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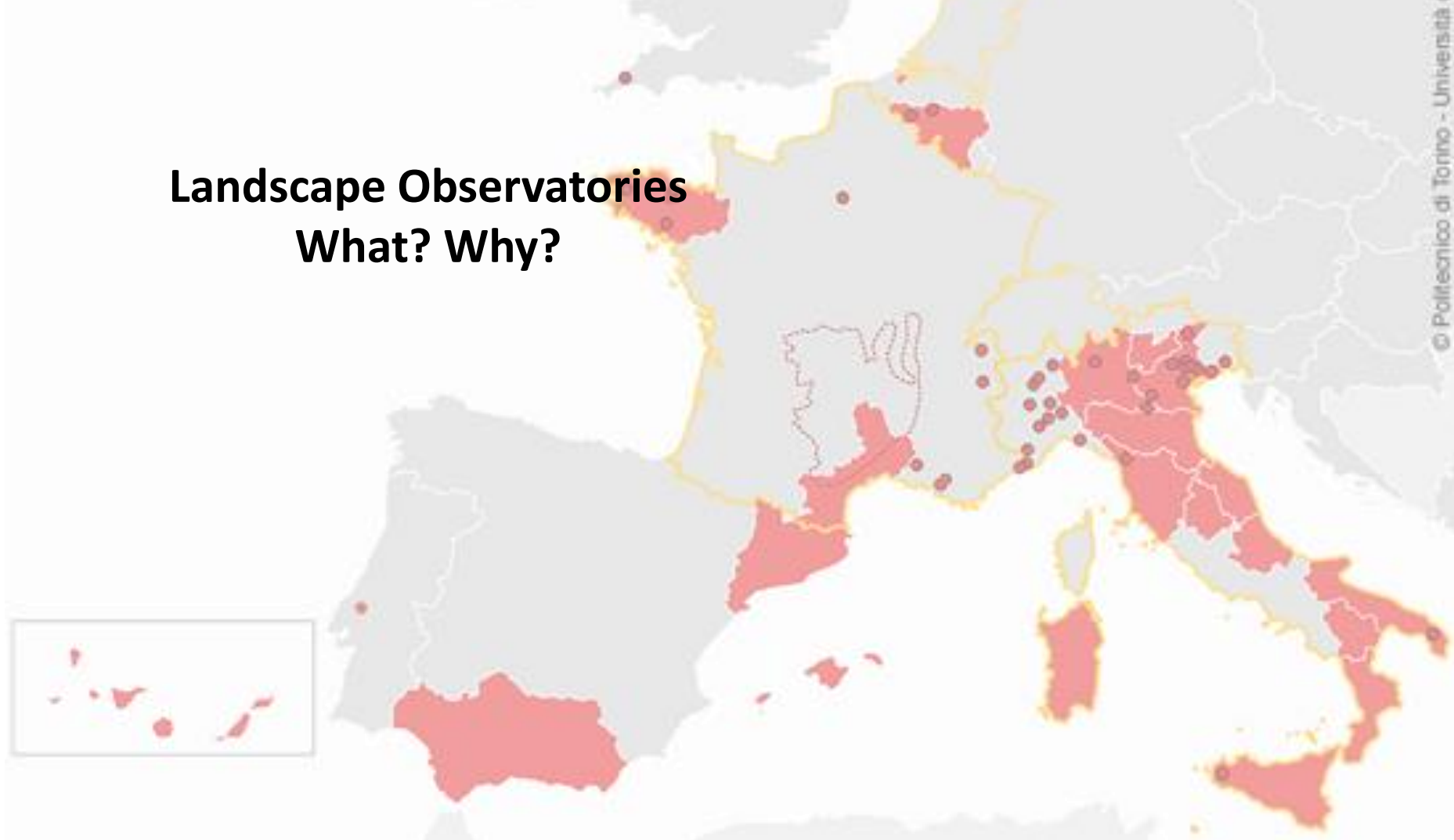
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## Landscape Observatories What? Why?

