

# LEGACOOP

## Community Co-ops

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# What is a community cooperative

Community cooperatives are **enterprises** that **produce** goods or services of **general interest for that specific community**, **satisfy** its needs, **involve** it in decisions about the company's **management** and **financing**, and allow it to **share** in the benefits of the activities carried out.

Doing something **for** the community, **with** the community's participation through a **business**.

# Charateristics



- a. Enhance:
  - ✓ active citizenship
  - ✓ subsidiarity
  - ✓ management of common goods
  - ✓ solidarity
- b. Physical and territorially defined communities, not virtual communities
- c. Territories characterized by conditions of vulnerability
- d. An enabling territorial system
- e. Available and underutilized dormant resources
- f. Multisectoral and plurality of mutual exchanges
- g. Enterprises and not associations
- h. New concept of mutuality: external mutuality becomes a "social object"
- i. Each cooperative is unique and inimitable.



# Characteristics : multifunctionality

- Community cooperatives never perform just one activity; often, these activities are not even interconnected. This is because **it is challenging for a single "vertical" activity to be economically sustainable in fragile and often depopulated contexts** (*For instance, it is difficult for a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) unit to be economically viable when dedicated solely to a single activity*).
- The goal is **to undertake activities that can serve different purposes, optimizing costs and providing more services** (*e.g., a shuttle that can transport both tourists, elderly residents, children, and even deliver goods to homes*).
- For these reasons, community cooperatives are generally **multisectoral**, engaging in various productive sectors.
- Some of the activities carried out by community cooperatives are "**essential**" **for the community**, in some cases, for its survival, but more often for its "social life," a fundamental element without which all other activities could not take place. However, these "essential community" activities are often not economically sustainable, despite being crucial. They are the activities that the public finds challenging to provide and lack sufficient users to attract market investment.
- Community cooperatives, precisely because of their **multifunctionality**, **can undertake these essential activities while offsetting their costs with other more profitable activities, often targeting a broader audience beyond the local residents**. Tourism is often one of those activities.

# The community co-ops ...



... **influence** positively Community development projects the relationships among the actors involved in the Community development projects making them willing to share:

- **Entrepreneurial risk**
- **Resources** (natural, economic, and social)
- **Knowledge** (both tacit and codified)
- **Governance** of the *enterprise* and the *local development process*.

This collaboration aims to **generate economic and social value to be redistributed within the community**.

They give rise to a paradigm shift driven by the will, ability, and commitment of groups of individuals who decide to organize themselves to pursue the common good.

# The community co-ops ...



... **are a development tool** deeply rooted in the social and institutional structure of the local community.

Each community cooperative is unique, depending on the **socio-economic context** in which it develops and operates.

Each context is characterized by **specific "local factors"** that contribute to influencing the process of economic and social change that takes place over time.

These "local factors" include:

**Economic resources;**

**Natural and artificial resources** (e.g., historical-artistic heritage, popular traditions, culinary assets, etc.);

**Social and institutional resources:**

- *Entrepreneurial propensity*
- *Networks of social relationships and trust (social capital)*
- *Cultural capital*
- *Human capital*
- *Political institutions*

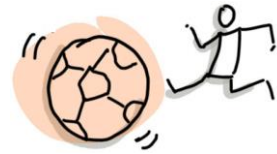
# The community co-ops ...



Represent a new way of organizing production at the local level.



