

ITALY

Local development

Location

Aniene Valley

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local
Development

Measure

M07 – Basic services &
village renewal

Funding (EUR)

RDP contribution 300 000

Project duration

2020 – 2020

Project promoter

Comunità Montana
dell'Aniene

Contact

info@cmaniene.it

Website

www.cmaniene.it/

Refurbishment of a mountain path to stimulate economic activity and thus contribute to the revitalisation of the neighbouring rural areas.

Summary

The Coleman Path is a trekking route suitable for different types of tourism (nature observation, religious, historical-cultural) which crosses several municipalities. It was designed and built in the 1990s in memory of a four-day excursion that the painter and landscape architect Enrico Coleman walked in the Simbruini mountains, more than a century ago. Over the last few decades, the lack of maintenance resulted in the path being abandoned.

Rural Development Programme (RDP) support enabled local authorities to improve the functionality and attractiveness of the path and thus stimulate the economic activity in the surrounding rural areas. The restoration activities carried out included the creation of rest areas, installation of fences, benches and tables and restoration of signs along the path.



Results

The refurbishment will increase the attractiveness of the path to the public, both locals and tourists, and will ultimately increase the economic returns which are necessary to improve the general socio-economic situation in the area.

New employment opportunities will emerge in all the areas concerned, favouring, in particular, the creation of new companies engaged in the primary sector (agricultural and agritourism).

Developments are expected in the sustainability and local demographic spheres especially in the municipalities where outmigration is significant (License, Percile and Cineto Romano).

Lessons & Recommendations

- □ When designing such projects, it is vital to analyse the potential social and economic impacts of the planned interventions. For this purpose it is important to understand the context and move the activities in the right direction, based on the data provided by local associations and organisations.

Context

The Coleman Path is a trekking route suitable for different types of tourism (nature observation, religious, historical-cultural and so on.) It crosses the municipalities of Subiaco, Vallepietra, Jenne, Camerata Nuova, Cineto Romano, License, Riofreddo, Percile and two Regional Parks (Lucretili and Simbruini Mountains).

The Coleman Path was designed and built in the 1990s in memory of a four day excursion that the painter and landscape architect Enrico Coleman and Engineer Marttinori, the Secretary of the Italian Alpine Club Section of Rome, walked in the Simbruini mountains, more than a century ago.

Coleman and Martinori started their trip from Subiaco and walked as far as Vallepietra admiring the panoramas offered by Monte Autore. They came into contact with the last inhabitants of the fortress of Camerata Vecchia, passed the ridge at Rocca di Botte and admired several characteristic places that today define the path.

Over the past decades the lack of upkeep and maintenance has meant that people have abandoned the path and this has had some important consequences for the path. Tourists have tended to wander around at random in an uncoordinated, way often littering the surrounding environment. There has also been a lack of information and signposts, for example directions along the Path. The figure of Enrico Coleman and the descriptions of the flora and fauna, as well as information about the artistic and archaeological sites along the path, are also missing. Signage was needed to guarantee the correct use of the picnic areas and to manage the waste they produced.

Given the shortcomings mentioned before, it was necessary to carry out a series of activities to upgrade and improve the path.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project was to improve the functionality and attractiveness of the path and in this way stimulate the economic activity in the surrounding rural areas. This will promote inclusive growth; promote better living conditions through the requalification of the cultural and natural heritage of rural villages and landscapes and thus contribute to sustaining the population in these areas.

Activities

The activities supported under this project include:

Creation of rest areas that users can use along the path, in particular, picnic areas for refreshment and self-teaching areas.

Restoration of the path and addition of individual furniture along the track: fences, benches and tables.

Restoration of signs along the path and in car parking areas.

As part of the revitalisation of the path the following was added: 55 tables, of which 15 were accessible for disabled people, 18 barbecues, 19 benches, 496 miles of fences, 9 large and 33 small billboards and 40 signal and/or directional arrows. In total 1010 square meters of ground were cleared.

The part of the path involved in the redevelopment project was the section between the License and Subiaco. It is divided into two sections: the first one is between the municipalities of Licenza and Riofreddo, and the second between the municipalities of Camerata Nuova and Subiaco.



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Main results

These interventions will increase the use of the path by the public, locals and tourists and will ultimately increase the economic returns necessary to improve the general socio-economic situation of the area.

Specifically, the redevelopment of the Coleman Path will increase the number of tourists. In turn this will lead specifically to:

The opening of new activities dedicated to catering and rural tourism (agritourism, B&B, hotels), especially in smaller and/or logistically disadvantaged municipalities located far from the main road (the SS5 Tiburtina), such as Percile, Cineto Romano and Camerata Nuova.

An overview of the facilities and activities currently offered in the territories covered by this intervention are available on the website of the Regional Park of the Simbruini Mountains (www.parcomontisimbruini.it/);

- New employment opportunities will emerge in all the areas concerned, favouring, in particular, the creation of new companies engaged in the primary sector (agriculture and agritourism). These economic effects can significantly contribute to the pursuit of other important objectives:
- Boosting social inclusion and poverty reduction by lowering the unemployment rate in the area of the municipalities affected by the path which is currently about 13% (source: ISTAT);
- Promoting sustainability and local demographic development, especially in the municipalities where there is significant outmigration (License, Percile and Cineto Romano);
- Developing the rural economy, especially where it is most inactive (Percile, Cineto Romano, Vallepietra);

- Stimulating economic diversification and the development of small businesses, especially in the centres missing these the most (Percile, Cineto Romano, Riofreddo and Jenne); and
- Enhancing the historical and cultural heritage.

Key lessons

It is vital to analyse the social and economic impacts that the planned intervention could have. For this purpose it is important to understand the context and move the activities in the right direction, based on the data provided by local associations and organisations.

In this case, the project used the data provided by the Association for the promotion and protection of the environment (Terraviva). The Association is a promoter of the Aniene Wilderness project for the cultural and economic development of the Aniene Valley. Data showed that in recent years there has been a growth in tourist activities in the Aniene Valley and more particularly in the areas of the two natural regional parks of the Lucretili and Simbruini Mountains along the Coleman Trail.

Additional sources of information

www.facebook.com/Comunit%C3%A0-Montana-dellAniene-141137159828365/