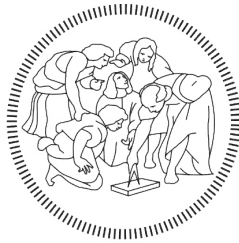


# POLITECNICO MILANO 1863

Master Degree Course in  
“Landscape Architecture: Land, Landscape, Heritage



The promotion and rediscovery of  
small mountain communities:

A proposal for “Fuipiano Valle Imagna”

Sup. Nerantzia Tzortzi  
Co-Sup. Mattia Previtali  
Co-Sup. Rita Maria Musacchio  
Co-Sup. Elena Persico

Master Thesis by:  
Ivan D’Auria - n. 942637

Academic year 2022 - 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ivan D'auria

## Chapter 1: “Introduction”

## Chapter 2: “The Imagna Valley”

2.1	History and Spatial Localization .....	pag. 14 - 19
2.2	Geomorphology .....	pag. 20 - 31
2.3	Flora .....	pag. 32 - 37
2.3.1	Resegone and Palio SPAs .....	pag. 38 - 39
2.4	Fauna .....	pag. 40 - 45
2.5	Municipalities and Population .....	pag. 46 - 49
2.5.1	Demographic Trends .....	pag. 50 - 51

## Chapter 3: “Fuipiano: the roof of Valle Imagna”

3.1	Fuipiano: History and Localization .....	pag. 54 - 61
3.2	Demographic Trends .....	pag. 62 - 65
3.2.1	Site of historical interest .....	pag. 66 - 71
3.2.2	Site of naturalistic interest .....	pag. 72 - 77
3.3	Current issues of the town .....	pag. 78 - 81
3.4	Swot Analysis .....	pag. 82 - 89

## Chapter 4: “Strategy”

4.1	Interviews .....	pag. 92 - 101
4.2	Strategy .....	pag. 102 - 106
4.2.1	Communications routes developement .....	pag. 107 - 109
4.2.2	New Areas, new services .....	pag. 110 - 113
4.2.3	Promoting Fuipiano .....	pag. 114 - 115
4.2.3	“La valle dei 5 campi” .....	pag. 116 - 127

## Chapter 5: Pilot project analysis: The case of “Livemmo”

5.1	The case of Livemmo .....	pag. 130 - 163
-----	---------------------------	----------------

## Chapter 6: “Proposal”

6.1	Proposal .....	pag. 166 - 173
6.2	The parking lot; .....	pag. 174 - 179
6.3	The main square; .....	pag. 180 - 193
6.4	The “Contrada” of Arnosto; .....	pag. 194 - 199

## Chapter 7: “Conclusion” .....

pag. 202 - 205

“The Church of Fuipiano: San Giovanni Battista”



Source: “drone photo of the church of Fuipiano, 2023”

Fig. 1

# 1

---

## *Introduction*

---

# Introduction

Ivan D'auria

So the valley was described by Antonio Stoppani, an Italian geologist, paleontologist, patriot, academic, and priest, in his book published in 1876: “The Beautiful Country. Conversations on the natural beauties, geology, and physical geography of Italy”, in the chapter on the Imagna Valley.

Located just a few kilometers from Bergamo and overlooked by the famous Resegone mountain, especially for its literary mention in the opening of the Italian historical novel “The Betrothed” by Alessandro Manzoni, “That branch of Lake Como, which turns towards noon, between two uninterrupted chains of mountains, (...) The coast (...) descends, supported by two contiguous mountains, one called San Martino, the other, in Lombard dialect, the Resegone, with its many peaks in a row, which truly make it resemble a saw: so that there is no one, at first sight, provided that they are facing it, as for example from the walls of Milan that face north, who does not immediately distinguish it, by such a sign, in that long and vast ridge, from the other mountains of more obscure name and more common shape,” the valley is home to seventeen mountain communities, different in social, economic, and cultural aspects, which make up a mosaic of mountain tradition and modernity, dividing the valley in two.

The geomorphological aspect, magnificent from one point of view, hides a social fabric that is reluctant to change and that, together with other reasons, is causing these small mountain communities to disappear more and more over time. In the case of Fui piano Valle Imagna, the chapters that make up this work analyze the relationship of this small community with the valley system, its particularities, and,

Ita:

“Oh com'è bella questa valle! quasi una conca ellittica, scavata in seno alle montagne, colle sponde di lividi calcari, e in fondo di neri scisti, che sembrano carbone, ma riccamente coperta di boschi, di prati, di colli; e su quel manto di lieta verzura, rotto da severe bizzarre rupi, spiccano, gli sparsi casolari, i paeselli, le chiese, le torri. Quando il cielo è azzurro, la valle somiglia ad un vaso di smeraldo storiato, con un coperchio di zaffiro trasparente...”

Eng:

“Oh, how beautiful this valley is! It's almost an elliptical basin, carved into the mountains, with banks of livid limestone, and at the bottom black slates that look like coal, but richly covered in woods, meadows, and hills. And on that mantle of joyful greenery, broken by severe whimsical rocks, the scattered farmhouses, villages, churches, and towers stand out. When the sky is blue, the valley resembles a decorated emerald vase, with a transparent sapphire lid...”

above all, its problems.

One of the main problems, as in many of the other villages that make up the Valle Imagna, is undoubtedly the lack of links between them and the consequent lack of means of communication that would allow greater cohesion between them and, above all, allow the inhabitants to move more freely and reach their desired destinations more quickly, usually their place of work, which in most cases analyzed is far from Fuipiano and, to a lesser extent, within the valley, thus allowing the inhabitants not necessarily to move in search of a quieter future, but to consider their place of origin not just as a dormitory but as a place to live.

From what will be analyzed in more detail in Chapter 3, it is clear that the authorities are working hard to make Fuipiano a much more attractive municipality, especially from the point of view of tourism, which is one of the main, if not the main, source of income for most of the inhabitants, by integrating new buildings, activities, advertising and, above all, the main services expected by tourists. Speaking of which, the municipality of Livemmo, a small town very similar to Fuipiano in terms of geomorphological conformation, located in the province of Brescia, has managed to accumulate the sum of twenty million euros in recent years, thanks to a notice of the Lombardy Region and linked to the PNRR, for the almost complete renovation of the town, very similar to what Fuipiano is trying to do this, although slowed down by the problems outlined above.

This thesis aims to study in depth the phenomenon of the abandonment of small mountain villages, analyzing its causes, effects, and possible prospects for revitalization. A multidisciplinary approach, combining elements of geography, sociology, economics, and spatial planning, will provide a complete picture of the issue. Factors such as changing labor dynamics, accessibility to public services, the role of culture and local identity, and sustainable development strategies that could contribute to the regeneration of these unique villages will be considered. The research will make use of historical data, qualitative and quantitative analysis, case studies, and possibly interviews with residents still living there or with institutional actors involved. The ultimate aim is to shed light on these hidden gems in the mountains, to understand their past, to interpret their present, and to help outline a vision for their future. At a time when the valorization of cultural roots and sustainability are critical issues, exploring ways to bring life and vitality back to these abandoned hamlets is an important objective, with implications that go far beyond the confines of the valleys and peaks that surround them.

These ancient settlements, once the beating heart of community life and witnesses to centuries of tradition are now facing a profound crisis, marked by the departure of the population to larger urban centers and the consequent decline in economic and social activity. For this reason, I hope that this short paper and the examples discussed can be a starting point for readers to understand how important these small communities are and how they should not be forgotten and abandoned, but redeveloped and experienced because our history is also our future.

# 2

---

## *The Imagna Valley*

---

## 2.1

### History and spatial localization

The Imagna Valley or “Al d’Imagna”, as the locals would say, is a valley in the Lombard pre-Alpine area, part of the province of Bergamo but bordering the Lecco territory. The Imagna Valley is a closed valley located between the well-known Mount Resegone (even mentioned in the novel “The Betrothed”) to the west and the Bergamo area to the east. More precisely, the valley is located in the extreme southwestern edge of the Orobie Prealps, very close to the hilly area that runs from the San Martino and Lémine valleys.

Its leaf-like shape makes its smaller rivers flow like veins through the central water body, namely the “Imagna” stream. Towards the end of the valley, the Imagna joins the Brembo river, creating an area particularly suitable for agriculture.

Throughout the valley, natural terraces with a slight difference in elevation can be found, offering interesting views to the observer, which are not found in the surrounding valleys, and at the same time providing more opportunities for human settlement and cultivation of the land.

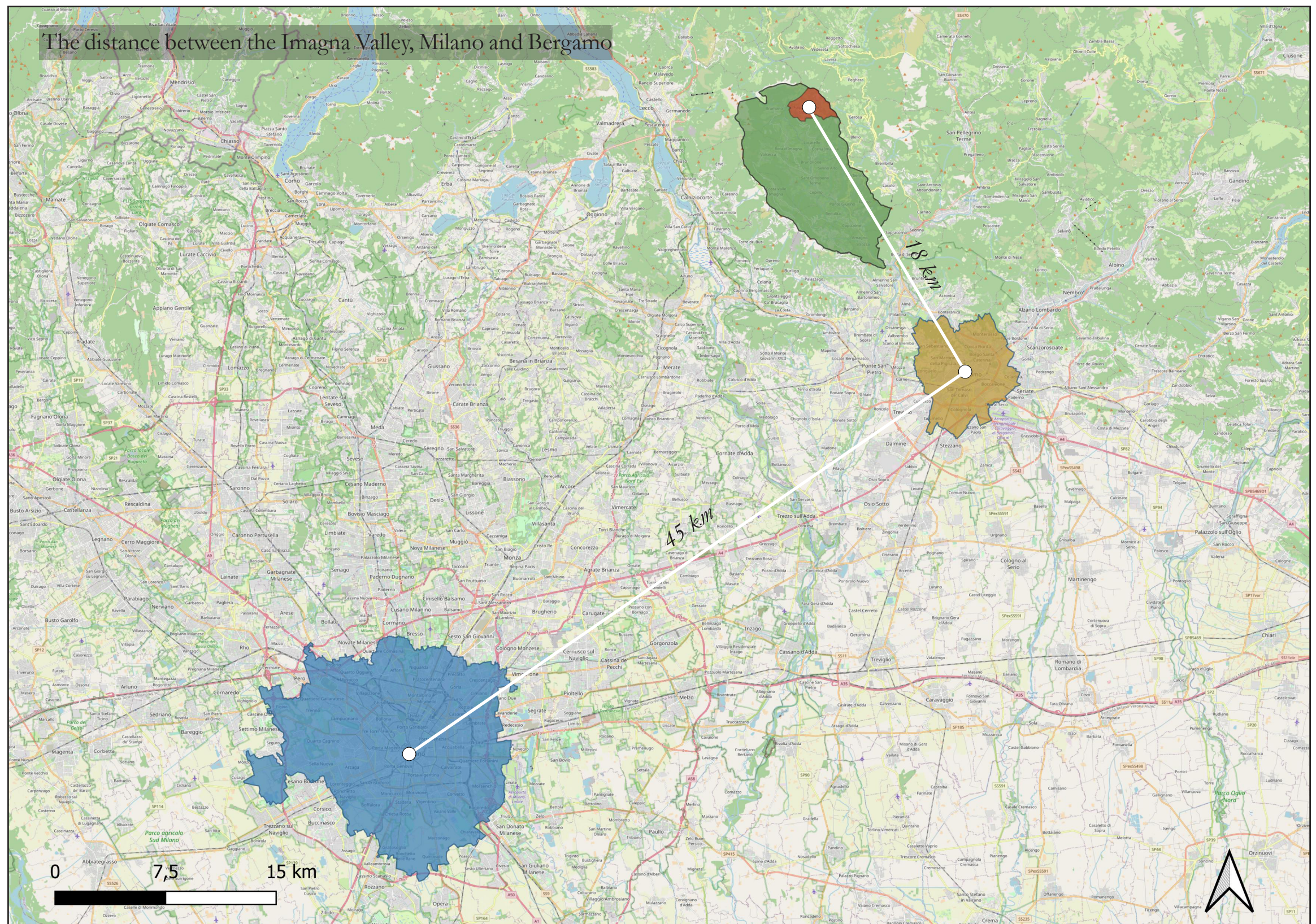
Unfortunately, the beauty of its shape has had an impact on the history of human settlements throughout the valley, where transhumance from high mountain pastures to the valley and agricultural activities have characterized its history until recent years and continue partly in the present. The peculiar conformation of the territory, closed on itself, makes the Imagna Valley a

separate reality, even within itself, as evidenced by the position and structure of rural settlements scattered throughout the area.

Of the seventeen municipalities that make-up the valley, only thirteen are located in the basin naturally created within it, while the remaining four are outside the mountain crown, at the bottom of the valley. The mountainous area includes the territories included in the basin carved out by the Imagna torrent, i.e. the municipalities of Bedulita, Berbenno, Brumano, Capizzone, Corna Imagna, Costa Imagna, Fuipiano, Locatello, Roncola, Rota Imagna, S. Omobono, Strozza and Valsecca, occupying about 70 square kilometres, while Almenno San Bartolomeo, Almenno San Salvatore, Caprino Bergamasco and Palazzago are part of the territory created by the river Brenta, and its two minor tributaries Tornaio and Senna. This is not only a territorial division, but also a social-economic one, where the mountain municipalities are still recognisable as small mountain communities, while the villages on the valley floor are closer to the modernity of the big city, due to their proximity to Bergamo.

The small mountain villages still have the typical urbanistic and cultural characterisation of the 19th century district and, over the years, the inhabitants have sought to occupy more of the western slope, which is better sunlit and more suitable for cultivation, modifying the territory and strongly anthropising it, as it appears today: full of terraces, artefacts and rural buildings that, combined with the natural territory, make it strangely and uniquely beautiful.





Source: GIS map edited by myself, data downloaded from the "Geoportale Lombardia"

The distance, in beeline, is not the far, but the morphological conformation led the travelers to drive more than one hour to reach the Valley from Milan, excluding traffic.

An Historical map of the Imagna Valle, 1988.

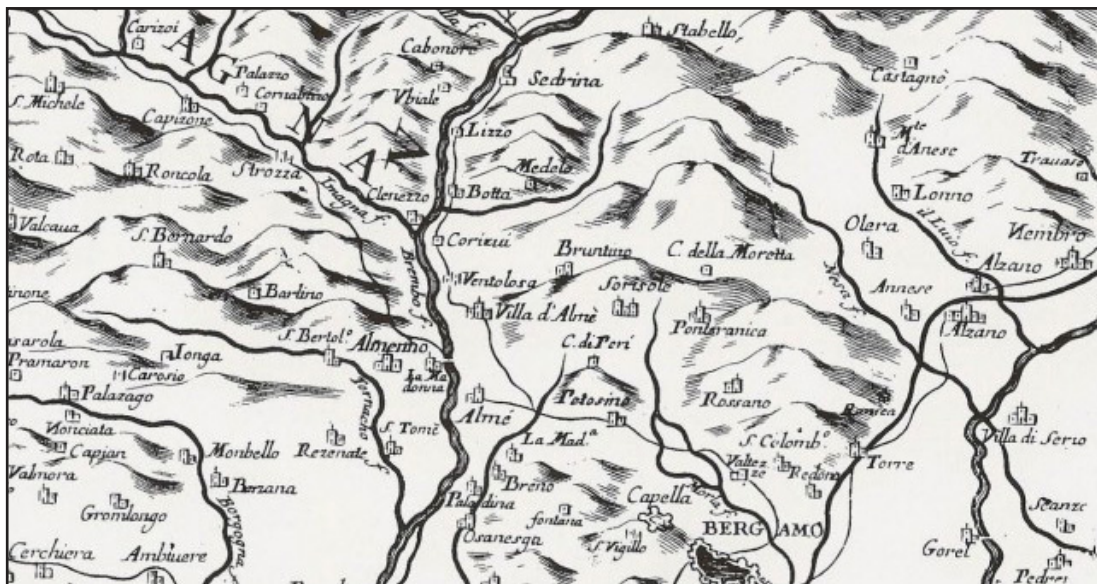


Fig. 3

Source: Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P., "VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia", Bergamo, 2000

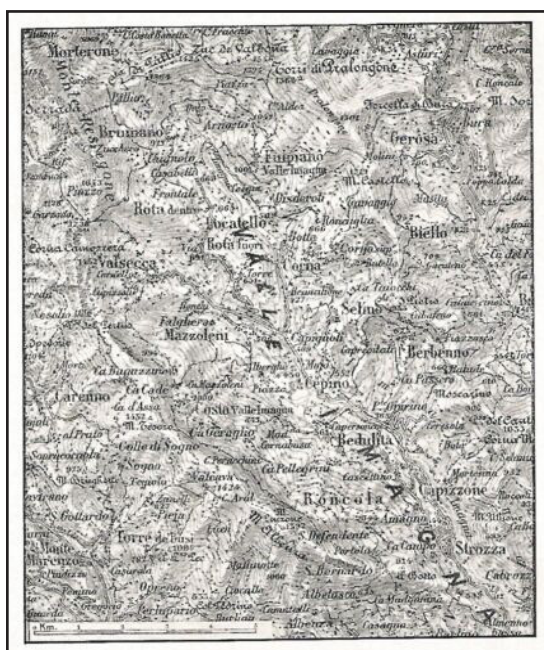


Fig. 4

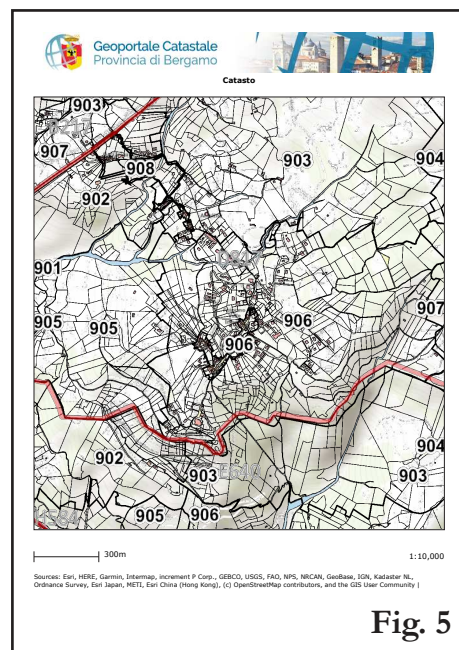


Fig. 5

Cadastral map of Fuiopiano, 2005

Source: Catasto di Bergamo, 2023

Source: Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P., "VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia", Bergamo, 2000

Ivan D'auria

An Historical map of the Imagna Valle "Il territorio", 1888.  
Province of Bergamo during the Lombardy-Venetia period,  
1816

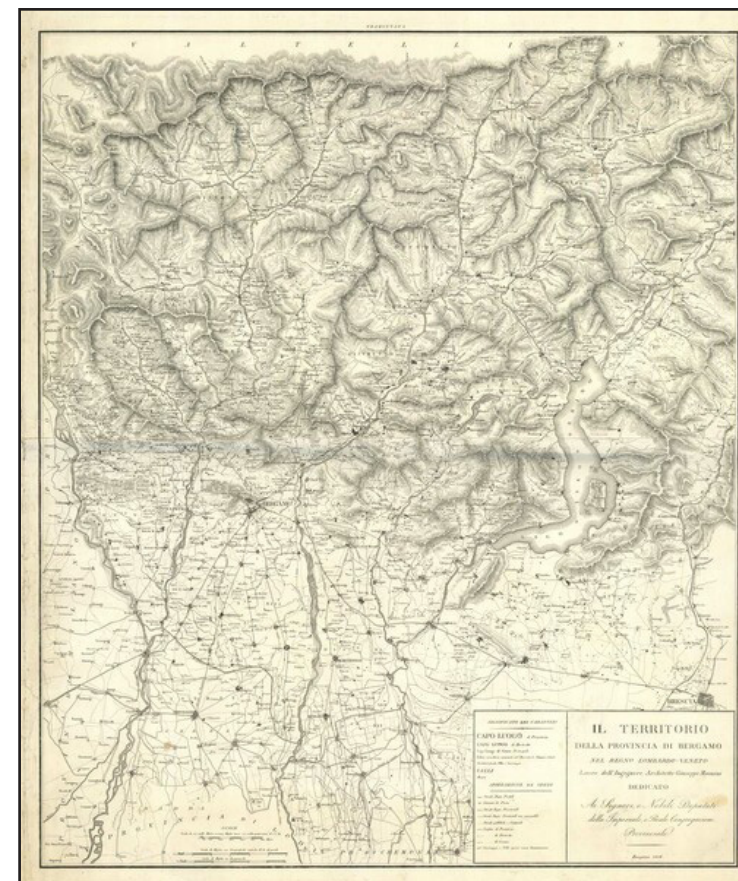


Fig. 6

Source: Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P., "VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia", Bergamo, 2000

## 2.2 Geomorphology

As mentioned, the Imagna valley is closed, with the northern edge almost entirely occupied by the massif of Mount Resegone. It is the highest mountain in the valley at 1875 meters above sea level and has always influenced the life and development of the valley itself. The mountain's characteristic name derives from the resemblance of its profile to a saw (in Lombard Resegun = "Great Saw"). A small curiosity concerns its second name, the Resegone is also called Monte Serrada, which means 'that closes the surrounding valleys, precisely the Imagna Valley', but there are no precise sources on the exact origin of the name.

Resegone is a mountain of recent formation, dating back to the Upper Triassic period (Noricum). It is mostly composed of dolomite, a sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium and magnesium. While the Lecco side is rugged and very steep, the side facing the Imagna Valley is characterized by a gentler slope and an area more suitable for human settlement.

The orientation and overall morphology of the mountain, therefore, determine favorable conditions, with significant sunshine for crops, especially on the eastern side, as opposed to the western side, which, being located directly on the side of Resegone, enjoys less li-

ght (especially in winter). Consequently, over the years, this area has become much more dedicated to trading.

The highest peaks are to be found in the Monte Resegone complex; the highest peak is *Punta Cermenati* (1875 m a.s.l.), which is located in the central part of the massif and serves as the boundary between the so-called south and north ridges. In the group of south ridges, which are more exposed and appreciated by hikers, the most famous peak, although not the highest, is the *Quarenghi peak* (1636 m a.s.l.) dedicated to the famous Valdimagna architect Giacomo Quarenghi. The northern ridges, on the other hand, are less exposed and steep than the southern group, and their highest point is the Stoppani peak (1849 m a.s.l.).

The eastern slope (opposite the "Resegone") also has some peaks worthy of note, although these are very different from the western ones; in fact, they are lower and characterized by a soft, flat landscape that can almost be described as hilly. The most important peaks are Monte Zucco (1546 m a.s.l.), commonly known as 'Il Cucco', and the peak of "Madonna dei Canti" (1563 m a.s.l.), both located in the northern part of the valley.

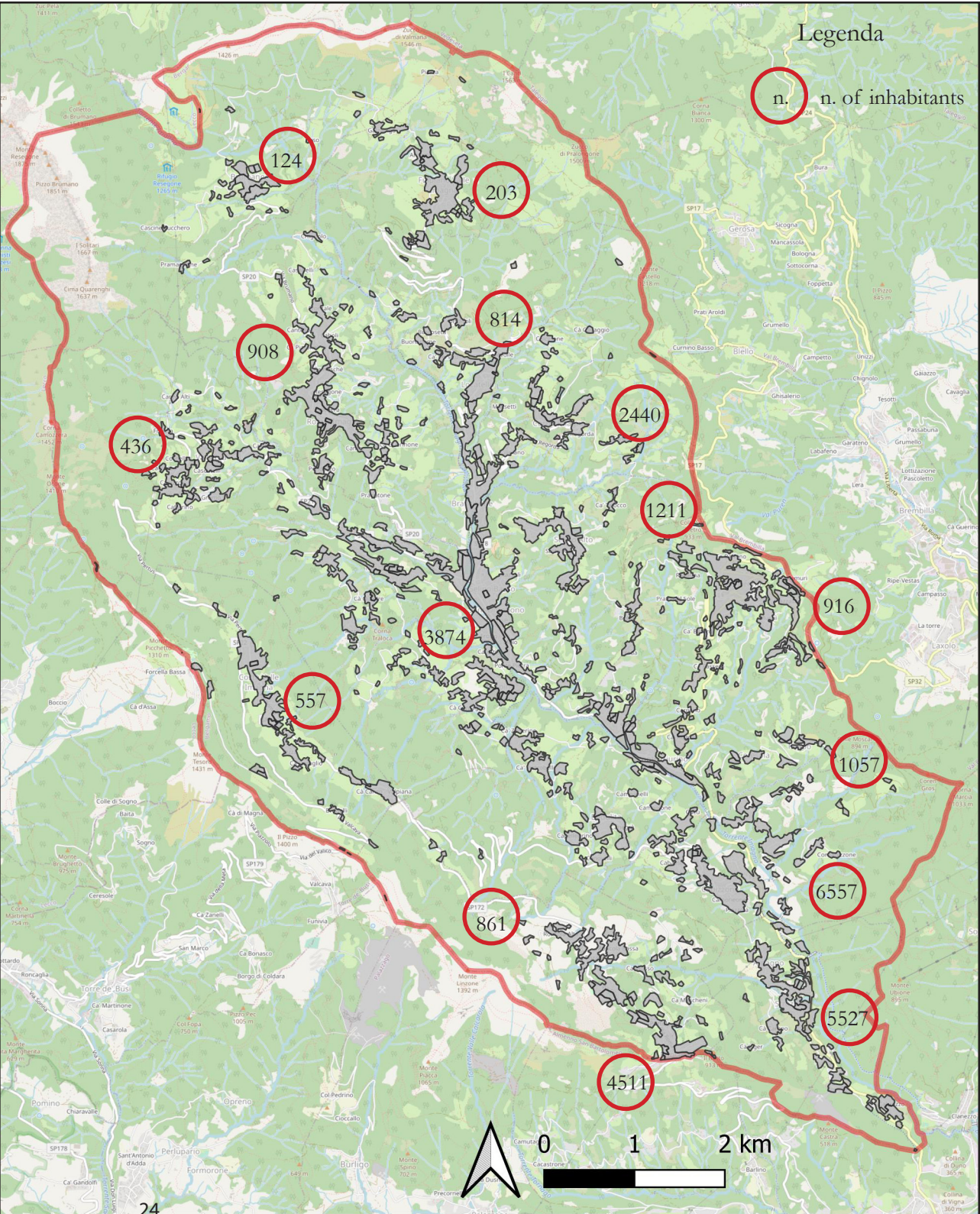
The greatest concentration of settlements is found between 500 and 700 metres above sea level, although there are some settlements up to 1100 metres above sea level: about 39% of the territorial surface is represented by land reaching 500 metres above sea level, about 37% by areas between 500 and 900 metres, and the remaining 24% between 900 and 1875 metres. In terms of the natural morphology of the area, the Imagna Valley represents a unique environmental unit and coincides with

the catchment basin of the Imagna torrent. It is circumscribed and defined by a modest mountain basin, with a northwest/south-east longitudinal trend, bordered by peaks and ridges of considerable landscape importance.

Of particular natural and morphological interest is the Brunone valley area, located about halfway down the valley. Named 'Scanarola' by the locals, presumably because of its well-defined V-shaped profile, this portion of the Valley takes its official name from the Brunone stream, a tributary of the Imagna torrent. Like the entire Imagna valley, the area dates back to the Upper Triassic period known as Noricum, i.e. around 215 million years ago. Numerous fossils of prehistoric animals have been found in the surrounding area, making the Brunone Valley a paleontological site of considerable importance. Another unique feature of the area is the sulphurous waters that flow from the ground and feed the thermal centre of Sant'Omobono Terme. These waters are known for their efficacy in the treatment of chronic skin diseases and cases of liver colic, chronic rheumatism and gout.

