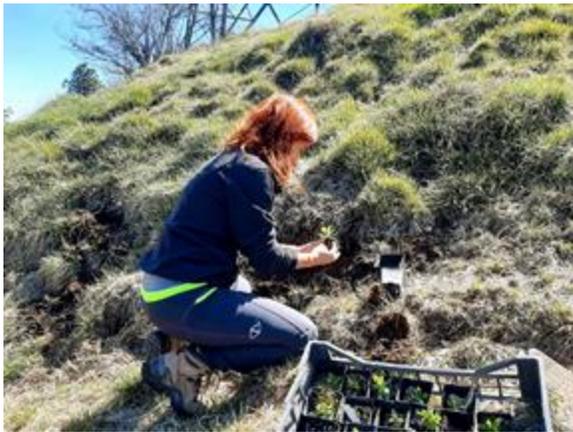


Fostering the biodiversity through a participative approach: The experience of the Technical Facilitators

Mattia Bertocchi – Technical Facilitator ERSAF Lombardia



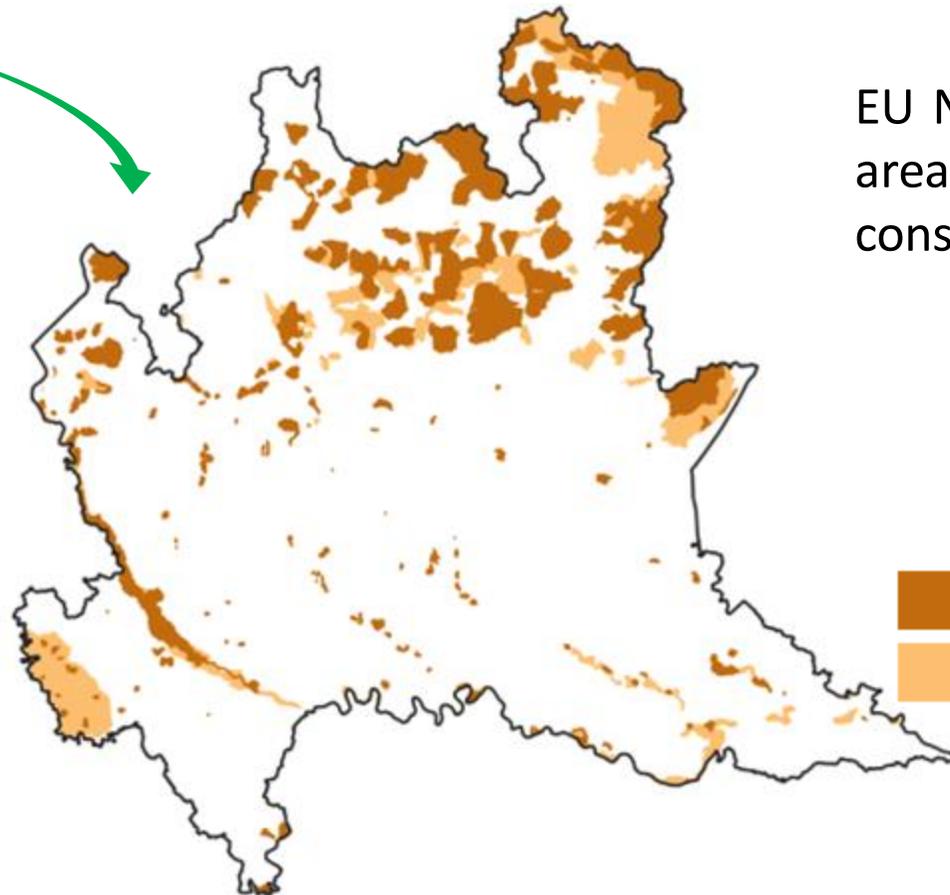
Gestire2020 Partners



Collaboration with



EU Natura 2000 network in the Lombardy Region



EU Nature 2000 network gathers the protected areas with habitat and species of high conservation value in the whole UE.

