RURAL AND PERI-URBAN LIVING LABS IN BOOSTING SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION WITHIN TERRITORIES AT SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL LEVEL

MUNICIPIO DI REGGIO EMILIA

LIVERUR Pilot Region: **Municipio di Reggio Emilia**
Square km: **231 km²**
Population: **171 999 inhabitants**
Political region: **Emilia Romagna Region, Italy**

DESCRIPTION

"In Reggio Emilia, rural activities are promoting innovative experiences related to social dimension, food production and sustainability, natural heritage and soil consumption. Reggio Emilia will develop two Living Labs. One in the periurban area to promote an "Edible Park" integrating food production, societal inclusion, landscape and ecosystem services. The other in the Apennines to support community coops for new business models attracting local inhabitants and visitors."

2 Living Labs

Reggio Emilia Municipality
Peri-urban area and
rural areas surrounding the city

Reggio Emilia Province
Appenine area

LIVERUR - 773757

Environmental & Climate	A heterogeneous territory ranging from the southern edge of the Po Plain (Pilot 1) to the Apennine ridge (Pilot 2), with significant differences in height, wealth of water resources and forests. Dominating sub-continental climate.	ⓘ
	Climate change effect registered in the last 20 years with increase in temperatures and extreme and changes in seasonal regimes and intensity of precipitation.	🛠
	The Po Plain is one of the most polluted areas of Europe.	🛠
Economic context	Dominant BM in Emilia Romagna: diversified farming.	ⓘ
	Heterogeneity of peri-urban rural economy and mountain rural economy.	🛠
	The Agrifood sector registers a great increase of start-ups by young entrepreneurs.	☺
	The new mechatronic horizon has been most developed in recent years an the mechatronics district comprises at least 300 companies.	☺
	The Appennino Reggiano area has a rural economy based on family owned micro agri-enterprises and low population density but community cooperatives are growing.	☺ 🛠
	Export has a total value of 9,2 billion € , of which 13,2 mln are represented by the agricultural/food sector.	☺
	New emerging small (social) farming activities are developing in favour of social innovation and social inclusion.	☺
	The entrepreneurial fabric is mainly composed of small and medium-sized enterprises.	☺ 🛠
	Need to create networks between SMEs and well-established big businesses, research and educational centers, universities and innovation labs.	🛠
Societal Context & Social Infrastructure	Unemployment fell to 4.8% and employment rate to 71.3%.	ⓘ
	There are more than 531,000 foreign citizens resident in Emilia-Romagna (11.9% of the total population).	☺ 🛠
	There are regional and local welfare systems, instruments fostering social innovation and social inclusion.	☺
	High social capital.	☺
Rural technical infrastructure	Infrastructure for networks.	☺
	Internet access granted by a regional public network.	☺
	Dispersed housing in rural and particularly mountain areas.	🛠
	Regional investments aimed at preventing hydrogeological instability mainly in mountainous or hilly areas.	☺
	Low level of ICT and digital capacities in rural areas and rural actors.	🛠
Legal & institutional framework	Subsidised and non-repayable funds for enterprises.	☺
	Lack of a proper law and definition of community cooperatives at national level, though a framework and recognition exists at regional.	🛠
	The Regional university system consists of 6 universities – importance of the Life Sciences Department.	☺
	ART-ER– High technology network of the Emilia Romagna Region, with a specific research cluster on agri-food.	☺
	Tecnopoli / technopoles or technology hubs are a network of 10 infrastructures. One of these Technopoles is located in Reggio Emilia.	☺
Food Security & Safety	Emilia Romagna is the region with highest number of PDO and PGI products registered in all the country.	☺
	Economic diplomacy carried out promote regional products broadly and ensure their integrity inside and outside EU markets.	☺
	Presence of local and European institutes and agencies researching, innovating and mainstreaming food safety.	☺
	Increasing demands for quality and sustainable foods: local markets and direct selling of agriculture and agro food processed products.	☺ 🛠