

# Mediterritage

**Valorisation économique du patrimoine naturel et culturel des montagnes méditerranéennes**

## **SOUS-PROJET « BIOMASSE »**

### **Présentation de la contribution de Commune de Castronuovo Sant'Andrea Région de Basilicate (Italie)**

#### **1. Présentation générale du territoire/village**

*Overall presentation of the territory / Village*

Castronuovo di Sant'Andrea Municipality is situated in the south-east area of Basilicata Region (see the map, page 1), within one of the largest protected natural areas existing in Europe: the Pollino National Park. The morphology of the territory is changeable depending on the altitudes (from 500 to 1.000 meters, above the level of the sea).



Picture 1: Castronuovo di Sant'Andrea

The natural areas embrace more than half of the town territory, showing a decisive prevalence of forests (Turkey oak and durmast), uncultivated fields, pastures and lawns. The agricultural areas embrace approximately 1/3 of the territorial surface and are mostly cropped with cereals. The grapevine and olive tree cultivation is destined exclusively to the family demand.

The living population, since 2001, amounts to 1.439 inhabitants, showing a decisive tendency to the depopulation, considered that compared to the 30's (approximately 3.000 residents) the population has halved, following the endless migratory fluxes towards the big national and overseas industrial cities. Castronuovo di Sant'Andrea is one the Municipalities showing the lowest demographic density in Basilicata Region: just 30 inhabitants per square kilometers (Basilicata Region = 60 inhabitants per square kilometers).

The main results, coming from the depopulation and the births decrease, manifest themselves through the progressive obsolescence of the population (about 3 seniors per each youth).

The local economy, once based almost exclusively on the primary sector (agriculture, zootechnics and forestry), follows the general trends of the inner areas: abandonment of the agricultural activities, nowadays representing only the 20% of the workforce, compared to the 35% finding a job in industry and the 45% employed in services sector.

The agricultural sector shows clear structural lacks, as well as a very low generation exchange;

all factors contributing to closet such activities in an extremely marginal position in respect to the other economical activities. Among the possible strategies for the rural development, the productive diversification (e.g. bio-energetic production) seems to be one of the most pragmatic actions aimed to avoid the on-going

## 2. **Situation du territoire / village par rapport au thème du sous-projet**

*Situation of the territory / village with regard to the sub-project*

Castronuovo di Sant'Andrea is interested by prominent social and economical problems, due above all to the low vocation of the territory to implement some economical and productive activities, able to reply to the local job demand. In such context, the development of the forest and agricultural activities can play an important role in the development of the area. The new agricultural, forest, environmental and energetic politics have manifested, transversally, a deep interest in the use of the vegetable bio-masse for the production of renewable energy, as an alternative to the fossil fuel. The use of refuses coming from the production and/or transformation of the agricultural sector and wood factory, the same as the energy crops cultivation, can be a useful strategy to reach the local sustainable development (economical and occupational relapses and more protection of the territory and its resources) and the Kyoto protocol objectives (gas carbon discharges retaining).

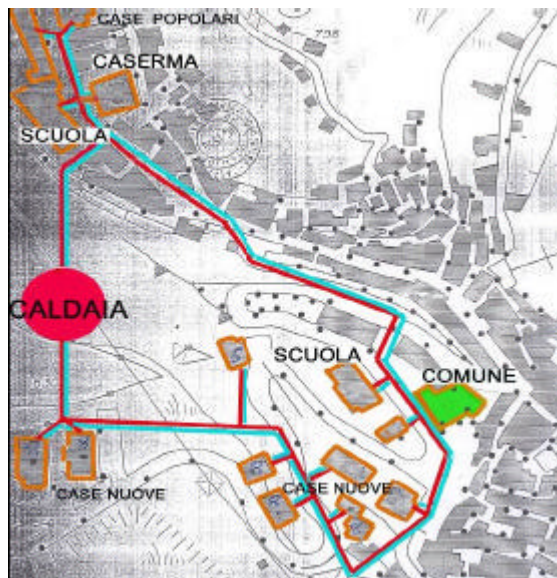


Foto 2: *Castronuovo Sant'Andrea district heating plan.*

In respect of the bio-energetic factory promotion, Basilicata Region, within the interregional programme *Ramses* (Agro – Forest Energetic Resources for the Mezzogiorno and the Sustainable Economical Development), has promoted in Castronuovo the realization of a demonstrative district heating plant, totally fueled with chop wood. To this day, they have realized a feasibility study for the realization of a district heating plant to be installed in 8 public structures and in 32 private structures.

## 3. **Les attentes par rapport au sous-projet**

*Expectations from the sub-project*

In Castronuovo, there are about 400 agricultural farms, the majority of which (340) are family business. The average cultivated surface amounts to about 3 hectares, but 1/3 of the total presents a less than 1 hectare area. The most spread cultivation is represented by seedings (mostly, the wheat) whose production, as well as being demanded by the market, has been provided incentives by the support of the community agricultural politics (PAC). However, the severance scheduled by the recent PAC seems to be destined to a future indifference towards the grain growth and to a concrete danger of a final land abandonment. Compared to such possibility, the energetic production of the agricultural enterprises and the residuals gathering (straws, pruning residuals, etc.) can represent an efficient strategy for the production and local activities diversification, aiming to the multifunctionality of the agricultural and forest enterprises.

The project for the realization of a district heating plant, started by the municipal government, shares the same above aims and the participation to Biomass subproject represents another important step towards the realization of a study contributing to define an efficient example for the management of the plant and of the whole weaving factory.

In respect to the planning of the bio-energetic factory, one among the critical points able to weigh on the benefits locally realized, pertains to the raw material supplying. Therefore, the planning idea needs to be supported by an exact appraisal of the resources existing on the territory, on the strength of which measuring the plants (hot-water heater) and, then, identifying the way the local companies can input themselves in the different productive cycle fields.

Therefore, the actions expected to be realized on a local level pertain to:

- 1) the analysis of biomasses existing on the local territory, employable for energetic purposes;
- 2) make aware the population in respect to the renewable energies;
- 3) the promotion of the multifunctionality of the agricultural and forest enterprise.

The transnational cooperation will allow to face these themes on a wider territorial scale (Mediterranean mountain) and, through the comparison among different specialists, to identify common strategies able to affect also the future regional politics.

The expected results pertain to the definition of initiatives able to match the economical development of the primary sector with the agricultural and forest territory preservation. The last, but not the less important aim, is to encourage the young generations to attempt entrepreneurial initiatives linked to the bio-energetic factory.