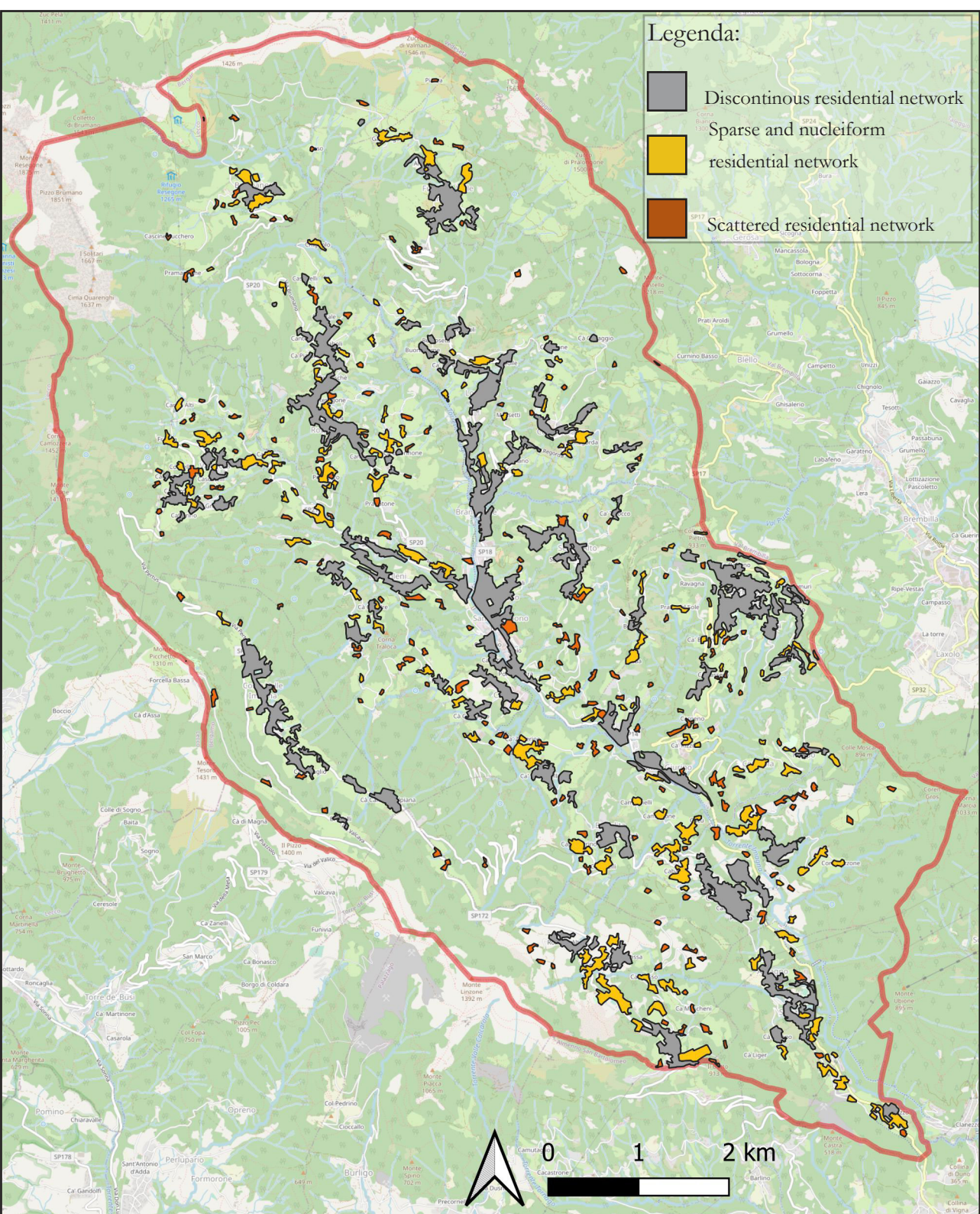
# Land Use 2023 - Analysis

## 1 - Anthropized areas of the Imagna Valley and Population



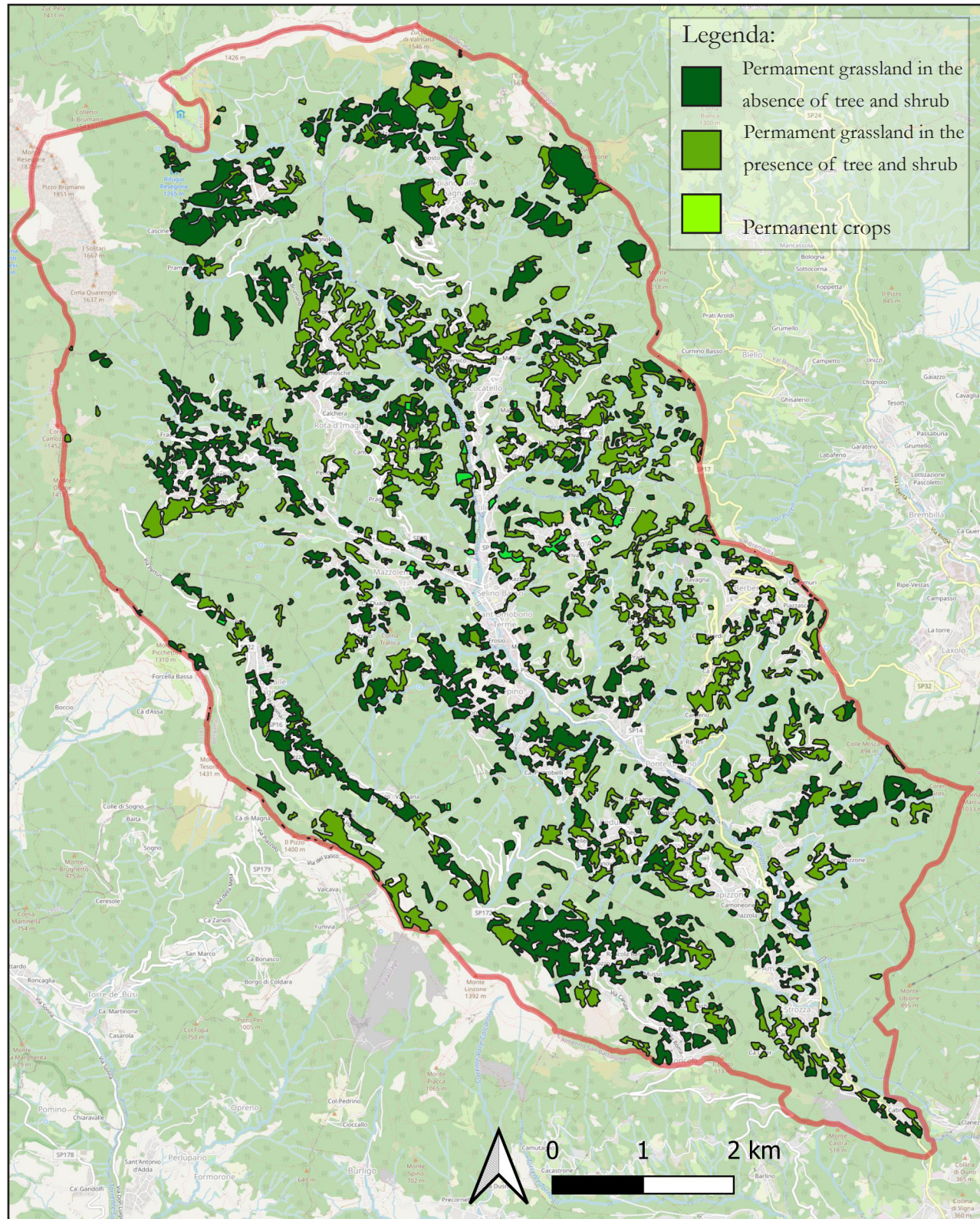
Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator Scale 1:1000000 Fig. 7

## 2 - The Anthropized areas of the Imagna Valley



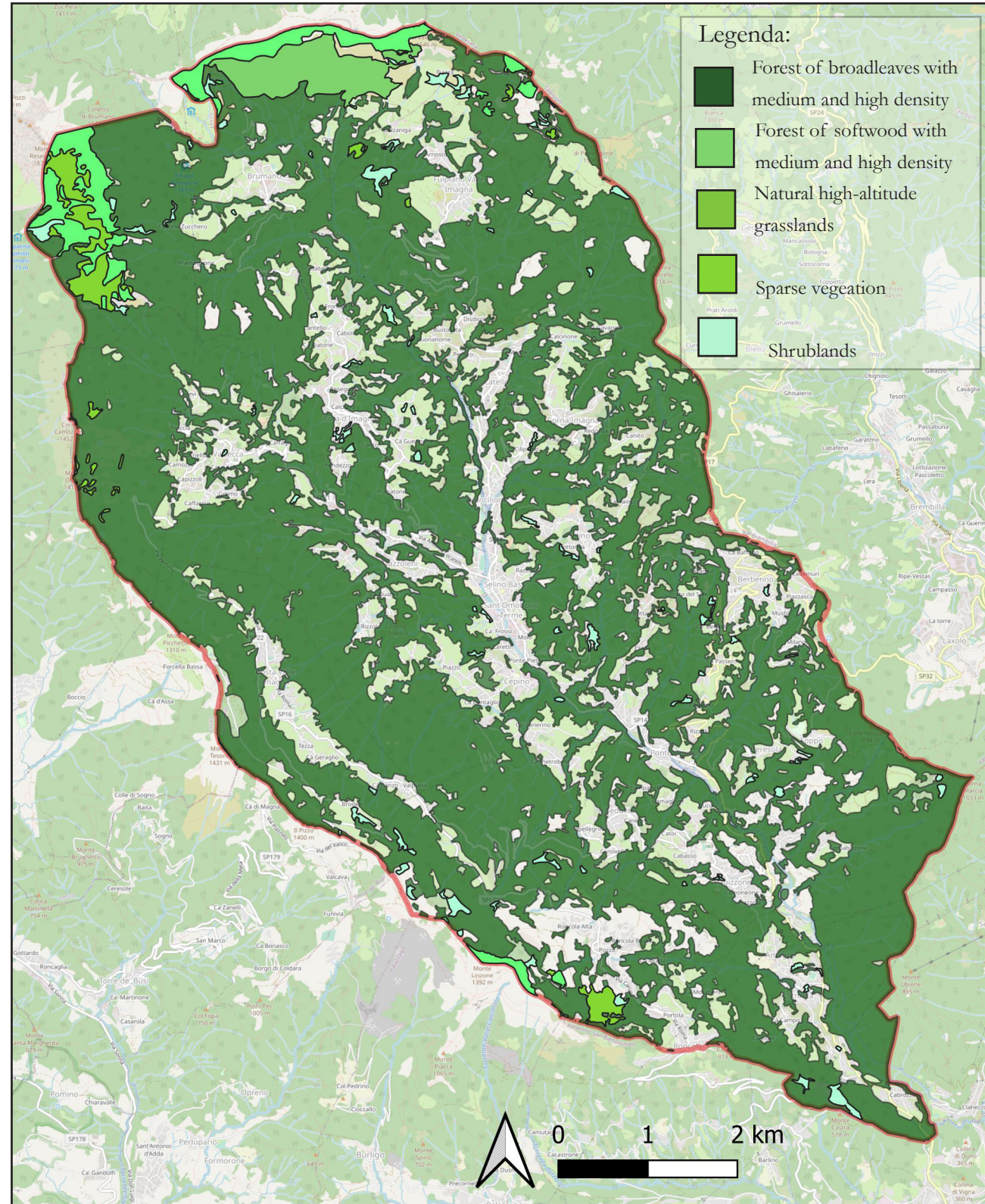
Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator Fig. 8

### 3 - Fields areas of the Imagna Valley



Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator Scale 1:1000000 **Fig. 9**

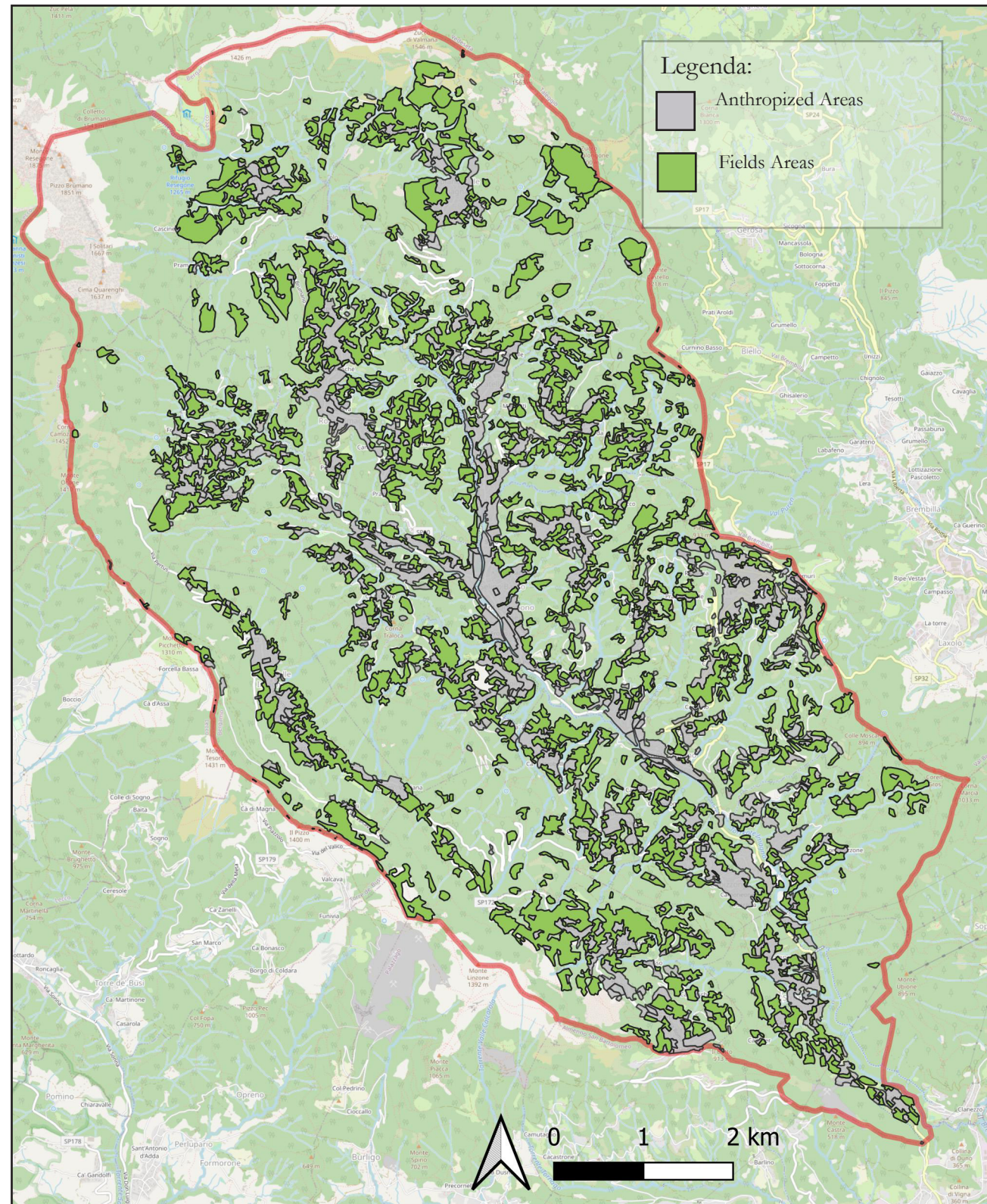
### 4 - Woods areas of the Imagna Valley



Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator

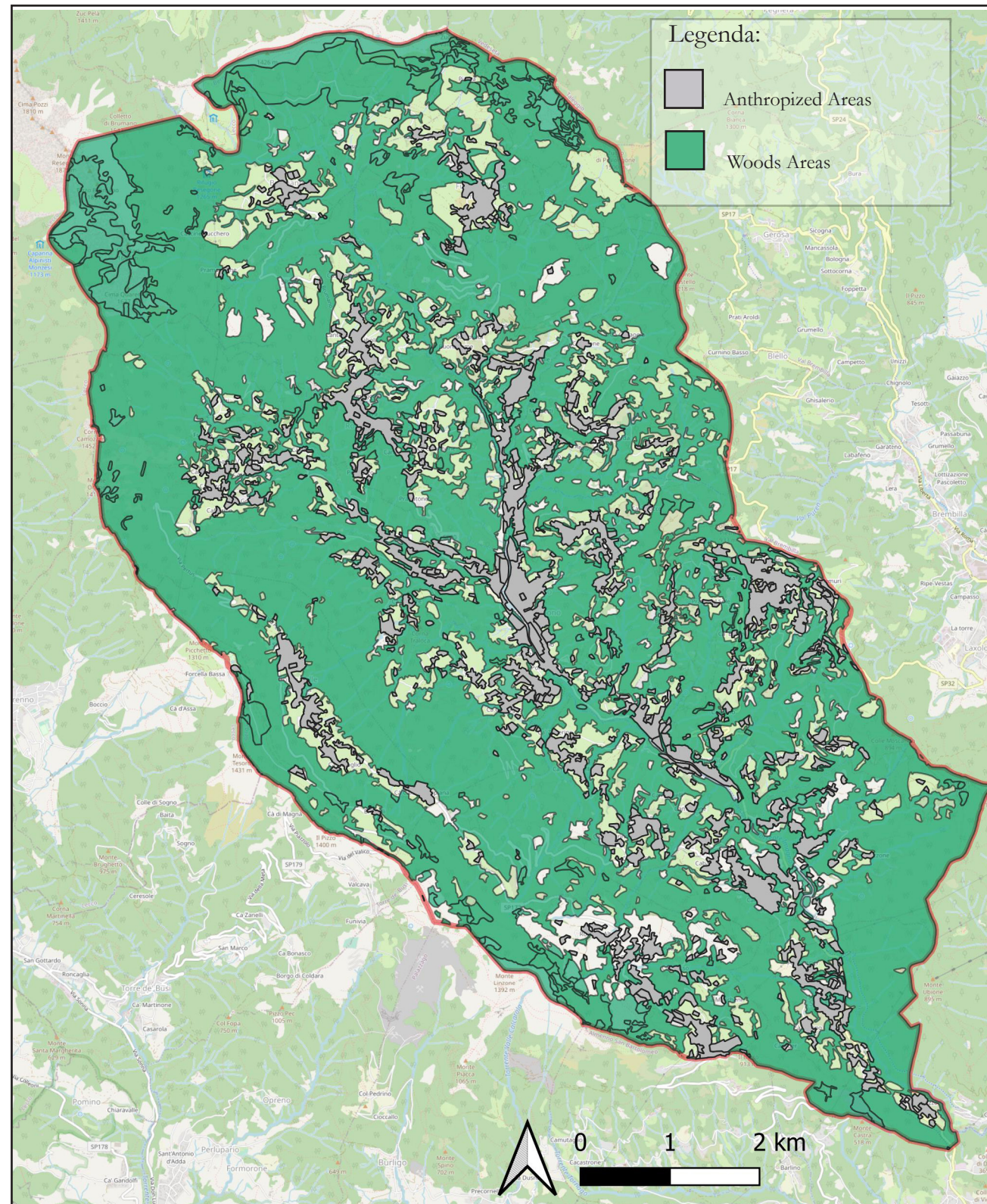
**Fig. 10**

## 5 - Anthropized areas and Fields - Comparison



Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator Scale 1:1000000 **Fig. 11**

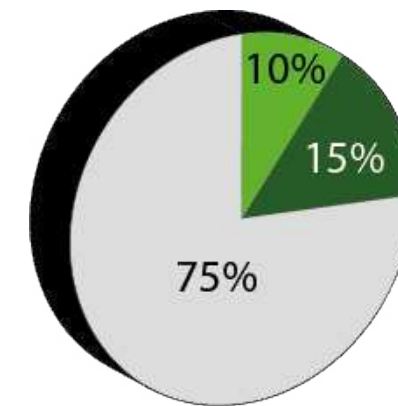
## 6 - Anthropized areas and Woods - Comparison



Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator Scale 1:1000000 **Fig. 12**

## 7 - Fields areas and Woods - Comparison

Ivan D'auria



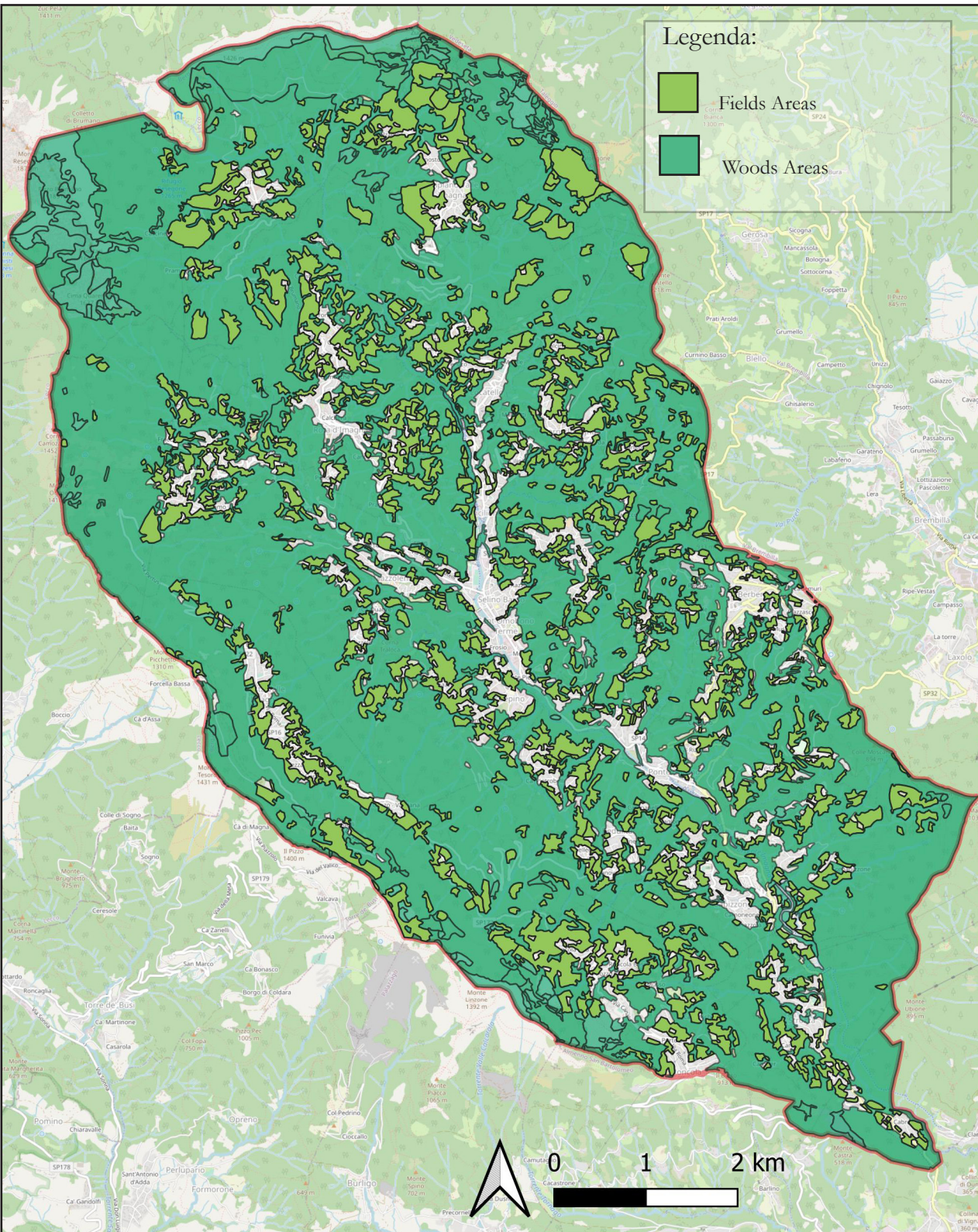
Analysis and comparison in Use of soil - 2023

Anthropozed Areas <10%

Fields Areas >15%

Woods Areas >70%

As can be seen from the graph, only a small part, less than 10%, of the area is used for housing and human habitation. One of the things the community is focusing on is trying to use more of the land to provide more services for tourists and especially for the inhabitants of the valley.



Source: Gis Map edited and analyzed by myself with Illustrator Scale 1:1000000 Fig. 14



## 2.3 Flora

This chapter of the thesis aims to provide an overview of the flora of the Imagna Valley, including its diversity, distribution, and ecological significance.

The Imagna Valley, being part of Lombardy's pre-alpine belt, mostly of limestone or calcareous-dolomitic origin, provides fertile soil for plant growth. Being very close to the Po Valley with its frequent hot and humid currents, especially in summer, it is subject to frequent rainfall, which is very important for the growth of its typical vegetation, and enjoys a temperate climate, with hot summers and cold winters. In fact, the valley is characterized by a rich and diversified flora, an important and integrated component of the local ecosystem, and a source of great interest for botanists and nature lovers.

The flora of the Imagna Valley is characterized by a rich diversity and unique distribution patterns. It is home to a variety of plant species, ranging from rare and endemic species to widespread plants. Some of the most important plant families in the Imagna Valley are the Fabaceae, Poaceae, and Asteraceae. One of the most distinctive features is the high level of endemism. The Imagna Valley is home to several plant species found nowhere else in the world, including the Imagna buttercup (*Ranunculus imagens*), the Imagna violet (*Viola imagens*), and the Imagna columbine (*Aquilegia imagens*).

In addition to its geological features, the Imagna Valley is also characterized by the variety of its landscape. The valley is surrounded by mountains that create a variety of microclimates and ecological niches. The valley is also home to a variety of different habitats, including forests, meadows, and wetlands, each supporting a unique community of plant species. The two hydrographic sides of the valley, for example, develop two very different vegetation types.

Depending on the characteristics of the soil, the left one in particular, being formed by argillites, allows vegetation growth similar to that typically found in the Alps.

The right slope, on the contrary, consisting mainly of impermeable rocks, allows greater if not almost total absorption of precipitation, making surface water scarce and consequently the roots of the trees are in contact with the rock, making the environment suitable only for specialized species that have adapted to the environment over the years.

Furthermore, the altitude differentiates the existing vegetation into two macro-areas: below and above 800 meters.

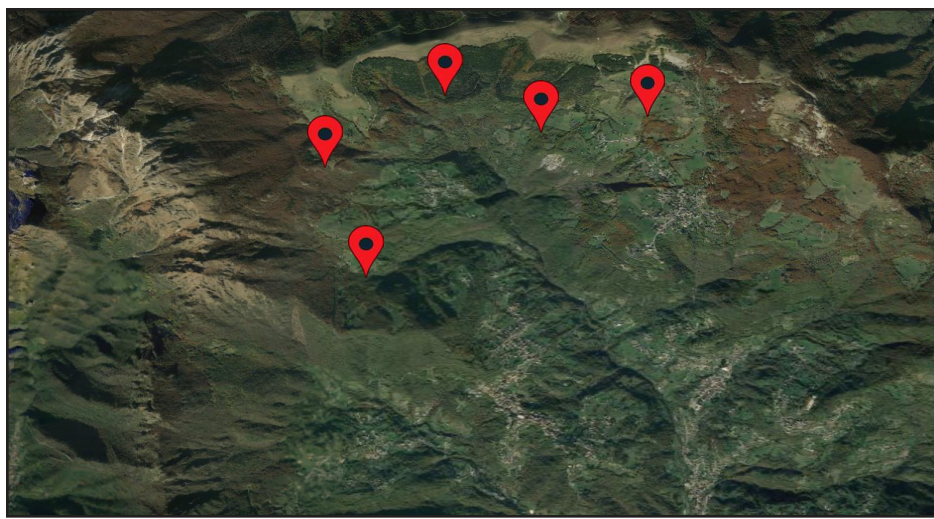
The lower belt, there is forest vegetation of oak trees in greater quantity, but also ash, elm, and beech trees. Very common is the hornbeam, which belongs to the Betulaceae family. Another very common tree, especially in the Brunone Valley area, is chestnut, whose spread in the past was encouraged by agriculture, especially for food and timber production. Today, with the decline of these practices, the chestnut trees present have been incorporated into the forest.

Many plants in the valley are coppice, i.e. plants that, once cut, leave stumps from which they regenerate.

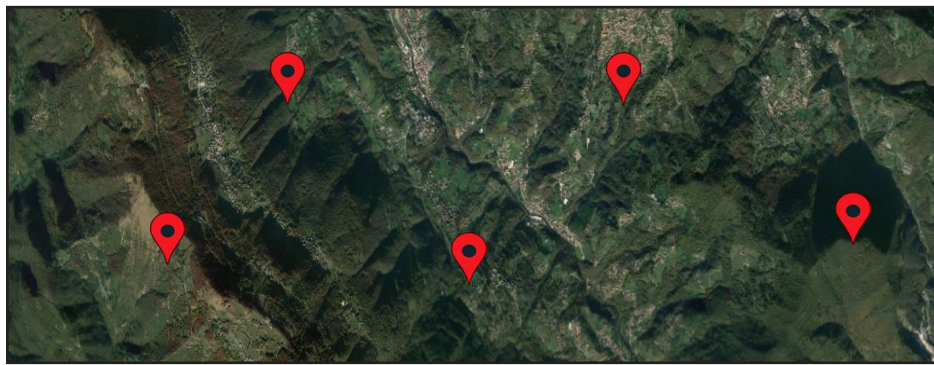
The upper valley is characterized by a greater presence of beech forests. The numerous beech forests guarantee an ecosystem that is rich in biodiversity and has numerous benefits for the area, for example, a large forest can influence the water cycle and consequently its availability. The root system of the beech tree absorbs a lot of water that is stored for periods of drought and released into the atmosphere during the breathing processes of the tree: through this process, multiplied for an entire forest, constant and favorable environmental conditions are maintained.

In the highest part of the valley, many green alder plants also grow, reaching down to the slopes of Monte Resegone, creating a green belt just below the summit of the mountain. Although this area does not reach very high altitudes, it is clearly distinguished from the surrounding landscape by its conformation, consisting of jagged cliffs and spires, and is home to very poor vegetation limited to scattered settlements in niches in the ground and fractures. The flora is typically endemic, with a majority of 'Saxifraga Vandelli' (Vandelli's Saxifraga), 'Primula Glaucescens' (Primula glaucescent or Lombardy primrose), 'Campanula Raineri' (Archduke's Campanula) and the very rare 'Allium Insubricum' flower, typical of the Insubria area, the current location of Milan.

