

# Taking advantage of community development opportunities from restoring cultural heritage assets in rural Italy

Restoring an old cereal grinding mill to enhance the cultural and recreational activities of the local community.

## EAFRD-funded projects

**Location:** Codroipo, Italy

**Programming period:** 2014-2020

**Priority:** P6. Social inclusion and local development

**Focus Area:** 6B. Local development

**Measures:** M07. Basic services & village renewal

<b>Funding:</b>	Total budget	330 000 (EUR)
	EAFRD	196 000 (EUR)
	Private/own	134 000 (EUR)

**Timeframe:** 03/2020 - 07/2024

**Project promoter:** Citta'di Codroipo

**Email:** [ivan.cignola@comune.codroipo.ud.it](mailto:ivan.cignola@comune.codroipo.ud.it)



© Ivan Cignola

## Summary

A small cereal grinding mill, originally part of a famous XVI-century villa, was abandoned some 30 years ago. The Codroipo municipality in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region purchased it in 2013 to restore and use it for cultural and recreational activities for residents and schools. After securing funding from the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP), the mill underwent a careful restoration.

## Project results

- > The 140 metre-squared building was fully restored using traditional materials.
- > Recreation and cycling itineraries have been launched at the mill.

## Key lessons and recommendations

Heritage restoration projects are crucial for enhancing local cultural identities.

## Context

Italy is home to numerous historical treasures, both in its cities and countryside.

One example is the abundance of mills near rivers and water sources, particularly in northern regions like Friuli Venezia Giulia. The Bosa mill near Codroipo town has a rich history, dating back to its establishment in February 1524.

This rural complex comprises various buildings from different historical periods, including the miller's house and an icehouse. Originally part of the Villa Manin estate, a renowned 16th-century settlement where Napoleon resided for a brief period, the complex was abandoned around 30 years ago.

In 2013, the Codroipo municipality acquired the property with the intention of restoring it to support cultural and recreational activities for residents and schools. The municipality sought funding for the restoration project through the 2014-2020 RDP in accordance with Regional Law 25/2016.

## Objectives

The project objectives were to:

- > Restore the mill complex.
- > Create a space for recreational and cultural activities.
- > Recover a historical rural building as a symbol of local identity.





© Ivan Cignola

## Activities

Project activities included:

- > Strengthening the building structure (consolidating walls, reconstructing the floor slabs, etc.).
- > Repairing damaged sections of existing walls and floor coverings.
- > Cleaning the mechanical components of the mill.
- > Cleaning and landscaping the outdoor areas.

## Main results

- > The 140 metre-square building was fully restored using traditional materials, such as wooden beams.
- > Recreation and cycling itineraries have been launched at the mill, now popular among local residents.
- > The landscape around the mill has been improved and educational activities are being planned for local schools.
- > As a result of the successful restoration of this mill, the municipality is considering purchasing two other nearby mills that were part of the old Villa Manin estate.

## Key lessons and recommendations

The value of such projects lies not only in the physical restoration of a historical building but also in their contribution to enhancing the cultural identity of the area.

## Quote

*“Local residents and policymakers were highly satisfied with the project’s outcomes, especially taking into account the previous poor conditions of the mill”.*

Ivan Cignola

## Additional information:

Project on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/reel/513373668080545](https://www.facebook.com/reel/513373668080545)



© Ivan Cignola