

**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

Urban-rural innovation linkages

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Lombardy Region

Online Discussion

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1. RUMORE | Rural-Urban partnerships Motivating Regional Economies



DE

HCU | HafenCity Universität
Hamburg

Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung
Lüneburg

PROJECT LEADER

Regional Development Agency of
Lüneburg



RUMORE
Interreg Europe

5 countries | 8 partners

IT



Lombardy Region (with focus on
Milan Metropolitan area)

NL



City of Amsterdam



Green Knowledge Portal Twente

GR



Central Macedonia region



The Development
Agency of Eastern
Thessaloniki's Local
Authorities

BG



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Burgas District Administration

District of Burgas





1. RUMORE | General approach and lessons learnt

Rural-urban partnerships are instruments for regional growth and innovation:

- ✓ Recognition of **mutual dependencies**
- ✓ Mobilization of **synergies between urban and rural areas**
- ✓ Consideration of the **potential and capacities of each particular region**
- ✓ Dialogue and **mutual learning**

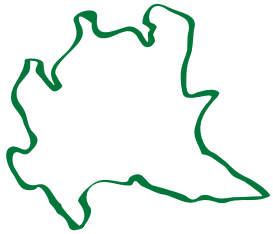
Lessons learnt from partners regions

- Improved regional **innovation chains**
- More **cooperation activities** between innovation actors
- Support for **rural areas and stakeholders** to unfold their potential
- More enterprises cooperating with **research institutes**
- Larger share of **innovative companies** in the partner regions
- Strengthened innovation **capacities** of the partner regions
- Effective **governance of EFRD** programmes



1. RUMORE | Lombardy region approach

Policy instrument influenced:



**European Regional
Development Fund's Regional
Operational Programme**
**ERDF ROP 2014-2020 for the
Lombardy Region**

Lombardy ERDF ROP Axis I –
Strengthening research, technological
development and innovation

Lombardy ERDF ROP Axis III –
Promoting the competitiveness of
SMEs

Institutional framework and stakeholder group:



Official Agreement MILANO METROPOLI RURALE.

Technical discussion group «Innovation for the enterprises»
matches RUMORE's stakeholders group

Beneficiaries:

Technological
clusters

Rural clusters /
districts

2. Good practice: The Milano Metropoli Rurale Agreement (AQST)

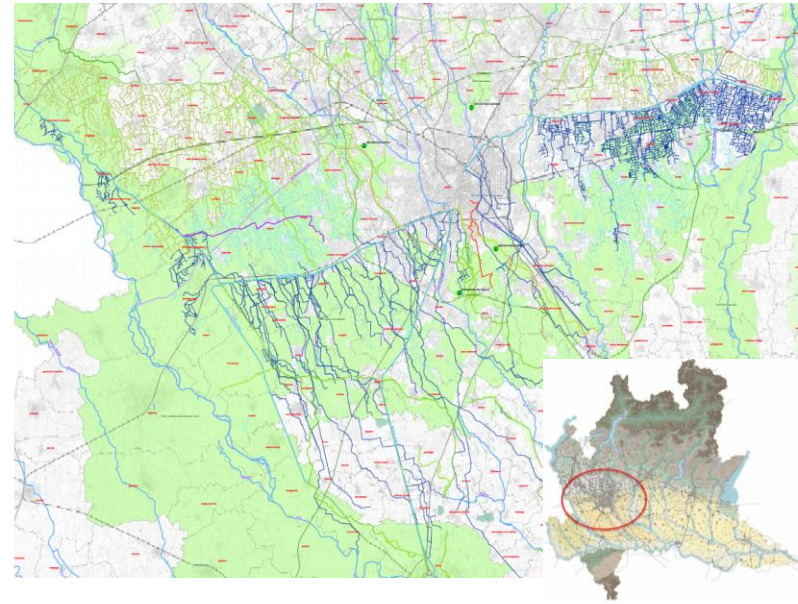
Milano Metropoli Rurale AQST is an **official agreement for local development** focused on the reinforcement of the **rural matrix** of the metropolitan area of Milano, promoted by Regione Lombardia and signed on 2015.