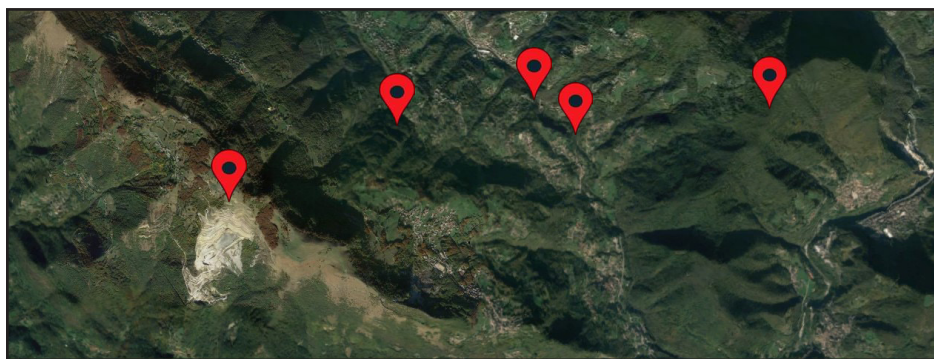
In the past, some areas in the valley were reforested with various non-indigenous species, mainly conifers such as larch, black pine, and spruce, which have spread thanks to their extraordinary adaptability.



**Upper Imagna Valley** - The upper area of the Imagna Valley is characterised by various types of tall trees and flowers that allow growth in adverse conditions.



**Central Imagna Valley** - The central area of the Imagna Valley is characterised by some tall trees resistant to low temperatures and some plants that adapt well to the aquatic environment following the course of the Imagna river.



**South Imagna Valley** - The southern area of the Imagna Valley is characterised by some aquatic plants due to the continuity of the river but mostly *Salix Alba* and decorative plants and flowers, due to excessive temperatures.



*Larix hyalii*



*Fagus Sylvatica*



*Castanea Mill.*



*Saxifraga Vandelli*



*Primula Gauscensens*



*Fraxinus L.*



*Quercus Robur*



*Carex Pendula*



*Campanula*



*Allium Insubrimuc*



*Molinea Caerulea*



*Salix Alba*



*Stachys palustris*



*Typha latifolia*



*Alnus glutinosa*

### 2.3.1 Resegone and Palio SPAs

In 2004, the Alpine biogeographical region made a large portion of the valley's northern forests a Special Protection Area, also establishing two Natura 2000 sites, a site of 'Community interest, created by the European Union for the protection of habitats and species': the ZPS Costa del Palio, which covers the sector of the same name, and the ZPS Monte Resegone, which follows the area of the mountain itself.

In the Resegone SPA, the forest formations are ascribable to the 'Submontane and mountainous beech forests of carbonate substrates'. For the most part, they are beech coppice woods, which never reach a considerable size, due to the exposure, the slope, and the soil, which is shallow and fertile. In some cozier areas, these beech forests have a better structure, accompanied by maples and ash trees. Climbing towards the peaks, on the other hand, the forest thins out, making way for Hugo thicket and pioneer forest species or those that are better adapted to these conditions, such as the hop-hornbeam, birch, and rowan trees, which in turn give way to rupicolous herbaceous species capable of taking root on small rocky ravines.

In the Costa del Palio SPA, the different forest areas can be clearly distinguished. The upper part consists mainly of meadows and is dedicated to grazing, a veritable oasis for fauna and herbaceous vegetation that features formations of nardus (*Nardus stricta*) of considerable value due to their rarity in areas with carbonate substrata. As we descend in altitude, we find ourselves immersed in a different environment, mainly characterized by artificial reforestations of conifers with a high forest structure that only partially leaves room for patches of autochthonous vegetation.

The flora of the Imagna Valley plays an important ecological role in maintaining local biodiversity and supporting a range of different animal species. Plants provide essential food and habitat for a variety of insects, birds, and mammals and contribute to the overall health of the local ecosystem.

In addition to its ecological significance, the flora of the Imagna Valley also has cultural and economic importance. Many plant species in the valley have been used for centuries for medicinal or culinary purposes and continue to be an important part of local culture and tradition. The valley is also a popular destination for ecotourism, with visitors coming to explore the local flora and fauna.

## 2.4 Fauna

Over the years, the Imagna Valley has not undergone a serious environmental change compared to the adjacent larger urban areas, such as the Bergamo district, as it has not been affected by industrial development, nor by heavy speculation aimed at tourist development; therefore, it has maintained its landscape almost unchanged over the years and the fauna that goes with it.

In recent times, however, it has been possible to note an increase in so-called ungulate animals, i.e. mammals in which the phalanges, or the only phalanx, are covered by hooves rather than nails. Thanks above all to the institutions of protected areas, when exploring the area around the slopes of Resegone, it is not unusual to come across specimens of chamois, deer, or roe deer in the coppice woods and undergrowths where they can safely reproduce without the danger of natural predators.

Foxes, which are very present throughout the valley, have seen their numbers increase in recent years and have spread throughout the territory. Being natural omnivorous predators of small fauna, they contribute to maintaining the balance and health of the natural chain by eliminating small, diseased prey, usually carriers of disease.

Small animals nest in the areas bordering the tree-line vegetation and among them are specimens of hares, badgers, squirrels, and beech martens, as well as a large number of amphibians and reptiles such as the Italian agile frog, the common ostrich toad, the European green lizard, and the poisonous but harmless vipers or their rarer subspecies, the marasso.

The Imagna Valley is also an important habitat for a wide range of bird species. The varied topography and vegetation of the valley provide suitable habitats for various bird species, such as the Eurasian jay, European robin, and Alpine chough. Birds of prey such as the Eurasian sparrow hawk, peregrine falcon, and golden eagle are also present in the area, as well as buzzards and kestrels, which feed on small rodents and maintain the natural balance of the valley.

As far as fish are concerned, the Imagna stream, which flows through the valley, is an important habitat for numerous fish species, including marble trout, brown trout, and chub.

A curiosity of the Imagna Valley is the importance of beetles and their endemic species; in fact, in 1947 the "*Boldoria schatzamayi*" beetle was discovered in only seven specimens in the vicinity of the Val d'Adda cave, located near Sant' Omobono. This particular type of beetle has never been found anywhere else in the world, making the Imagna Valley a unique place in this respect.

In the area surrounding Mount Resegone, it is not uncommon to encounter cuckoos, pheasants, partridges, and partridges in the woods, in addition to the aforementioned ungulate mammals. The SPAs of Mount Resegone and the Palio coast, thanks to their environ-

mental complexity, favor a highly diversified avifauna that includes among its species the Pecchiaiolo falcon, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, black grouse, black grouse or black grouse, Alpine rock partridge, eagle owl, little owl, red-crowned owl, nightjar, black woodpecker and little shrike. Also not to be underestimated is the presence of amphibians such as the crested newt (only present in the Costa del Palio SPA) and the yellow-bellied toad.

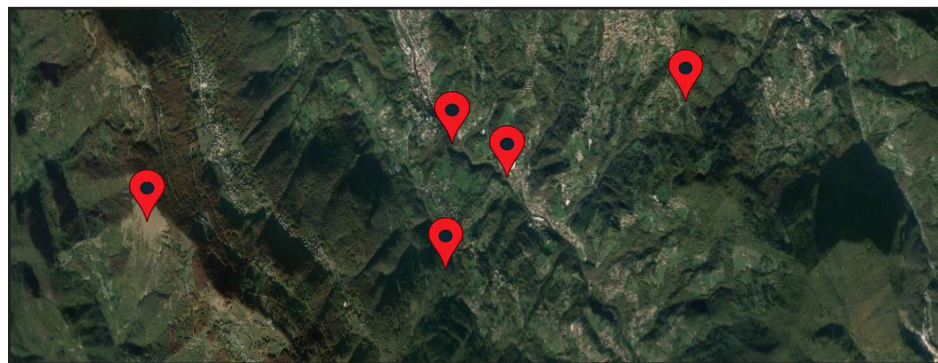
In addition, the possible presence of marmots in the area should be noted, although there is no certain evidence, some burrows attributable to the rodent have been reported in the summit prairies, and since the marmot is one of the main foods in the eagle's diet, its presence should not be ruled out, indeed it is considered probable.

Despite numerous efforts to protect its unique fauna, to date, the varied fauna of the Imagna Valley faces numerous threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation, increasing pollution, and human disturbance.

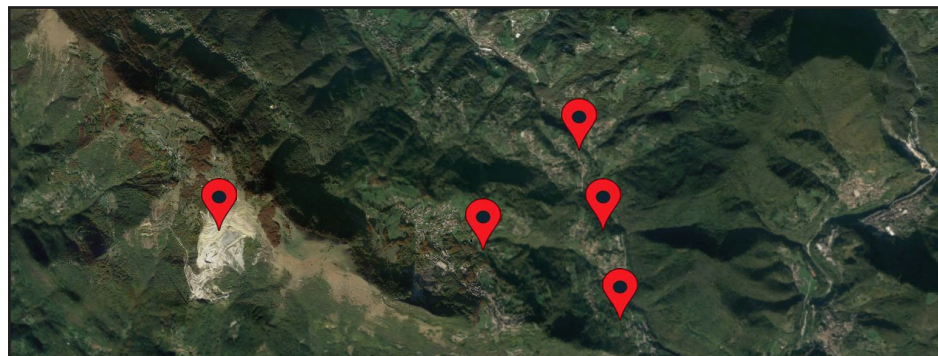
The unique fauna of the Imagna Valley is an important component of the local ecosystem and plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance. It is hoped that awareness of the importance of the Imagna Valley fauna will increase in the coming years and inspire further research and conservation efforts in the area.



**Upper Imagna Valley** - The wild boars, common in the Imagna Valley, and a picture showing the problems associated with them, such as plowing the land on the Costa del Palio.



**Central Imagna Valley** - '*Marmota Marmota*' the common marmot that has been sighted less and less often in the Imagna Valley in recent years.



**South Imagna Valley** - The southern area is characterised by animals such as foxes and pheasants accustomed to living close to man-made areas, as well as hosting amphibians such as frogs, which are very common, especially along the Imagna river.



*Capra Ibex*



*Wild Boar*



*Devastation caused by wild boars*



*Falco peregrinus*



*Cyprinus carpio*



*Marmot marmot*



*Pecchiaioli falcon*



*Ardea cinerea*



*Salamandra*



*Phalacrocorax carbo*



*Wild Fox*



*Phasianus colchicus*



*Pelophylax esculentus*



*Vicugna pacos*



*Vipera laurenti*

## 2.5 Municipalities and population

The valley is home to 16 municipalities: Almenno San Bartolomeo, Almenno San Salvatore, Barzana, Bedulita, Berbenno, Brumano, Capizzone, Corna Imagna, Costa Valle Imagna, Fuiplano Valle Imagna, Locatello, Palazzago, Roncola, Rota d'Imagna, Sant'Omobono Terme and Strozza.

Of these municipalities, the one that can be defined as the 'capital' of the valley is certainly Sant'Omobono, located in the center of the valley and the turning point for reaching other villages, including Fuiplano. Anyone who has ever decided to spend time in the valley will certainly have passed through these areas.

Istat data for the end of November 2015 shows a slight decrease, with a total population of 30,216 inhabitants compared to 30,330 in 2014. This is 114 fewer inhabitants than the previous year. A small slice that represents a laughable decrease compared to 2014 but hides within it another negative figure: a natural balance of -21 (254 births against 275 deaths).

The figure could, however, be vitiated by the presence of the home for the elderly in Almenno San Salvatore (whose guests have to move their residence to Almenno San Salvatore), where the mortality rate is - almost every year - the highest in the entire valley (91), more than double, for example, that of the neighboring

Almenno San Bartolomeo (38).

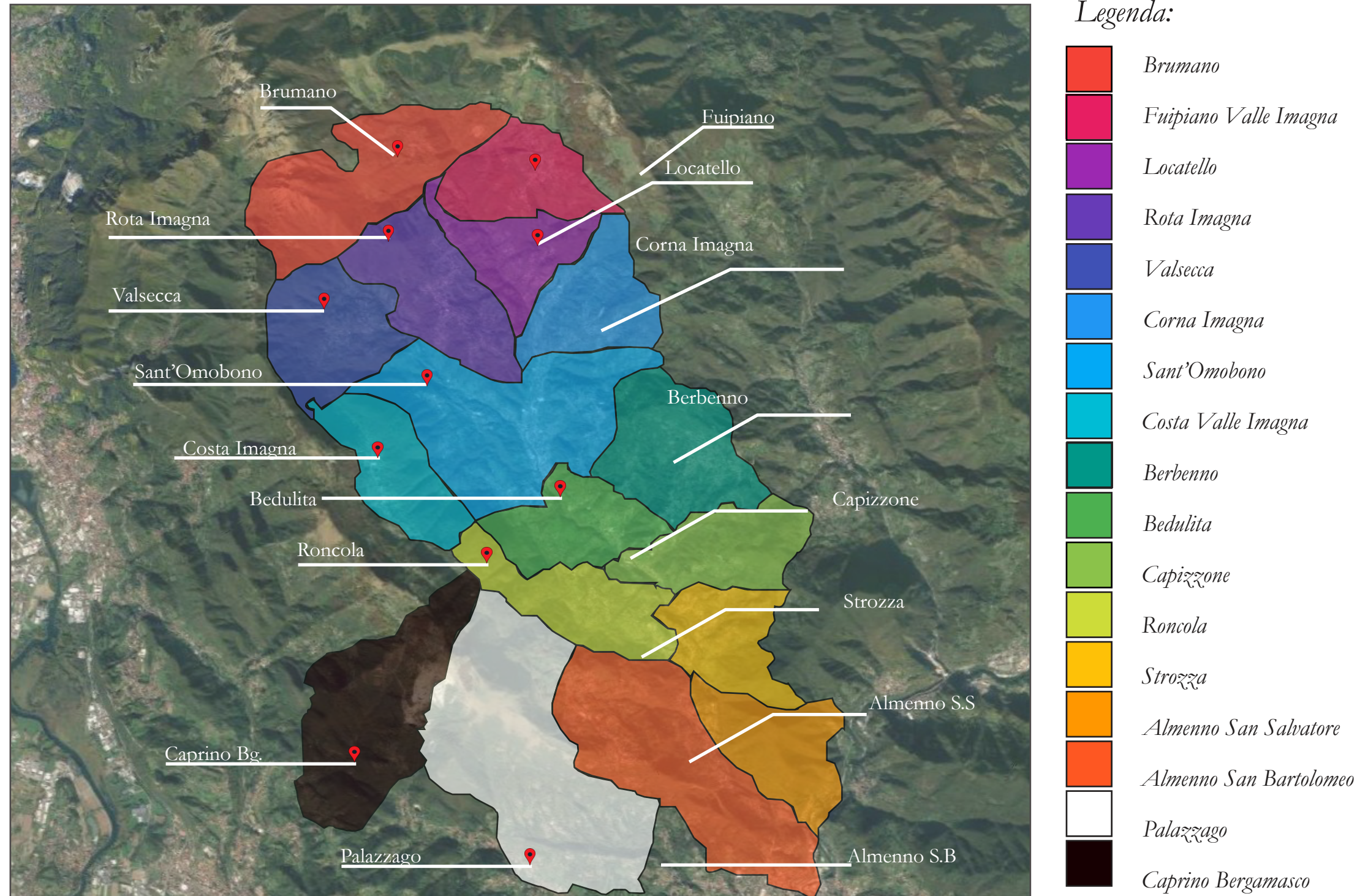
Analyzing the individual villages, one notices that there is no case of a drop in births, which is in line with those of previous years. The negative natural balance, more likely, is simply due to an average elderly population; as is the case throughout the country: the 2015 natural balance in Italy is minus 165 thousand.

Subdividing the demographic analysis into lower, middle, and upper Valle Imagna presents an unexpected scenario: paradoxically, in fact, it is precisely in the villages of the upper valley - where growth in the twenty years 1991-2011 was usually less marked - that the balance is best, with even a small increase compared to 2014 for Costa Valle Imagna (+0.66%) and Fuiplano Valle Imagna (+2.24%). On the other hand, the smallest village in the valley, Brumano, lost a few units, although it remained above one hundred inhabitants.



# “The municipalities of the Imagna Valley”

Ivan D'auria



Source: map edited by me, base map extracted from GIS and municipalities made with Adobe Illustrator

Fig. 15

## 2.5.1 Demographic trends

The following table summarises the main characteristics of the 16 villages in the valley, including square kilometres of area, population density and the change in the number of inhabitants between 2015 and 2020, before the Covid epidemic, which hit the Bergamo area, one of the first Italian outbreaks, massively, causing many deaths, especially in the valleys. This caused a mismatch in data collection from the major institutes dealing with this, mainly due to the difficulty in recording causes of death, making the period from March 2020 to the end of 2022 a grey area for accurate data research.

As shown by the Istat data, and comparing them with a geomorphological map of the valley, the population is mainly distributed in the villages at the entrance to the valley, such as Almenno, and then develops along the main ridge leading to sant'Omobono, located in the centre. This conformation and the development of the towns can be traced back to times gone by, when, at the beginning of the development of the first permanent settlements, our ancestors built their houses along the banks of the Imagna river, which provided them with an abundance of food, so that they could run the mills, which are still present and can be visited along the "Percorso Vita" (Life Path) in Sant'Omobono, but are now

reduced to ruins, and water to irrigate the wheat fields that carpeted the area, before being replaced by urbanisation and cement.

Even today, after more than four hundred years, the population is distributed according to the criteria described above, with the only problem being depopulation, which over time is afflicting these more rural areas in favour of a more developed Bergamo.

"Demography of the Valley, form 2015 to 2018"

City	Area (sqkm)	Pop. Density	Pop. In 2015	Pop. In 2018	Pop. in 2020	% of Increase	Trend
Almenno San Bartolomeo	10,61	607,2	6200	6280	6450	+ 4%	Positive
Almenno San Salvatore	4,73	1.180,80	5750	5700	5580	- 5%	Negative
Barzana	2,07	970,6	1940	1970	2010	+ 3.6%	Positive
Bedulita	4,27	164,7	745	725	703	- 6 %	Positive
Berbenno	6,14	392,2	2370	2410	2410	+ 1 %	Stable
Brumano	8,14	14	109	114	114	+ 0.3%	Stable
Capizzone	4,68	254,8	1270	1230	1195	- 7 %	Negative
Corna Imagna	4,5	206,6	965	921	930	- 3.1 %	Negative
Costa Imagna	4,21	130,3	600	570	550	- 9 %	Negative
Fuipiano Imagna	4,28	48,1	220	210	205	- 2.5 %	Negative
Locatello	3,79	220,9	820	810	837	+ 2%	Positive
Palazzago	13,96	322,1	4470	4460	4490	+ 1%	Stable
Roncola	5,07	160,6	762	763	813	+ 3.4%	Positive
Rota Imagna	6,03	149,6	927	915	900	- 2.3 %	Negative
Sant'Omobono Terme	16,43	233,4	3920	3880	3830	- 3.5 %	Negative
Strozza	3,83	278,4	1083	1060	1065	- 1 %	Negative

Fig. 16

Source: Istat data

# 3

---

*Fuipiano:*

*The roof of Valle Imagna*

---

## 3.1

## Fuipiano: history and localization

*“Nella massima parte a prati, pascoli e boschi; il poco resto e a campi da biada. Ed i suoi quasi trecento cinquanta abitanti sono per lo più agricoltori.”*

(eng)

“For the most part to meadows, pastures and woods; the little remainder and to fodder fields. And its nearly three hundred and fifty inhabitants are mostly farmers.”

That's the description of Giovanni Maironi da Ponte (Bergamo, Feb. 28, 1748 - Jan. 29, 1833), a profound connoisseur of the culture, art and history of the province of Bergamo, and a long-time secretary of the Arvale Economic Academy and then of the Athenaeum, gives of Fuipiano Valle Imagna in his writing "Dizionario Odeporico" (1819-1820): (Imagna Valley, census of recognized historical assets).

Fuipiano is a small mountain village of about 200 inhabitants; it is also called the "roof of Imagna Valley" because of its standing at the top of the valley, which makes it visible from every corner of the villages below.

The origin of its name is still debated, the toponym in fact, seems to derive from the ancient word "foipia",

which, in the local Bergamasque dialect, indicates a plateau covered with beech trees (characteristic of the place), according to others instead it would derive from the term "faveanud," from the French "water well" another element very present in the territory.

The territorial urban conformation is of recent development. Previously the surrounding plain was dotted with small residential settlements, almost all of them along the 1,000-meter elevation and the totality under the coast of the "Prolongone," a natural element that separates the Imagna Valley from the Taleggio Valley. The small settlements (or contrade) of Pila, Piazzola and Braga (today's main town square) formed the most substantial centre of today's Fuipiano, while among the pastures, farther away from the inhabited centres, were the nuclei of Galzaniga, Capione and Arnosto, still existing today and more historically related to the Duchy of Milan and Venice.

In November 1976 there was an event that changed forever the life and the very morphology of the village: the Pagafone disaster. A landslide swept entirely away the small hamlet of Pagafone, at the extremes of Fuipiano, disrupting the lives of the inhabitants and forcing them to abandon their homes near the incident. From that time Fuipiano slowly recovered, and although today the inhabitants have returned to normal life the marks on the land are still there.

Historical information regarding Fuipiano is very few and mainly handed down orally by the old inhabitants of the village, the information gleaned from the few books and testimonies however tells of an origin in the medieval period, during the conflict between Guel-

phs and Ghibellines. As already addressed in Chapter 1.5, the fighters of one or the other faction took refuge in small settlements because of the persecution due to the constant clashes, and it is from these settlements in time that all those small mountain communities such as Fuiipiano would be born. Only in 1427 with the intervention of the Republic of Venice, which occupied a small area of this territory, was a customs post placed in the ancient district of Arnosto (still present today) that divided the Venetian possessions from those of the Duchy of Milan, which occupied the remaining territories. No noteworthy events occurred in the centuries to come, and life in the small mountain settlement continued slowly, in a dimension of isolation, almost estranged from the surrounding world. Suffice it to say that one of the most important and original families of the place, the Locatellis, carried out activities such as shepherding, ranching, lumbering and charcoal making (the one who turns wood into charcoal to be burned in stoves) are still present in the area today.

Even with the advent of the industrial revolution, which involved several towns in the valley, Fuiipiano did not change its appearance and the inhabitants continued to live on agriculture and pastoralism. This was mainly attributable to its isolated and difficult-to-reach location; the village has always been connected to the rest of the valley by narrow and winding roads, unsuitable for the heavy traffic of materials and people. The isolated situation consequently led to the preservation of typical features of the small mountain village without industrialization affecting its appearance.

With the automobile boom and the construction of

Provincial Road 18 travelling to Fuiipiano became easier, encouraging the development of tourism in the village, especially during the summer period. However, this was not enough to stop the migration phenomenon and the gradual estrangement of the population. Fuiipiano remained a place that was too isolated and distant from the main arterial roads, leading younger segments of the population to move to places closer to the town that could guarantee them greater possibilities in terms of economic growth.

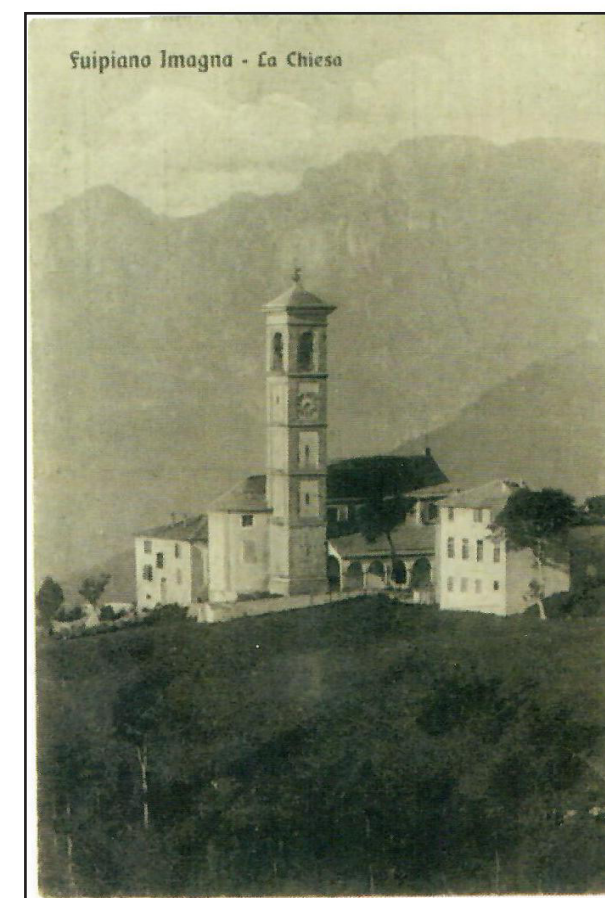


Fig. 17

Source: Archivio CAI Bergamo, "Guida della Valle Imagna", Cesare Ferrari, Bergamo, 1988

Historical postcard of Fuipiano: “Un saluto da Fuipiano”



Fig. 18

Source: “Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P “VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia”, Bergamo, 2000”,

Historical postcard of Fuipiano “Sentieri”



Fig. 20

Source: “Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P “VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia”, Bergamo, 2000”,

Historical postcard of Fuipiano: “Fuipiano”



Fig. 19

Source: “Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P “VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia”, Bergamo, 2000”, 58

Historical postcard of Fuipiano: “Monte Resegone”



Fig. 21

Source: “Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P “VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia”, Bergamo, 2000”,

Historical postcard of Fuipiano: "Albergo Canela"



Fig. 22

Source: "Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P "VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia", Bergamo, 2000",

Historical postcard of Fuipiano: "The Church"

Ivan D'auria



Fig. 23

Source: "Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P "VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia", Bergamo, 2000",

## 3.2 Fuipiano: Demographic trends

Fuipiano is one of the smallest in the Imagna Valley, counting only an average of 204 inhabitants (2020 census). It ranks last among the villages in the valley ahead of only the municipality of Brumano, which has about a quarter of them in the winter periods. During the summer in July and August, the count of inhabitants rises dramatically, when owners of second homes or simply tourists who want to escape the city reach the village, during the peak season, in fact, there are increases of up to 250%.

The town covers 4.28 square kilometres, especially in one direction following what is the morphology of the land, with a particular characteristic urban sprawl that makes it visible in almost its entirety even from lower points in the valley.

As can be seen from the graphs on the following page, in particular Figures 24 and 25, the population of Fuipiano was always around 220, especially in the pre-pandemic period. In particular, in the year 2020, as it is located in the province of Bergamo, the village, as well as the whole Imagna Valley, was hit very hard by the virus, which claimed twenty victims during the year,

Population trend of Fuipiano, from 2015 to 2023

Population Trend		
Year	Population	% Variation
2015	220	- 1.36
2016	217	- 2.76
2017	211	- 0.47
2018	210	- 1.43
2019	207	- 1.40
2020	206	- 0.48
2021	207	+ 1.42
2022	205	- 0.1
2023	203	- 0.1

Fig. 24

Source: <https://ugeo.urbistat.com/adminstat/it/it/demografia/dati-sintesi/fuipiano-valle-imagna/16106/4>

Demographic balance	
Population at 1st Jan 2020	206
Born	1
Dead	4
Natural balance	-3
Enrolled	5
Deleted	3
Migration balance	+ 2
Population at 31st Dec 2020	205

Fig. 25

Source: <https://ugeo.urbistat.com/adminstat/it/it/demografia/dati-sintesi/fuipiano-valle-imagna/16106/4>



ten percentage points of the average population in previous years, one of the most affected countries. This problem and the already effective abandonment of these small countries due to the issues mentioned above have dealt the coup de grace to the country's growth and settlement. In fact, since 2022, when the effects of the pandemic began to fade, the young people of the village in particular, following the trend of the valley, began to leave Fuipiano more and more, moving towards the city of Bergamo and Milan in search of work. As can be seen in photos 24 and 25, the majority of the village's population is now made up of elderly people over sixty years of age, and young people in adolescence and university represent only 5% of the total population.

Population age of Fuipiano, from 2015 to 2023

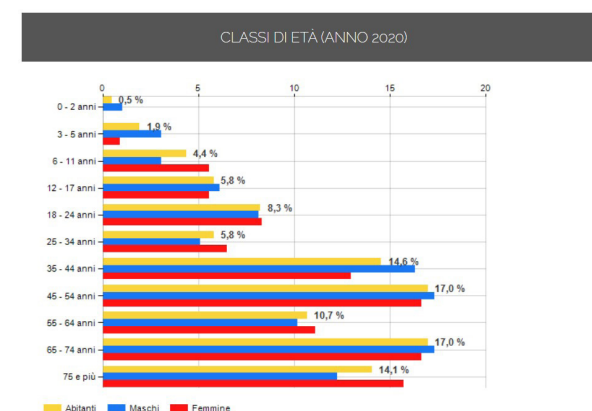


Fig. 26

Source: <https://ugeo.urbistat.com/adminstat/it/it/demografia/dati-sintesi/fuipiano-valle-imagna/16106/4>, 2023

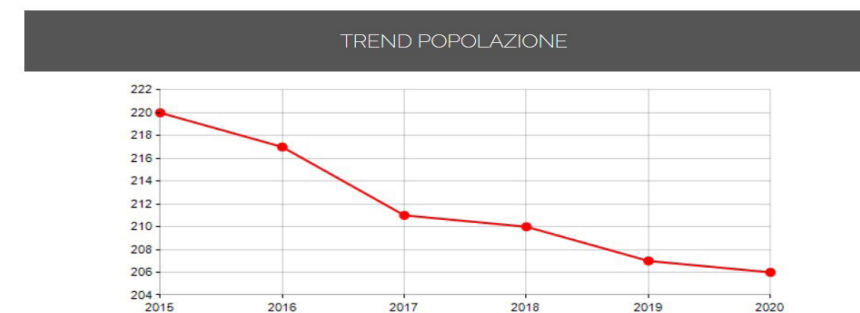


Fig. 27

Source: <https://ugeo.urbistat.com/adminstat/it/it/demografia/dati-sintesi/fuipiano-valle-imagna/16106/4>, 2023

### 3.2.1 Site of historical interest

Although Fuipiano is a very small town, it has some noteworthy historical sites: the most interesting ones are certainly the Arnosto district and the church of St. John the Baptist.

