

## Italy

# Technical assistance

Youth migration pressures and patterns better understood in Italian mountain areas thanks to CAP

### Summary

'Giovani dentro' was a research project focused on young people living in Italy's inland, remote rural areas. The research aimed to investigate their quality of life, their access to job opportunities, their aspirations, and the challenges that they face.



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#### Location

Rome

#### Programming period

2014 – 2020

#### Measure

M20 – Technical assistance

#### Funding

Total budget 37 700 (EUR)

RDP contr. 5 000 (EUR)

Private 21 200 (EUR)

Other 11 500 (EUR)

#### Project duration

2020 – 2021

#### Project promoter

Associazione Riabitare l' Italia

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### Project Results

Results showed that 30% of the sample have found a job in their mountain areas and are willing to stay to start their own business, often linked to agriculture or sheep and cow farming. Some 40% of the rural youth population sampled attend university and are living either in the city or abroad.

### Lessons & Recommendations

- Good networking among partners and stakeholders was a key success factor.
- The research involved 3 300 citizens from remote rural areas and enabled the development of other projects as spin offs of the 'Giovani Pastori' initiative.

## Context

This project stems from a careful analysis of trends in Italian rural mountain areas - the so-called 'Inner Areas'. These places are characterised by a history of progressive abandonment of land, pastures, soils, forests, and activity related to extensive livestock farming and mountain agriculture. There is also a crisis risk in the pastoral system, due to loss in the value of the sector and in its ability to attract Italian workers. This can be exacerbated when combined with low skill and unmanageable working conditions for shepherds such as too many heads of cattle per shepherd, difficulties in managing the threat of large predators, illegal work, lack of adequate technical knowledge concerning pastures and flock management methods. At the same time, this sector represents a valuable resource if actions are taken to support new forms of entrepreneurship. There is a need to attract 'new mountain people' and young people (from the cities or inland areas) to establish rewarding lives and careers for themselves in rural mountain areas.

## Objectives

The GIOVANI DENTRO research project aimed at investigating the characteristics of the young inhabitants of the inland rural areas of Italy. Better understanding of these characteristics would clarify socio-economic dimensions and value motivations that lead them to settle/stay in the territories they live in. It also aimed to investigate the potential of these territories in terms of sustainable local development for the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector.

## Activities

The project was promoted by the 'Riabitare l'Italia' association in partnership with the Italian National Rural Network, the University of Torino, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Eurac Research, and the Youth Observatory of the University of Salerno.

The project was implemented in four steps. The first three steps (September 2020 -October 2021) focused on improving knowledge amongst young people in remote rural areas and developing the project's policy recommendations.

The last step (October 2021- December 2021) was a pilot project aimed at improving job opportunities for young people in remote rural areas. The four steps were implemented as follows:

- Surveying 1 000 respondents and 2 000 responses from the project's Facebook survey. The target group were young residents (18-39 years) who were questioned about their quality of life, and their reasons to stay or leave their areas.
- 300 qualitative interviews focused on training and education, empowerment, needs, aspirations, opportunities, and challenges.
- A focus group brought together relevant actors to discuss the main challenges faced by marginalised areas. Themes included working in agriculture, business start-ups, education, and other tools for youth participation.
- A pilot project titled 'Giovani Pastori' (Young Shepherds) provided training and tutoring for young shepherds in remote rural areas.

## Main Results

Results from the first steps of the research showed that several young residents have chosen to return to the countryside after spending some time in the city. Some 30% of the sample have found a job and are willing to stay to start their own business, often linked to agriculture or sheep and cattle farming, while 40% attend university and are living either in the city or abroad.

The Young shepherds pilot project should result in improved job opportunities for young people in the remote rural areas.

## Key lessons

Good networking among partners and stakeholders was a key success factor.

The research involved 3 300 citizens from remote rural areas and enabled the development of other projects as spin offs of the 'Giovani Pastori' initiative.

### Additional information

[www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/23](http://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/23)

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[www.reterurale.it/giovanipastori](http://www.reterurale.it/giovanipastori)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYys4hoJSw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYys4hoJSw&feature=youtu.be)



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