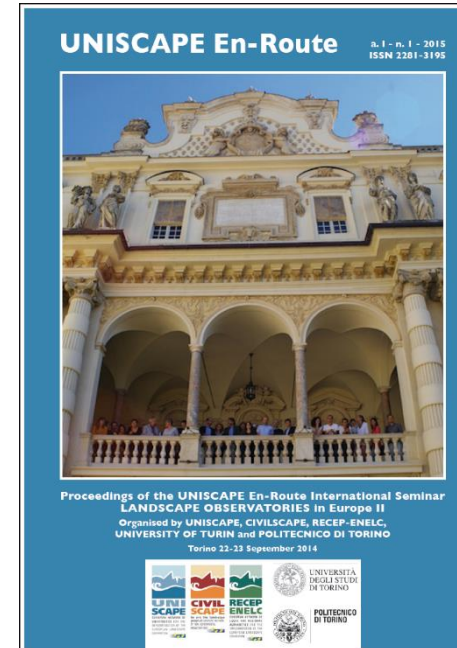


# Background (networking)



collaboration of the European Landscape Networks: **UNISCAPE** (academia), **CIVILSCAPE** (NGOs), **RECEP-ENELC** (regional and local authorities)

- 2011 first survey by PoliTo-DIST
- 2013 Seminar in Florence
- 2013 presentation at the CoE Meeting
- 2014 Seminar in Torino
- 2015 **The Charter of Torino** for the Promotion and Dissemination of the Landscape Observatories in Europe at the CoE Meeting in Strasbourg
- 2015 **The LOD Project (LOs Documentation)**
- 2017 Conference in Amersfoort (LandschappenNL)
- 2017 IALE Europe Symposium in Ghent, ...
- 2020 and 2021 UNISCAPE Conferences, ...



# Landscape and Democracy: the European Landscape Convention

*“Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” (ELC, art.1)*

- the landscape expresses our rich and diverse cultures, and most of all affects our well-being, consequently, all citizens have the right to live in a good landscape
- **«Landscape is a matter of democracy»**

Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention, ETS 176, Florence 2000

# Landscape and Democracy.

## Participation: knowledge and aspirations

- Different social groups have different perceptions and interest in the same landscape
- What is valuable, what is not, which changes are good or bad
- identifying the 'public interest'



# Landscape and Democracy: participation

“All action taken to define, implement and monitor landscape policies should be preceded and accompanied by **procedures for participation by members of the public and other relevant stakeholders**, with the aim of enabling them to play an active role in formulating, implementing and monitoring **landscape quality objectives**.”



Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, point G. Make use of public participation

***Landscape Centers or Observatories* according to the Council of Europe: “a forum for exchanging information”**



# ***Landscape Centers or Observatories* according to the Council of Europe: “a forum for exchanging information”**

- **studying and monitoring landscapes** on the basis of appropriate study protocols, exchanging information on policies and experiences.
- LOs are instruments for **designing better policies**
- **Involving different actors**

CM/Rec(2008)3, Appendix 1, Examples of instruments used to implement the ELC. Point 10 Observatories, centres or institutes

“The strong forces surrounding contemporary landscapes and the many problems connected with landscape protection, management and planning **necessitate continuous observation and a forum for exchanging information**; the creation of landscape observatories, centres or institutes could prove useful for this purpose. Such observatories, centres or institutes would allow observation on the basis of appropriate study protocols employing a range of indicators; they would also allow for the collection and exchange of information on policies and experience. They could be independent or part of a broader observation system.”