Natura 2000: 15,6 % of the Region area

246 Natura 2000 sites

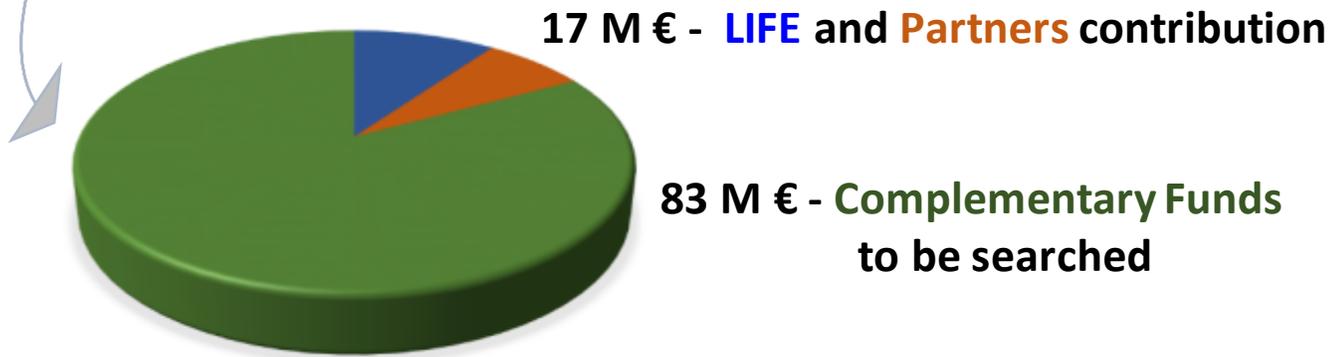
-  Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
-  Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

How to preserve these protected areas? The approach of the Life IP Gestire 2020

Implementation of the *Prioritized Action Framework (PAF)* in EU Natura 2000 Sites by:

Main European
planning for
biodiversity
conservation in
SACs/SPAs sites

- a) **Improving governance** of Natura 2000 Sites, also improving **Ecological Networks**
- b) **Maintaining and improving conservation status of habitats and species**
- c) **Raising awareness** on the value of the regional Natura 2000 Sites



Total Budget
100 M €

Technical Facilitators and the complementary funds

COMPLEMENTARY FUNDS

Funds which that are (but not necessarily) intended for the conservation of biodiversity and they can be used for this purpose



