**Overview**

23rd EU region by income/capita

Value Added:
- Services 65%
- Agriculture 3%
- Industry 32% (agro-ind 3.5%)
Agriculture & Land Use (Emilia-Romagna)

Land Use Change over last 25 years

Agriculture lost some 200,000 hectares (almost 10% total area)

Change occurred for 80% in last decade

Forests (but wetlands, too) increased about 10% in relative terms.
Environment took advantage of that but abandoned land can cause more soil degradation risks.

Artificial surfaces increased about 60%.
From 1994 more than 65,000 hectares transformed from agricultural to urban.
Most of this change occurred where urban pressure is already heavy and agricultural quality of soils is higher.
Soil Consumption vs. Sustainability

Urban sprawl, transport infrastructures (high speed railway, highways enlargement), and industrial/commercial area erodes wide agricultural land (red dots area).

Elsewhere (economic, social or natural) disadvantage factors lead towards the return of nature (forests or wetlands).

Statistics demonstrate Agriculture has no possibility to resist against these irreversible changes in land use.

If changes are irreversible they are not sustainable.
Land & Rural Development Planning

Land planning has been playing a relevant role in urban areas in last decades. Most cities have historical and cultural heritage and policy do regulate development to safeguard identity.

Agriculture and Rural Development Planning starts just in the '90’s with EU-CAP reform. Not before than 2000 its addressing functions achieve consistency.

Sustainable Development needs Rural system overcome its weakness points:
- decreasing economic weight (in developed systems);
- recurrent (structure) market crisis;
- adapting difficulties to new challenges (e.g.: cross compliance and environmental responsibility).
Sustainable Development: why, where, how?

Large Agricultural area has been changing suddenly. This is a proof that food production is a reversible (sustainable) and fragile land use.

Free trade self-regulation needs some guides to balance inequality between sectors.

Uncontrolled soil degradation (sealing, contamination, etc.) as well as prescriptions on land use need very strong motivation.

Participated planning (in urban areas) showed a way to share strategic objectives, whilst comparing concurrent interests.
Conclusions

Food production vs. Nature or Transport Infrastructure

Data on land use change shows the trends of the process.

Different land-wasting sectors may have ready and high social and economic impact, but at the same time finalize local communities perspectives.

The mission of agriculture in EU meets production models (integrated, ecological) with low impact and high quality to support competition on global market.

Agri-environmental measures can reconcile food production with nature protection, safeguarding opportunities for the future.

This framework needs to be much more supported by policy at all levels (EU, national and local).