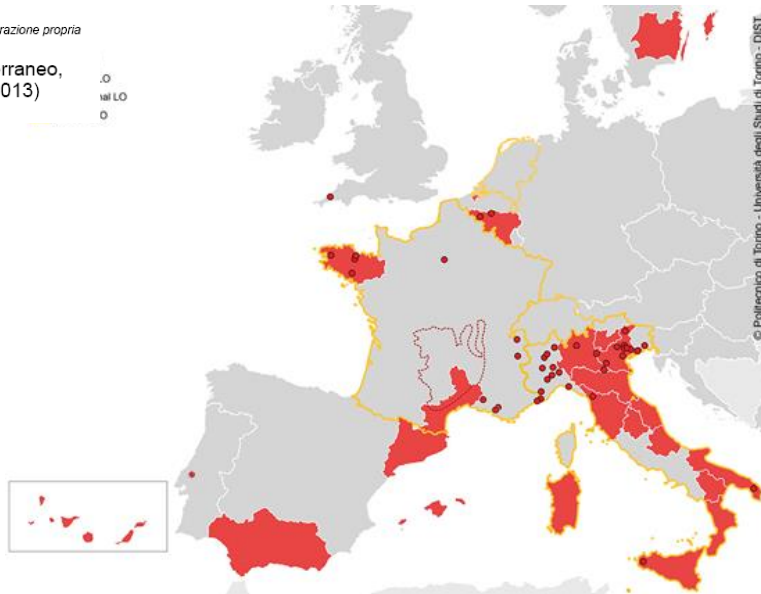
# The birth and growth of LOs in Europe, some experiences



Fonte: elaborazione propria

Rete degli Osservatori virtuali dei Paesaggi del Mediterraneo,  
Progetto Pays.Doc, Interreg IIB MEDOCC (2000-2013)

.O  
LO  
O



Nineties: photo Observatoires (France),  
Ecomuseums, Research Centres...

1994 LO Biellese (Italy)

## 2000 CEP

2000-2006 Interreg Pays.doc (international network)

2003 LO Astigiano (Italy)

2004 LO Catalunya (Spain); Sardinia (ITA)

Canarias Islands

2006 Piedmont Region Network

## 2008 CoE Recommendation

2008 Italian National LO

2010 LO Trentino (Italy)

2011/2014/2017 LO Veneto (Italy)

2013 Basilicata (Italy)

2017 LO PLSSA (Portugal)

2017 LO Finland

... and many more



# The birth and growth of LOs in Europe, some experiences

## What is the Landscape Observatory

### What is the Landscape Observatory

Functions

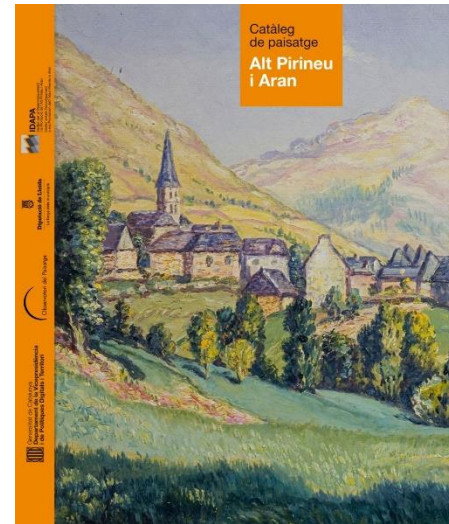
Working lines

## What is the Landscape Observatory

**The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia is an advisory body of the Government of Catalonia and Catalan society in general on matters of landscape.**

# The birth and growth of LOs in Europe, some experiences

- One of the first observatories set up in Europe is the LO of Catalunya (2004).
- **advisory body** of the regional government, but organized as a **consortium** involving some local authorities and private stakeholders.
- The LO studies the landscape of Catalunya and its transformations, producing some outcomes directly addressed to **regional planning**, but also many studies to **raise awareness** on specific topics and in innovative directions. They have an **educational mission** as well, and activities for the public.
- Structured with **permanent staff**, it has a library, hosts scholars, and frequently organizes international meetings. The newsletter clearly shows the double focus: regional and international.