PSR
2014 2020

Fondazione
CARIPLO
TUTE SERVARE MUNIFICE DONARE - 1816



**Interreg
Europe**
European Union | European Regional Development Fund

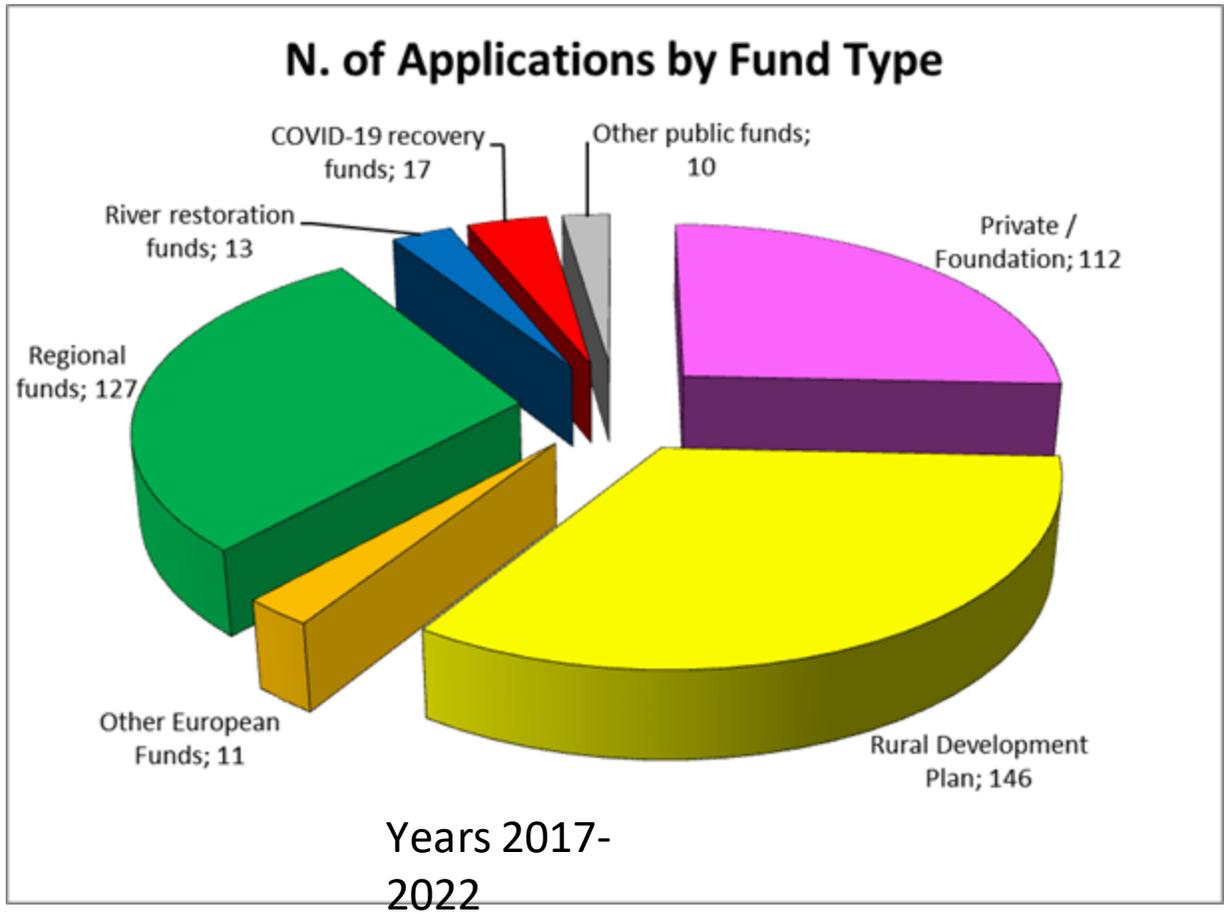


TECHNICAL FACILITATORS

experts in different fields with the task of:

- ✓ **stimulating** and **animating** stakeholders, collect their needs (e.g. farmers);
- ✓ **fostering the network** between local and central authorities, finding a balance between the needs of the territories and the institutions' objectives;
- ✓ **supporting** the stakeholders on drawing up biodiversity projects;
- ✓ **researching** funding opportunities.

What have we done with these complementary funds?

