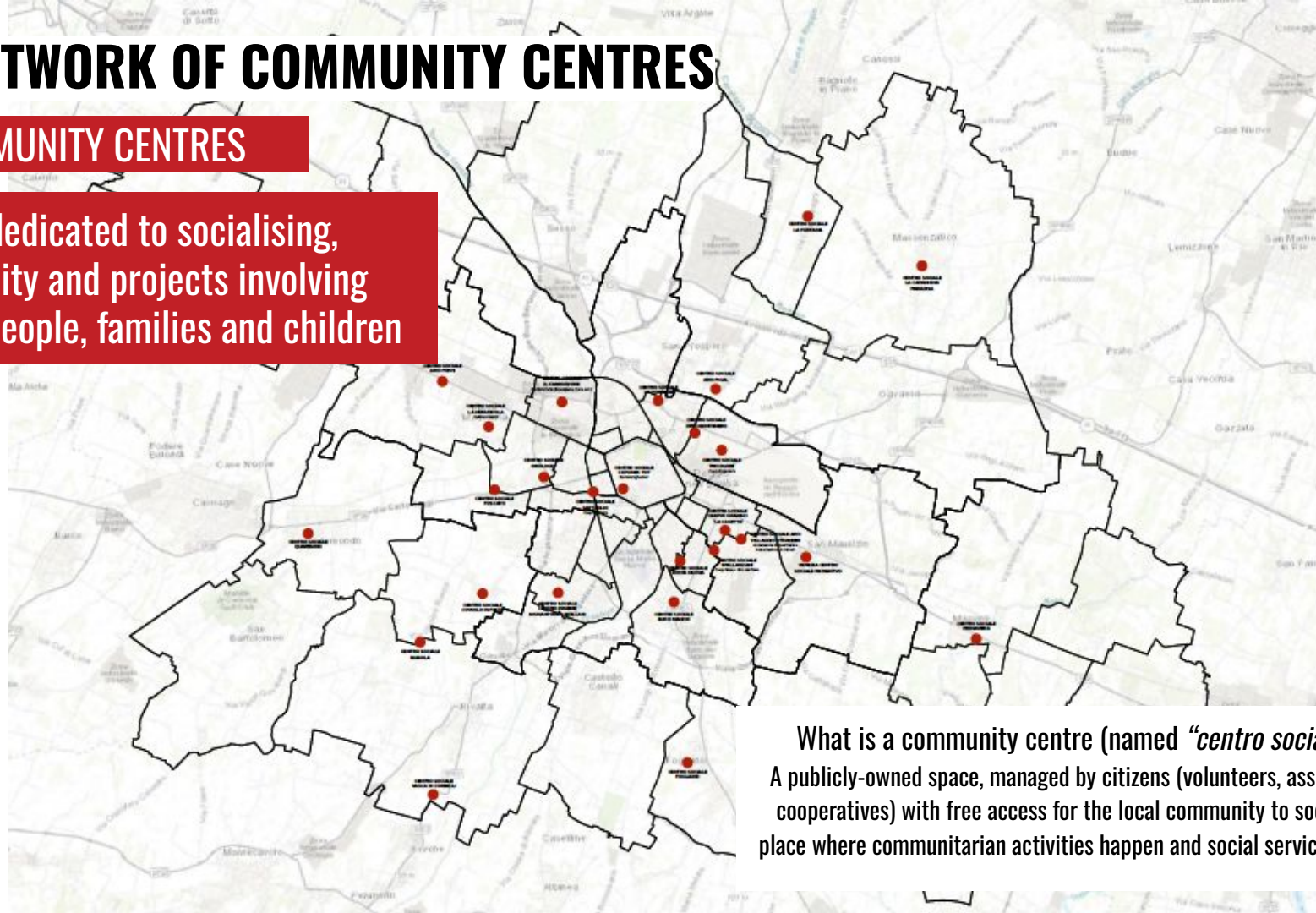


THE NETWORK OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

27 COMMUNITY CENTRES

Spaces dedicated to socialising, conviviality and projects involving elderly people, families and children



What is a community centre (named “*centro sociale*”)?

A publicly-owned space, managed by citizens (volunteers, associations, cooperatives) with free access for the local community to socialise. A place where communitarian activities happen and social services are run.

THE ORIGIN

Many of these centres have been built from scratch, in collaboration with the municipality, by groups of citizens, associations who have believed in this common project for the city



Community centres are one of the strong points of the **Reggio Emilia model of social cohesion**. Ancient convivial rites can be found there, which resist and thrive to hand on the local identity through social and cultural aggregation, becoming a point of reference for the neighbourhood's inhabitants.

IDENTITY AND TRANSFORMATION

The progressive transformation from community centres to neighbourhood homes, named *“case di quartiere”*



In 2020, the municipal administration started a process to give new impetus and vitality to the social centres and started a new renewal path which, together with the management bodies, projects them towards the future. The aim is to accompany them in **updating their role and objectives, strengthen their natural vocation and identity, increase services for the care of the community and the territory** and thus transform them increasingly into laboratories of social innovation.

CHALLENGES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOMES

expand service offerings to be more inclusive

reference for the whole neighborhood

improve the dialogue while finding resources and skills

management model inclusive and economically sustainable

So far, 21 out of 27 community centres have transformed themselves into **neighbourhood homes**, developing local strategies to attract new users and improving their competencies in terms of financial sustainability.

In 2023, the local authority launched a **pilot acceleration project** aimed at training **six welfare community managers** with the aim to expand the governance of six neighbourhood homes and accompanying them in the co-design and delivering of a **proximity social service** based on local needs.

What next? CROSSING WITH CULTURAL ASSETS

In 2024, the pilot acceleration project of the neighborhood homes started a **new phase**: the local authority encouraged the **network of Supercultura** to take residence in the neighbourhood homes.

Supercultura is a **network of 14 renowned cultural associations** based in Reggio Emilia, but working nationally and internationally.

The aim is to generate a **virtuous cycle in a multi-actor perspective**, supporting the formation and consolidation of neighborhood houses also in a cultural key, as well as **generating identity through a new cultural offer ad-hoc** for its local context, where potentially **develop a sense of belonging** and **promote art-in-residence actions**.