Addressing specific needs and interests of their community



Promote new job opportunities and services for the residents

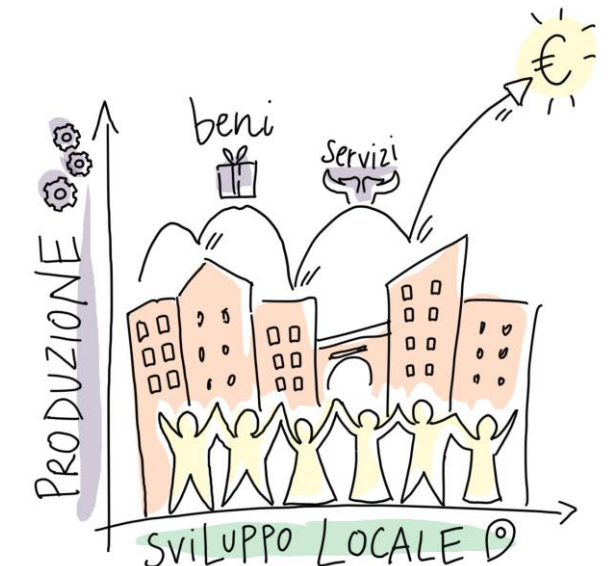
CREAZIONE NUOVI Profili PROFESSIONALI



Offer innovative responses to local socio-economic transformations



Serve as a new instrument for participatory democracy.



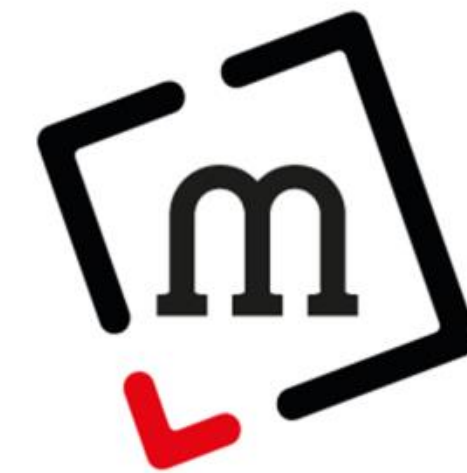
# The community co-ops: some examples

## Comunità cooperativa Melpignano



Comune di Melpignano  
(Puglia)

Inhabitants: **2.135**



comunità  
cooperativa  
melpignano

Members today: **280**

Turnover : **650.000 €**

Permanent employees : **6**

Temporary employees: **2**

+ Network of professionals and local  
artisans

[https://www.facebook.com/coopcomun  
itamelpignano](https://www.facebook.com/coopcomun<br/>itamelpignano)



18 July 2011 - 71 Founder Members



comunità  
cooperativa  
melpignano

the energy community is born, citizens make available to the cooperative their roofs to build a widespread

- + 33 Installations**
- 3.500 tonnes carbon dioxide**
- 10 tonnes of nitrogen oxide**



The rules change for energy communities, with the profits to coop build the first "water house", then ...



Today:

- + 56 houses of water**
- + 42 municipalities served**
- + 30,000 litres of water distributed daily**



with the profits the cooperative invests 150.000€ on the regeneration of a city park where it opens a literary cafe that becomes a meeting point and events for the community:  
100 seats and over 20 cultural events every year

In these years the community coop, with its profits, in addition to reinvesting in development projects for the territory has also:

- Purchase 5 interactive multimedia whiteboard for the public school
- Paid school books for 63 families
- Paid the school canteen for 18 families in financial difficulties.

The families supported regardless of whether or not they were members of the cooperative



# The community co-ops: some examples

## Cooperativa Valle dei Cavalieri



Comune di Ventasso  
fr. Succiso Nuovo (Emilia  
Romagna)  
Inhabitants: **118**



Members today: **56**  
Turnover : **700.000 €**  
Permanent employees : **7**  
Temporary employees: n.d.  
Volunteer members : **33**

<https://valledeicavalieri.it/wp/>



The cooperative re-opens the **bar**, a small **emporium**, is then added to the **restaurant** (14,000 visitors per year) and the **hotel** which is accompanied by **activities of maintenance management and land management** (we are in MAB Unesco area). Then the collaboration with the Parco dell'Appennino Tosco-Emiliano begins and the headquarters of the cooperative becomes a **point of access and discovery of the Park**.

The cooperative was founded in 1991, when the last bar in the village closed, a group of inhabitants decided to react and formed the cooperative to reopen the commercial activities of proximity and ensure the survival of the community.