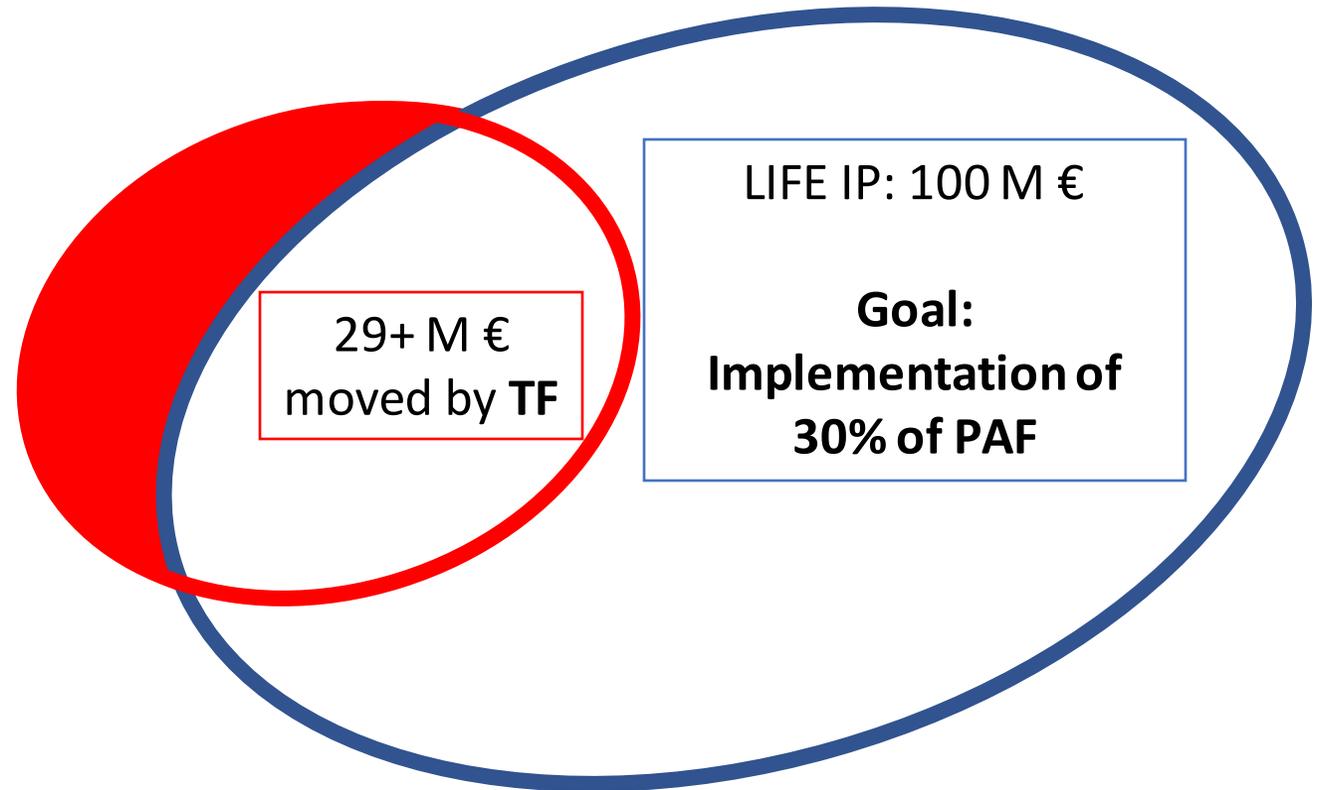


436 applications
submitted in 6 years

Total value of the projects
presented in tenders:
52M €

The impact of the Technical Facilitators on the project's goals

Among this 436
projects submitted,
more than **300** have
been financed
involving about **29**
million € (2017-2022)



The use of complementary funds by the Technical Facilitators

...Some examples...

Conservation of an **significant wetland** for biodiversity in the **Po floodplain** (*Oasi le Margherite*) by:

- Reshaping of the tributary canal
- Lowering of the pond bottom
- Containing the invasive alien plants
- Creating an area that can be colonized by *Emys orbicularis*
- Managing silvicultural interventions
- Placing informative pannels

Bando regionale per la
salvaguardia della
biodiversità obiettivi Life
IP Gestire 2020
Anfibi



The use of complementary funds by the Technical Facilitators

...Some examples...

Conservation of a **continental moorland habitat**
(inside *Pineta Regional Park*) by:

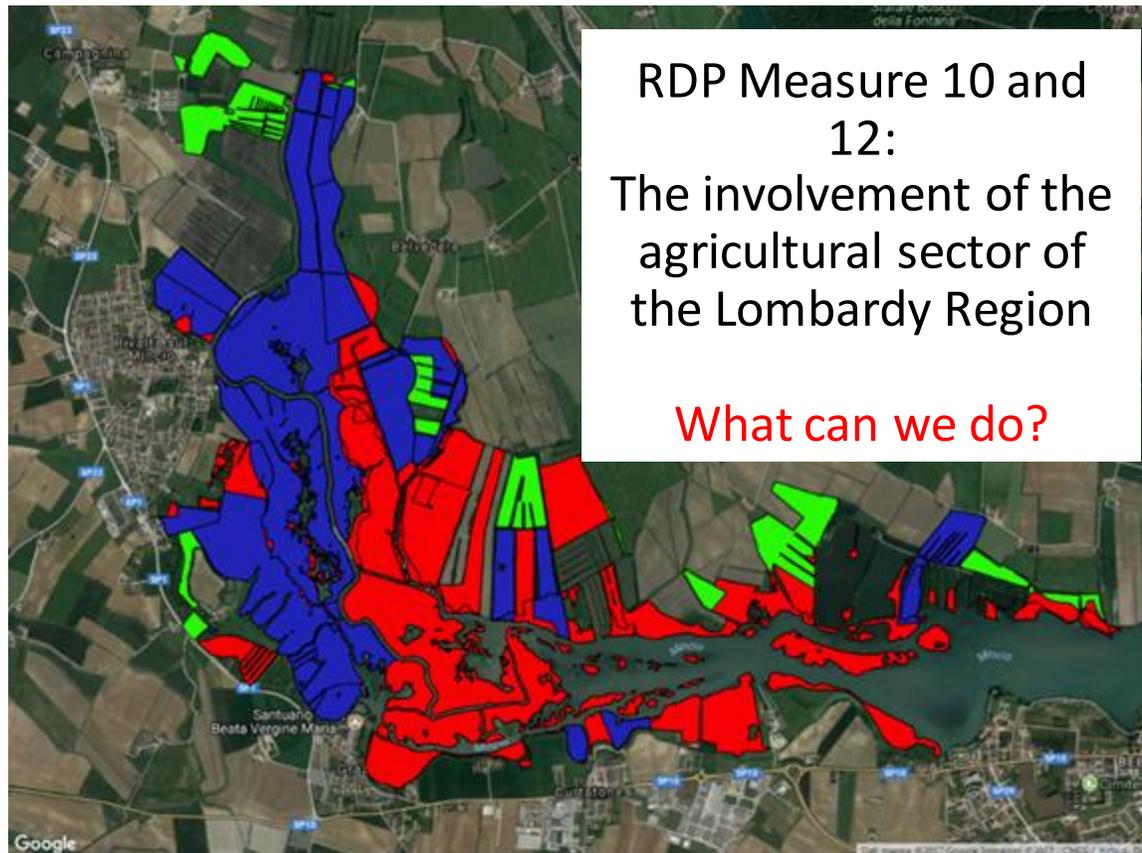
- Mowing shrubs
- Controlling the invasive alien plants
- Scattering of *Calluna vulgaris* seed
- Planting seedlings of *Calluna vulgaris*
- Planting flowers of *Gentiana pneumonanthe*