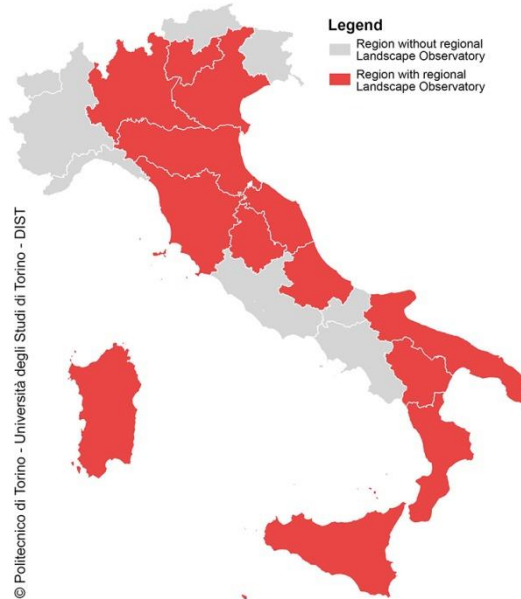
# The birth and growth of LOs in Europe, some experiences

- In **France**, some regional parks set up landscape observatories intended as a documentation centre. The collection and display of **photographic materials, which illustrate the landscape changes**, is the core. They can be used on different occasions.
- In **Portugal**, some experiences can be found in protected areas and **protected landscapes**, at the scale of municipalities , with a major involvement of local communities, often oriented to awareness raising, and promotion of the sites.
- The local LO of Charneca (Portugal) is based on a large **private estate**, which hosts workshop activities, in collaboration with the University of Lisbon

# The Italian LOs: top-down, and bottom-up initiatives

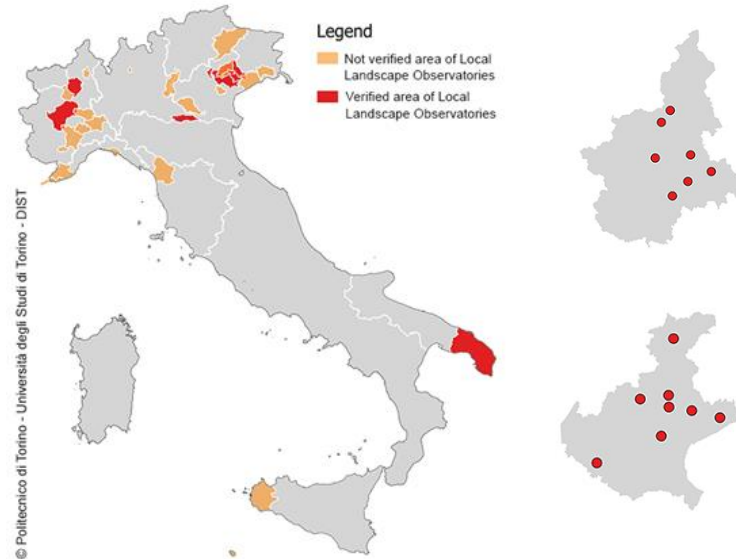
- **The Italian Republic established by law that the Nation and every Region must have a LO.**
- The Ministry of Culture National LO monitor(ed) the state of landscape policies (2017)
- The Ministry of Agriculture National LO promotes the recognition of traditional rural landscape and practices
- Each region interpreted the function of LOs differently. Usually, they develop studies addressed to the formation of the regional landscape plans.
- Further studies (for inst.: surveys on landscape perception)
- fostering communication among people and organizations interested in landscape by newsletter, publications, conferences.
- Training courses on landscape issues for public officials and professional are also often organized (Veneto, Trentino, Emilia...).

# The Italian LOs: top-down, and bottom-up initiatives



n. 2 **National Observatories** (!)

A number of **Regional LOs**  
(established by law)



Many **local and bottom-up LOs**

**Networks of local observatories**

the Veneto Region LO is structured as a network of local observatories (which adhere by signing a protocol). The scientific committee, composed by academics, provides general **guidance, and training on regular basis**. Local organizations receive support (technical and financial) for their **activities on site**. For instance, **festivals, tours, educational with schools...** Similarly, the Emilia Romagna Observatory for Landscape Quality. In addition, it monitors landscape policies and acts

# The Italian LOs: bottom-up initiatives

«*The Landscape Day 2008. Walking in the landscape.* Walking, making photos, writing, debating, choosing»

By «LocalWorlds» org.



