

WELCOME

L'iniziativa si è resa possibile per la collaborazione e l'impegno di:



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Ecomuseo delle Acque del Gemonese (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
Ecomuseo Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea (Piemonte)
Ecomuseo di Argenta (Emilia Romagna)
Ecomuseo del Casentino (Toscana)
Ecomuseo delle Erbe Palustri (Emilia Romagna)
Ecomuseo della Judicaria (Provincia Autonoma di Trento)
Ecomuseo del Lago d'Orta e Mottarone (Piemonte)
Ecomuseo del Paesaggio Orvietano (Umbria)
Ecomuseo del Paesaggio di Parabiago (Lombardia)
Ecomuseo della Valle Elvo (Piemonte)
Laboratorio Ecomusei (Piemonte)
Rete ecomusei della Provincia Autonoma di Trento
Rete ecomusei del Salento (Puglia)

Omar Barbieri, Marina Bertolini, Martina Bombaci, Raul Dal Santo, Fileldelfja Musteqja, Óscar Navajas Corral, Odalice Priosti, Anna Prodam, Etelca Ridolfo, Raffaella Riva, Ersilia Tondolo

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The Community of ecomuseums practices and Hugues de Varine have been growing together the idea of an international gathering of ecomuseums and community museums several times. The occasion was offered by ICOM which decided to make the 24th General Conference in Milan. The theme of the conference concerns "Museums and cultural landscapes", a challenge for Italians ecomuseums that devote a day to demonstrate publicly their commitment to preserving and renewing the landscape and cultural heritage of its territories every year since 2007.

In 2015 in Trento, during the annual meeting of the Community of practices, it was decided to draft a document that would gather the twenty years experience of Italian ecomuseology to be presented in Milan during the ICOM General Conference. From here it started the idea (proposed in Casentino, completed in Cervia and structured in Argenta) to make a special meeting to allow all the ecomuseums in the world that are engaged in the protection, study and education about landscape, in the active involvement of the population in their activities, in the definition and implementation of sustainable land policies, to find each other and talk to each other.

With the collaboration of the Executive Council of ICOM Italy, the availability of the Milan Polytechnic and the voluntary contribution of many ecomuseum operators, this important event is taking shape.

The coordination of the Italian ecomuseums welcomes all delegations, professionals and operators who with their experiences are attending the Forum of ecomuseums and community museums, wishing everyone to take the opportunity to share projects and ensure opportunities of exchange and cooperation for the future.

Authors |

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INTRODUCTION

We find in this catalogue a convincing demonstration of the existence, vitality and diversity of a world Ecomuseum/Community Museum movement, which has now reached its full development. Particularly here in Italy, where it has found an exceptionally favourable field for experimentation. The time and place of the ICOM General Conference, to be held this year in Milan, was an ideal opportunity, because Italy is also a unique country where twelve regions have already recognized by law the importance of ecomuseums for local development through the participatory management of the common heritage.

The communications listed and summarized here show clearly that ecomuseums in their large majority, like community museums in other countries, are at the fore-front of the promotion and operation of the concept of "cultural landscape", which is the central theme of the ICOM Conference. Ecomuseums, which in Italy are sometimes called "of landscape", tell us in this catalogue and will describe in their public presentation their experiments, methods, co-operations which give the ecomuseum movement, in over 40 countries, on all continents, its originality, its effectiveness, besides more traditional museums and other institutions which are responsible for inventory, protection, use and promotion of natural and cultural heritage. Better than most other cultural agents, they represent the "sense of place": they foster local identity and welcome new residents and visitors, they open windows to the outside world, they revive old traditions and crafts, they promote creativity and initiatives.

Town and country ecomuseums, museums founded by native communities in America or in Asia, laboratories of micro-economy or community based responsible tourism operators, new professions for facilitators or mediators, landscape and environment observatories or promoters of organic agriculture, all respond to specific needs and expectations, and invent original solutions, adapted to local contexts and the modern way of life. This is listed here and will be shared in Milan.

This rich material has been assembled not only to pave the way to other similar meetings at national or international levels, which will contribute to the reinforcement of the ecomuseum movement, but also, and perhaps mostly, to give birth, in the months and years to come, to projects and actions, exchanges and co-operations between ecomuseums and community museums from different countries across the language barrier and despite financial constraints. There is no ecomuseum model or standard, each ecomuseum is

unique and original, but the movement needs trans-regional and trans-national exchanges and projects to build up an active professional community and a true ecomuseology. After previous international encounters of ecomuseums (in Brazil or in China) and of community museums (in Latin America), the symbolic coincidence with the ICOM General Conference gives visibility to the movement.

Let us hope that, in each country as well as at international level, the ecomuseum and its different names and forms be recognized as legitimate and efficient tools for local community management of heritages and cultural landscapes.

74 communications from 15 countries are present in this catalogue. Some of their authors, unfortunately, were not able to attend physically the Forum. An international Jury of experts has evaluated all of them and has recommended to make them available to the participants of the Forum and to the Ecomuseum community, through public presentation or Poster exhibition, and then in a post-Forum e-publication.

We must thank the ICOM Conference organizing committee and the Politecnico di Milano which made possible the organization of the Forum, the presentation and the publication of these communications. We must also express our gratitude to the volunteers who have, tirelessly, collected, translated, classified these abstracts, assisted the members of the Jury, maintained a frequent correspondence with the authors, and eventually put together this catalogue.

And we acknowledge the mobilization of the authors themselves, who have responded so generously to the "call of papers" and demonstrated their sense of a common goal: the defence and illustration of the living heritage of mankind at its most humble level, in situ.

Author |

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