

## Piemonte, Italy

### Pilot area(s)

Settlements of Meitre and Argiassera (Bussoleno) and Chiomonte

### Aim

To identify opportunities and threats to historical centres, in order to establish suitable intervention policies, taking into consideration two different situations: a main centre (Chiomonte) and two settlements belonging to the Municipality of Bussoleno. The aim is to test different methods then to be transferred to other municipalities and settlements.

### Methodology

In a first phase, data was collected from statistical regional and national data banks; then, the local community was involved, through direct surveys, interviews (local administrators, representatives of associations, teachers, experts and inhabitants), and through the community planning method. This activity led to the implementation, adjustment or confirmation of data collected in the first phase. Data collected concerns State, Trend and Response indicators.

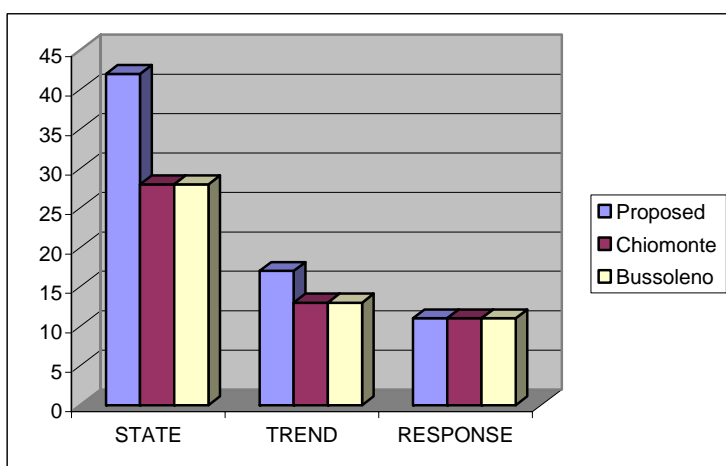
In the case of Chiomonte, a series of meetings were called, with the active participation of local community and stakeholders, aiming at shared knowledge. In Bussoleno activities concerned interviews to inhabitants and stakeholders. In both cases, the main element was knowledge of the territory and dialogue with representatives of local communities, such as parish priest, teachers, local administrators, local associations working in the territory.

SWOT analysis was finalised through local community collaboration. The SWOT chart was filled in in two steps: by using data coming from data banks and on the basis of the approved indicators; then, the chart was adjusted on the basis of the community planning results.

Finally, indicator interpretation led to the definition of policy priorities.

### State of work

Already concluded; on the basis of results, two handbooks (one per each case study) have been elaborated



Proposed/used indicators

## SWOT analysis of Meitre and Argiassera settlements, Bussoleno

Strengths	Weaknesses
Good facility level in the main centre	Lack of retail activities and public facilities in the settlements
Proximity of minor settlements to main centre	Lack of public transport utilities connecting the settlements
Easy access with asphalted roads	Shortage of parking areas in the settlements and in Bussoleno railway station
Good exposure all the year round, favourable local climate	Difficult Footpaths; risk of landslides and fires
Chestnut production is still active	Abandoning of agriculture
Presence of independent houses with appurtenances	Depopulation; few (and old) permanent inhabitants
Inhabitants interested in development and community initiatives	Risk of housebreaking due to the isolated location and to the presence of abandoned buildings
Presence of infrastructures and utilities (public lighting, sewerage, water, electricity and phone supply, rubbish collection)	Lack of sewerage and gas supply, inefficient road maintenance
Good level of traditional building reservation	Scarce interest in common public spaces
Traditional knowledge and savoir faire preserved by inhabitants	Lack of interest and maintenance in the open squares of settlements
	Non homogeneous fences and paving of private spaces, causing negative impact on the settlement image
	Lack of tourist structures and public utilities
	Highly fragmented properties and low availability in selling them
Opportunities	Threats
Footpath network which could reach the settlements	Worsening of the current ground abandon trend
Development of high quality agriculture activities, supporting the maintenance of the place	Increase of depopulation and abandon trend
Setting up new activities to contribute to the re-use of abandoned buildings	Setting up of non environment friendly technology network
Holiday houses with Italian and foreigner tourists	Intervention to improve accessibility altering the character of settlements
Common management of some public utilities	Setting up of productive and commercial activities altering the typical character of settlements
Utilization of inside roads for freight with small means of transport	Negative impact of tourist flow
Maintenance of woods and use of wood for house heating	Purchasers of buildings attracted by low prices, but non interested in taking care of properties
Identification of buildings to be used as tourist facilities	
Identification of buildings of architectural value to be protected	
Incentives for the renovation of historical buildings	
Maintenance of public spaces and use of abandoned public buildings	

## SWOT analysis of Chiomonte

Strengths	Weaknesses
Good quality of environment	Deprivation of the productive functions of wood
Special landscape, marked by vineyards, traditional rural buildings, ancient irrigation canals	Scarce maintenance of infrastructures
Quite good renovation level for main settlements	Progressive loss of the historical footpath network
Good access to settlements	Alteration of the original character of alpine architecture
Good maintenance of public areas inside the settlements	Interest concentrated on single buildings, scarce attention to architectural, landscape and cultural diversity
Presence of tourism as holiday resort, trekking and alpine skiing	Feeble development of roads and squares
Interesting sites for tourist in the settlements	Uncontrolled building activities around the historical centres
Renovation of public areas in the historical centre	Scarce access to tourist settlements, due to the lack of a direct link with the railway station
Adoption of a handbook for the architectural heritage projects	Lack of a clear project perspective for landscape and architectural transformation
Opportunities	Threats
Maintenance of wood as a tourist resource	Depopulation
Preservation of rural architectural heritage and of landscape	Abandoning of historical architecture
Raising of profile of typical vineyards	Alteration of landscape and of historical arrangement of settlements
Valorisation of footpath network	Alteration of natural landscape due to sport facilities and new tourist residences
Renovation and valorisation of settlements	Alteration of the traditional territorial relations, due to transport infrastructure (motorway, railway)
Identification of the cultural heritage representing the identity of local community	
Design of contemporary urban web	
Improvement to tourist supply ( food & wine, heritage, trekking, educational tourism)	