The cooperative has recovered and enhanced the agro-food and gastronomic heritage of the National Park. In 2018 he won in Madrid the second prize for Excellence and Innovation in Tourism of the World Tourism Organization



Ristorante Agriturismo Valle dei Cavalieri



# The community co-ops: some examples

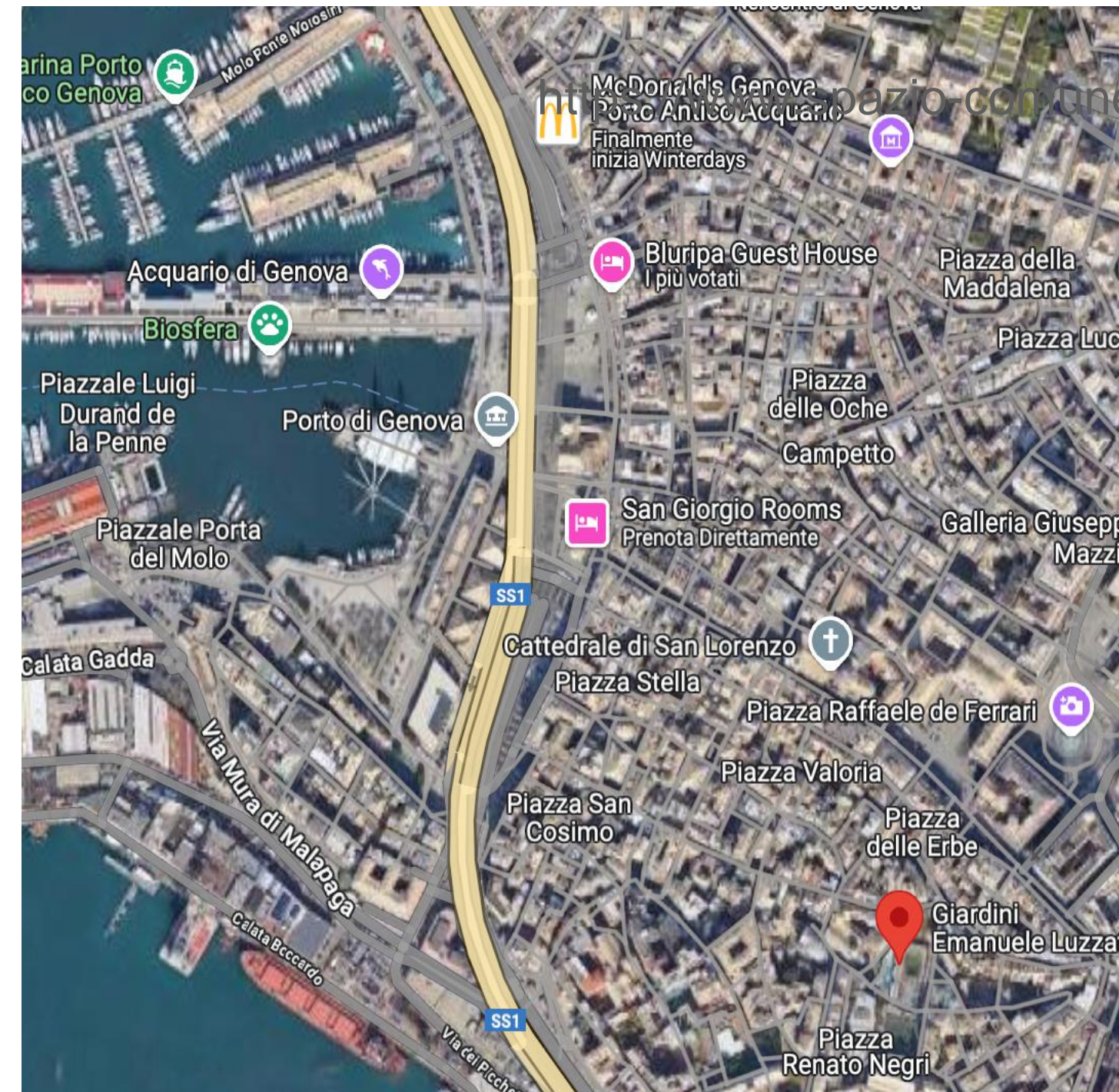
## Giardini Luzzati Spazio Comune



Comune di Genova

Liguria

Inhabitants Historic Centre: **23.000**



spazio-comune.org



[www.spazio-comune.org](http://www.spazio-comune.org)

## A bottom-up urban regeneration model

A **multipurpose** square, an ever-open window on the city, a stage that is **active 365 days a year** with a direct and continuous relationship with the public and a constant communication channel with artists, citizens and tourists. Ce.Sto Onlus, Archeology Cooperative, Luzzati Foundation - Teatro della Tosse Onlus participated and won together the municipal three-year call for proposals for the management of the entire complex.

