



Landscape

'identity space' of the lands of the Pomposa Monastery

Paesaggio: spazio identitario



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Between Land and Water, “Another Way of Owning”

The Men of Massenzatica Consortium

The Men of Massenzatica Consortium is a collective ownership project dating back to the Middle Ages, now legally recognised by the Italian Republic under Law No. 168/2017. Established as a consortium in 1896, it constitutes a reference point for protecting and tending to the landscape of the Po delta. Over time, the project has prioritised the generation of a sense of community and brotherhood over individual growth. It has promoted opportunities to undertake and strengthen social capital, while controlling water resources and combating intensive land use. Research and awareness work have been carried out since 2010. The project has developed innovative agricultural practices to counter the depopulation of rural areas and strengthen social cohesion. It is thus possible to transmit a shared heritage to future generations. By proposing a new “landscape pact”, the consortium promotes the values of sustainability, justice and belonging, expressing the multiple identities of Europe and its communities.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project testifies to the great success of the landscape approach in promoting social cohesion. The Men of Massenzatica Consortium is part of a multi-secular form of property organisation adapted to the socio-economic realities of the current rural world in an evolving context, in order to fight the prevailing rural exodus. The project promotes the sense of community, offering entrepreneurial possibilities through the practice of an environmentally friendly agriculture. The permanent control of the water level, as well as the efforts to fight intensive exploitation of the land, contributes to the maintenance of the social capital. By proposing a new “pact for the landscape”, the achievement allows a lively and harmonious landscape to be passed on to future generations.

Recognised for its great value, and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.