCUS " THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING POLICIES FOR GREEN GROWTH/GREEN ECONOMY"]
Type:	[workshop]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Italy], [Gonzaga]
Date(s):	[13 th April 2023]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.oltrepomantovano.eu/progetto-villageseu-3-panel-focus/
Participants	
Female:	20
Male:	22
Non-binary:	
From country 1 [France]:	25
From country 2 [Italy]:	17
...	
Total number of participants:	42
From total number of countries:	2
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	

The event's objectives were the following:

- To foster the dialogue between the twinned towns of Brioude (FRA), Gonzaga (ITA) and Suzzara (ITA) about the need to involve all the civil society in the energy transition towards the use of renewable energies and the decarbonization of rural areas.
- To support local governing bodies in receiving political recommendations based on citizens' needs about green economy;
- sharing of good practices implemented or to be implemented in participating twinned towns, focused on the topic.

The panel focus took place in the town of Gonzaga (Italy), where the delegations from the towns of Brioude (France) and Suzzara (Italy) were hosted.

The agenda of the event was the following:

Time	Topic
Thursday 13 April 2023	17.00 Arrival in Suzzara by French participants 19.00 Dinner Overnight stay
Friday 14 April 2023	8.15 Reception of the Brioude delegation and Suzzara delegation at the Strozzi Institute in Palidano - visit to Begozzo dairy to see Parmigiano-Reggiano production - visit to greenhouses, vineyard and orchard of the Strozzi Institute's agricultural farm; - visit to "Krisma" dairy cow farm in Pegognaga; - 14.00 ex Convento Santa Maria (library): workshop "the importance of adopting policies for green growth/green economy"; workshop and discussion between the Italian and French delegations on the subject - 15.30 Visit to Gonzaga: Basilica San Benedetto Abate, ex Convento Santa Maria (library), Torre Civica, Piazza Castello, visit to the Venera Vecchia dairy and Azienda Agricola f.lli Luppi - 18.30 Meeting with Gonzaga's Mayor at the Municipality's library Dinner

Consorzio Oltrepò Mantovano, together with Partners (Municipality of Gonzaga, Municipality of Suzzara, Brioude Twinning Committee) organized the event addressing it mainly to young generations: for this reason, many participants came from schools, and the whole event focused on involving youth in discussing about the following topic: rural areas must seize opportunities to develop local energy and food ecosystems and stronger integration with urban areas. The European Green Deal and the producer-to-consumer strategy can create jobs and avoid an economic shift away from rural areas. Investment is needed to take advantage of participatory and sustainable projects that move towards circular economy models that enhance production chains, create jobs and reduce carbon footprints. To this extent, in Gonzaga the panel focus was focused on the role that agriculture can play in the transition towards a greener economy, since the Brioude, Suzzara and Gonzaga areas share the prominence of agriculture as main economic activities; thus finding ways, in a public-private cooperation, to reduce emissions and increase environmental sustainability of this sector is of fundamental importance for these kind of Municipalities.

On April the 13rd, during the morning participants visited the Liceo Strozzi school, which is an agricultural school. The Oltrepò Mantovano area main economic sector is agriculture, so it fundamental to train young students on the sustainability methods in agriculture to allow the growth of the territory in a sustainable way.

The delegations then visited 2 private farms have invested and are investing many resources in improving their energy and environmental performances. They were the "Latteria Begozzo" farm in Gonzaga (production of Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese) and "Krisma" farm (breeding dairy cattle for Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese).

Then they visited the farm owned by the "Strozzi" high school in which also students work and learn methodologies to conduct agricultural activities respectful of environment but, at the same time, being able to stay on the market.

After the visits, the panel focus saw the organization of a workshop (realized in the public library of Gonzaga) where participants discussed about the following topics:

- best practices already implemented related green economy in Brioude, Gonzaga and Suzzara;
- actions to be implemented to promote sustainable development in rural areas.

Simone Taddei of the Consorzio Oltrepò Mantovano moderated the discussion. He started stating that from the results of a questionnaire given to European dairy farmers, a number of themes emerged with a view to improving the sustainability of farms. Here are the top 10 out of a total of 250:

- 1) re-educating and informing especially the younger generation about dairy farming;
- 2) improving heat stress management;
- 3) improving the representativeness of farmers in decision-making contexts;
- 4) increased use of automatic feeding systems
(mixing wagons, automatic feed distributors and pushers, calf-rails);
- 5) improvement of the communication skills of livestock farmers about their contribution to society;
- 6) proper colostrum management;
- 7) increasing on-farm renewable energy production (biogas, wind, photovoltaic...);
- 8) strategies for generational change (support and planning);
- 9) creation of a strong link between farms and local communities
of stakeholders (e.g. citizens, buyers, workers, administrators);
- 10) simplification in management and work organisation (lean management).

The discussion focused on the visit to the “Krisma” farm, which is a great example of application of sustainability principles to agriculture. Issues that emerged from the discussion included more technological aspects related to the use of automated systems to improve efficiency in the barn and the spread of renewable energies, as well as efficient colostrum and heat stress management. Different themes, but which can be summarised as the search for all-round sustainability: economic, environmental and social in the dairy sector.

The participants from delegations agreed that local policy makers should promote the conversion of existing farms to more sustainable models, and promote at the same time new farms led by young entrepreneurs which are more sensitive to such topics.

The policy makers and citizens of Gonzaga, Suzzara and Brioude should work on the following questions in order to provide concrete answers quickly:

- What innovative business models do the farms in the area express?
- How do these models respond to sustainability objectives?
- Which local and supra-local networks promote sustainable rural development in the area? On which development issues?
- Which local territorial policies are needed to support sustainable rural development?
- How can schools and vocational training be helped to cope with the changes that produce new entrepreneurship?

Media/articles published:

<https://mantovauno.it/cronaca/da-suzzara-a-brioude-torna-lo-scambio-culturale-per-i-ragazzi-delle-scuole/>

<https://mantovauno.it/cronaca/la-delegazione-di-brioude-a-suzzara-e-gonzaga-si-rinnova-il-gemellaggio-con-la-citta-francese/>

<http://suzzaraweek.altervista.org/villages-are-the-center-of-europeviaggio-a-brioude-di-una-delegazione-di-gonzaga-e-suzzara-nellambito-del-progetto-ue/>

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GONZAGA (ITALY)
13th APRIL 2023

3rd PANEL FOCUS

**“THE IMPORTANCE OF
ADOPTING POLICIES
FOR GREEN
GROWTH/GREEN
ECONOMY”**



Rural areas must seize opportunities to develop local energy and food ecosystems and stronger integration with urban areas. The European Green Deal and the producer-to-consumer strategy can create jobs and avoid an economic shift away from rural areas. Investment is needed to take advantage of participatory and sustainable projects that move towards circular economy models that enhance production chains, create jobs and reduce carbon footprints.



Visit to Krisma farm



Workshop held in Gonzaga's public library

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).