



A School for Young Shepherds - Training and co-design of innovative ideas
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Thematic Group on Rural Youth Employment, EU CAP Network
Informal discussion, 16 May 2023, online meeting



“A School for Young shepherds” - Training and co-design of innovative ideas

*The School for Young Shepherds is an action-research project, focused on young people living in Italy's mountain areas, promoted by the **Association Riabitare l'Italia** and **CREA** within the Italian National Rural Network*

Donor: Fondazione Cariplo

[for more information:](https://www.reterurale.it/giovanipasto)

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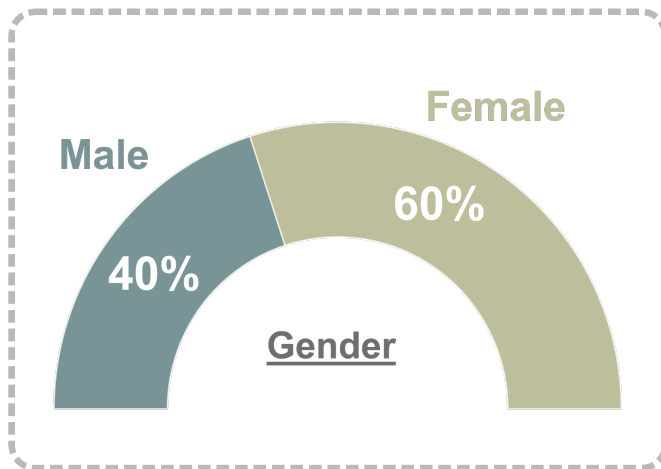
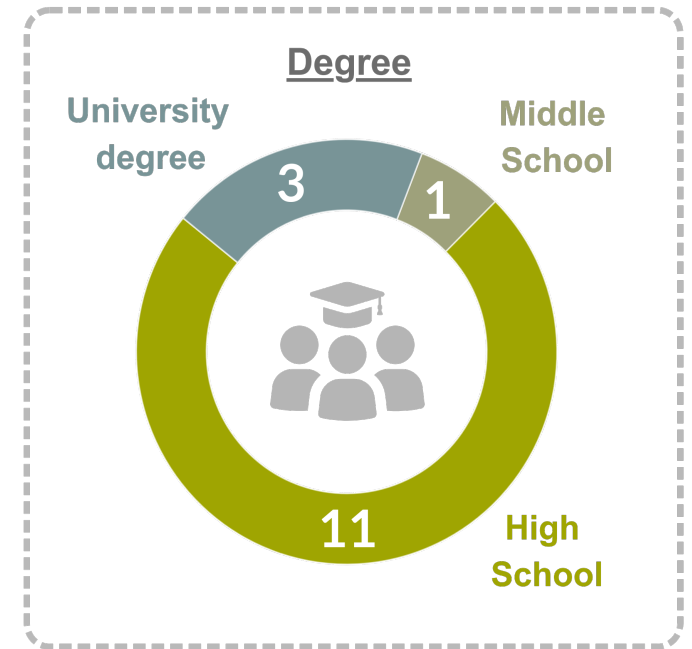
The implementation in Piedmont Region

*The School on livestock farming practices, processing techniques and design for young or aspiring shepherds has started on 26 of September 2022. There are 15 young participants, men and women who had the opportunity to join a network of exchange between shepherds, operators and researchers. **Training is delivered in collaboration with local farmers and adopts participatory didactics.***

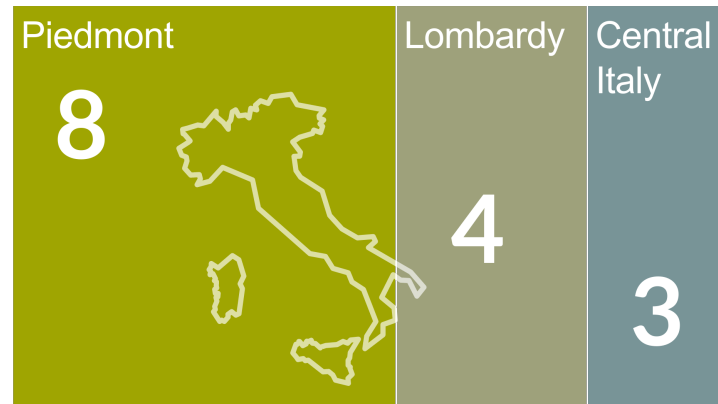
The offer, completely free of charge, includes 2 weeks of in-presence training, 1 online, support and participatory planning for the development of individual participants' projects and business ideas.