Photo: M. Deevcchi,

## GIORNATA DEL PAESAGGIO 2008

camminare>fotografare>scrivere>confrontarsi>scegliere

**CAMMINATE NEL PAESAGGIO**  
DAL 21 GIUGNO AL 21 DICEMBRE

**MONDI LOCALI**  
LOCAL WORLDS



# The Italian Los: bottom-up initiatives



The first Italian LO: 1998: the Observatory of Biella (Piedmont Region) still active.

«landscape walks» in unusual places, to discuss their possible transformation.

**Participatory design experiences in small villages.** In part., making decision on how to allocate a budget for landscape improvement



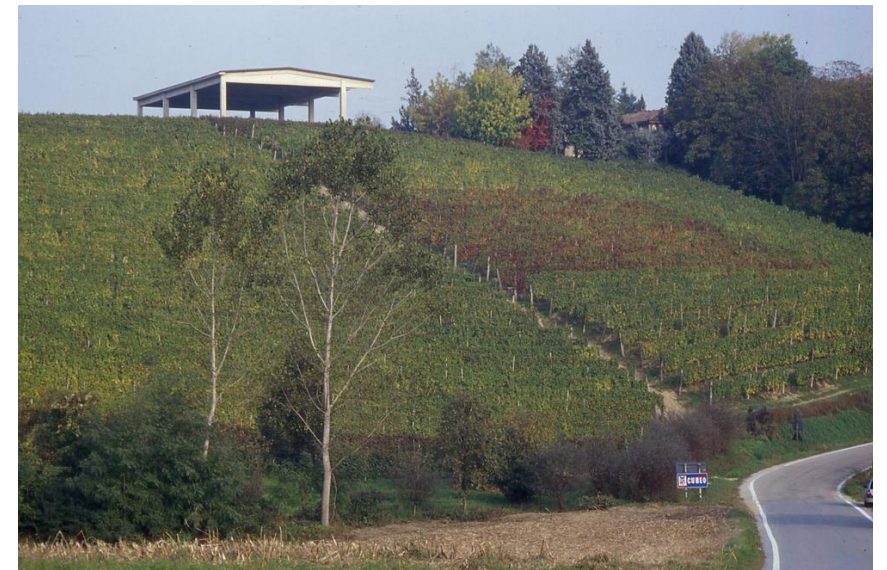
«SHARED LANDSCAPE» Interreg Project  
(Source: Osservatorio del paesaggio Biellese)

# The Italian Los: bottom-up initiatives

The Observatory of Asti raises awareness about the value of landscape among local people: a farmer was convinced to demolish a concrete shed that impacted on landscape scenery, another one to use vegetation to reduce the visual impact of a large stable;



(source: Osservatorio del paesaggio per il Monferrato e l'Astigiano)  
Ph. Courtesy Marco Devecchi







- the citizens of a small municipality signed a petition to the Ministry of Culture asking for a protective act on their landscape.



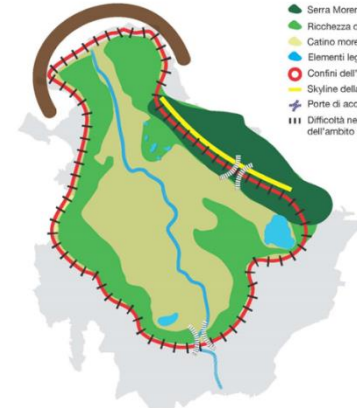
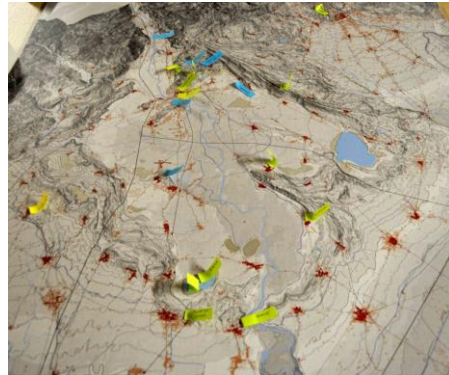
(source: Osservatorio del paesaggio per il Monferrato e l'Astigiano)  
Ph. Courtesy Marco Devecchi