The Metropolitan area of Milano is one of the European more relevant urbanized areas but it is one of the more fertile ones too. The **hydrographic system** is an important historical asset of this land.

To define new sustainable modalities **to balance urban and rural development**, the agreement is a current challenge and a big opportunity for the future of Milan metropolitan area.

Milano Metropoli Rurale AQST is focused on:

- **a specific territorial dimension**: the Milan urban-rural metropolitan area that goes beyond the administrative borders of Milan Metropolitan City
- **the Rural Matrix**: with attention to the farms system valorization and agricultural entrepreneurs (Rural Districts)



2. Good practice: The Milano Metropoli Rurale Agreement (AQST)



Partnership

The agreement formally involves:

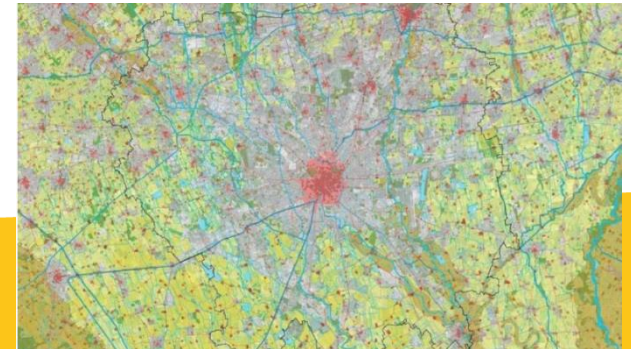
- ✓ **public administrations and authorities,**
- ✓ **rural districts** (i.e. agricultural clusters in metropolitan area),
- ✓ **irrigation authorities.**

in order to coordinate their efforts to enhance the different perspectives of the strategic development of Milan urban-rural area.

Strategic and operative tools

Milano Metropoli Rurale AQST includes two tools aimed to guide the implementation of the agreement:

- A shared **strategic Scenario**
- The **Action Plan** (organized in 7 axes)



2. Good practice: The Milano Metropoli Rurale Agreement (AQST)

Conclusions (1/2)

AQST is a institutional public-private agreement oriented on:

- ✓ the **soil consumption limitation**;
- ✓ the **integration of farming production with multifunctional activities**, to answer to new local demand of good food, energy, landscape, natural ecosystem services;
- ✓ the diversification of the agriculture activities and **potential synergy with other economic sectors/industries**;
- ✓ the **limitation of territory degradation trend** and the safeguarding of the rural heritage with its different topics: cultural landscape, soil, biodiversity;
- ✓ the strengthening of the different peculiarities of the urban-rural territory and the **improvement of the relation between rural and urban areas**.



2. Good practice: The Milano Metropoli Rurale Agreement (AQST)



Conclusions (2/2)

AQST is also an experimental laboratory where public bodies, irrigation authorities and farmers can:

- ✓ work together
- ✓ integrate different knowledges
- ✓ research synergies between different action levels
- ✓ meet many stakeholders, experts and projects

AQST Strengths:

- **large-scale and long-term perspective** with a particular focus on innovative practices and operative tools
- **open and flexible approach**, with a continuous confrontation between the actors through thematic working groups
- From confrontation, potential synergies emerge such as specific projects developed through **RUMORE's agro-creative matches** between agricultural entrepreneurs and creative experts.





3. Recommendations

From RUMORE and AQST experiences, **the recommendations aiming to promote urban-rural linkages are:**

1. **Complement existing policy documents** with *Formal Agreements for Territorial Governance*;
2. **Strengthen and institutionalise innovative urban-rural partnerships** and thematic cluster cooperation to complete regional value chains in the fields of regional smart specialisation;
3. **Encourage the participation of young people** in the creation and implementation of regional innovation projects;
4. **Operationalise** urban-rural synergies to unlock **circular economy potentials**;
5. Include the concept of urban-rural partnerships in **RIS3 processes and ERDF Regional Operational Programmes**