Presentation video : <https://youtu.be/qEjpN93GDS8>

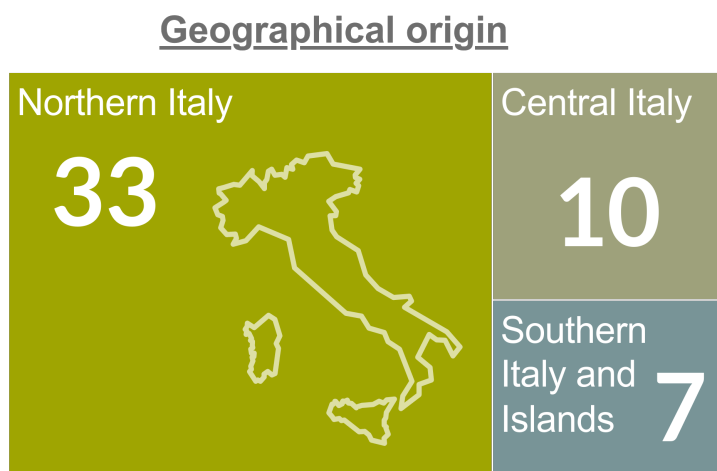
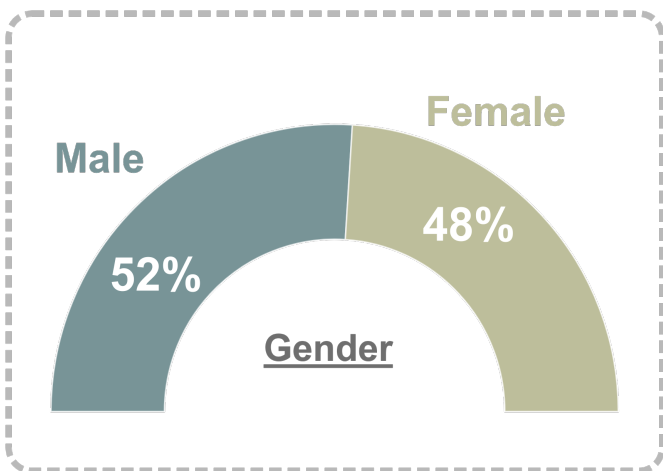
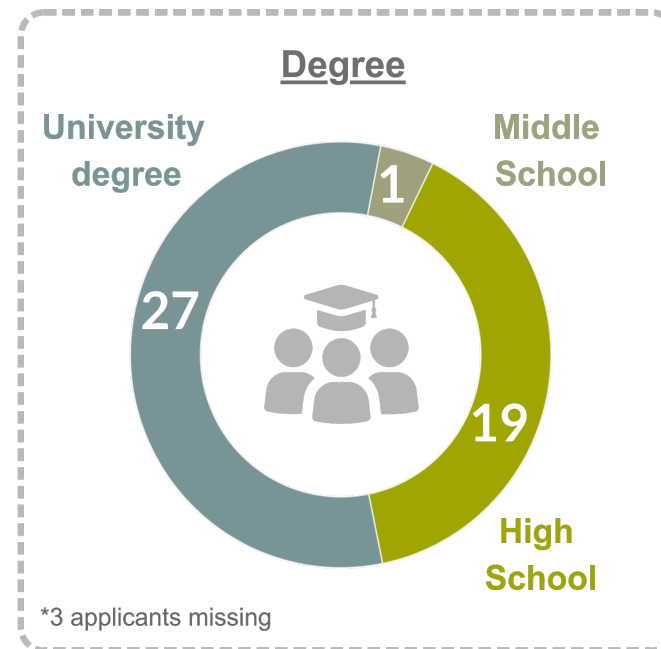
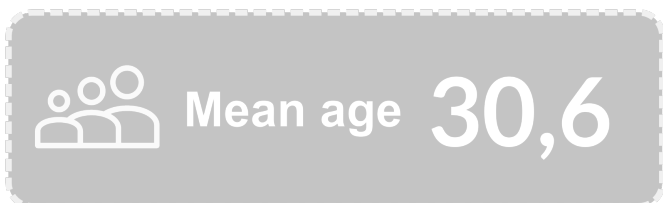
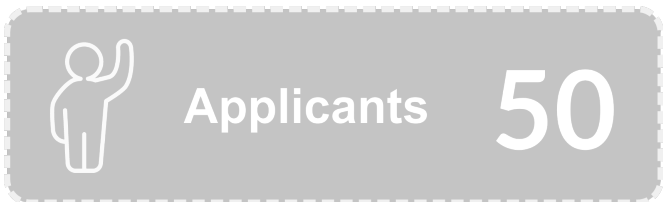
PARTECIPANTI