An entrustment, that of the management of the area, which is an important **recognition** but that does **not include** any kind of public economic contributions from municipality.

# SPAZIO COMUNE



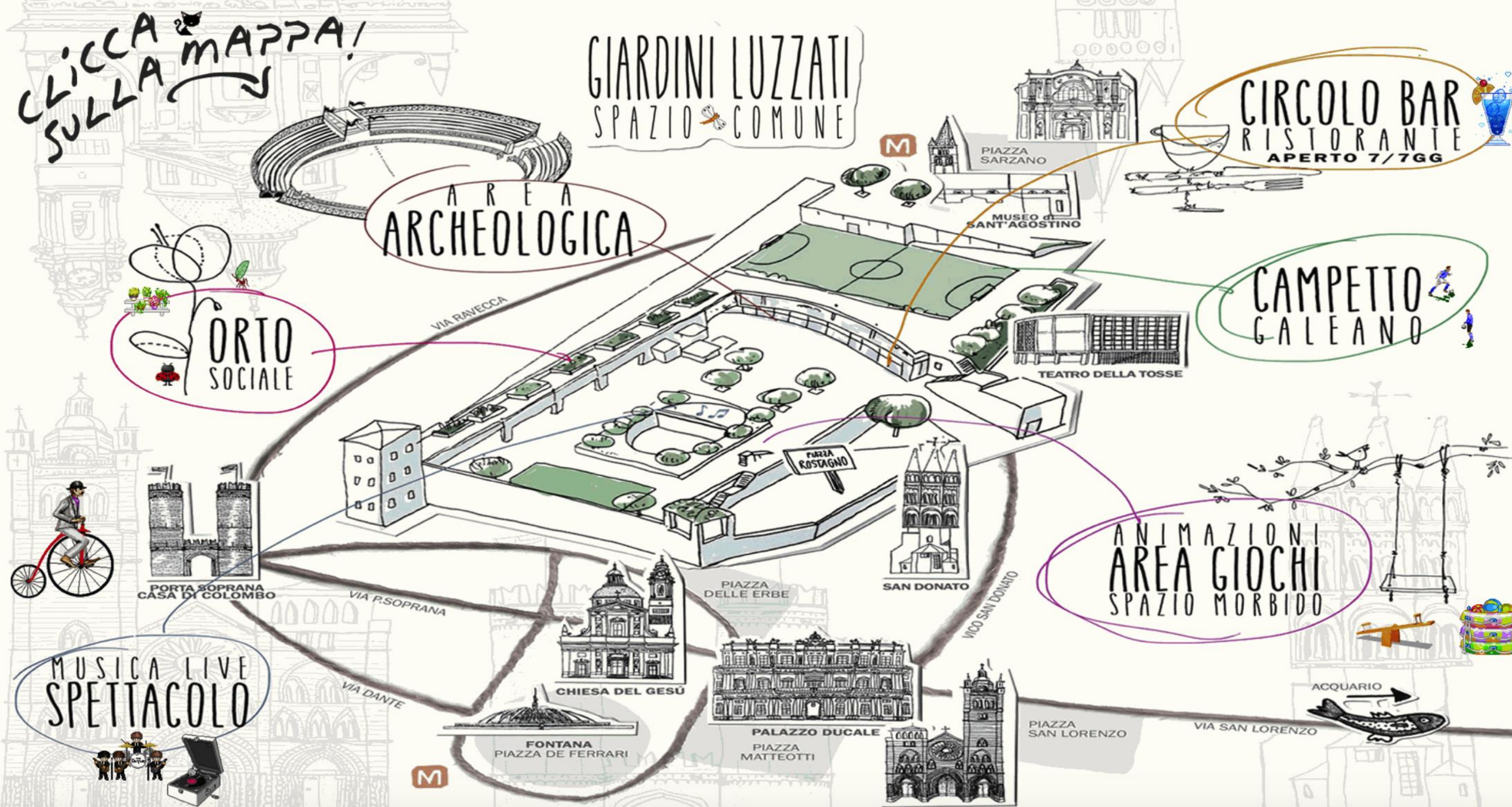


## A bottom-up urban regeneration model

A square, a natural amphitheater in the historic center of Genoa, **lived at every hour**, from morning to evening, by a different public.