Arnosto is a *contrada*, a small group of rural houses that came into existence in about the mid-500s, following the creation of a customs post between the Duchy of Milan and the Republic of Venice. Arnosto thus originated as a border post, where the men of the *serenissima* could control the transit of goods and people from the territories of Milan. The actual border with the duchy was placed just on the opposite side of the valley where the town of Brumano is today.

As evidence of this frontier past, today it is still possible to see a stone with the words Duchy of Milan written on it and that in those days marked the border between the 2 territories (originally it was probably placed outside the district however today it is inside it).

The structure of the hamlet is essentially divided into 3 blocks: the southern one that gives directly to the valley and consists mostly of stables, the northern section built in a less spartan way and the main nucleus, i.e., the

northwestern group, where today there is the library, the Fuipiano town hall and, until a few years ago, also the museum.

Even today, walking through the alleys of Arnosto, one breathes in the rural and isolated atmosphere of the life of mountain dwellers many years ago. This is thanks to the authentic nature of the place, almost everything is well preserved and close to how it was originally, both the structure of the village and the architectural features of the buildings.

Every detail present tells us about the life of those who inhabited this hamlet. The fountain in the centre of the hamlet, in addition to being a source of supply for local families, served as a washhouse or for watering animals. The gates of the buildings preserve the particular T-shaped structure, which was useful for facilitating the entrance of bundles of hay but at the same time preventing animals from getting out. To the coats of arms and family names placed outside the houses.

What characterizes Arnosto the most, however, are its stone roofs, or rather the pitched roofs. A typical technique of this area, the roofs are built with limestone rocks from the Imagna valley, cut into thick sheets and then stacked on top of each other. This technique makes the buildings unique and gives a sense of the ancient but at the same time authentic.

The church of St. John the Baptist is certainly one of the main sites of historical interest in Fuipiano. The church we see today is the restoration work done in the 1700s but the earliest evidence dates back almost 200 years earlier to 1561 (the official date of construction).

The church, unlike what one might think, is not located in the centre of the village but outside, away from the traffic of people and vehicles. The building's location is at least as peculiar as its architectural features. Placed at a strategic point right at the beginning of the village so that every person arriving in Fuipiano Valle Imagna can see it, among other things on the only road that can be travelled if one wants to reach the village. In addition, the church lies on a natural terrace that can be considered among the most beautiful (if not the most beautiful) viewpoints in the valley, from which it is possible to admire the Imagna valley in its entirety and even catch a glimpse of the Po Valley.

For this reason, too, a different altitude is indicated between the church and the village centre, which can vary by about thirty meters.

In addition to its strategic location, the church is a site of historical and artistic interest, a classic example of 18th-century Italian architecture.

It has a wide churchyard and a classical structure divided into 3 sections, of which the nave is higher. The bell tower is perfectly integrated into the structure and is located behind the building, outlined in stone and equipped with a classical belfry.

The church has a rectangular plan with a single nave, a common type of structure in these types of small and suburban buildings, with a barrel vault decorated with 18th-century paintings. The interior has frescoes by Giuseppe Orelli, paintings include the Madonna delle Grazie with Saints Sebastian, Rocco and John the Baptist by Giacomo Francia of Bologna (1535), an Immaculate by Giovanni Chizzoletti (1741) and several valuable

canvases by Francesco Quarenghi, father of the famous Valdimagna architect Giacomo Quarenghi, famous for working at the court of the Russian tsars.

“A view from the above”



Source: photo edited by me, 2023

Fig. 28



Fig. 29

*Source: drone photo by myself, 2023*

### 3.2.2 Site of naturalistic interest

In addition to the aforementioned sites of historical interest, what makes Fuipiano Valle Imagna interesting in terms of redevelopment are its sites of naturalistic interest, its routes and its landscapes. Indeed, the elevated location allows visitors staying in Fuipiano to reach the main peaks and the most interesting trails directly from the town centre, without having to use the car and move further.

Among the many sites that can be reached, the 3 Beches is one of the most fascinating but at the same time convenient to reach. Starting from the aqueduct and following the paved road, one can reach the site with relative ease. The name derives precisely from the presence of three centuries-old beech trees grown next to each other and placed in a strategic place: a natural terrace from which the entire valley can be admired. Next to these striking trees, an altar dedicated to the Madonna has been built, enclosed in a dolmen enclosure reminiscent of Celtic structures, making the whole setting more fascinating.

Another very interesting destination from a naturalistic point of view is the path leading to the northernmost peak of the valley: the Zuc de Valmana, more

simply called "the cucco." Starting directly from Fuipiano and following the Grassello pastoral road, one first enters one of the beech forests that surround the village and then immediately finds oneself in a setting of small clearings, huts and pastures. From here one can get a better view of the top of the mountain, which can be reached directly via a fairly steep climb. Once at the summit, a unique panorama can be admired, with a 360° view of the Imagna Valley, Taleggio valley, Resegone and the Grigne group. On very clear days it is even possible to see Mount Rosa looming in the distance.

The Zuc de Valmana is particularly interesting from a tourist point of view because of the exceptional view from the top and the ease of the trail, which, although it requires a certain degree of training, is very well marked with terrain in good condition.

Finally, from Fuipiano it is also possible to reach Resegone, undoubtedly the most frequented and interesting peak for all the reasons described in chapter 1.2. it should be pointed out, however, that although it is possible to reach the mountain on foot, many visitors cover the first part of the journey up to the "stanga" by car to significantly reduce travel time.

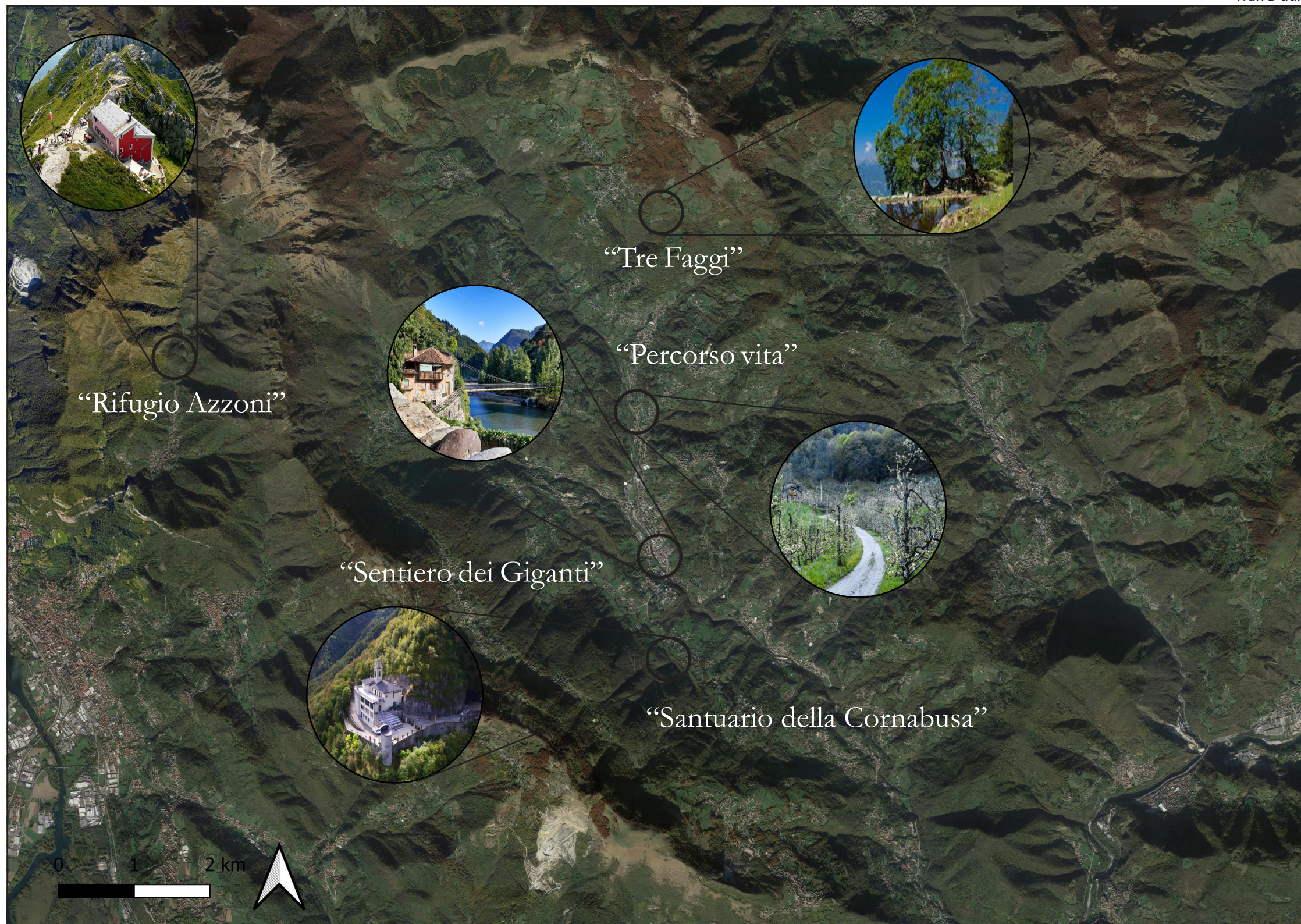
“Location of the principals naturalistic sites in the Imagna Valley”

Ivan D’auria



Source: base map in QGIS, scale 1:500000

Fig. 30



Source: base map in QGIS, scale 1:500000

Fig. 31

### 3.3 Current issues of the town

As pointed out in the previous chapter, the territorial conformation that characterized the Imagna Valley in previous centuries conditioned the development of settlements, especially in the elevated areas, which were little exploited and used only as areas devoted to agriculture and grazing animals.

This subdivision of population centres persisted over the years, until the formation of the fifteen hamlets that still make-up the valley's municipalities.

With about 30,000 inhabitants according to the latest ISTAT data from 2015, the Valley has experienced a brief decline in population rate except for Fuipiano, which has seen an increase in its population of 2.2 % in recent years, albeit small compared to other villages with less than two hundred and fifty inhabitants in 2019.

This slow population decline is increasing more and more, especially for the higher centres, which often correspond to underserved localities. This has led over time to a settling of local realities, which have not adjusted to the interests of people who frequent mountain locations.

Another problem that plagues the valley is the poor lack of connections between the smaller and more di-

stant localities concerning the central artery of Almenno and Sant'Omobono where most of the population flows. The roads that connect the various towns are still rather bumpy and left alone, without the necessary maintenance causing problems for the citizens who travel them daily for various reasons. The roads connecting to the valley's innermost hamlets are one of the main causes of the slow degradation that the Imagna Valley is facing.

In addition to local entrepreneurship in the construction sector, the major source of livelihood is mainly tourism, where good levels of receptivity are recorded, mostly in the localities of Sant'Omobono and Roncola, to date the village that hosts the only "Adventure Park" in the valley, a much sought-after tourist destination.

In the years from 2000 to 2010, when the phenomenon of the "second home" rush in mountain resorts had taken hold in Imagna Valley, interest in tourist itineraries had shown a small increase of 1.6 %, little when one considers the 7.2 % growth in hotel accommodations. The tourism recession per km<sup>2</sup>, however, is much lower than the provincial average and that of neighbouring valleys, which can, however, count on tourism related to sports on high-altitude slopes, such as skiing and snowboarding.

The Imagna valley, on the other hand, due to the conformation of the territory does not have ski facilities, and their construction is impossible even on the slopes of Mount Resegone due to the massive presence of evergreen forest areas protected by the landscape authorities and not to disfigure the valley's great plant and animal heritage.

This characteristic, which sets it apart from other mountainous areas, if properly exploited could even be



an advantage. Since, due to macro-environmental and economic factors, much of mountain tourism is moving in a more sustainable and less invasive direction. It is not hard to think that in the future, when many ski facilities will be forced to close due to lack of snow, abandoning facilities that will disfigure the mountain landscape, a wilder and more unspoiled environment such as the Imagna Valley will be able to attract more tourists, interested by the landscapes or trekking activities.

In addition to tourism, other aspects affecting the world of work should also not be underestimated. Just think of the growing phenomenon of smart working and the flight of people (including many young people) from big cities, in search of a healthier and less hectic lifestyle. The Global Digital Nomads Market 2020-2026 report provides an analysis of the market including development trends. OECD estimates report that by 2020 in the 21 European nations surveyed, the share of remote workers has risen to about 40% of all employed people. So it cannot be ruled out that Fuipiano could attract people looking for a more relaxed and bucolic environment but, at the same time, just over an hour from Milan, bringing them to live permanently in the village and not just for two weeks a year.

The future of Fuipiano and the entire valley will therefore be defined by the choices that are made today; to a less attentive eye it might seem like an area destined for abandonment and depopulation, but, as we have seen, the potential is there and the possibilities for revitalization are diverse. Within this thesis will be defined a strategy for the redevelopment of the territory that, if combined with good administration, could lead Fuipiano Valle Imagna to relaunch itself, returning to growth in terms of tourism and demographics.

## 3.4 SWOT Analysis

In a nutshell, S.W.O.T. stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Taking into consideration the topics discussed in the previous chapters, this analysis aims to consider the positive and negative aspects of the valley and Fuipiano in particular.

Starting with the letter S, which stands for “Strengths”, what we can consider are certainly the naturalistic aspects and those linked to the geological conformation of the area, walks, and tourist trails are the predominant part of these areas, as well as tourist sites par excellence that bring people here every year, such as the “Madonna della Cornabusa”, the church carved out of the rock, which is the site of annual pilgrimages by the faithful.

As far as Fuipiano is concerned, its strengths lie in its elevated position, which allows a unique view compared to the other villages in the valley, and the reason why tourists and inhabitants prefer this place to their own, namely the tranquillity it offers and the pure air as opposed to the polluted cities.

The letter W, which stands for ‘Weaknesses’, indicates the area’s weaknesses. The main problem, which also afflicts the other neighboring valleys, is the progressive impoverishment of the area and the decrease in the resident population, which is increasingly moving to larger towns in search of better work and social opportunities. Fuipiano too has been affected by this phenomenon in recent years, as illustrated in the previous intermediate chapter with annexed data, a problem that is leading to the progressive abandonment by young couples currently residing there.

A further detectable problem is undoubtedly the outdated infrastructure, which cannot cope with and be compared to that of nearby Bergamo and which greatly limits travel within the valley itself, discouraging those who would not want to use their cars for travel. To this last point must be added the level of quality in which most of the roads are found, Fuipiano, being connected to the previous village, Locatello, only by the road network, sees every year roadblocks, closures and sometimes accidents caused by a road surface that is not in optimal condition.

Remaining within the village, an important weakness is the lack of some essential primary services, such as the presence of first aid stations and hospitals, and a school, both of which can only be found in Sant’Omobono as the nearest destination, which however requires at least a twenty-five-minute drive to reach these services.

The letter O, which stands for 'Opportunities', indicates the opportunities that can be considered to address the weaknesses outlined above. What is currently lacking is a valley system that benefits all the municipalities involved, and the possibility for municipalities to communicate and work together more efficiently to get the Imagna Valley moving again. Some projects have been adopted by individual municipalities or groups of them, but a functional valley system to benefit all villages has never been developed. This union of intentions should be the first idea to establish to then tackle the problems that are arising, such as improving connections between one village and another and collaborating in the organization of events that will bring new people to the valley and make it known to the general public, including internationally.

For Fuipiano, however, the discourse is more complex. It's being the roof of the valley is also a point of disadvantage given its conformation and distance from the other towns, which entails not having primary services directly in the village. For this reason, improving connections and reducing the time it takes to travel the roads is the first point to be pursued, followed by initiatives that allow more and more people to move to the village for longer or permanently, creating demand and the consequent creation of primary services directly in the village.

The letter T, which stands for 'Threats', indicates the threats to the good intentions and proposals that have been made to address the weaknesses. The tendency of the valley and all its villages to approach very drastic changes that would alter the habits of its inhabitants is the main reason for the failure of the works and proposals proposed in the past few years, which came to an unhappy end as they were abandoned in the short term. This hostile tendency to the great change that projects of this kind would bring to individual villages or the valley as a whole was also expressed with great regret back in 2014 by the former mayor of Fuipiano, Maurizio Melchionne, who put it this way: 'In short, there are no job opportunities, young people are leaving, the average age is rising, and those who are fed up with going back and forth are moving to Bergamo or Milan. There's a bit of life, especially in July and August, when the second homes fill up and the population rises to almost two thousand... I don't understand why our valley, compared to others, is in this situation, after all, there are plenty of development opportunities. I think it fits into the more general problem of the impoverishment of Bergamo's mountains, which is forcing so many people looking for work to move elsewhere. Even the fact of living in a town with a budget of 500,000 euros doesn't help development: "The way I see it, it is no longer necessary to work as individual municipalities but to work with the other administrations in the area, to unite at least from the point of view of services, if not even to merge as Sant'Omobono and Valsecca have done. By now, the single municipality can do nothing. A serious mountain policy has not been made in recent years by any government, and even just in the Region, it is difficult to make people understand the extent of our problems"'.

From 2014 to 2023 nothing has changed, and the post-Covid situation has only worsened an already existing situation that was hardly reemerging, giving further motivation to the detractors of the plans to expand the valley and individual villages.

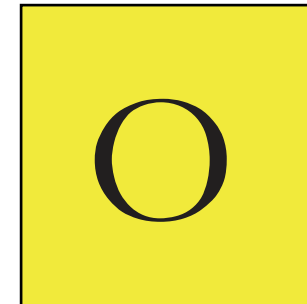
This S.W.O.T. analysis is a summation of opinions and facts that have occurred in the previous years and, together with the interviews in the next chapter, provide a more precise framing of the current situation in the valley and Fuipiano, and how the project proposals in this paper in chapter four seek to follow these principles of improvement, without traumatizing public opinion with moderate and progressive change.



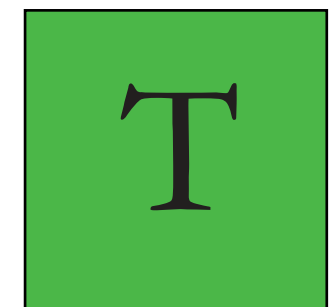
- Natural aspects;
- Tourism;
- Elevated position;
- Tranquillity;



- Impoverishment of the area;
- Decrease in the resident population;
- Larger towns has better work and social opportunities.



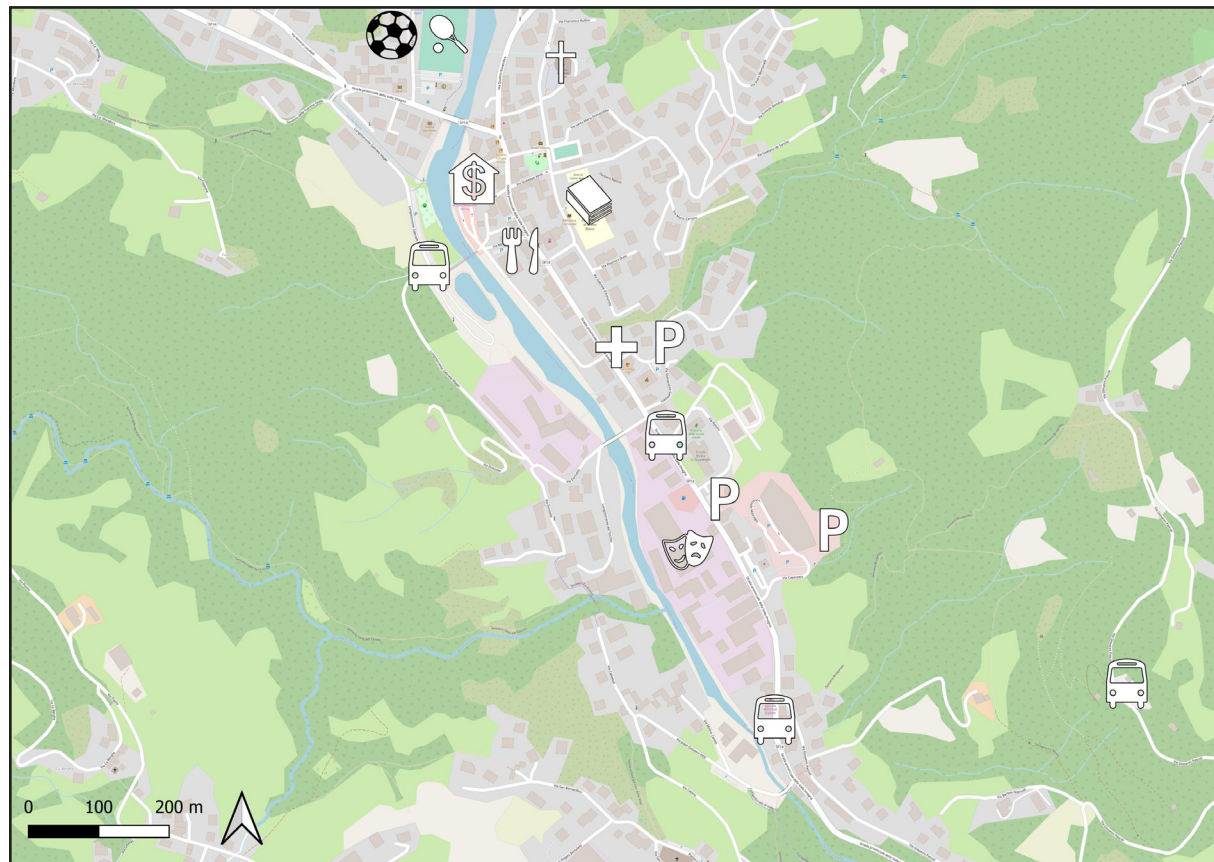
- Work with other cities in the Valley;
- Improving physical connections;
- Create work demand



- Unable to change the habits;
- No job opportunities for youngers;
- No national regulations from government for mountain communities

The majority of the program to unite all the towns around the valley are made during the summer periods. Rota Imagna and Costa Valle Imagna organized a Little train, mostly for the fun of the little ones, that started to one country to another, the second example is the organization of village festivals and summer sports tournaments which, organized each week in a different village, allow people to organize themselves and move around the valley, experiencing a different reality each week.

“The services Sant’Omobono offers”

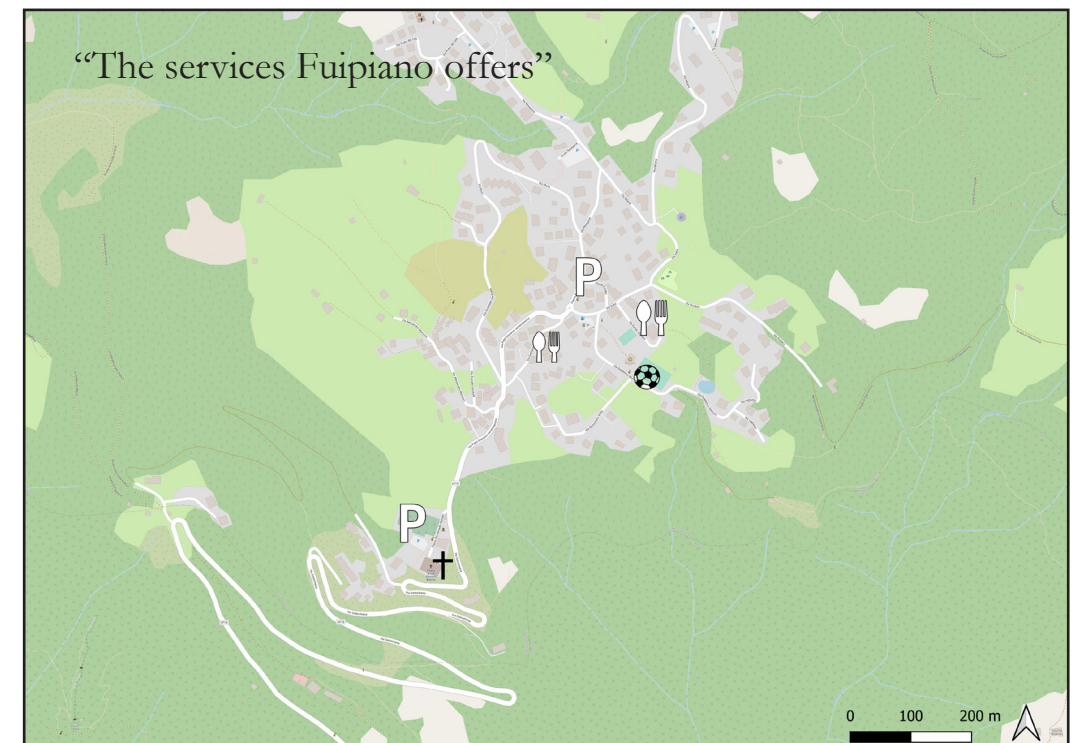


Source: GIS map edited by me, scale 1:100000.

Fig. 32

If we compare Fuipiano and Sant’Omobono, which are just under 5 kilometers apart from each other, we can see a significant difference in the services provided by the valley’s ‘capital’ compared to the top of the Imagna Valley. The bus stops are particularly interesting, with 3/4 of them located along the entire length of the town in Sant’Omobono, while Fuipiano currently has no bus stop area. It’s also worth examining the sports facilities available. Along the Percorso Vita in Sant’Omobono, one can practice a variety of sports, including football, swimming, tennis, table tennis, and beach volleyball. On the other hand, Fuipiano only has a football pitch, which is not in the best condition. The lack of services also extends to leisure facilities, restaurants, gyms, etc. This difference in infrastructure is primarily due to the connection offered by Sant’Omobono, which is the main artery of the valley. As a result, the lower villages on the edge of the valley have to make do with limited resources to attract new tourists.

“The services Fuipiano offers”



Source: GIS map edited by me, scale 1:100000.

Fig. 33

# 4

---

## *Strategy*

---

## 4.

## Strategy

## 4.1 Interviews

Reconnecting with the previous chapter and the theme of change, I decided to interview some personalities from Fuipiano, of different social backgrounds and ages, to gather their views on the current situation in which the valley and Fuipiano, in particular, finds itself

These are the main questions I asked them and the topic we discussed:

- How do you know Fuipiano and how long have you lived there?

- How have you seen the diversification of the population in your area over the years?

- How have you seen the diversification of tourism over the years?

- What do you think would be needed to improve the housing/employment/tourism situation?

## Proloco President G.D'. 58

The first meeting was with Giuseppe D'Auria, the current president of the town's Proloco, a non-profit association that promotes tourist activities in the town and organizes events throughout the year, especially in the summer.

How do you know the Imagna Valley and Fuipiano and how long have you lived there/frequented it?

I have known the Imagna Valley, and Fuipiano in particular, since the distant 1990s, thanks to my wife, who first took me to this small village where many of her relatives lived at the time.

How have you seen the diversification of the population in your area over the years?

Since joining back in 2005, he has experienced the sudden change in tourism and the approach of residents to the problem, or in some cases the opposite, of second homes. "When I took over as president it was 2007 and the situation in the country was completely different from what it is today.

How have you seen the diversification of tourism in the valley and Fuipiano in particular over the years?

Typical tourism consisted of grandparents and children spending almost three months of their holidays in Fuipiano, from the end of school in June until the end of August, in second homes that occupied 60 percent of the village, whereas now the situation has completely changed;

second homes continue to occupy the majority of the village's housing units but are less and less exploited, whether sporadic weekends or weeks during the year; on the other hand, we have noticed the growth of foreign tourism, from all over Europe, thanks also to the investments of Fuipiano's entrepreneurs, especially those linked to the tertiary sector. As protocol, to cope with this change, we have tried every year to differentiate activities and events to allow all age groups to get to know the village in all its seasons, our primary idea being to involve children first, as a driving factor for the whole family.

*What do you think would be needed to improve the housing/employment/tourism situation?*

We are seeing positive results year after year, with the increase in requests for rental flats. To continue this positive trend, we are carrying out several projects in collaboration with the municipal administration to enable new tourist accommodation, the most important of which is the Albergo Diffuso, this project will help the owners of vacant houses in the town and give tourists more opportunities to find a suitable environment for their holidays.

#### **Fuipiano Mayor: L. D. E. 70**

I also had the pleasure of talking to the current mayor of Fuipiano, Luigi Diego Eléna, a Ligurian by birth, who moved to Valle Imagna a few years ago and, after falling in love with it, decided to move there permanently and run for the leadership of the small community, a white fly among today's hit-and-run tourism.

*How do you know the Imagna Valley and Fuipiano and how long have you lived there/frequented it?*

“I have known Imagna Valley as a holiday resort for my family for more than 30 years, Fuipiano I discovered attracted by the historical district of Arnosto, which at first sight fascinated me, then being curious about history, traditions, place names, and art, I deepened my research on the spot. I have now lived in Fuipiano for about nine years and have been mayor for about two”

*How have you seen the diversification of the population in the valley area and Fuipiano over the years?*

The Imagna valley in recent years has maintained the same number of residents. Although Fuipiano has not increased its residents, thanks to events, shows, guided tours, pathways, new infrastructure works fibers optic,,s and services, it has increased the number of tourists and presences in the summer and winter periods. Today it has peaks of 2,500 presences in the above-mentioned periods. The radius of attraction draws from the provinces of BG, MI, and LC. Thanks to word of mouth and social media, tourists arrive from beyond the Alps and the UK.