Bando regionale per la
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Aree prioritarie
d'intervento (API)



The use of complementary funds by the Technical Facilitators

...Some examples...



E.g. SAC Ansa e Valli del Mincio

- Areas funded
↓
 Conservation measures achieved
- Reed Beds to be funded
- Hay Meadows to be funded
- ➔ Direct support to farms through the «Territorial Technical Facilitators»
- ➔ Objective: fostering the future use of complementary funds where more needed

The use of complementary funds by the Technical Facilitators

...Some examples...

**Where: Po Plan: agricultural area
between the Oglio and Serio rivers**

Characteristics of the area:

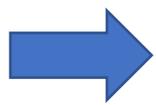
High naturalistic value

Need of promoting and fostering the biodiversity and ecological connectivity among the Natura 2000 network

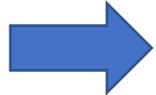
High breeding value

Intensive agriculture with relevant nitrogen issues

1. Management of the livestock manure, reduction of the impact from nitrates

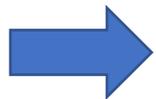


New plants for the effluent biological stabilization (PSR 4.1.02) and the improvement of the existing plants (6.4.02)



Demonstration and information projects (1.2.0)

2. Environmental and ecological enhancement

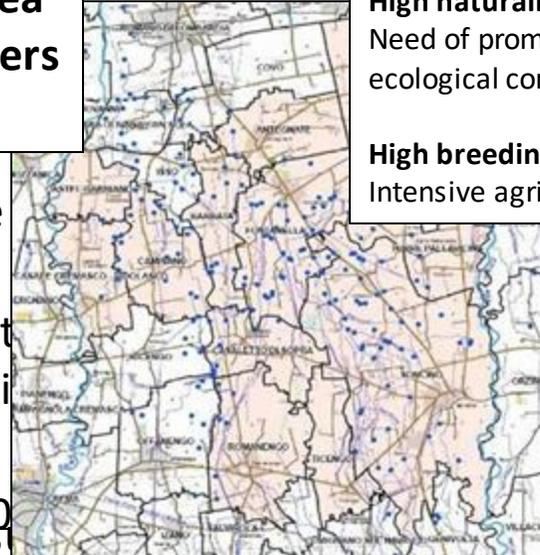


Hedges and rows (4.4.01) and functional restoration of the fountains (4.4.02)

3. Valorization of the territory, social and tourism



Creation of new spaces (7.4.01), new refectory of an ancient monastery



Cooperation

Fostering the biodiversity
An agricultural need and an environmental opportunity

**What does this measure
finance?**

Improving the environmental and economic sustainability of farms

Agricultural objectives



Valorizing the natural resources, the landscape, the environment, the culture and the sustainable tourism

Environmental objectives

The use of complementary funds by the Technical Facilitators

What this measure does NOT finance?

The Measure 4 of the RDP:
Productive and non-productive investments for farms



No aids for the protection of farms (livestocks) from wildlife damage (wolf, bears)...

What can we do?

New proposal...



...Some examples...

The use of complementary funds by the Technical Facilitators

Beyond the economic importance, this experience had some key role in:

- a) implementing interventions mostly with **local bottom-up processes**
- a) showing that biodiversity can be a **transversal theme**, that can be connected to projects apparently far from the theme of biodiversity



Municipalities and protected area managers often have no resources and time enough to develop project focused on biodiversity.



Technical Facilitators closed this gap, providing professional figures able to assist them to develop projects on biodiversity conservation issues



Highlights for discussion

- Farmers:
How to involve the agricultural sector?
- Inside & Outside Natura2000:
The funds mobilized should be directed to a greater extent inside Natura 2000?
- Replicability:
How can we make this experience as a grounded approach?

