

# PADIMA

## Policies Against Depopulation in Mountain Areas



**Agri school for infancy:**  
a new entrepreneurial activity for a « smart life»

Le Puy en Velay 29-11-2011

Speaker name and organisation

Supported by:



# Some words about the area



- Piemonte Region (4 millions of inhabitants) is a region placed north ouest of Italy close to France
- Province of Torino is the biggest county of the Piemonte Region (2 millions of inhabitants) with 50% of territory occ. by mountains, 20% by hills and Torino (the capital) in the middle

# What was the problem?



## The motivation

the origin of the idea

- The need to combine flexible time of family of farmer and spaces of farms in mountain areas with the need to maintain essential services for mountain inhabitants such as kindergarden or creche (nursery school)



# What?



- Agri - school for infancy is an exemple of multi functionality into the primary sector in order to sove social problems in rural/mountain areas:
- The farm create a service of kindergarden-nursery for children aged 0 - 6 years to:
  - 1) **keep the continuity of educational process even in less favoured areas where essential services are not guarantee**
  - 2) **offer a complete service in low density of population communities (micro - creches)**
  - 3) **offer to children an educational experience trough the contact to nature (fruits, vegetables, animals..), time of daily life and work, the cycle of seasons, the possibility to have experience of producing, touching, tasting, looking (children can cultivate garden, they can get in contact with nature, they can take care of animals..), they use the 5 senses..**
- 3) **increase the economical competitiveness and improve the farmer's income in a logic of multifonctionnality and pluriactivity**

# How long?



- In the Province of Torino was created 3 agrischools: the first one on 2006 and the last one on 2010
- The first one needed about 3 years to obtain the authorization from the Health Local Agency and to find the right legislative approach



# Who got involved?



- Coldiretti Piemonte and COLDiretti Torino (Organization of agricultural entrepreneurs with local offices) that implemented the idea (social services for infancy, needs and wishes of the family, “conciliation” work/family time)
- Provincia of Torino as supporter of the initiative ( an agreement was signed)
- Health Local Agency (ASL)
- Teacher of infancy
- Farmers

# How did we do?



- Coldiretti firstly has to organize this “school farm”, that continue to produce agricultural products, in the current rules and regulations framework:
- 1) respect of National Orientation Law in Agriculture
- 2) respect Rules on Food Security and Health for social services: 5 mq/child (included external spaces), food security rules as in agrotourism
- 3) Then a pedagogical project was elaborated with teachers where the knowledge of landscape, animals, the fruits of earth, the meals, the concept of “time” (weather, seasons), are important moment of the educational process: flexible timetable, qualified staff, minimum of 2 people not related to the n° of children and 1 people per 10 children



# How much did it cost?



- No public funds were demanded to structure the farms
- The families pay approx. The same price of a traditional kindergarden/nursery, the Region participate for the 20% of the price in start up step

# Problems?



- Coldiretti use the possibilities offer by the National Law for Agriculture
- The path to set the initiative in the current legislative framework was long
- The solutions were possible because the project was local and all the people was involved (Health Agencies, Farmers, Public Authorities..)

# Does it work?



A positive impact...

- 1) 3 agri school created and many other in progress
- 2) Promotion of Agriculture “positive externalities”
- 3) Promotion of “Rural” heritage, knowledge and culture
- 4) Promotion of mountain landscapes, knowledge and tradition (food, animals)
- 5) a possible solution to integrate social essential services in mountain areas (18 children for instance in mountain)
  - 6 new jobs (2 in M area)
  - 6 people do not move ( 2 in MA)
  - 18 families in Mountain areas had a service

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# How does it contribute to the ec diversification?

Carrying out a new activity as well the traditional product or activities of the enterprises



# Single initiative/Strategy?



- Coldiretto Torino signed an agreement with Torino Province to develop the idea in all the province territory in the framework of “Social Agriculture”
- We want to present an Interreg ALCOTRA project with Savoye or/and Haute Savoye + Iserre partners (public and private)

# Transferability to other areas



- The practice is transferable if:
  - 1) there is the right legislative national framework (multi-functionnality in agriculture)
  - 2) there are young component of the farmer's family wishing to stay
- We recommend the transfer



# Thank you..