*How have you seen the diversification of tourism in the valley and Fuipiano in particular over the years?*

As per my response at the previous questions, I saw a different type of population during the years and this diversification is continually growing.



What do you think would be needed to improve the living/working/tourism situation in the valley and Fuipiano in particular?

- Improve the so-called LEP (Essential Levels of Performance) services;
- Improve accommodation facilities
- Increase parking spaces
- Improve road maintenance
- Create the museum with Venice of the Venetian customs
- Continue to create local events and local craft production
- Improve the entrance to the town by renovating Piazza Europa
- Become an orange flag of the Italian Touring Club

What are the issues related to the previous topics that the municipality is most interested in at the moment?

- Participating in PNRR, regional and foundation tenders
- Involving the hoteliers and associations present
- Promoting voluntary work

**Young girl, resident, G.R. 22 y.o.**

How do you know the Imagna Valley and Fuipiano and how long have you lived/visited there?

I know Valle Imagna since I have lived in Fuipiano since I was born. I spent most of my childhood in this country before moving there mainly for reasons related to the school I had to attend.

How have you seen the diversification of the population in the valley and Fuipiano over the years?

The valley has a very wide diversification of population, Fuipiano in particular is a town mainly inhabited by the elderly, nevertheless, in recent years it has also proved to be a destination for younger people thanks to the possibility of countless excursions.

Over the years, tourism in Fuipiano has always been somewhat irregular, with some choosing it as a destination during the winter period and others as a summer destination, despite this being greater during the summer months. After the covid period, tourism in Fuipiano increased a lot.

To improve the living/working situation, etc., in my opinion, it would be necessary to increase services, both public services for more comfortable travel, but also to enhance the services that our village offers.

**Actual resident of Fuipiano, woman 50 y.o.**

How do you know Fuipiano and how long have you lived there?

I, A. know fuipiano because I was born there, while my husband already knew the village as he was from the valley and was here for the first time after the famous landslide in '76. He moved here for good after our marriage.

How have you seen the diversification of the population in your area over the years?

Many of our acquaintances of our age got married here in Fuipiano and moved here accordingly, but as time went by and the family got bigger, many moved away for the needs of their children above all. But over the years new families have arrived, not in the numbers that were expected and needed to revitalize the village.

How have you seen the diversification of tourism over the years?

Tourism some thirty years ago was so high, especially from nearby Milan and Bergamo, that locals even came to rent out their houses to meet the growing demand for board and lodging during the summer period. I remember long queues outside the small, now closed, grocery store to make a phone call, sometimes waiting hours to use the only working public telephone.

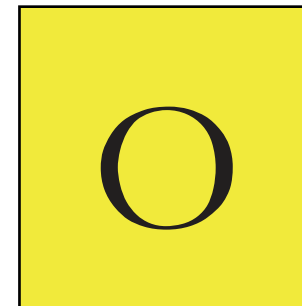
What do you think would be needed to improve the housing/employment/tourism situation?

My proposal for revitalizing the valley, and Fuipiano in particular, is to reuse and renovate the old dwellings and stables that abound in our heights, which can be reused to create new places to rent to cope with the ever-increasing demands. As also indicated by our mayor, the concept of a diffuse hotel could also be expanded to these huts in our forests to offer different experiences to tourists as well.

Through these brief questions, I tried to build a picture of the current situation of the village and how it is seen, known, and experienced outside and inside the valley itself. What transpires from the statements is a unity of intent aimed at modernizing the village to adapt to the new needs, first and foremost of the inhabitants and the tourists who visit Fuipiano every year, a mixture of modernity but always with respect for the tradition that has led Fuipiano to be what it is now.



- Organization of events to increase tourism;
- Improve LEP;
- Enhance the historical aspect of Fuipiano
- Try to become the first “orange flag of the FAI” in his category;
- Promote voluntary work;
- Participating in PNRR, regional and foundation tenders

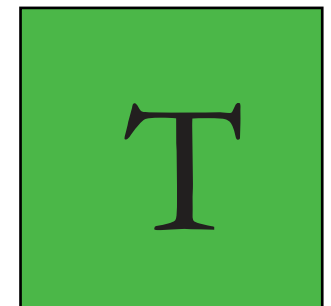


- Enhance the communications roads;
- Be recognized at italian level;

Ivan D'auria



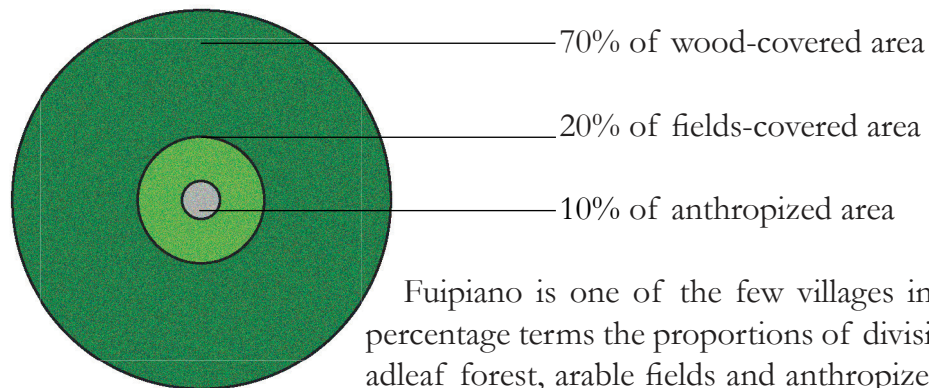
- Not a place for young people;
- Lack of basic services;
- Lack of work opportunities for people, younger in particular;
- population decreases over the years
- A lot of unused buildings that could be re-used;
- Very low internet connection;



- People unwillingly to change their Habits;
- No Funds from region and Province or Bergamo;
- Not recognised the value of the changes made;

## 4.2 Strategy

The interviews helped us better understand the village's general situation and its strengths and weaknesses. By analyzing the words of the people who live in Fuipiano and observing from the outside what the town has to offer, we decided to develop a strategy based on 3 fundamental issues: the general improvement of communication routes, the creation/reconversion of new spaces to host events and services, and finally, the promotion of the village through events, celebrations, competitions, etc.



Fuipiano is one of the few villages in the valley that respects in percentage terms the proportions of division of areas covered by broadleaf forest, arable fields and anthropized area, as in the Valley, also having one of the highest percentages of green areas compared to the anthropized area per km<sup>2</sup>.

“The main communication routes between Fuipiano, Locatello and Brumano”

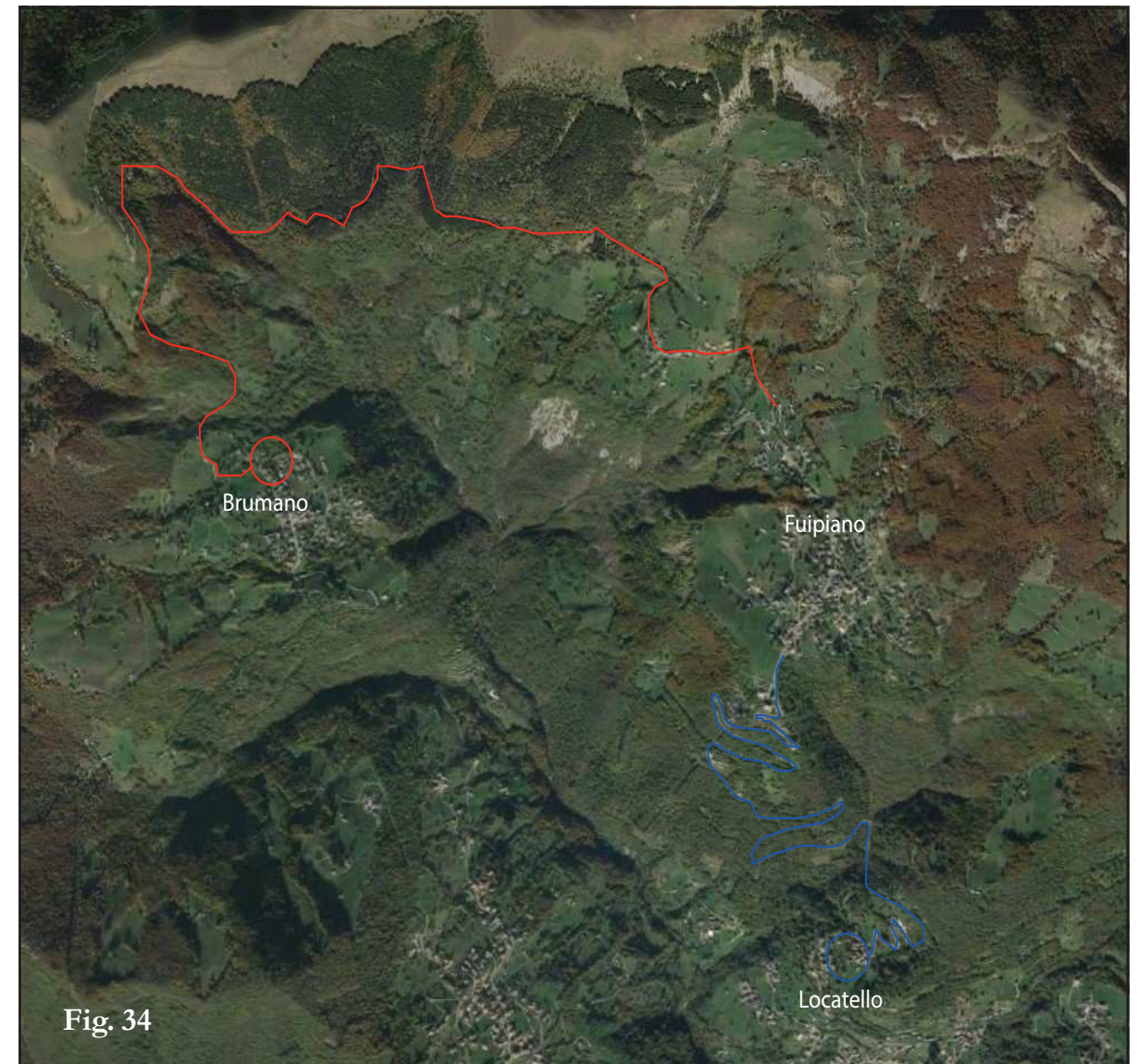


Fig. 34

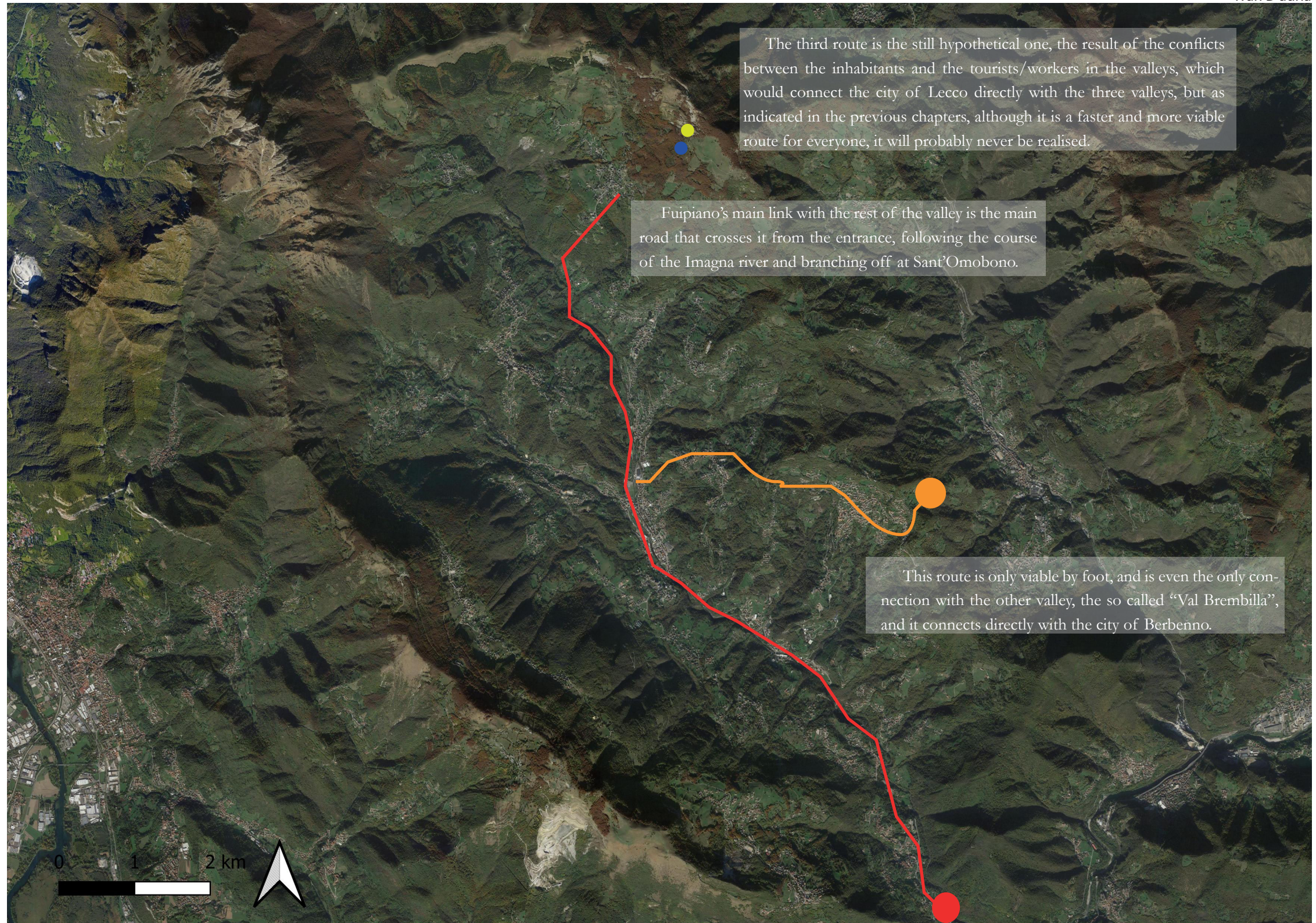
In **Blue**: the actual bus route that connects Fuipiano to the closer place, Locatello.

In **Red**: the existing but rutted road that could be used to rejoin Fuipiano and Brumano as it once was.

*Source: Gis map and Illustrator, edited by me*

“The main communication routes in Fuipiano”

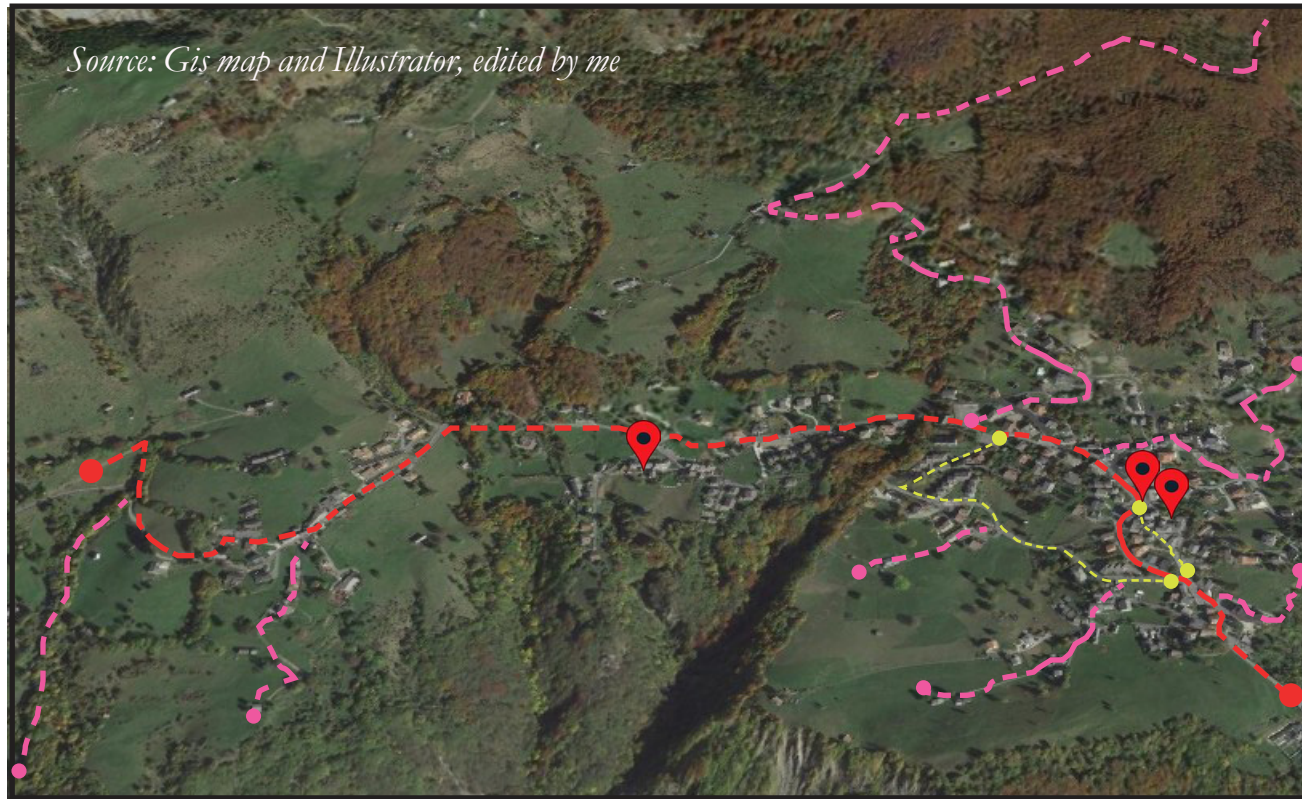
Ivan D'auria



Source: Gis map and Illustrator, edited by me

Fig. 35

## 4.2.1 Communications routes development



Source: Gis map and Illustrator, edited by me

Fig. 36

- Existing Main Path through Fuipiano to Brumano
- Existing alternative path to reach the center
- Existing alter path in the middle of Fuipiano

This map shows the primary and alternative paths that already existed to reach the center of the village, the place of analysis of this paper, and the alternative routes developed over time to get to the cottages that were created for the farmers’ accommodation back in the early 1800s.

One of the strong points of Fuipiano Valle Imagna, which makes it a potential tourist destination, is its proximity to the Po Valley and more specifically to the centres of Bergamo and Milan. Even though it is more than an hour away from the Lombard capital, it is still one of the closest and quickest mountain villages to reach. So what is it that blocks tourism from the cities? The answer is probably to be found in the state of maintenance of the existing roads leading to the village. For more than half of the journey, the roads are in good condition and smooth, but once one enters the valley, they begin to narrow, with single-lane roads that are narrow and not always in very good condition. Moreover, once past the municipality of Sant’Omobono Terme, the only road that can be used to reach Fuipiano is bad, narrow and dangerous, especially for an inexperienced driver not used to driving in the mountains. This causes delays and queues as the number of cars heading towards the village increases. This is a problem that should not be underestimated because, although manageable at present, it would become unsustainable as the flow of tourists increases.

What the municipality of Fuipiano can and must do is improve and widen the stretch of road that falls under its jurisdiction (which is the most difficult and winding) and add side walls that are very often missing or in poor condition, a great danger in the unfortunate event that a car should end up off the road. A wider carriageway with bulkheads in good condition would completely change mobility to and from the village.

Another important deficit that we cannot overlook is the almost non-existent public transport network. Fuipiano is only connected to the rest of the valley by a suburban bus that passes very few times a day, barely enough for the locals who use it to travel to school or work.

Even if we cannot change the public transport network, we could think differently, proposing alternative mobility during weekends to facilitate tourists, perhaps with shuttle services, etc.

These are some of the solutions that could be implemented to improve mobility and communication routes, a fundamental point for the redevelopment of the town.

## 4.2.2 New Areas, new services

The second fundamental point concerns the creation of new spaces, or the conversion of some unused ones, for better management of basic services.

Fuipiano, like many other mountain villages, has many empty or unused spaces. Between the economic boom years and the late 1980s, the village saw an increase in the flow of tourists, which translated into new buildings, new roads, more facilities and so on.

Looking at Fuipiano today, however (even during the high season), one can see that many buildings are uninhabited and in very poor condition. There is no shortage of space, the village has plenty of open space (fields, meadows for grazing) and at the same time many old buildings and structures that can be converted. These spaces would serve to provide citizens with services that are currently lacking.

A problem that Fuipiano presents during the high season is the lack of parking spaces; in the absence of well-marked spaces, citizens and tourists often park wildly. These conditions lead to mobility being slow and sometimes dangerous.

Ivan D'auria

It would therefore be sufficient to allocate new areas (cemented or not) for regular parking, combined with functional signposting to help tourists.

The lack of adequate spaces also manifests itself when the municipality or the proloco decides to organise events and manifestations. In these cases, it seems clear that there is a lack of dedicated space to host them, very often the sports field or other areas within the park are occupied, taking away space from all those people not interested in the event. Furthermore, since the park and sports field areas are always the busiest, on these occasions a climate of confusion and overcrowding is created, not exactly what the average tourist is looking for when choosing a mountain destination for their holiday.

The creation of at least one space dedicated to events, therefore, seems to be a necessity. There are some interesting options not far from the village centre, for example, the area of the fishing pond, now practically abandoned to itself, which could be converted into an amphitheatre.

In addition to spaces for events, the problem of houses has exploded in Fuipiano in recent years. Theoretically, there is no shortage of houses, but those that do exist are unattractive to a tourist and very often overpriced for their real value. The few good houses, therefore, run out immediately, creating a barrier for anyone wanting to spend more than one day in Fuipiano, since there is only one hotel in the village.



With this in mind, there has been talked in recent years of setting up a diffuse hotel: a network of structures scattered throughout the village to host tourists in Fuipiano.

As emerged also from the interviews, the townspeople would not mind the idea of an *Albergo Diffuso*, as it would lead to the redevelopment of many buildings (including characteristic ones) without distorting the aesthetics of the town, as would happen with the construction of large structures. Moreover, it would better distribute the people staying in Fuipiano without concentrating them all in the area around the sports ground.

Among other things, the municipality of Fuipiano is gearing up to apply for the TCI's orange flag, being perfectly in line with the constraints imposed by the club. Such a certification would bring numerous advantages to the village, appearing in guidebooks, on the site, on social pages, etc.

Another way forward, less official than the previous ones, is that of social networks and sponsorship through the involvement of travel bloggers specialised in slow tourism or proximity tourism. This solution cannot change things on its own, but it could probably help with a broader and more structured promotion strategy.

## 4.2.3 Promoting Fuipiano

The interventions in the area listed above are certainly useful for the redevelopment of Fuipiano but, from the perspective of relaunching the village, they risk being useless without careful promotion. Sponsorship of the village is fundamental for the growth of Fuipiano, which would otherwise risk thwarting the interventions made, becoming one of the many beautiful and unknown mountain villages.

The promotion of a village, or a territory, passes through channels other than those we can use to sponsor a product or a service. Fortunately, in Italy, some several organisations and associations deal precisely with this, revaluing the Italian territory and helping people discover otherwise unknown corners of our country. Among the most important of these are the orange flags of the TCI (Touring Club Italiano) and the places of the heart of the FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano) which, unlike the former, are voted on by ordinary people and not by a dedicated jury.

## 4.2.4 “La Valle dei 5 campi”

One of the other projects to promote the valley that has been going on since as far back as 2016, co-signed by the municipalities of Corna, Locatello, Rota, Brumano, and Fuipiano and financed directly by the province of Bergamo, is the so-called ‘Valley of the 5 Fields’, an opportunity sought and shared by these small towns to make the valley not a mere dormitory for workers moving to other towns, one of the problems that have been plaguing the valley, especially in recent years as expressed in previous chapters, but a generator of job opportunities and projects so that current residents can find their fulfillment without compromise.

This initiative includes three main points, the first of which is the promotion of tourism, which, as taken up by Fuipiano since 2021, is aimed at the widespread use of the Albergo diffuso and the redevelopment and revaluation of vacant flats, which, however, has been difficult to implement as many of the inhabitants of these villages do not understand this type of use of their private homes and prefer to leave them unused rather than rent them out to third parties.

All this would have been supported by a digital platform to manage many properties, a choice promptly abandoned due to the too-high costs, which was replaced by the municipal bodies or pro-loco of the individual villages.

The second point is the start-up of new farms. Here too, as above, the idea was to bring mainly young workers to open new farms in the area, taking advantage of the area’s typical foodstuffs and existing pastures for animals. The young people would be accompanied by institutions along the process, also providing them with economic support.

The third and final project was the creation of the ‘Trail of the Giants’, which, as shown in the image below, would see the creation of a landscaped path through the five municipalities involved, attempting to facilitate movement between the institutions involved and encourage the exchange of raw materials.

However, the “Valle dei 5 campi” Project was soon abandoned, due to the high costs it would have entailed and at the time unsustainable for the small villages involved, even with the economic support of the region and the province, but above all due to the difficulty in changing the minds of the elderly inhabitants, the majority of whom were not used to this type of modernization, and who were firmly opposed to the development and to what, for them, would have been a drastic change in their beloved valley.

“La valle dei 5 Campi” - Banners



Source: Municipality of Fuiplano

Fig. 37

In the photo, the banners of the five towns that initially promoted the “Valle dei cinque campi” project, everyone of them share some common features



Fig. 39

“The Banner of Fuiplano”



The banner is a drape of white.

The recently created beech leaves on the coat of arms recall the etymology of the town, which means ‘plane of beeches’. The open book with the motto of St Mark recalls the centuries of rule of the Venetian Republic. The two columns of Tuscanic order, placed like columns of Hercules, symbolize the frontier position of the village, which was the seat, in the Arnosto district, of the Serenissima’s customs in the mainland territories. The stars are traditional symbols of aspiration towards high ideals.

Fig. 38

Source: Municipality of Fuiplano

“The Emblem of Fuiplano”



Fig. 40

Source: Municipality of Fuiplano

“Troncato”: the first, green, to the three beech leaves, placed one, two, gold; the second, red, to the open book, silver, the first face with the inscription in black capital letters and four lines PAX TIBI MAR CE, the second face similarly written and in four lines EVAN GELI STA MEUS; the whole flanked on the right, azure, the Tuscan column in silver, supported by the plain of green, surmounted by the star of eight rays, gold; on the left, azure, the Tuscan column in silver, similarly supported and accompanied. External ornaments of the Municipality.

A similar phenomenon has also occurred in the last two years, with the episode of the proposal to build a new link between Lecco, the Imagna Valley, and the Brembana Valley, affecting the villages of Brumano, Morterone, and Colmine in particular. The criticism of the firm opponents focused on the asphaltting that this would entail, leaving aside the fact that about eight kilometers of this area were already asphalted. This path would have traveled along the old Bergamasque transhumance, which would have revived the historical and cultural value of the Bergamasque dairy farms of the 1800s, already awarded the Unesco prize for 'Bergamo smart cities and economy'. This project was the most talked-about project of 2021 and 2022 as far as the valley is concerned, even reaching Bergamo's city councils and ending up in the news on the local television news, until the project was progressively abandoned, which was also scuppered by public opinion, high costs, and the covid epidemic that blocked any idea of development for almost two years.

## Fuipiano-Taleggio, una strada per tre valli

**Montagna.** Ok dalla Regione a 4,8 milioni di euro per rendere carrabile il collegamento rurale di sette chilometri tra Imagna, Valsassina e Taleggio. Il Centro studi Valle Imagna: riconoscimento straordinario di un'identità culturale

VALLE IMAGNA

GIOVANNI GHISALBERTI

«Un'opera straordinaria, attesa da anni. Il riconoscimento di un'identità storico-culturale secolare che unisce tre vallate. Questi sono gli interventi di cui ha bisogno la montagna. Non possiamo solo essere il luogo delle passeggiate del turista».

Antonio Carminati, direttore del Centro studi Valle Imagna è entusiasta. Il Consiglio regionale della Lombardia ha dato il via libera a un ordine del giorno che invita la Giunta a finanziare 31 opere per la «ripresa economica». Tra i finanziamenti spiccano i 4,8 milioni di euro previsti per la «manutenzione straordinaria» del collegamento intervallo tra Fuipiano-Brumano, quindi Morterone (Lecco) e il Culmine di San Pietro, tra Valsassina e Val Taleggio.

**Il percorso**

La strada di circa sette chilometri oggi esiste già, è lunga circa sette chilometri ed è rurale, bianca: il tracciato parte tra Brumano e Fuipiano, arriva alla contrada Palio di Morterone (ma sul versante orografico della Valle Imagna), quindi raggiunge la Costa del Palio e da qui Morterone. Da Morterone, in Valsassina, provincia di Lecco, la strada rurale riprende per arrivare al Culmine di San Pietro, sempre in Valsassina, ma di fatto spartiac-



La mappa della strada che collegherà l'alta Valle Imagna con Morterone, nel Lecchese, e la Valle Taleggio

**■ Ora forestale, raggiunge la Costa del Palio, quindi Morterone e il Culmine di S. Pietro**

que orografico tra province di Bergamo e Sondrio. Da qui, infatti, si arriva a Vedeseta, in Val Taleggio e Val Brembana. Da Morterone, naturalmente si può scendere già a Ballabio. Fra i promotori dell'opera il consigliere della Lega Alex Galizzi. «L'ordine del giorno è stato presentato da tutti i consiglieri della Lega - dice Galizzi -. Sarà un'opera importante, contro l'abbandono dei terri-

tori. La strada verrà ampliata e resa carrozzabile, contribuirà allo sviluppo turistico e sociale di tre valli che finalmente saranno direttamente collegate tra loro». «Avrà poi sicuramente un'importanza anche turistica - continua Galizzi -. Pensiamo solo alla diffusione delle e-bike e quindi anche ai risvolti economici-turistici che potrà avere per le realtà locali». Le considerazioni più

positive arrivano dal Centro studi Valle Imagna, realtà che da anni promuove e studia i territori di Valle Imagna, Valsassina e Val Taleggio.

