



*THEmatic Transnational
church Route development
with the Involvement of
local Society*

3.3.2 - Good Practice Collection

Title of the Good Practice

Valorisation of the Monumental Complex of Bosco Marengo

Area Identification Information

Area:

44,8 km²

Population:

2,551 (2010)

Number of Churches:

7

Detailed description of the Good Practice (please provide details also on: stakeholders involved, target groups, main and specific goals of the Good Practice, elements of sustainability)

The Monumental Complex of Bosco Marengo was originally built under Pope Saint Pius V (works started in 1566), and it is composed of a church and a Dominican convent. Through the centuries, the Complex has undergone several changes, and at the beginning of the XXth century the Convent was turned into a youth detention center. Today the Complex is owned by the Municipality, that promotes its use for various activities. In order to facilitate the first restoration works, local institutions as the Province of Alessandria and the City of Bosco Marengo, proposed to the initiators of The World Political Forum (M.Gorbacev), the Complex of Bosco Marengo as a seat of the association. The WPF is settled in the St. Croce Complex since 2002, and the first plenary session took place in 2006. For the restoration and functionality of the museum and congress spaces (west wing of the Complex), several stakeholders (Region of Piedmont, Turin Saving Bank Foundation, Alessandria Saving Bank Foundation, Province of Alessandria and the City of Bosco Marengo) signed a first financial agreement to recuperate the artistic value and functionality of S. Croce. The Complex is today used also for weddings and events (cultural and music events). A Museum on the works of Vasari has been created thanks also to the involvement of the Civil Protection units - Cultural Heritage Department. Beyond public stakeholders, an association "L'Associazione "Amici di Santa Croce " is active for the promotion and valorisation of the Complex, through guided tours for tourists, organisation of events and shows, publication of information material on the life of Pope Pius V and on the Monumental Complex.

Actions implemented

Restoration of architectural and artistic components of the Complex; involvement funding institutions and international actors; setting up of a Museum; setting up of a volunteer Association; promotion of the Monumental Complex through existing Regional networks and tools such as: Castelli Aperti Network, PiemontItalia Website.

Achieved results

Completed restoration of the West wing of the convent and of Vasari paintings; creation of a volunteer cultural association; increased visibility at regional, national and international level; increased number of visitors.

Timing

1989: The Complex ceases to be a detention centre and returns in its entirety, to be owned by the Municipality; 1998: through to Jubilee funds, some restoration works begin; 2002: signature of the agreement with the WPF; 2004: 500 years from the birth of Pope Pius V-several actors committ to the restoration of the Complex; 2006: plenary session of the WPF held in Bosco Marengo; 2011: opening of the Vasari Museum.

Added value at a local level

Involvement of citizens in the Association and in the use of the Comlex; high cooperation among public authorities and private stakeholders. The valorisation of the Monumental Complex, through restoration works, and the visibility gained tanks to the WPF, increased the visits in Bosco Marengo, thus strenghtening tourism as a source of income.

Are there elements of transferability at a transnational level?

Involvement of saving/banking Foundations, and Regional Actors to ensure financial feasibility of the project, especially where grand restoration works are foressen. Involvement of cultural associations to ensure also a bottom-up approach in the valorisation and exploitation of cultural heritage assets.

Contact details (please provide contact details of a reference person for the Good Practice)

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