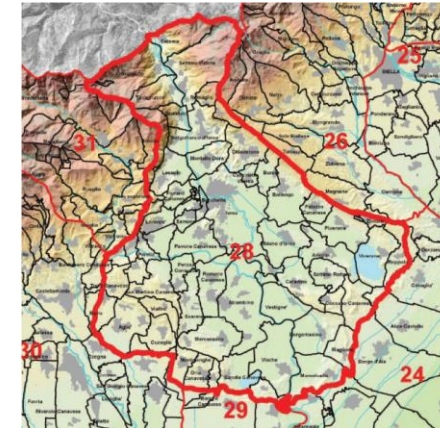


(source: Osservatorio del paesaggio per il  
Monferrato e l'Astigiano)  
Ph. Courtesy Marco Devecchi

# The Italian Los: bottom-up initiatives, and research-action



- Riconoscibilità**
- Serra Morenica di Ivrea
  - Ricchezza di vegetazione
  - Catino morenico
  - Elementi legati all'acqua
  - Confini dell'AMI
  - Skyline della Serra di Ivrea
  - Porte di accesso all'AMI
  - Difficoltà nel riconoscimento dell'ambito



Osservatorio del paesaggio dell'Anfiteatro Morenico di Ivrea  
A research-action with PoliTo on 'people's aspirations and landscape quality objectives (2013-2014)



Photo: C. Cassatella

A farmer entrepreneur (“mountain wine” producer), and at the same time a volunteer take-carer of wild orchid (an endangered species). People count. Landscape entails “rights and responsibilities for everyone” (CoE, 2000)

# The Italian Los: bottom-up initiatives, and research-action



# Models, functions, and functioning (governance)

Among case studies,  
governmental offices,  
public-private consortia,  
NGOs,  
associations and second-level associations  
And simple citizens' groups and committees

- CM/Rec(2008)3, Appendix 1, Examples of instruments used to implement the ELC, 10. Observatories, centres or institutes
- “The choice of the composition of observatories is a matter for the administrative bodies concerned but **should allow for collaboration between scientists, professionals and technicians from the public authorities and the public.**”

# The LOD Project

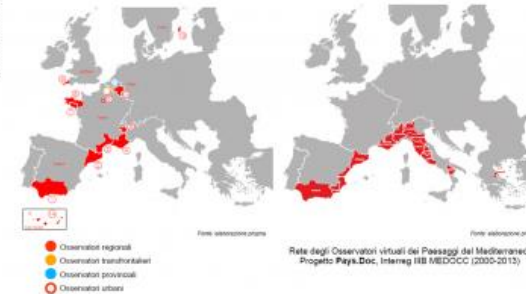
A networking platform

A self-mapping tool



Who and where  
Add your LO  
Italian LO

## Landscape Observatories, Centres, Institutes / Who and where



The following list is based on reports and previous research activity. We kindly ask you to inform us about new LO to be added.  
Last update 12/2013 by Raffaele Germano

Country	Name	Web site / E-mail / (Last visit)
Spain, Italy, France, Cyprus, Greece	European Tank of Landscape Observatories (ETLO)	<a href="http://www.etlo-modeland.gr/en/">www.etlo-modeland.gr/en/</a> (26/11/13)
Spain, France, Italy	Osservatorio Europeo del	<a href="http://www.osservatoriopaesaggio.eu/">www.osservatoriopaesaggio.eu/</a>

[www.polito.it/LOD/](http://www.polito.it/LOD/)

The LOD website is hosted by DIST  
Inter-University Department of Politecnico and Università di Torino

# Models, functions, and functioning (governance)

## Data relating to the Landscape Observatory

Name  
Headquarters  
Web site, e-mail  
Year of establishment  
Establishment law (if any)

## Functions and activities

Documentation Assessment and monitoring  
Policy making, advisory and guidance  
Participation  
Forum  
Other

## Territorial level (spatial scale of interest)

Local  
Regional  
National  
International  
Part of a Network

## Type of organization (juridical person)

NGO, Private association  
GO, Public body  
Public/private consortium  
University, research centre  
Other