**«Segnerà lo sviluppo»**

«Da anni come Centro studi dice il direttore Antonio Carminati - chiedevamo che questo collegamento diventasse effettivo. Questa è per noi, per la valle, per le tre valli una noti-

zia importante, sarà un'opera che segnerà lo sviluppo di questi territori e resterà nella storia». E Carminati mette in evidenza le motivazioni storiche-sociali ed economiche di questa strada.

«L'alta Valle Imagna, la parte orientale della Valsassina e la Val Taleggio - spiega Carminati - da sempre hanno costituito un'areale omogeneo, quello che noi abbiamo identificato come la civiltà dello stracchino e dei bergamini. Qui sono nate aziende casearie come i Galbani, gli Invernizzi e i Locatelli che hanno poi fatto la fortuna fuori dalla valle. Per secoli le tre valli hanno costituito una cultura e una comunità unica e unita: in passato i matrimoni tra queste alte valli erano molto frequenti. Ancora oggi pascoli del Comune di Morterone si trovano orograficamente in Valle Imagna. E Morterone è sempre stato considerato in Valle Imagna. La strada andrà a ripristinare un'identità culturale, economica e sociale che ha caratterizzato la storia di tre vallate».

«Una notizia quindi estremamente positiva - conclude Carminati -. Queste sono le infrastrutture di cui la montagna ha bisogno. Non possiamo e non vogliamo solo essere il luogo delle passeggiate dei turisti. La strada segnerà sicuramente in modo positivo lo sviluppo delle tre vallate».

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA

Source: Municipality of Fuipiano valle Imagna”, 2021.

Fig. 41

“The old roads of the Imagna Valley”

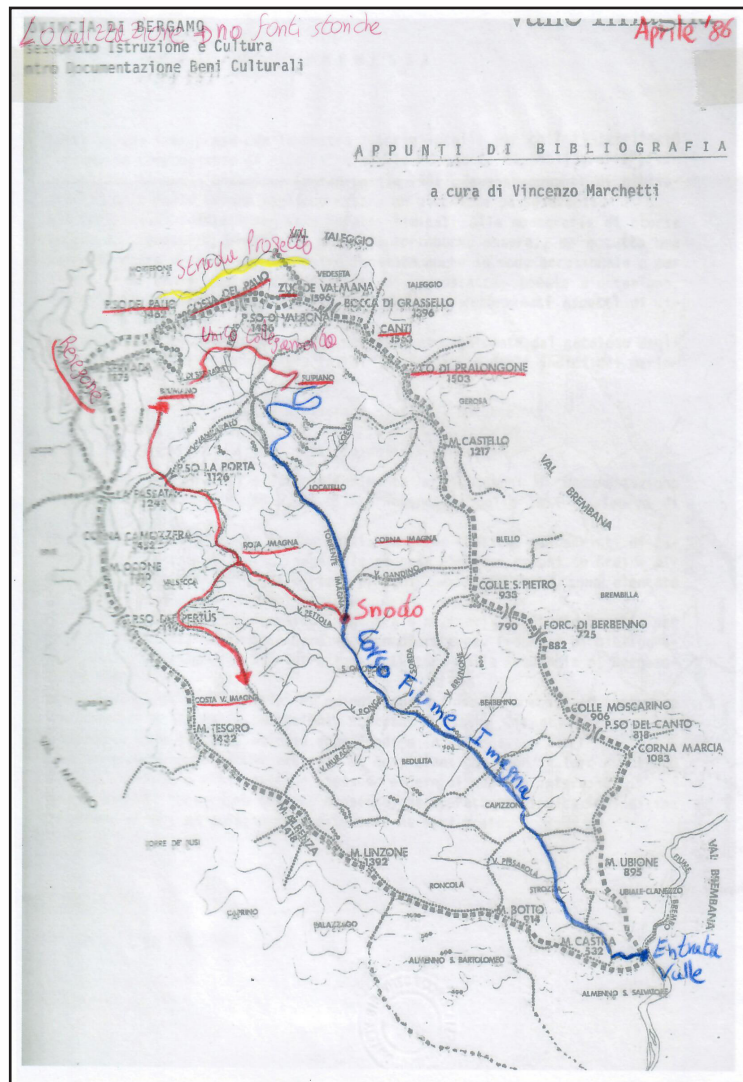


Fig. 42

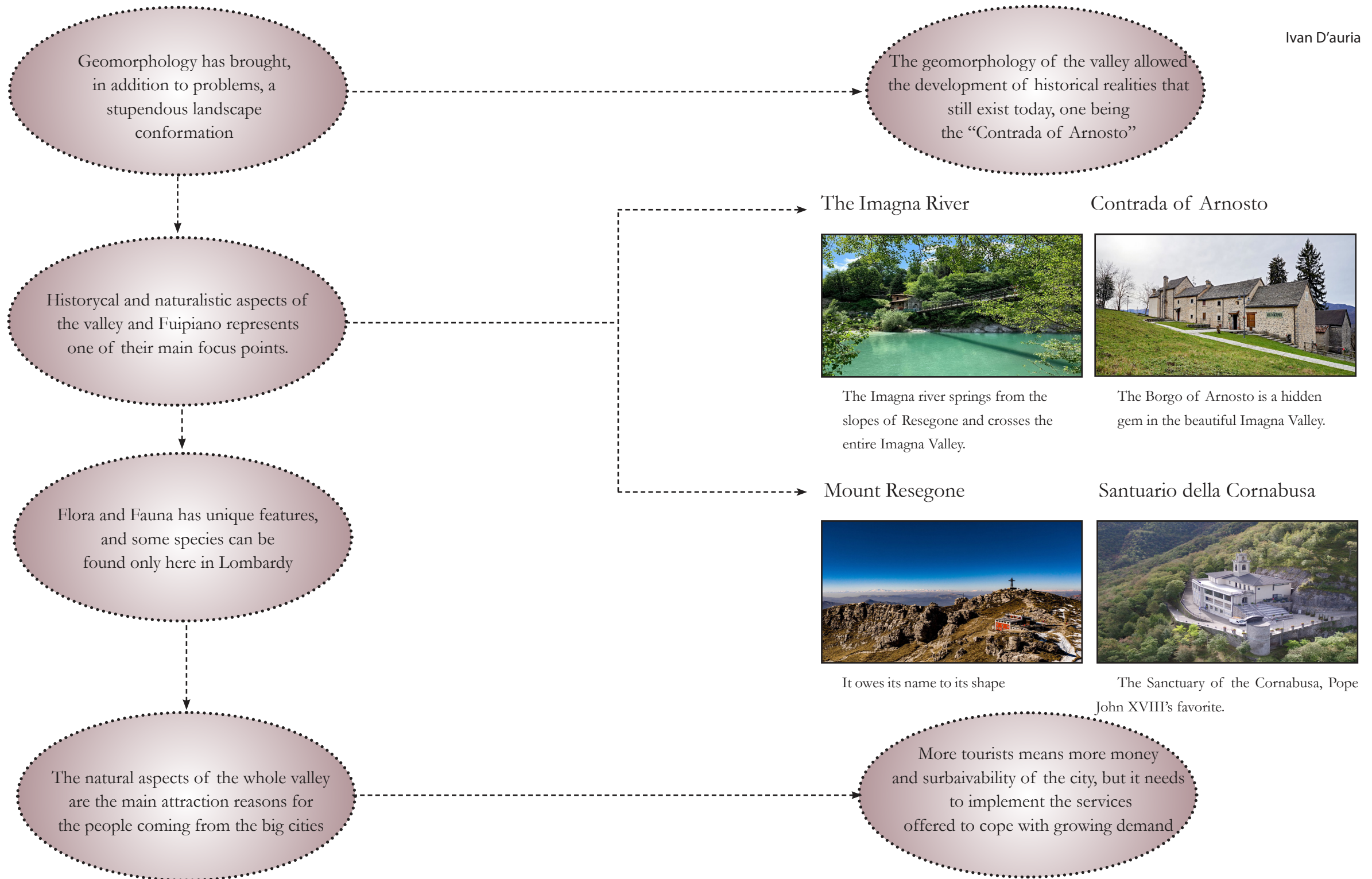
Source: CAI Valle Imagna, “Appunti di Bibliografia” Vincenzo Marchetti 1986.

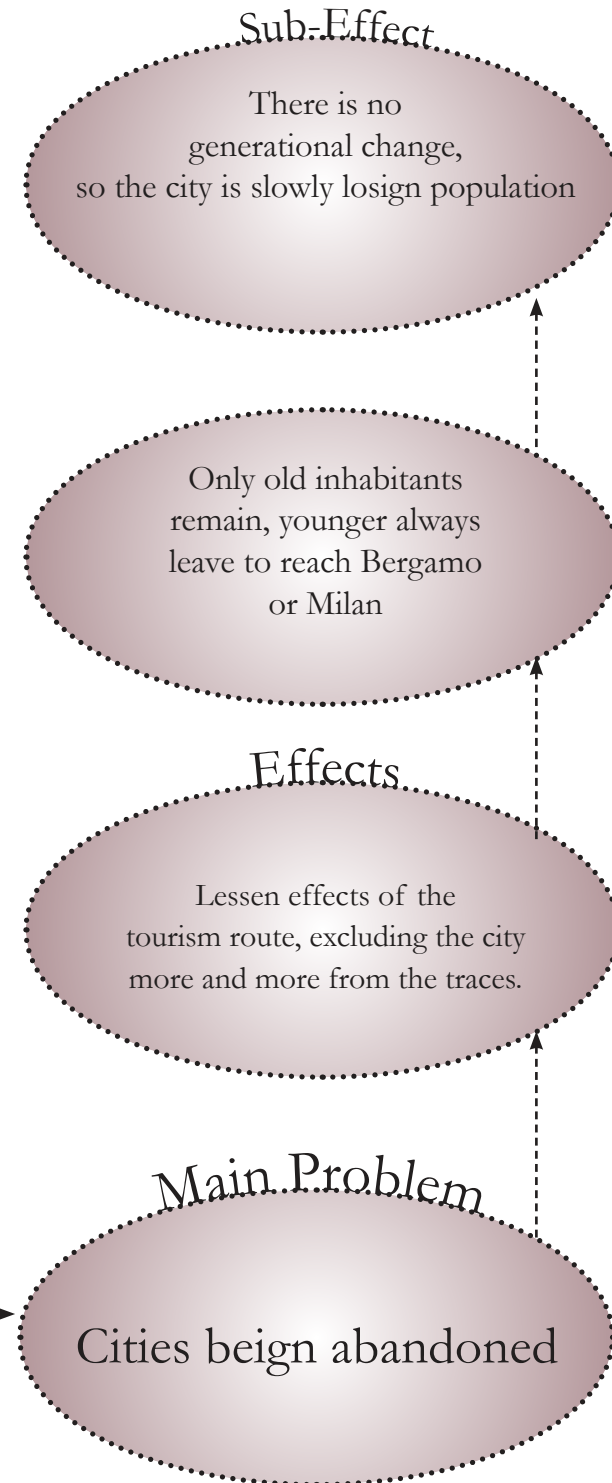
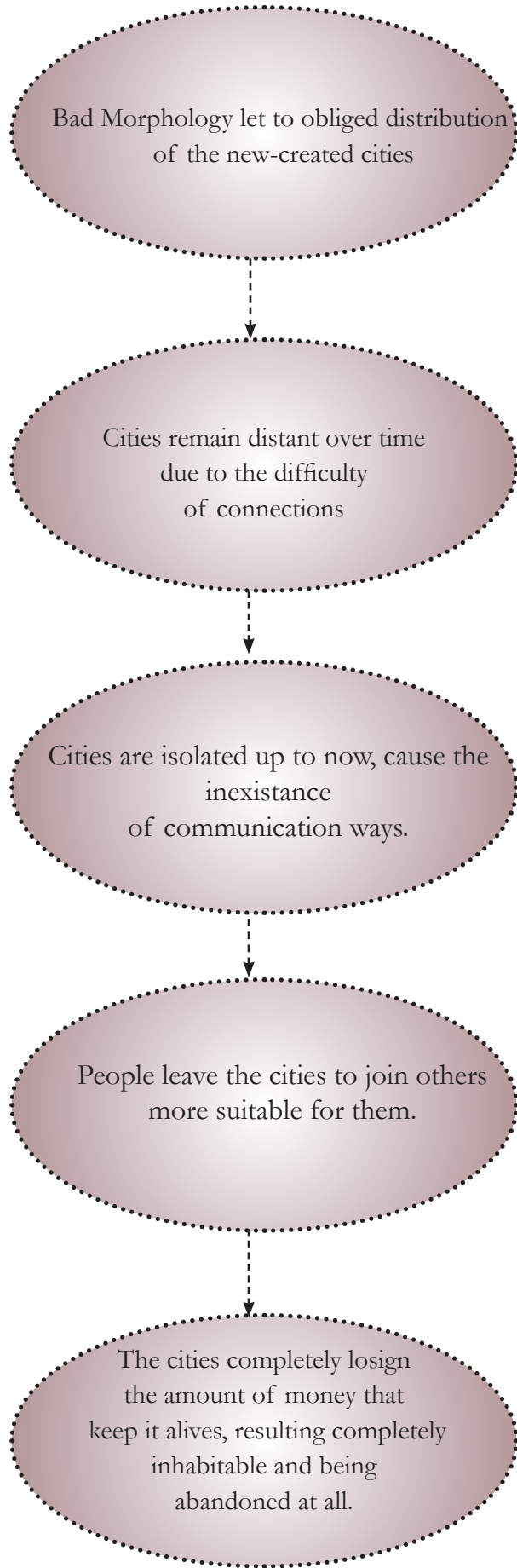
“A road for three Valley - Newspaper article”



Fig. 43

Source: Municipality of Fuipliano valle Imagna, 2020, drawn by hand







# 5

---

*Pilot case study analysis:*

*Livemmo*

---

5.

## Pilot project analysis: The case of “Livemmo”

### 5.1 The case of Livemmo

The problems analyzed in the preceding chapters, which suit the Valley and Fuipiano in particular, are a common theme for many small towns throughout the Bel Paese. In fact, in 2022, the Italian government, through the Ministry of Culture and Minister Dario Franceschini, presented the PNRR Borghi Plan

(National Recovery and Resilience Plan) with which four hundred and twenty million euro were allocated for the redevelopment of twenty-one villages identified by the Regions and Autonomous Provinces and five hundred and eighty million euro to at least two hundred and twenty-nine villages selected through a public notice addressed to municipalities, also through the patronage of the FAI.

Culture Minister Franceschini, interviewed on the day of the presentation of the Borghi Plan, indicated the guidelines that drove this project: *‘The objective of the Borghi plan envisaged by the NRP is to create sustainable and quality growth and to distribute it throughout the country. This was the starting point for this idea, which was then developed through a comparison with the Regions, the Anci, and the Borghi Committee.’* *‘We asked the Regions,’* the minister went on to say,

Ivan D’auria

*“to choose a “borgo” within their territory with these characteristics that will now be financed with 20 million euro. The projects will not only concern the recovery of the historical and artistic heritage of these marvelous places, but also the identification of a specific vocation, and on this point the Regions have put in place virtuous mechanisms and chosen an overall design. I strongly believe in this plan,’* Franceschini continued, *‘because those with administrative, political, and governmental responsibilities must understand the direction to take and begin change processes. The potential of the network and broadband will make these villages places of possible work. It is a great challenge and I believe it is only the beginning: if this mechanism works and these places will flourish and repopulate, I believe there will be no stopping?’.*

As far as the first line of action is concerned, it has been earmarked for the redevelopment, economic and social revitalization of villages that are in a state of abandonment and decline, and the resources will be used for the establishment of new functions, infrastructures, and services in the fields of culture, tourism, social or research.

On the other hand, the second part of the Borghi project also aims at projects to boost employment and combat depopulation, similar to what has been described for Fuipiano.

At the end of these initiatives, a new call for tenders will be launched in the next few years, this time designed for businesses, which will allocate two hundred million euro for cultural, tourist, commercial, agri-food, and craft activities in the municipalities forming part of the second line of action.



The town of Livemmo is located in the province of Brescia and, like Fuipiano, is situated on a hill from which it is possible to see the entire landscape below. As the crow flies, it is about 65 km from Fuipiano and this proximity highlights the similarities in terms of landscape and geology.

**Fig. 44**

One of the winning villages that were awarded twenty million euros is Livemmo, the historical village located in the eastern part of the province of Brescia, in the area known as Le Pertiche, an area that represents the between Valsabbia and Valtrompia. Livemmo is one of the six hamlets of Pertica Alta (along with Belprato, Odeno, Lavino, Navono, Noffo), where the administrative centre of the municipality is located, which covers a total area of 20.88 square kilometres, one of the largest areas in Valsabbia, with an agricultural and wooded area of 19.78 square kilometres and an unproductive area of 1.10 square kilometres. The historic village of Livemmo, in addition to the valuable buildings in its centre that bear witness to a rich and productive past, tells of a rich and productive past, tells of an economic system linked to agricultural production, particularly in the dairy chain, which is well of an integrated valorisation project.

The local authority intends to of a more complex concept of development, which strengthens the local productive fabric and improves the provision of services, thus which will generate a dynamic of resettlement and new cooperation. From an operational point of view, no new structures are planned, but only functional improvement of buildings to be included in the renewed production circuit and light connection infrastructures, all in full compatibility with the infrastructure, all in full compliance with the applicable town planning instruments and other provisions for the protection of the landscape and the

Ivan D'auria

hydrogeological structure of the area. This project has therefore been prepared in collaboration with companies (which have signed a letter of associations and some of the residents, with the aim of restoring the right value to the heritage, tangible and intangible, natural and cultural, and to reinvent it in an innovative way, using new tools and, last but not least, according to the principles of sustainability.

The specific objectives to be achieved are therefore are: to create new business opportunities; to strengthen existing business opportunities through innovation; to create the conditions for new productive existing business opportunities through innovation; creating the conditions for the establishment of new productive sectors; strengthening local skills and local knowledge; to enable local families to generate income in the area; to strengthen and protect natural resources; to attract new tourist flows Attract new tourism flows; introduce elements of technological innovation to develop new services and production systems services and production systems; strengthen the dynamic of trust between entrepreneurs; operationalise the relationship between the private sector through new private sector, through new partnerships; increase the number and quality of services for residents and temporary residents improve the quality of life of residents.

On the basis of the general and specific objectives set by the stakeholders together with the administration, the following strategic axes have been derived. Strategic axes that are based on elements of uniqueness of the local context and that it is believed can be enhanced in a broader context of strategic development.

- 1) Art and Culture;
- 2) Nature and Hospitality;
- 3) Local Productions;
- 4) Community services;

The first of these aims at the creation of artist residencies, the realization of an international festival, the enhancement of a traditional smelting furnace, and the creation of a museum. As well as Fuipiano, these initiatives are comparable to the redevelopment of the Arnosta community, the village's strength and historic center already at the center of the initiatives of the municipal council established a few years ago and an initiative at the heart of Mayor Elena, and, below, some of the proposed initiatives:

a) **Redevelopment of properties:** Some of the properties to be rehabilitated (the museum space and the artisan area) will have (the museum area and the artisan area) will have workshop/exhibition spaces that will allow the artists to enjoy the tranquillity of the to enjoy the tranquillity and natural surroundings necessary for artistic production.

Ivan D'auria

The buildings will be equipped with tools and machinery that the artists will be able to use for their creations. The buildings will not only be containers, but rather activators of relationships. In these spaces, it is intended to organise different initiatives that will allow the exchange between art forms, the activation of new collaborations, the training of interested young people, the experimentation of specific projects.

b) **Art festivals:** The aim is to attract major artists to the area each year through an international festival dedicated to art. dedicated to the arts, the most specific themes of which will be determined in conjunction with the company that will manage the event. of the event. The village - and the surrounding area - must be able to provide all the tourist services needed to manage the flow of visitors, not only in terms of accommodation (lodging and refreshments), but also in terms of reception (guides, transfers, etc.). For this reason cooperation with other actors in the region, who have already expressed their interest in working together at this stage (through the attached letters of support) is essential.

c) **Residences for artists:** The renovation of the buildings indicated in this project (owned by the municipality) will make it possible to create places where artists can live and express themselves, find refuge and develop their aesthetic their aesthetic sense and also exhibit their creations. In addition to more specific programmes for professionals, it is also for those who wish to live a unique experience closely linked to the culture of the place. An opportunity to discover, in a unique and personal way, the artistic tradition and the culture of “savoir faire” of the region. of the area, through the organisation of training initiatives (with the help of a specialist company), information, inspiration and freedom of expression.

d) **Forno Fusorio and Museum:** The Forno Fusorio, a unique find of industrial archaeology, will be enhanced, as will the the museum-interactive study centre of pre-alpine culture and will be equipped with all the tools to promote the development and knowledge of local art and and knowledge of local art and culture (e.g. exhibitions, displays, etc.).

## STRATEGIC AXIS 2 - NATURE AND HOSPITALITY

Leave the road in the lower valley and start the climb to Livemmo, along narrow winding roads between woods and streams, towards wide expanses of meadows and wooded heights, interspersed with small villages that have preserved their in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. The village of Livemmo is an important starting point for from which to set off on various excursions. These are ways of enjoying nature that respect the local resources and do not damage the environment, if they are developed according to a principle of protection. In addition, as already mentioned, nature is the muse of inspiration for all the artists who will be able to come to the village and take part in the various initiatives that will be proposed. In this In this perspective, the project will emphasise the promotion of green tourism and the enjoyment of nature in general, through the organisation and management of the in general, through the organisation and management of all those services that are useful for enjoying nature in serenity.

(a) **Bike point:** An equipped space will be created on municipal property with charging stations, functional The activation of a rental service (in the village) to allow excursions in nature.

b) **Bicycle hire and guides.**

Activation and management of a bicycle rental system for the provision of bicycles and all safety of bicycles and all the safety equipment (satellite navigation devices) and the activation of a stable service of qualified guides who will on the cycle paths around the village, including the paths and cycle routes that will be developed with project funds. with project funds.

c) **The creation of footpaths and cycle tracks around the municipality,** with the aim of offering excursions from the municipality itself to discover the surrounding nature. to discover the surrounding nature. The cycle paths can also be integrated in a systemic intervention in the Valle Sabbia: Green Way Resilient Valleys, which connects the upper and lower valleys in a single, safe and accessible path. and safe way.

d) **Equipped areas,** such as that of the Pineta, where a space suitable for leisure and for families has been with all the facilities of an adventure park and a playground suitable for children.

## STRATEGIC AXIS 3 - LOCAL PRODUCTION

As far as local production is concerned, the Valle Sabbia is rich in agricultural products: large cow and goat cheeses, sausages, honey and jams, mushrooms, mountain herbs, truffles. In the municipality of Pertica Alta there are farms and malghe that respect ancient production methods. Often these often suffer from a lack of distribution systems, which penalises them for their isolated location and in the promotion of their products. in promoting their products. For this reason, the following actions will address these needs.

### Proposed initiatives/interventions:

a) **The creation of a cycle/footpath** from the village of Livemmo to Malga Valsorda, for example, will make it possible to reach the malga safely. to reach a malga in safety (with a route suitable also for families with children) in order to taste products and carry out experiential activities. to taste products and carry out experiential activities.

b) **Workshop:** In one of the municipal buildings there is already a small shop selling typical local products. This space, which will also be used for tastings and events/meetings, will not only have a commercial function. commercial function, it will organise initiatives for the presentation of local producers (e.g. tastings) to highlight their excellence, tastings) to highlight their excellence.

## TRANSVERSAL STRATEGIC AXES AND INTERVENTIONS

a) Community services. Systemic interventions have been planned in order to improve the village and all those services that are useful to a community. Useful to the community, such as a telemedicine service (for remote assistance to patients through the use of new using new technologies), the installation of a biomass boiler (wood chips) for district heating (supplied by local from local suppliers), the adaptation of the internet and telephone network to ensure the highest possible availability in the availability in the area (there is already fibre optic cable in the hut in the village) and possible free access to the network for temporary residents in communal buildings. residents in the communal buildings; the installation of antennas for signal amplification and the the entire village with free Wi-Fi for residents. This intervention is functional to the possibility of smart-working: the co-working space (in the municipal building) that will be organised will make it possible to optimise the services of some innovative/artistic companies that will want to set up here, guaranteeing the possibility of working far from the big centres and in nature. centres and in the countryside.

The renovation of all street furniture to make the place more attractive to live in, such as the renovation of the paving of the squares and streets in the historic centre or the area in front of the the area in front of the Town Hall;

but also the possibility of activating a small nursery school, thanks to the cooperation of the third sector, a small nursery kindergarten if a minimum number of residents and children is reached. Two green areas will also be Two green areas will be equipped to provide open-air play areas for families with children. Some of these services will be made explicit to visitors through the activation and management of an Infopoint service located in the rooms of the Interactive Museum of Pre-Alpine Culture. Pre-Alpine Culture (Town Hall). Finally, given the complexity of the project's systemic intervention and the interest in of the project and the interest in reaching a wide audience, public tenders have been envisaged to facilitate the creation of new businesses by young people or start-ups. the creation of new businesses by young people or start-ups and new families (or families that had previously had to move because of a lack of due to a lack of services).



b) Tourism services. In addition to the traditional forms of promotion (website, social media, videos, events, fairs), the project evaluated the possibility of a diffuse reception project in the village: in addition to the arrangement of the municipal rooms, reception where rooms, reception, restaurant and ancillary services (e.g. spa and wellness area) will be organized. services (e.g. spa and wellness area), it is intended to enter into cooperation agreements with private property owners who will be able to offer their own space for temporary tourist rentals. For this reason, the project includes Incentives (through tenders) to support the accommodation of private property. The current The current municipal sports center, which is located just outside the village center, will be upgraded to provide the opportunity to enjoy physical activity in winter as well. to provide opportunities for physical activity even in winter.

Widespread hospitality is not only a response to the growing attention that tourist demand, to the sustainability and respect for the environment offered by accommodation in small historic located in small historic centers and ancient settlements, but also to a genuine community approach. Local producers will be encouraged to become more involved, as will the local population, since everyone, in their small way, can contribute to can contribute to the authenticity of the offer; moreover, entering into this kind of collaborative maelstrom will inevitably increase the visibility of the individual. will inevitably increase the visibility of each property and help owners to promote their establishments.

## EXPECTED BENEFITS

Given the location and characteristics of the village, some of which are explained in this document, it is clear that this challenge for the municipality and its inhabitants, but also for all the entities present in the valley and on which certain interventions may have an impact. on which certain interventions may have an impact. Livenmo is characterized by spatial remoteness, low competitiveness, and unfavorable socio-economic economic peripherality and unfavorable socio-demographic conditions, like other similar villages identified in the reference literature, is from the dynamics on which today's global development is based and propagated. Therefore, the variables that guarantee the success of this project will have to be strongly controlled and monitored by the bodies described. Faced with this necessity a first benefit will certainly concern the institutions, both local and wider territorial, which will be able to experiment with a management process at a different a management process at a different level, different from the usual practices, which will require new skills and competences (administrative, technical, fiscal, but also socio-anthropological) that can be called upon in the area to ensure the success of the PA's activities. of the PA's activities. The experts involved and the new skills acquired by the staff will enrich the local authorities. the local authorities, also by creating a dynamic of possible future relations and by consolidating existing collaborations. This is certainly a central aspect in the light of the policies of the future: multi-level governance, internationalised, subsidiarity collaborative, digitalised and sustainable.

## 1) Economic benefits

Reference is made to the increased economic value of the local fabric and its property, the new opportunities for business and therefore income to remain in the area, and the increase in employment.

### a) Property value:

The renovation of properties in the centre, as well as the redevelopment of squares, streets and public spaces will have the effect of increasing the value of the heritage (and also of neighbouring private) (as well as neighbouring private property), taking into account that all the interventions will meet the requirements of environmental sustainability on the one hand and technological innovation on the other.

### b) Creation of new businesses:

The newly renovated spaces (e.g. co-working), new equipment (e.g. free fibre) (e.g. free fibre) and tenders to support the creation of young companies will ensure the establishment of new companies. New businesses, some of which are technological or of high cultural value, will have a positive impact on the economic fabric, dynamising opportunities and strengthening the local economic environment.

### c) New jobs:

Interventions related to the local real estate and cultural heritage (Albergo diffuso hotel, food workshops, restaurants, smelting furnace, museum) will create new jobs for the local population, some of whom are already involved in some of these activities. The local population is already partly involved in some of these activities.

### d) Internationalisation:

The new businesses created, out of context and bringing skills and new relationships and new relationships, will encourage the village to move away from forms of isolation towards internationalization practices or stronger forms of stronger forms of relationships with other contexts (e.g. through the international art festival initiative) of art).