Geographical origin



APPLICANTS



Why a School for young shepherds : trends and needs

2015



Technical Committee
for Inner Areas

2020

CREA-NRN is
a partner



2022



THE INTENSE FIELD WORK CARRIED OUT BY CREA WITHIN THE NATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM CREATED TO HELP ACTORS IN INNER AREAS - THE MOST MARGINAL RURAL AREAS - TO DESIGN INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO STOP DEPOPULATION

READ FOR MORE:

[LUCATELLI, STORTI, 2019](#)

Territorial diagnosis based on open data and scouting of relevant actors

Pastoralism is embedded in the very cultural identity of these areas and it is at risk

AN ACTION-RESEARCH INVESTIGATING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH IN ITALIAN INNER AREAS (18-39 YEARS OLD)

READ FOR MORE:

[VOGLIA DI RESTARE](#)

DONZELLI EDITORE, 2023

Young people in rural areas are willing to stay (69 %) because of quality of life (79%) and human relationship (67%)

Growing interest towards pastoralism and agriculture, as a lifestyle choice not only a source of income (agroecological perspective)

IN RESPONSE TO THESE TRENDS, IT IS NECESSARY TO INVEST IN THE CAPACITATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE ACTIONS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR NEEDS



Main aims of our School

- to give access to a training offer linked to the needs of enhancing extensive livestock farming in marginal areas
- to build a places to compare and share operational practices and knowledge useful for developing one's own projects
- to support to the development of entrepreneurship ideas in interactions with local communities
- to provide assistance for the design of breeding farms ecologically sound
- to create a network of exchange between shepherds, operators and researchers

The school adopts a participatory and experiential approaches to facilitate knowledge exchange, creating in the process a community of people with a shared vision on grazing livestock farms and a closeness to cultivated and farmed species



Next steps : in October 2023 the School will be implemented in Sicily in the «Madonie» with two specificity

- is designed for the young people from the Madonie Mountains but is also open to young people from other Regions and/or other Countries who are interested in living and working in this mountain area;
- it has also the aim to trigger **innovative processes and practices of land recovery in favour of the young people who will be trained.**
- it will be implemented in **collaboration with the Mayors and the Administrative Union of the territory**, in coherence with the strategic vision that this territory has given itself as part of the **National Strategy of Inner Areas**



First results and lesson learnt

For young people returning to land, growing wheat, breeding animals is a cultural process of social innovation

They are creating communities that are more ecologically sound and socially just

The School can help to build initiatives that are place-based without becoming place bound, by supporting shared knowledge and visions, though projects co-designed by local communities, public institutions and research centres at national and regional level (*multi-scalar approach*)

Desirè Ferrero, Student:
The School helped me to understand who I really want to become in life ...
<https://youtu.be/kAz2RGXsHdk>



The School is an example of how to enhance rural and social innovation while helping young people to fulfil their projects



THANK YOU!

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