## Financial resources

No financial resources (voluntary based activities)  
Private resources, sponsorship  
Public resources (governmental support on regular basis)  
Occasional resources (projects funding)  
Other

## Human resources

Employees  
Volunteers  
Consultants  
Other

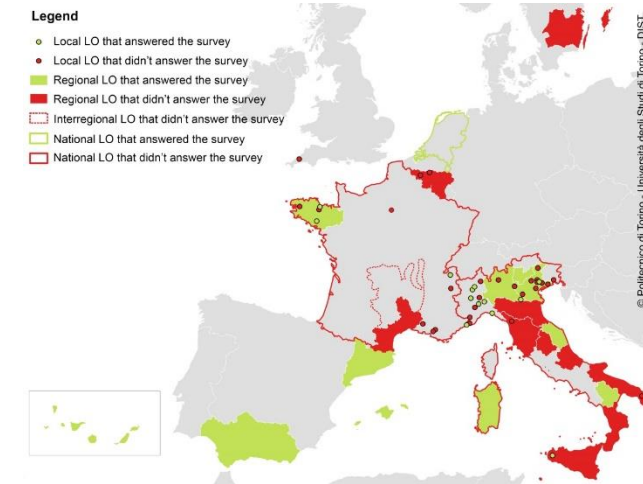
## Type of competences involved

Geographers  
Historians  
Planners  
Landscape architects  
Architects  
Agronomists  
Environmentalists, naturalists  
Sociologists  
Politicians, public officials  
Other

## Main projects realized

## Main on-going activities

## Networking activities



## The LOD survey

(may-nov. 2015, updated in 2017)

68 LOs



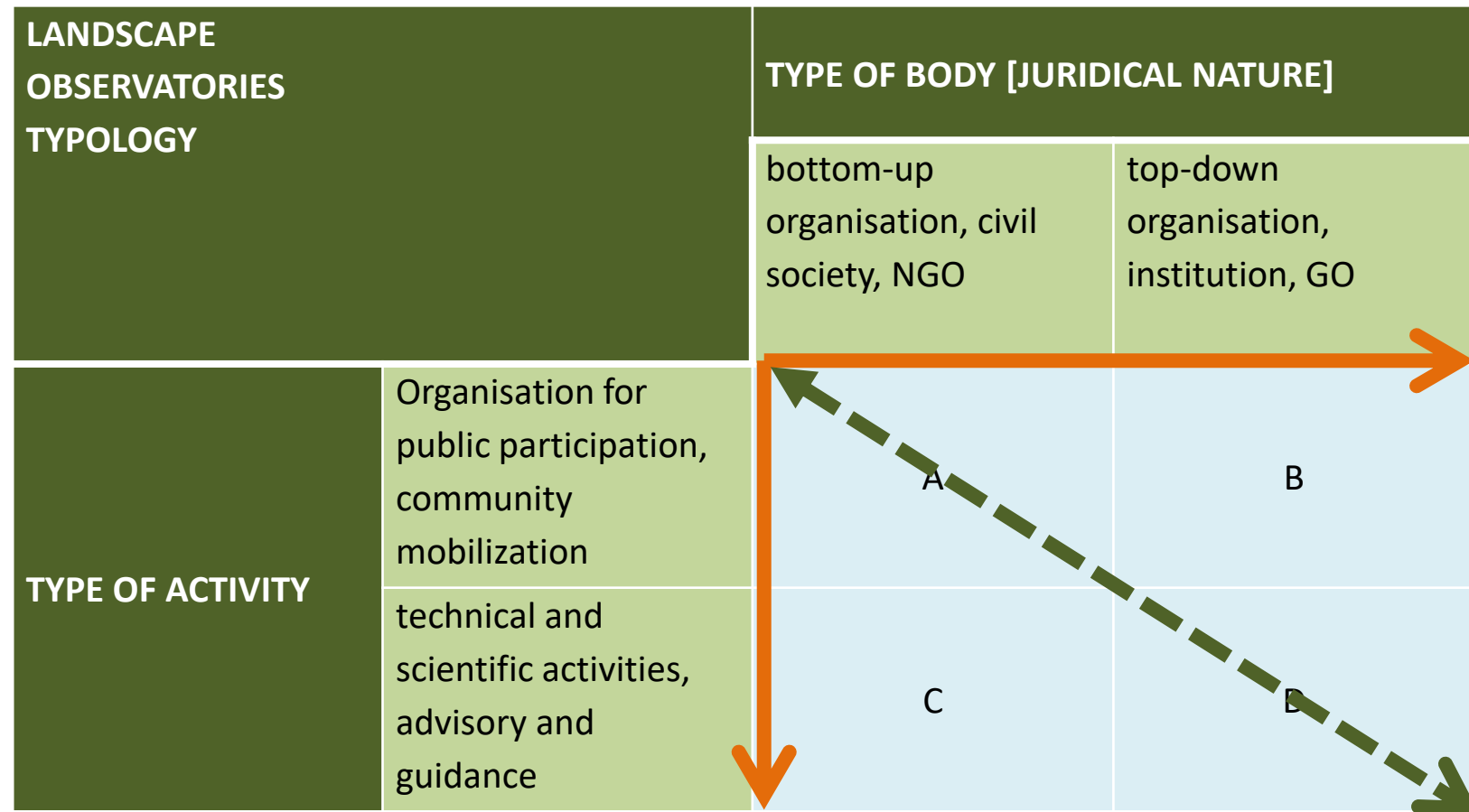
# Models, functions, and functioning (governance)

