

CODE: DE_CO_02

TYPE: TRANSNATIONAL

TITLE OF THE PROJECT IDEA:

THE SILK ROAD: routes for the production and marketing of silk in European rural areas

RELATED THEMATIC AREA OF INTERVENTION

5. SOCIO-CULTURAL AND TOURIST-RECREATIONAL LOCAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS

RELATED PSP OBJECTIVE

OS.8 PROMOTE JOBS, GROWTH, GENDER EQUALITY, INCLUDING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS, INCLUDING THE CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT IDEA

The idea of including in the PAL Leader a transnational cooperation project to reconstruct routes and stages linked to the historical trade of the "Silk Road in Europe" stems from the proposals that emerged during the consultation, in which the interest in studying and tracing stages and routes is indicated, thanks to the adhesion of the Municipality of Cervia to the project "The European Silk Road", promoted by the Council of Europe, the Municipality of Venice and the Italian headquarters of the Council of Europe. The project that is to be developed thanks to the Leader cooperation, involving LAG areas at European level, is part of the European Cultural Routes promoted by the Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes. The silk road refers to the set of caravan routes (i.e. crossed by commercial caravans) which, from about the second century BC to the fourteenth AD, connected Europe to the Far East.

Historically, the Silk Road was not a single road, but a set of routes, land and sea; moreover, silk was not the only commodity that passed through it, but other goods also traveled on the Silk Road, including spices (primarily pepper), pearls, handicrafts such as pottery, certain breeds of horses, and other goods. The intention is to enhance and promote sites that have historically been affected by trade between Europe and the East, in which an important role was played by Ravenna in the Byzantine period (IV and V centuries AD) and then continued in the Middle Ages (XIII and XIV centuries AD); *"in the thirteenth century Venice was the dominant maritime power in the Mediterranean and the Mongols were the masters of an immense empire that included China, Persia, Russia and Central Asia. The Mongol conquest integrated regional policies and economies into a continental space in which trade and diplomatic relations flourished. The union between the continental circuits controlled by the Mongols and the maritime routes leading to Europe, managed by Genoa and Venice, gave rise to enormous possibilities (...)"* (cf. *"Venice and the Mongols: Trade and diplomacy on the silk roads in the Middle Ages (XIII-XV centuries)" – Authors N.Di Cosmo-L.Pubblici -Published by Viella 2022"*). Think also of the salt routes in the Middle Ages, in which Venice had a monopoly on the sale of salt: the Venetians towards the end of the thirteenth century became owners of the salt pans, first of Chioggia and then of Cervia, developing the control and trade of white gold by controlling the routes between the Adriatic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea (cf. *ArcheoClub Venezia – Quarterly June 2006*).

Considering the historical foundations, we intend to study the stages and routes affected by the "Silk Road", routes that cross rural areas in Italy and in some European countries, and that are organized around themes of historical, artistic, social European interest, both because of geographical routes and according to its content and meaning, involving local action groups and stakeholders from rural areas interested in developing these itineraries and historical insights in their own territories and neighboring areas. The project that we want to develop starts from the following assumptions promoted by the Council of Europe:

1. they must represent European values;
2. they must be based on the research of multidisciplinary expert groups;

3. they must illustrate a European memory, history and heritage that are linked to current European cultural diversity;
4. they must promote innovative initiatives in the field of cultural tourism and sustainable development.

The project will focus on the relationships and itineraries of production and marketing of silk and other goods in Europe starting from the Byzantine period, to the Middle Ages and the centuries that followed.

The topics that can be addressed, in line with the guidelines of the project promoted by the European Council will be by way of example: textile activity from craftsmanship to industry; silkworm breeding and its social, economic, agricultural and landscape impact, silk in painting, fashion and design; research and development in silk production.

The project includes:

1. Preparatory phase: liaison with the European Institute for Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe - Venice Office and verification of the project phases to be developed in synergy with the European project; development of the final project proposal to be submitted to the LAGs of the European areas concerned, and collection of adhesions to the project.
2. Implementation phase: following the adhesion to the project, the final detail of the actions to be carried out will be finalised, a scientific coordination committee will be appointed, a project committee composed of technicians and representatives of the LAGs, the definition of common actions and any local actions.

TERRITORIAL AREAS WITH WHICH TO DEVELOP THE PARTNERSHIP

Territorial areas of LAGs in Europe affected by trade routes historically linked to trade relationships for silk and other goods

RESOURCES

50.000,00 €