### e) New tourist flows:

The reorganization of structures to welcome tourists (e.g. the youth hostel, the museum), mountain bike rental, the museum) will generate new flows and thus new income for local businesses.

### f) Self-sustained development:

Cooperation between local businesses, between work and business, between different interests, and informal relationships and informal relationships will facilitate a self-sustaining development of the area, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project and interventions beyond 2022. the sustainability of the project and the interventions beyond 2026.

## 2) Environmental benefits

Reference is made to the increased protection of the existing natural heritage, the reduction of negative environmental impacts and the environmental impact and the introduction of the logic of the circular economy.

### a) Reduction of emissions:

Interventions on the building stock managed in terms of ethical design ethics and energy ethics, and energy saving will guarantee long-term use with reduced harmful emissions (reduced energy consumption, etc.). emissions (reduced energy consumption, etc.).

### b) Circular economy:

Citizens and local businesses will be encouraged to adopt the principles of the circular economy of the circular economy to reduce certain impacts. For example, the reduction of waste and packaging (which can be adopted in shops), or reducing emissions from food transport (e.g. local supply chain with deliveries from huts/farms).

### c) Protection of natural resources:

The cycle paths will allow safe use of the natural space around the village, around the village, in safety, and above all by protecting resources. When carrying out the works, great attention will be paid to the following valuable natural resources and habitats.

### d) Long-term sustainability:

The protection of the natural heritage is a fundamental asset which long-term development: if the proposed interventions preserve the landscape, the woods, and the pastures around the village, they will continue to be and pastures surrounding the village, these will continue to be a “purchasable” value for visitors and thus guarantee the long-term sustainability of the the long-term sustainability of the hamlet as a whole.

“The Village Plan poster concerning the municipality of Livemmo”



Source: <https://cultura.gov.it/pnrr-borghi>

Fig. 45

### 3) Social benefits

Reference is made to the improvement of the quality of life in general, the services offered to the services offered to citizens in the municipality, and the increase of professional skills and abilities.

#### a) New services for citizens:

Interventions in municipal property will strengthen the services available to the local community. Think of small commercial activities (which are non-existent today) or non-existent today) or the possibility of opening a small nursery school.

#### b) Increased well-being:

Interventions in the commons (streets, squares, paths) will make the place nicer, more welcoming, and safer. This will increase not only the value, the sense of well-being, and the perception of urban safety, but also the sense of belonging to the place.

#### c) New skills:

The logic of co-design requires greater involvement of the local community and businesses. of the local community and businesses, and therefore the use of new skills (to be acquired or imported) for the management of the most innovative projects

#### d) New relational dynamics:

By promoting meetings and debates between local actors the intervention will promote a general improvement in relational dynamics, stimulating the emergence of new relationships that can potentially developmental relationships.

#### e) Institutional trust.:

The opportunities for meetings between different institutional levels, as well as between private citizens and local authorities, can improve the relationship between "small realities" (municipality and CM) and higher levels of government (region, ministry). Higher levels of government (region, ministry)

#### f) Increased awareness:

Thanks to the co-design phase, supported by training and the contribution of specialists, the community concerned will be able to develop a clearer perception of the potential of its territory and thus of its future development opportunities. of the potential of their territory and thus of future development opportunities.

## Project Interventions

After discussing the objectives, the next section is devoted to analysing some of the interventions mentioned above. In fact, they are very similar to the types of interventions that should be carried out in the village of Fuipiano, which will be analysed in the next chapter.

### Intervention 1

#### Rehabilitation of public spaces

The project provides for the implementation of urban space upgrading interventions, such as the resurfacing of pedestrian walkways in the historical of the historic center and the rehabilitation of existing green areas, to make the public space more accessible, functional, and aesthetically pleasing. public space with appropriate solutions to the problems of maintenance, durability, and economic management.

The historic center and the areas of the ancient nuclei, areas that can be defined for their architectural characteristics and preserved cultural identity, are currently in a mixed state of recovery and deterioration.

Considering that part of the historic center is pedestrianized, with narrow streets, particular attention must be paid to the accessibility of places with local interventions to architectural barriers.

“Historic center of Livemmo - 1”



Fig. 46

“Historic center of Livemmo - 2”



Fig. 47

Existing porphyry - in yellow

Porphyry to be replaced - in red

Source: “Proposta progettuale del comune di Pertica Alta”

## Intervention 2

### Redevelopment of the area in front of the Town Hall

The project involves the redevelopment of the external area in front of the Town Hall, making it a central nerve centre for the neuralgic about services and sports area.

Specifically, the following works are planned: paving of the pedestrian areas Creation of special areas equipped for car parking, bicycle, and pedestrian areas and, equipped green areas.

The City Hall area currently represents the highest concentration of services of interest to the city. In addition to the municipal public services, the building also houses a medical clinic and banking services.

The concentration of these activities, especially in the morning hours, causes congestion of cars in the area around the building. The design of The arrangement of these currently undefined outdoor areas would allow the space to be optimized, with some areas used for properly signposted parking, others for charging, and others for storage electric cars and bicycles, always with a greater future presence.

Other works will invest in street furniture (not limited to paving, which is currently non-existent, but integrated with the gravel, but integrating them with works to redesign the green areas), which will lead to a review of the plant engineering and, if necessary, to the adaptation of the the adaptation of the plant engineering (network works, lighting elements)

“Town hall of Livemmo”

Ivan D’auria



Fig.48

“Localization of the town hall in Livemmo”



Fig. 49

Source: “Proposta progettuale del comune di Pertica Alta”

### Intervention 3

#### Bike Points

The project includes the installation of a special station for cyclists and cycle tourists, equipped with parking, e-bike recharging stations, a first aid kit, a vending machine for drinks and food, and all the tools needed to repair any technical problems. technical malfunctions.

### Intervention 4

#### Redevelopment of the sports hall and its appurtenances

The intervention includes improvements to the sports centre, such as the rehabilitation of the five-a-side of the five-a-side football pitch, the internal spaces of the building for the community and changing and changing rooms, as well as the external areas of the building. external areas. The following works will also be carried out in the car park serving the centre. centre.

The village has lost much of its function of aggregation/socialisation (the idea of the square as a place for relationships and exchanges, while at the same time losing its exchange, while losing its attractiveness to the benefit of the surrounding areas and neighbouring) and neighbouring towns).

People go to the historic centre when there is are sufficient. Promoting the development of the historic centre as a meeting as a meeting place requires the implementation of initiatives and different and specific projects for different generations and social types (in particular: families, the elderly and children). children). Creating an intercultural and intergenerational social context intercultural and intergenerational social context.

The need to make the sports centre more accessible to weaker social groups (especially the elderly, who make up a large proportion of the centre's residents), for example by using a few complex buildings to create a moment of socialisation between the elderly and the young. The intervention area consists of three spaces that need to be integrated and optimised. The outdoor area, which is not currently functional, should be designated as a signposted and defined parking area so that only the entrance to the pedestrian access to the village centre and to provide adequate space for the users of the sports centre and the new socio-cultural settlement. cultural settlement.

The space in the existing building, which is used partly as a warehouse and partly as a place for recreational and motor activities for the benefit of the citizens, does not have the correct functionality and needs to be and needs to be optimized to ensure safety and quality for users. Finally, the library requires energy and structural adaptations. Each space recovered in this way can be used by a wide range of subjects, who will find in the multifunctionality of the building a space for aggregation and comparison

“Localization of the sport center in Livemmo”



Source: “Proposta progettuale del comune di Pertica Alta”

Fig. 50

“Livemmo’s old sport center”

Ivan D’auria



Source: “Proposta progettuale del comune di Pertica Alta”

Fig. 51



In addition to the previously mentioned instances of redevelopment, the City of Livemmo, in its written submission for the attainment of the notice, listed as many as 32 items in total regarding the list of interventions that will benefit from the twenty million awarded.

*Intervention No. 5* - Recovery and renovation of Former City Hall spaces.

*Intervention no.6* - Purchase of property in abandonment;

*Intervention no.7* - Recovery and renovation of Abandoned property and surrounding outdoor areas;

*Intervention No. 8* - Redevelopment of sports center and its appurtenances;

*Intervention no.9* - Recovery and renovation of furnace smelter;

*Intervention no.10* - Upgrading digital connections and telephone network upgrading;

*Intervention no.11* - Activation of Info Point;

*Intervention no.12* - Coordination and management of widespread receptivity;

*Intervention no.13* - E-bike rental - Purchase equipment

*Intervention n.14* - E-bike Rental - Service accompaniment;

*Intervention no.15* - Livemmo-Belprato bike path;

*Intervention no.16* - Livemmo-Forno bike path. Smelting;

*Intervention no.17* - Ciclopedonale Livemmo-. Malga Valsord;

*Intervention no.18* - Ciclopedonale Livemmo- Odeno.

*Intervention No. 19-* Pineta equipped area;

*Intervention No.20-* Costa dei Ronchi equipped area;

*Intervention no.21* - Activation of service of telemedicine;

*Intervention no.22* - Renewable energy\_Boiler. biomass;

*Intervention No.23* - Implementation of project website;

*Intervention no.24* - Digital archives;

*Intervention No.25* - Realization of dissemination; videos;

*Intervention No.26* - Annual art festival;

*Intervention no.27* - Organization of events promotion;

*Intervention no.28* - Incentives for startups.  
Arts and Culture Scope;

*Intervention no.29* - Incentives for startup of activities  
entrepreneurship;

*Intervention no.30* - Incentives for upgrading  
private properties for receptive use;

*Intervention no.31* - Incentives for establishment of  
new households;

*Intervention no.32* - Coordination and management  
of the activities;

As can be seen from the list of titles indicating the type of intervention to be carried out, the town of Liverno, in its application for the notice, expressed in the 32 points previously mentioned, a multitude of interventions ranging in each type, for example, from point 11 to 20, a series of fulfilments are programmed aimed at the creation of a cycle path linking the nearby towns, in this way using part of the profits generated to help the neighboring communities. A similar idea in the Imagna Valley could not be implemented at the moment, as the geography does not allow it, but above all the relations between the villages are not the best.

Many of the points mentioned refer to interventions from an artistic point of view and are related to bringing people to the village, as indicated at the beginning of this paragraph.

The other interventions are aimed at the future of the country, such as the creation of new businesses for young people so that they can stay in the country and do not necessarily have to leave to move to neighboring and better-equipped places to find work and a future. Similarly to this last point, it is possible to see how intervention no. 31 is also an investment in the future, the possibility of renovating and creating new dwellings to try to increase the population base that currently inhabits the town, around 600, in any case almost three times the number of inhabitants of Fuipiano.

# 6

---

## *Proposal for Fuipiano*

---

## 6.1 “Proposal”

The aim of this writing is a work at the municipal level, touching on three nerve centres in the town planning of the village, the main square, the parking lot and one of the unused areas in the old Arnosto district and their problems.

From the case of Livemmo, which is considered to be a pilot project for the regeneration of small historic villages in mountain areas, as expressed in the first pages of the document presenting the village's proposals for innovation, and through the analysis in the previous chapters, three areas within Fuipiano have been identified that have similar characteristics to what this small village in the province of Brescia has already achieved or is trying to achieve in the coming years. Fuipiano, which has morphological and urban characteristics very similar to those of Livermore, presents interesting and similar case studies that deserve special attention and will be analyzed in more detail in the following sections.

Two of these, the main square and the car park, at the same connection, are located in the center of the village, the meeting point of the main road network and the meeting place for the first unknown tourists approaching the village.

At present, these areas are little used, except for the local market on summer Sundays and as a meeting place for young people in the evenings, in addition to their original purpose of parking. The main building, the former seat of the municipality, now moved to the Arnosto neighborhood, is in a state of disrepair from the first to the third floor, the ground floor is used only very occasionally for the delivery of medicines.

The third case considered, the Arnosto district, is about two kilometers from the town center and also represents its historical well as the former seat of the border between the Serenissima of Venice and the Grand Duchy of Milan in the 17th century. Many events are still organized here today, especially during the summer, in collaboration with the Proloco and the town council. During the rest of the year, like the rest of the town, it is not very busy, but it has been the subject of controversy in recent years due to the construction of a bed and breakfast on the site of the former town museum, which tells the story of the families that have lived there from its birth to the present day.

“Arnosto old stone”



The stone depicted in the photo, which has remained in this location and has never been removed, belongs to the period immediately following the ‘wars of Lombardy’, which took place between 1423 and 1454, between the Duchy of Milan and the Serenissima of Venice with their respective allies, which ended with the Peace of Lodi. Once the war was over, the two sides agreed to demarcate the borders of their possessions with these stone elements, of which there are hardly any in this condition with legible inscriptions.

*Source: photo taken by me*

**Fig. 52**

## Scheme of intervention

The following pages outline the intervention scheme that led to the choice of the three areas to be analyzed and the main characteristics of these choices. Starting from the objective of identifying two or three areas of Fuipiano as a starting point to be redeveloped, I drew on the first impressions of the people interviewed in the previous chapters and it followed that the two main factors were the usefulness in the village system of Fuipiano and the need for some areas to be redeveloped.

These indications led to the splitting of ideas and the differentiation of areas of intervention. The first branch of the scheme, which will be concluded with the choice of the area in the Arnosto district, sees the majority of respondents and public opinion regarding this place, as it is the main attraction point and the most significant historical monument in Fuipiano and the possibility of this area being left in a state of neglect is not contemplated by public opinion.

In addition to these indications, the site has morphological characteristics that allow for more intervention, especially from the point of view of cultural ecosystem services, such as the organization of events and the village museum.

Ivan D'auria

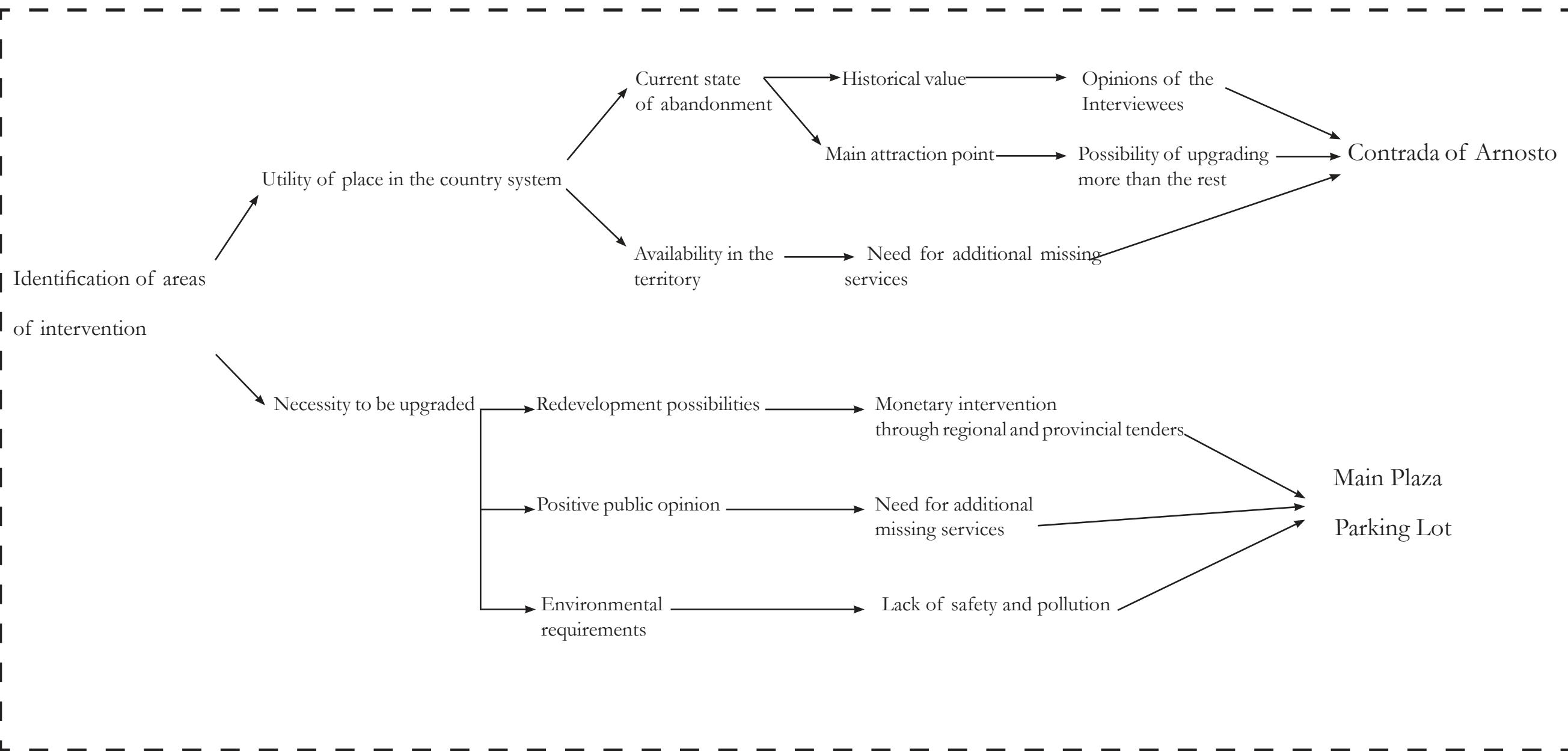
The second branch of the intervention scheme is divided into three further branches, again based on the opinions of the interviewees and my general experience of actively living in the village. In addition to similar issues to the Arnosto district, the main square and the adjoining car park also present problems from an aesthetic point of view, but especially from the point of view of the quality of the environment.

Since it is the main area of Fuipiano, or at any rate, the main view that is presented once one reaches the village, the concern of the citizens who live there, but also of holidaymakers, is that it does not measure up to other examples of redevelopment within the valley from an aesthetic point of view and that this is a negative factor for those who visit the village and are no longer enticed to visit it.

Leaving aside the aesthetic issue, what has mainly shifted the choice towards these areas is the environmental issue, as the square and the car park is a simple asphalted and non-draining area, it does not provide ecosystem services and is a sun-drenched clearing devoid of utility. For the same reason, the former Town Hall building, now practically unused, will also be the site of intervention in the coming years for its redevelopment.

In the next few pages, all the decisions and hypotheses that have been written in the previous paragraphs are summarised in a summarised scheme.

# Intervention Scheme

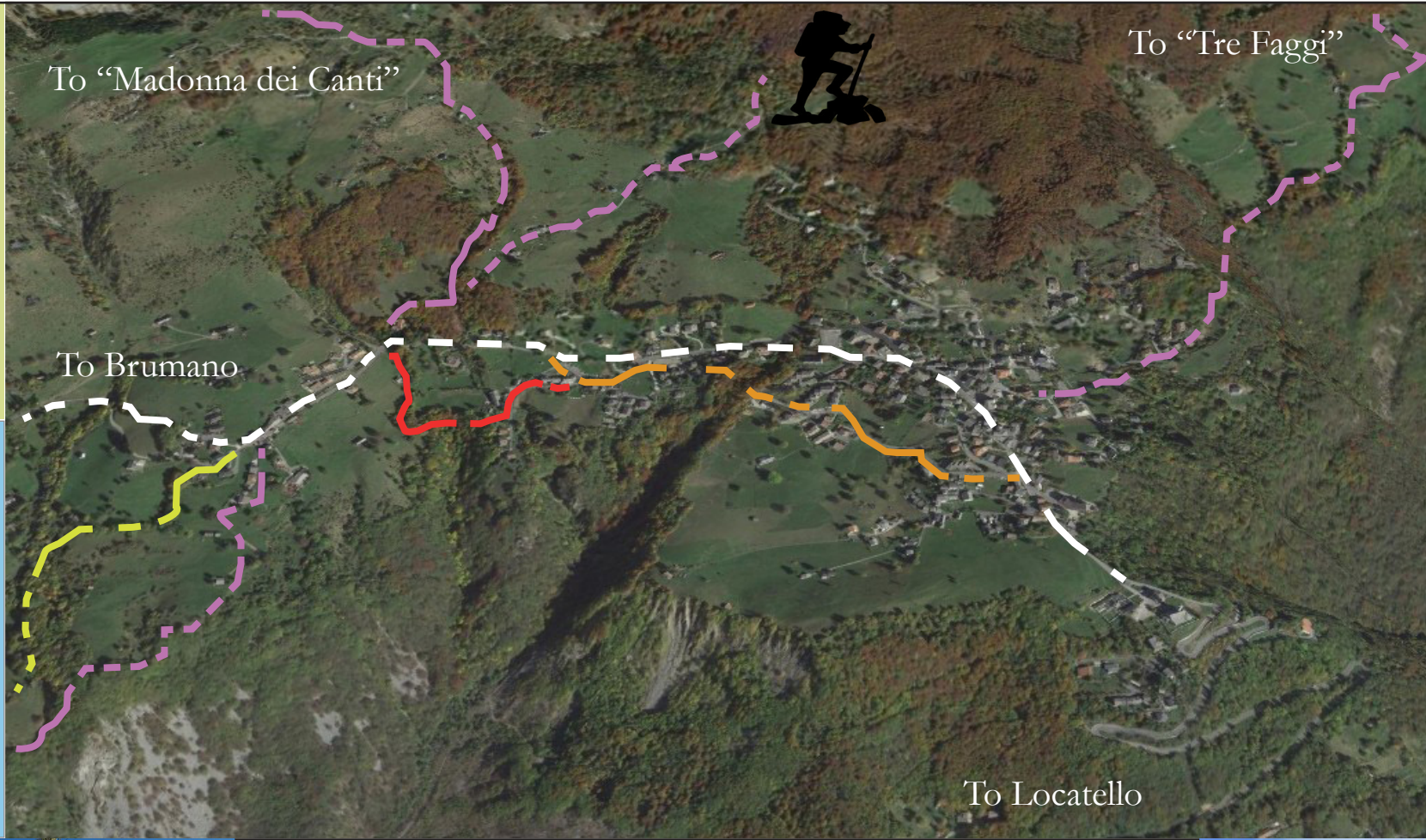


# New Proposal for communication routes

Ivan D'auria

**Main routes and links with cities**  
 The orange route represents the proposed new main route through the village, which would allow for a decrease in traffic passing through the village centre and leave space available for the new structure of the square, and would also allow for the re-use of one of the old roads connecting the main streets to the Arnosto district.

**Culture and historical formation**  
 The passage in red represents the new proposal for the redevelopment of the ancient road that once led directly to Arnosto. It is still abandoned today, and with some simple road restoration and deforestation work, an alternative secondary road would open up along the ancient sites of Fuipiano.



**Hiking Routes**  
 The routes in purple represent new proposals for hiking trails to be rediscovered and used. The latter are not marked on the official trail maps but are widely used by locals and those who know the area.  
 For these reasons, they are the most useful and efficient and deserve to be included in the official maps and used.

**A brand new Route**  
 The route in yellow is a proposed alternative route to be upgraded, known only to locals and long-term tourists, it is the connecting route by foot to Brumano, but unfortunately little used as it is a side street of a main road and not used.



— — Proposed Brand New Route

— — Proposed Historical Route



Source: GIS map edited in Illustrator

Fig. 53

## 6.2 “The Parking Lot”

The first case to be analyzed in the following lines is that of the main car park in Fuipiano, located in the vicinity of Piazza Europa, the main square, which currently hosts the Sunday local market during the summer and, occasionally, events organized by the village Pro-loco.

Situated in the middle between the square and the former town hall building and the ‘Ol Rai’ park, it is a much-used in-between street and very often always entirely occupied by parked cars that prevent it from being used almost entirely. The current situation presents an area with many possibilities but used incorrectly and above all without respecting ecosystem services and the surrounding environment.

The asphalt present occupies the entire square footage of the area, and, in recent years, more precisely in 2021, erosion of the same has occurred, creating a collapse in the foundations of the inside the car park and the rupture of the water pipes underneath, preventing the use of the car park for about four months, necessary for repairs, which have not entirely fixed the problem that continues to recur at regular intervals, albeit in more limited areas.

As can be seen from the following photo, the space occupies only about ten cars, as it is very limited, and the installation of an automatic cash collection booth in the past year has reduced its usable space even more.

“Fuipiano parking lot”

Ivan D’auria



The proposed intervention aims first to remedy the main problem, which is the replacement of the asphalt layer with a drained concrete grated pavement, as shown in the example photo below, which would allow water to drain into the ground and flow into the existing piping system to the Fuipiano pond, where all are channelized, as well as allowing grass and sporadic plants to develop, properly maintained, to create a buffer effect between the flower meadow in the neighboring park and the new concrete paving draining the plaza.

The same new style of paving would allow for reduced land consumption, thanks to new technologies also reduce the noise produced by cars and, the non-absorption of heat to reduce the average temperatures, especially during the summer period when it reaches 35 degrees.



Fig. 55

*Example of drainage floor to be installed*

*Source: <https://www.senini.it/portfolio-item/pavimenti/drenante/>*



## “The Parking Lot”



*Source: Photo taken in August 2023.*

**Fig. 56**

## “The Urban Park - “Ol RAI””



*Source: Photo taken in August 2023.*

**Fig. 57**

## “Analysis of the parking lot”

Ivan D’auria



**Fig. 58**

*Source: drone photo taken in August 2023.*

In green in the photo above is the sidewalk that would be replaced as it is unused and no longer useful once the interventions expressed above are carried out. The space currently occupied would be replaced by topsoil suitable for the growth of small trees on the side of the road, paying attention to rootings that do not infringe on the road surface and the growth of small shrubs, suitable for creating a buffer of about one meter, to divide the road from the parking lot to thereby mitigate temperatures, create continuity with the park, as its own “stepping stone” for small animal species, and increase ecosystem services currently not present.

This last intervention, although divided from the road surface by about twenty centimeters of the curb, would also allow water coming from the road above to flow and drain without creating issues within the pipe system below.

The essences to be used in this new parking area will primarily be useful for pollution absorption, always taking care to use species native to the area where possible.

Taking a brief detour from the main discussion related to the parking lot and plaza, I would also like to say a few words about the neighboring park, the main element of the area, and, following the redevelopment work carried out in 2006 and 2007 that almost completely changed its confirmation, trees already present in the area were replanted and others were added to vary the number of essences used and the diversity they bring.

The park is full of different plants, from bushy shrubs to trees varying in height from 5 metres to pines exceeding 20 metres. Although the insertion of the new plants was not done with the utmost care, to optimise their position by calculating the shading zones, the playground, in general, does not require much work, except for that related to the street furniture and its improvement.

The area to be considered is the football pitch adjacent to the park, which is public and is currently little used, if any, due to its state of maintenance.

The park is the main area of the village of Fuipiano, as well as the one that transmits most of the ecosystem services shown in the diagram on the following page, which, through the redevelopment proposed above, could, even in part, be found in other areas of Fuipiano.



NATURATION  
cities - nature - innovation

**Supporting:** *These functions provide all the services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services and contribute to the conservation (in situ) of biological and genetic diversity and evolutionary processes.*



Soil formation



Nutrient Cycle



Photosynthesis

**Provisioning:** *These functions include all the resource-provisioning services provided by natural and semi-natural ecosystems (oxygen, water, food, etc.).*



Food



Raw Material

**Regulating:** *In addition to maintaining the health and functioning of ecosystems, regulating functions encompass many other services with direct and indirect benefits to humans that are usually not recognised until they are lost or degraded.*



Prevent Diseases



Climate regulation



Erosion



Air quality

**Cultural:** *Natural ecosystems provide an essential 'counseling function' and contribute to the maintenance of human health by providing opportunities for reflection, spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, recreation, and aesthetic experiences.*



Leisure and tourism

## 6.3 “The Main Square”

The second area taken into consideration, connected to the car park mentioned above, is the main square, the so called “Piazza Europa”.

As shown in the reference image below, it is an expanse of asphalt with urbanization and car circulation that is poorly organized, unsafe, and particularly dysfunctional to the village entrance system.

“The Plaza: Bird eye view”



*Source: Drone photo taken in August 2023.*

**Fig. 59**

The building highlighted in red in the above photo is the old headquarters of the Fuipiano Municipality, now moved to the Arnosto district. This building, built at the beginning of the last century, is now unused except for the ground floor, while the second, third, and roof are abandoned and in a dilapidated and unsafe condition. Over the years it has always been considered to tear down the entire building and rebuild it, except that it is impossible due to historical constraint that does not allow, for the time being, its demolition and subsequent rebuilding, to use its ground floor as it is now.

In any case, in continuity with the intervention expressed earlier for the neighboring parking lot, in my proposal the area in front of the building on the plaza side will be completely redeveloped. The asphalt street area will have to be replaced with concrete drainage paving, which, with proper landscaping and leveling of the ground to allow water to drain properly to it, would be connected to the parking lot piping system to prevent water from destroying the building's weak foundation, which has already been partially redeveloped in past years.

This new area that would be created, bordered by a small continuous curb from the parking lot, which is also equipped with herbaceous species and small trees to limit heat gain and create more shade, would serve as a new, safer gathering place bordered to the front of the former Municipality building, where the medical guard and pharmaceutical dispensary are now located. This intervention, mostly requested by the population of Fuipiano and tourists, would provide a new useful area for socializing for all, especially for the local market, as well as provide new ecosystem services, especially of the cultural kind.