- A, the institutional model, a top-down initiative, focused on technical activities related to public policies; this kind of LO has employees and financial resources; [governmental institutions]
- B, the bottom-up model, based on civil society's voluntary activities, focused on community mobilization [NGOs].

LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORIES TYPOLOGY		TYPE OF BODY [JURIDICAL NATURE]	
		bottom-up organisation, civil society, NGO	top-down organisation, institution, GO
TYPE OF ACTIVITY	Organisation for public participation, community mobilization	A	B
	technical and scientific activities, advisory and guidance	C	D

# Models, functions, and functioning (governance)

- However, many intermediate situations exist, also thanks to the role of scientists involved as volunteers or in research action activities.



## **What a LO is, is not. Guiding principles to design a LOs**

- The LO is NOT a model to be applied everywhere
- The LO must be tailored according to the local aims, functions, and resources.

# Guiding principles to design a LOs

**PLACE – BASED & PEOPLE - BASED**

**Function:  
Observation, monitoring**

**Reference to ELC**

# Guiding principles to design a LOs

**PLACE – BASED & PEOPLE - BASED**

**Function:  
Observation, monitoring**

**Reference to ELC**

Single components ALONE are not enough:

A website, A database,  
A research center, A scientific committee

An administration's office

# Guiding principles to design a LOs

**PLACE – BASED & PEOPLE - BASED**

**Function:  
Observation, monitoring**

**Reference to ELC**

## What a LO can be

The IN-BETWEEN space of mediation and action  
between Communities and Institutions  
*Not already covered in the specific territorial context*

## What a LO can be

- LOs can constitute an innovation if they take in charge of those parts, contents or phases of landscape policies which, in the given context, are not yet developed by institutions, research centres, NGOs.
- There is a space of action which is not yet well covered by current policy making on landscape: the in-between space where people, experts and institutions meet each other to share knowledge, evaluations, aspirations, objectives, in the spirit of the ELC

## What a LO can be

- The specificity of LOs in respect to other actors of landscape governance can be identified in the following activities: documentation and knowledge building; evaluation and monitoring; awareness raising; active participation in place making and policy making; international cooperation and networking; advice; mediation
- Mediation: LO may be “an organization between Communities and Institutions”, a neutral arena where different stakeholders may discuss, and where the discussion may be structured following scientific protocols. For this reason, experts in mediation of conflicts and participatory planning should be involved with an important role



# Conclusion

«*The Italian Republic protects the landscape ...(...)*»  
Constitutional Law, art. 9



Photo: courtesy Marco Devecchi

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