A shared space rich in **cultural** proposals, **solidarity**, **multi-ethnic**, **creative**, for adults and children.

Urban gardens, play area, a multi-functional archeological area, bar, restaurant, space available for meetings, presentations, concerts and shows, a shared, collaborative space: a **«common space»**



**SPAZIO COMUNE**

# The community co-ops: some examples

## Anonima Impresa Sociale - Postmodernissimo



Comune di Perugia (Umbria)

Centro storico

Inhabitants: 5.242 / 161.492



Members today: +200

Turnover : 200.000 €

Permanent employees : 8

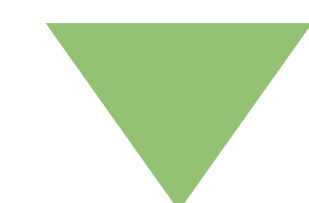
They have a “Spectators  
(members) Meeting

<https://www.postmodernissimo.com>

Anonima Impresa Sociale born in July 2014, non-profit, with the precise intention of reopening, in the historic center of Perugia, the oldest cinema in the city closed since July 2000.

In December 2014 **reopening the cinema** Modernissimo D'Essai in the renewed guise of the **PostModernissimo**, is to carry out an operation to **recover a historic property, and through its renovation/transformation**, to obtain the definitive **return to citizenship** through the formula of **widespread shareholding and crowdfunding**, relying on the forces of private citizens and the founding members of the cooperative.

Thanks to the extraordinary collaboration of hundreds of citizens, the PostModernissimo opens its doors inside a private building, restoring momentum and vitality to a **district of the historic center in suffering from the social and economic** and that today after 9 years has returned to be one of the engines of the city's vitality.



Design workshops for children and adolescents, in collaboration with local schools

Shows dedicated to families with small children, different times, lower sound, space for breastfeeding and care of newborns (open to everyone not only spectators).

Exhibition space available to artists, famous and emerging.



KINDER KINO



CINE MAMA



POST ART



Since August 2017, after a period of collaboration with the association Effetto Cinema, the Anonima Impresa Sociale also manages the Cinema Metropolis in Umbertide.



In September 2018, at the 75th Venice Film Festival, the Anonima Impresa Sociale received the 2018 Carlo Lizzani Prize for the work carried out by the PostModernissimo.



# The community co-ops: some examples



## Teatro Povero di Monticchiello



Comune di Pienza

fr. Monticchiello (Toscana)

Inhabitants: **202**



Members today: **214**

Turnover : **330.000 €**

Permanent employees : **5**

<https://teatropovero.it>



## The village that has staged itself

Monticchiello, medieval village, hamlet of Pienza in Val d'Orcia. In the '60s the inhabitants organized themselves into a theatrical association to stage "the problems dictated by the **socio-economic changes** of those years", an organized show emerged, acted and managed by all the citizens and staged in the square.

Today the Teatro Povero is structured in Cooperative of Community, active on several fronts: the heart of commitment remain the theatrical and cultural activities, which are flanked by many services for the community of the village and for those who approach it.

The Cooperative manages multifunctional spaces such as the Granary, the **tourist office**, the **newsstand**, the **museum**, the **internet center**, two **restaurants**, the **ciclofficine**, the **guest house**, **tourist packages**, **activities for asylum seekers**, some **support services** and **basic health care**, a small **library**, the refreshment point, collaborates in the management of the museum of the Traditional Tuscan Popular Theatre, curates exhibitions and workshop.





Thank you

**LEGACOOP**

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<https://www.legacoop.coop/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Cooperative-di-comunita.pdf>

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