The intervention aims to create, together with the parking lot, a continuity between the park and the main square, now irrevocably divided by layers of asphalt, thus creating a new area that would take advantage of multiple services and uses, as well as a new visual glimpse and first impact to the new visitors of Fuipiano, who are now faced with a spectacle that is not exactly irresistible. However, the redevelopment and division of the current square encounters another issue that needs to be addressed, the modification of the internal road system of the square itself. As addressed in previous chapters, new roadways have been analyzed to try to reduce the traffic of cars arriving at the square to reach other destinations in Fuipiano, to enable this intervention. As shown in the image below, fortunately, the square has plenty of space available to carry out these interventions without complicating the existing road system.

“Analysis of the road system in the plaza”

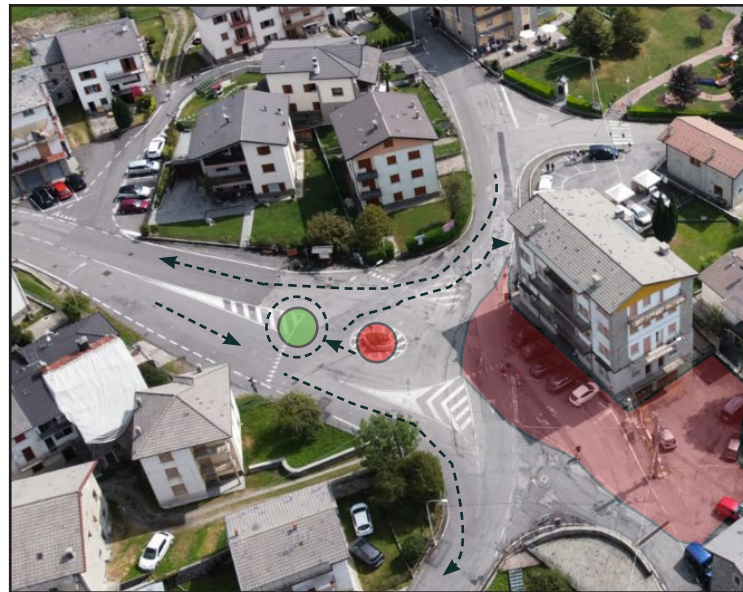


Fig. 60

Source: Drone photo taken in August 2023.

The existing traffic circle, which is in a deplorable condition, would be moved a few meters outside the square, at the same time allowing for greater delineation of the two entry and exit routes to the square and for the necessary space to be carved out to be used as a square by replacing its pavement with draining concrete and for the area below to be used as an additional parking area.

Similarly, the implemented changes would also not insinuate problems for the secondary access road to the plaza, which is one-way given its narrowness, and the possibility of entering the plaza as well. By doing so, those who would travel along the roadways adjoining the park would not have any problems either, as the new plaza would not get in the way of the existing thoroughfares, but rather, beautifying the view of them and making them safer.

“Highlight of the central item in the plaza”



Fig. 61

Source: Photo taken in August 2023.

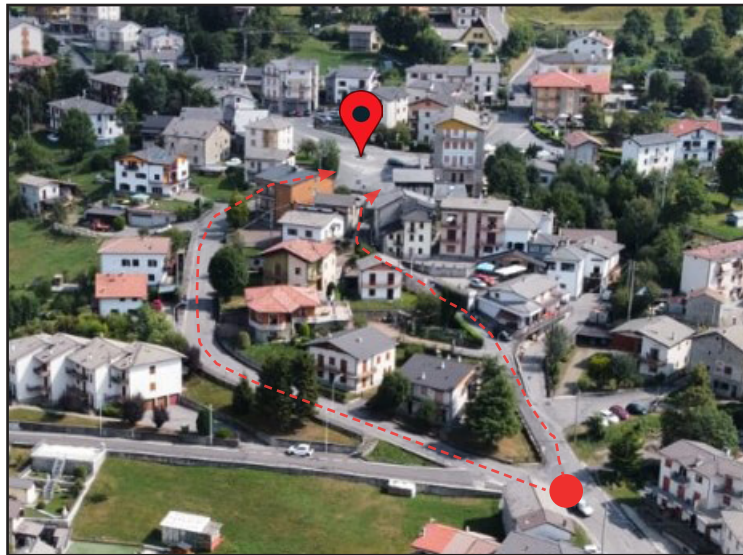


Fig. 62

*Source: Drone photo taken in August 2023.*

In continuity with the parking lot, the tree essences used in this intervention aimed at the creation, first and foremost, of greater areas of shade, which are currently non-existent, the reduction of asphalt heat, and the diversification of biodiversity, with the inclusion especially of new shrub species for the small animals that inhabit this area. The redevelopment of the plaza, particularly its visual appearance and efficiency, is the cornerstone to which this paper makes an end.

Taking as an example the case of Livemmo, in features similar to Fuipiano, but a living case of successful mountain hamlet redevelopment, these kinds of interventions are the first ones to aspire to be able to propose their cherished place to other people as well, who, thanks to their presence in these areas can allow these small settlements to thrive over time.

“Problems and Goals in the main Plaza”

Ivan D'auria

*Problems:*

Main route;  
 Bad condition of the road;  
 Traffic;  
 Urban Heat;  
 Few Ecosystem services;

*Goals:*

Reduce urban heat;  
 Improve social interactions;  
 Improve ecosystem services;  
 Change drainage system;  
 Improve traffic system;



Fig. 63

# “A Proposal for the main Plaza of Fuipiano”



Legenda:

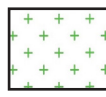

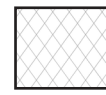

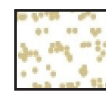







-  Drainage paving with grass
-  Drainage paving with cement - Back Alley
-  Drainage paving with cement - Back Alley
-  Growing soil
-  Growing soil
-  Central wooden walkway
-  Central wooden walkway
-  Central wooden walkway
-  *Fagus sylvatica*
-  *Prunus Pissardi*
-  *Prunus avium*
-  *Betula alba*

Fig. 64

Source: Autocad drawing, 1:100

# Section A - A'

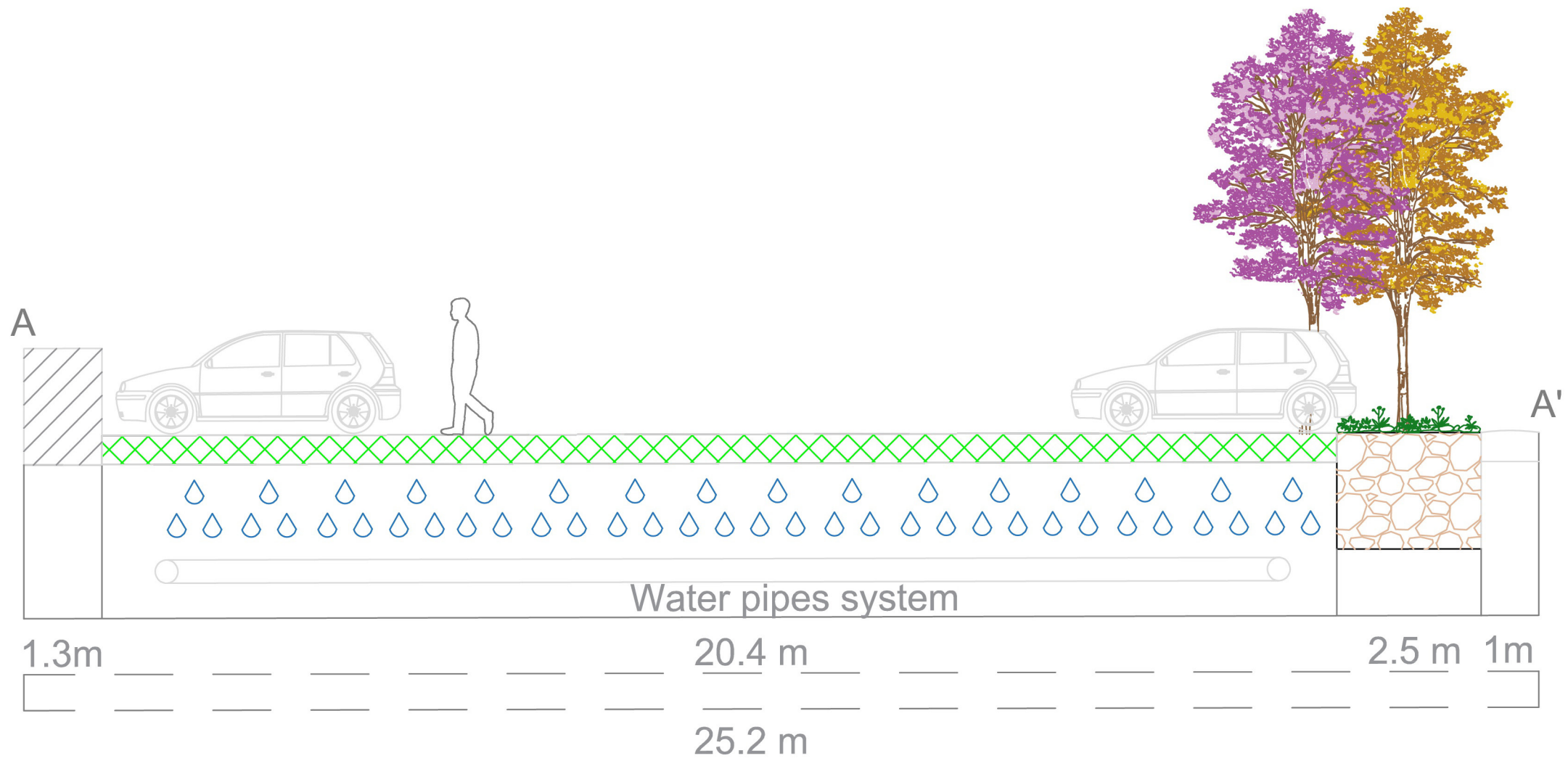


Fig. 65



# Section B - B'

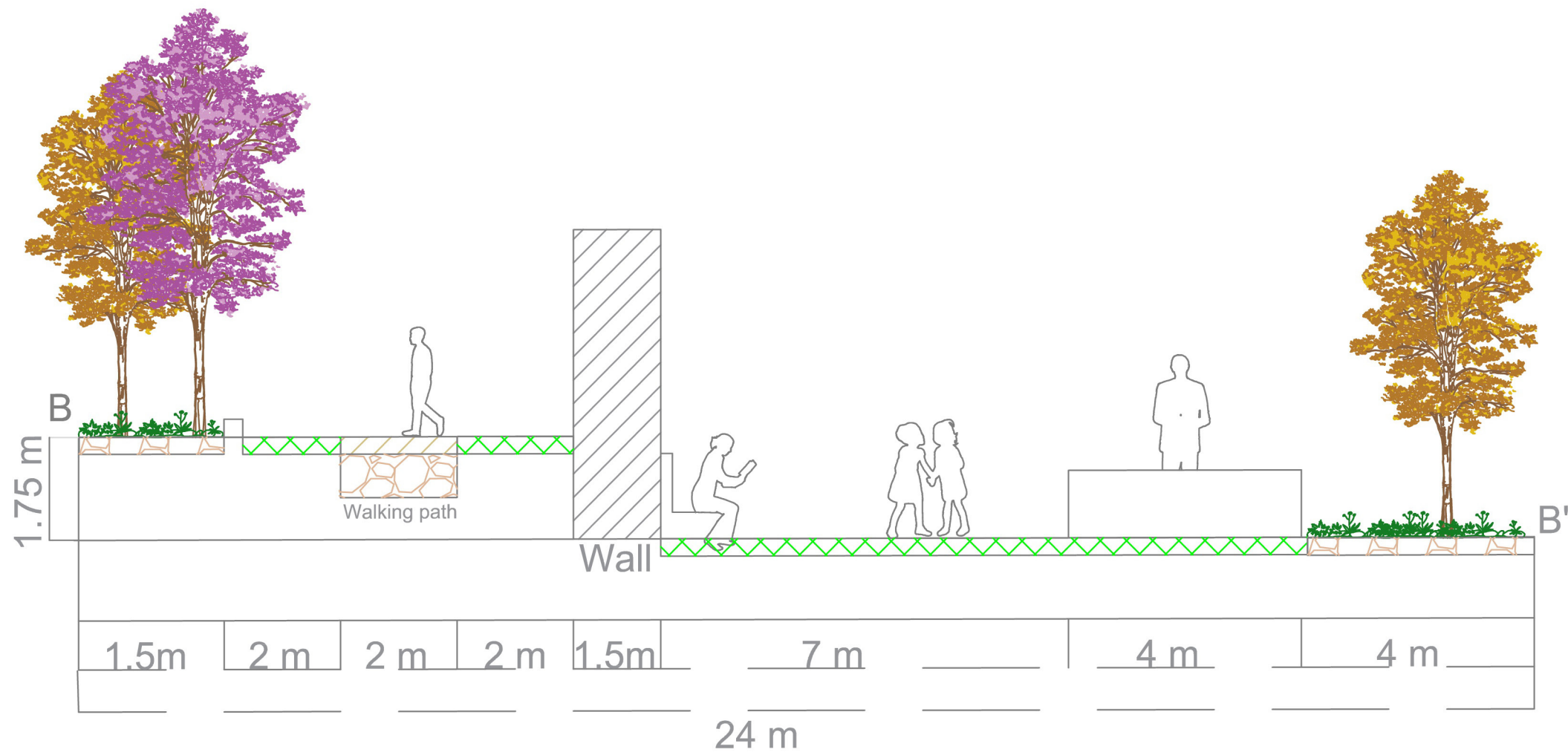


Fig. 66

## 6.4 “The Contrada of Arnosto”

The last area considered is the nerve center of the village, the Arnosto “contrada”.

Here, especially in recent years, municipal interventions aimed at creating new systems for renting out the area to tourists and an erroneous redevelopment of the area have led to various clashes and differences of opinion between Fuipiano's personalities, even to the point of changing the municipal council to try to revive the problem, resulting to this day in nothing.

What this project aims to do is to breathe new life into this small district, maintaining the historical and social values that have accompanied it over time.

Being an area inhabited by the historical families of the village, radical change is not welcome. Therefore, the intervention will only aim at the redevelopment of a small area in front of the new town hall and municipal building.

Ivan D'auria

As shown in the photos at the time of writing this paragraph, the main problem that annoys citizens and attracts the gaze of passers-by is certainly the wall created in past years for an emergency exit of the new 'Bed and Breakfast' created within the historic buildings, which is now blocked and endorsed. This wall completely clashes with the surrounding context, which should be completely demolished following its abandonment, while it could be grafted and hidden in the context, uniting it with the new development of the area.

“The wall of Arnosto”



Source: drone photo taken by me, August 2023

Fig. 64

By sifting through books and gathering information in dialogue with history experts who have dedicated their careers to these places, I was able to learn that the material used for the construction of the houses had already been quarried on the site at the time of the grand duchies and the Serenissima, as explained in the previous chapters, and that it is still present in the ground below and adjacent to it.

Thanks in part to the intervention of the current mayor and city administration, with whom I have had the pleasure of having an interesting and cordial dialogue, the wall of litigation has been knocked down to make way for the return of the museum containing the entire history of Fuipiano.

Starting from the current use of the area, i.e. for recreational purposes and for hosting events during the summer period, a large number of people gather during all kinds of festivities and cause gatherings that are often not very functional. The objective is to create an "amphitheatre", a tiered system that takes advantage of the natural difference in level already present, allowing for the movement of earth to build smaller tiers along the entire width of the area. As shown in the image following the paragraph, these natural terraces will be connected directly to the neighboring area, hidden from the road thanks to the insertion of bushy essences typical of the area to reduce the view and pollution, especially in the upper part. With this system, citizens and tourists, especially during events, will be able to move around more easily and enjoy the event in peace.

Moving on to the technical and construction part, as shown in the image attached below, the main component of the steps is stone (name stone), which, as expressed above, is still partly present in the ground. This particular type of stone will serve as the riser for the steps, while the riser, which is approximately 1 metre long, is made of Beechwood, to recall one of the most famous walks in the valley, and for the colour that the wood offers, which goes well with the dark colour of the stone.

This limestone rock or *'pioda'* with its dark colour is the aesthetic element that will be used to create the tiers of seats, which will be organised in a half-moon shape, imitating an open-air theatre with a stage in the centre, at the lowest point, where events, demonstrations or simple speeches will be held.

As far as the essences are concerned, the proposal is to use plants native to the area, where possible inserting trees already present and increasing their numbering at specific points, especially to increase the areas of shade, which are currently lacking. In the presence of the steps, on the other hand, pots will be used to break up the continuity of the wooden seats, with the types of flowers from the area inside, such as (Flower Names) to increase ecosystem services, especially for the small animal species that often frequent these grounds.

This project aims to reuse the existing wall and merge it within a new proposal that will fit within the unused area bordered by the road with the addition of new barriers, also made of beech wood to create continuity. The open-air theatre will give new life to the small district and allow, without distorting the area, the use of an area that is currently disused and dangerous for everyone.

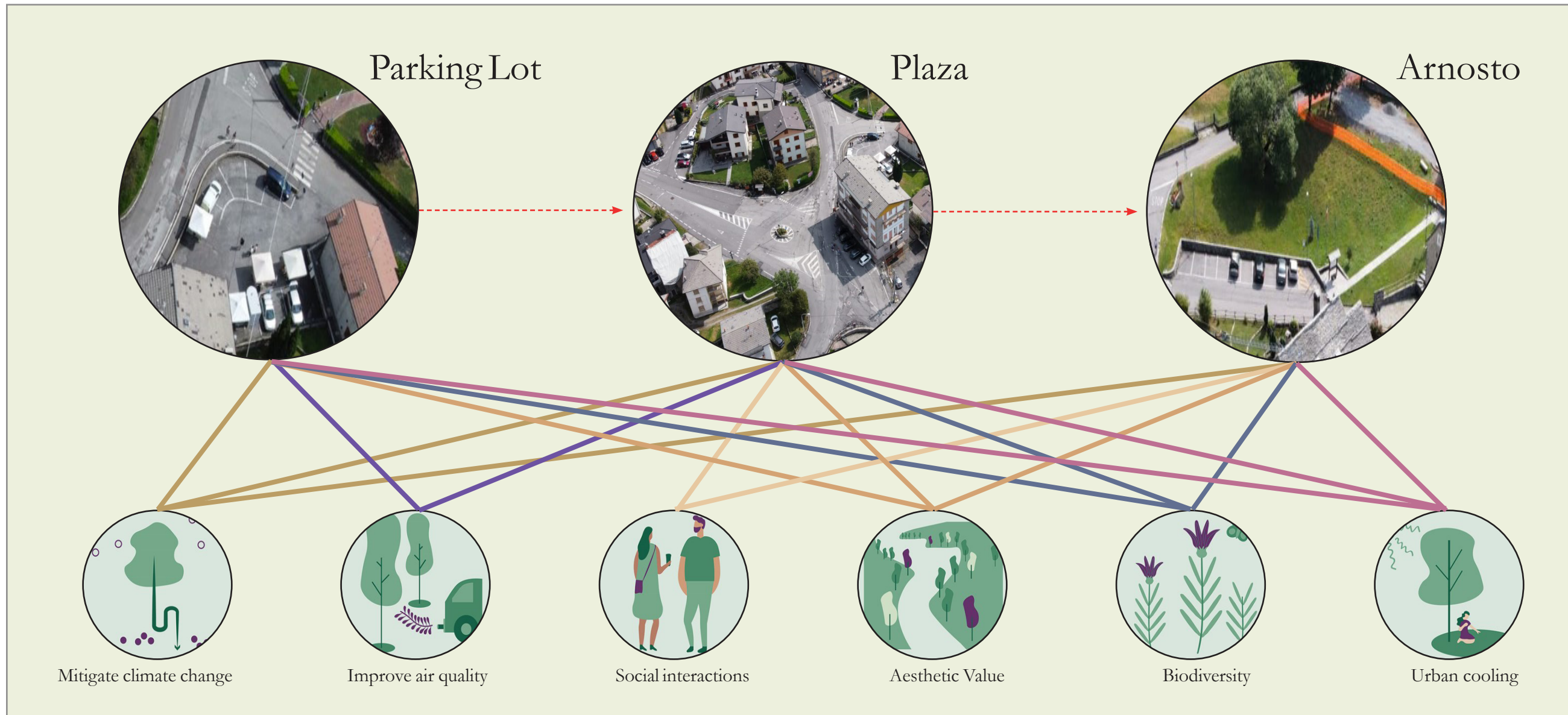
"Arnosto: bird-eye view"



Source: drone photo taken personally, August, 2023

Fig. 65

# Intervention Areas



Source: drone photos taken personally, scheme elaborated in illustrator

Fig. 66

# 7

---

## *Conclusions*

---

## Conclusions

In summary, the detailed analysis of old historic villages in the process of abandonment undertaken in this thesis has shed light on a deep-rooted and complex issue. Through a series of chapters exploring the causes of abandonment, conducting interviews with remaining residents, and analyzing similar case studies, a complex and varied picture emerged.

Analysis of the interviews revealed a range of reasons for the abandonment of these historic villages. From a lack of employment opportunities to a lack of public services, these factors were central to the residents' decision to move to larger cities. However, it was also interesting to note that many respondents retained a strong emotional attachment to their places of origin, demonstrating the enduring importance of cultural roots and historical memory.

The comparative analysis with similar case studies made it possible to understand that the phenomenon of abandonment of historic villages is not isolated, but occurs on a global scale. The pilot case of Livemmo is the perfect example of a successful case that can be re-applied for all the little mountain communities that share

Ivan D'auria

similar characteristics to those of the town in the province of Brescia.

However, it also showed that there are different approaches to tackling the problem, depending on cultural contexts, local policies, and available resources. The ilot case showed that a mix of public and private initiatives, economic incentives, and heritage enhancement can lead to positive results in terms of redevelopment and attracting new residents.

Indeed, the examples of regeneration presented in this thesis have shown that abandoned historic villages can become real resources for local communities and sustainable tourism. The plaza and the parking lot, as a result of the continuous and considerable requests from citizens and tourists, were the subject of the proposed intervention to regenerate the area, especially from the environmental point of view and the creation of additional ecosystem services that did not exist at the time of writing, with the aesthetic and functional revaluation of the pavement and the plaza, for a more usable use of the area by all stakeholders.

Through careful restoration projects, the creation of spaces for cultural and craft activities, and the implementation of modern infrastructure, it is possible to reverse the trend of abandonment and generate new interest in these unique places.

In conclusion, this thesis has highlighted the importance of approaching the problem of the abandonment of historic villages from a multidisciplinary perspective and with an approach that takes into account the

specificities of each context.

Where the past meets the present, there are opportunities for a renaissance that respects and enhances the cultural and architectural heritage of these communities. Regeneration and sustainable development strategies can act as a bridge between deep-rooted traditions and the challenges of the future, helping to preserve the authenticity of these villages and build lasting links between generations.

In conclusion, the small mountain community of Fuiplano Valle Imagna is a little diamond in the rough, scattered among the Lombardy pre-Alps that deserves more attention from tourists but above all from its citizens, who deserve a town that is in the vanguard of the times but at the same time can show its history.

# Bibliography

CAI Bergamo, “Guida della Valle Imagna”, Cesare Ferrari, Bergamo, 1988

G.A.L Valle Imagna, “Valle Imagna, una terra da scoprire”, Bergamo, 2001

Burgarella A., Mazzoleni R., Merletti B., Rocca L., Vassalli P., “VALLE IMAGNA, Geografia della memoria, esperienze e materiali per una didattica della storia”, Bergamo, 2000

“Il patrimonio riconosciuto. Valle Imagna. Censimento dei beni storico-architettonici”, Bolis editore, Bergamo, 1998

Comunità montana della Valle Imagna, “Relazione sullo stato dell’ambiente”, Grafocom, 2005

Basezzi N., Da Soverè M., “Toponomastica della Valle Imagna”, Ferrari Editrice, Clusone, 2005

Sinatti D’amico F., Pagani L., Baronio A., “VALLE IMAGNA”, Edizioni Bolis, Bergamo, 1982

Locatelli Costantino, “Fuipiano, Locatello e Corna Imagna, Saluti dalla Valle Imagna”, Centro Studi Valle Imagna, Torre Boldone, 1999

Ivan D’auria

Locatelli Costantino, “Cepino e la Cornabusa, Saluti dalla Valle Imagna”, Centro Studi Valle Imagna, Torre Boldone, 1999

Locatelli Costantino, “Valsecca e il Santo Crocefisso, Saluti dalla Valle Imagna”, Centro Studi Valle Imagna, Torre Boldone, 1999

Locatelli Costantino, “Fuipiano, Locatello e Corna Imagna, Saluti dalla Valle Imagna”, Centro Studi Valle Imagna, Torre Boldone, 1999



# Sitography

Ivan D'auria

<https://www.infoturismovalleimagna.com/>

<http://www.ecoturismovalleimagna.it/>

<https://www.turismovalleimagna.it/>

<http://geoportale.caibergamo.it/it/content/sentiero-san-omobono-terme-percorso-vita>

[https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/public\\_files/geologia-e-turismo/6-SIGNORI-poster.pdf](https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/public_files/geologia-e-turismo/6-SIGNORI-poster.pdf) <https://www.lavocedellevalli.it/progetti-di-sviluppo-sostenibile-dalla-regione-oltre-25-milioni-alle-valli-imagna-e-brembana/>

<https://cosedibergamo.com/valle-imagna/>

<https://cosedibergamo.com/2019/05/18/arnosto-a-fuipiano-valle-imagna-10-curiosita/>

<https://fondoambiente.it/luoghi/santuario-della-madonna-della-cornabusa?ldc>

<https://fondoambiente.it/luoghi/arnosto?ldc>

<https://www.lavocedellevalli.it/strada-fuipiano-taleggio-wwf-non-vogliamo-che-diventi-nera-di-inutile-e-devastante-asfalto/>

[https://bergamo.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/21\\_dicembre\\_21/i-48-milioni-asfaltare-strada-fuipiano-morterone-val-taleggio-ma-zona-protetta-bufer-social-297b4f06-621a-11ec-a583-0974d17fd3de.shtml](https://bergamo.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/21_dicembre_21/i-48-milioni-asfaltare-strada-fuipiano-morterone-val-taleggio-ma-zona-protetta-bufer-social-297b4f06-621a-11ec-a583-0974d17fd3de.shtml)

<https://www.valbrembanaweb.com/redazionale/storie-di-vita-e-di-montagna/polemica-strada-fuipiano-taleggio-quando-lasfalto-e-meglio-della-polvere/>

<https://www.ruralpini.it/Strada-bergamina.html>

<https://www.lavocedellevalli.it/zona-protetta-e-di-una-bellezza-inestimabile-perche-asfaltare-basterebbe-allargare/>

<http://www.demologia.it/bergamo/mappe/imagna.htm>

[https://www.nonsprecare.it/ripopolamento-borghi?refresh\\_cens](https://www.nonsprecare.it/ripopolamento-borghi?refresh_cens)

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/it/home/temi-dsc/cambiamenti-climatici/sviluppo-sostenibile-montagna.html>

<https://ugeo.urbistat.com/adminstat/it/it/demografia/dati-sintesi/fuipiano-valle-imagna/16106/4>

<https://fondoambiente.it/luoghi/santuario-della-madonna-della-cornabusa?ldc>

[\(https://www.turismovalleimagna.it/arte-cultura/chiesa-san-giovanni-battista-fuipiano-valle-imagna-bergamo-lombardia/\)](https://www.turismovalleimagna.it/arte-cultura/chiesa-san-giovanni-battista-fuipiano-valle-imagna-bergamo-lombardia/)

[https://media.beniculturali.it/mibac/files/boards/be78e33bc8ca0c99bff70aa174035096/Card/PNRR-Borghi/PNRR\\_Borghi\\_DEF.pdf](https://media.beniculturali.it/mibac/files/boards/be78e33bc8ca0c99bff70aa174035096/Card/PNRR-Borghi/PNRR_Borghi_DEF.pdf)

<https://uwaterloo.ca/sustainability/blog/post/nature-based-solutions-climate-change-resiliency>

<http://www.lifemgn-serviziecosistemici.eu/IT/progetto/Pages/se.aspx.html>

<https://cosedibergamo.com/2019/05/18/arnosto-a-fuipiano-valle-imagna-10-curiosita/>

<https://lestoriedigio.com/2020/02/11/monte-resegone/#:~:text=Deve%20il%20suo%20nome%20alla,-dolomia%20risalente%20al%20periodo%20Triassico.>

<https://www.floralpinabergamasca.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/LA-FLORA-VASCOLARE-DELLE-ZONE-UMIDE-DELLA-PROVINCIA-DI-BERGAMO-V.-2-01-03-2022.pdf>

## Thanks

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart, without you this achievement would not have been possible.

Ivan

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the people who supported and encouraged me during my academic journey and in the writing of this thesis.

Firstly, I would like to thank my Professors, Professor Tzortzi, Musacchio and Previtali, for their valuable guidance and for providing me with the theoretical foundations necessary to realize my work.

I would also like to thank my colleagues, who helped me overcome the difficulties encountered along the way and supported me every step of the way.

I would like to thank Elena Persico, who helped me with revisions until late in the evening every week.

Special thanks go to my family, who have always encouraged and supported me, putting up with my ups and downs and patiently listening to my ideas. Without their support, I would never have made it this far.

Finally, I would like to thank all the friends who have been close to me during these years, for their friendship, support, and encouragement. You have been my source of inspiration and the reason why I have continued to believe in myself and my abilities.