



greenchange



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES FOR INCREASING BIODIVERSITY
IN AGRO PONTINO AND MALTESE RURAL AREAS

LIFE17 NAT/IT/000619

WEBINAR - May 10th 2023 | 10:00-13:30

Towards a pact for Biodiversity in the Mediterranean

Verso un patto per la biodiversità nel Mediterraneo

Session 1 - Land stewardship for the sustainability of farming: networks and practices

Land Stewardship Agreements and the Pact for Biodiversity in Greenchange

Federica Benelli, Poliedra POLIMI

Serena Muccitelli, U-Space Srl



LIFE - GREENCHANGE (LIFE17 NAT/IT/000619)

Green infrastructures for increasing biodiversity
in Agro Pontino and Maltese rural areas

TERRITORIES: Lazio/Pontine Plain - Malta/Gozo Island

BENEFICIARIES:

- Coordinator: Province of Latina (IT)
- U-Space s.r.l. (IT)
- CIRF – Centro italiano per la riqualificazione fluviale (IT)
- POLIEDRA – Politecnico di Milano (IT)
- Confagricoltura Latina (IT)
- MIEMA – Malta Intelligent Energy management Agency (MT)

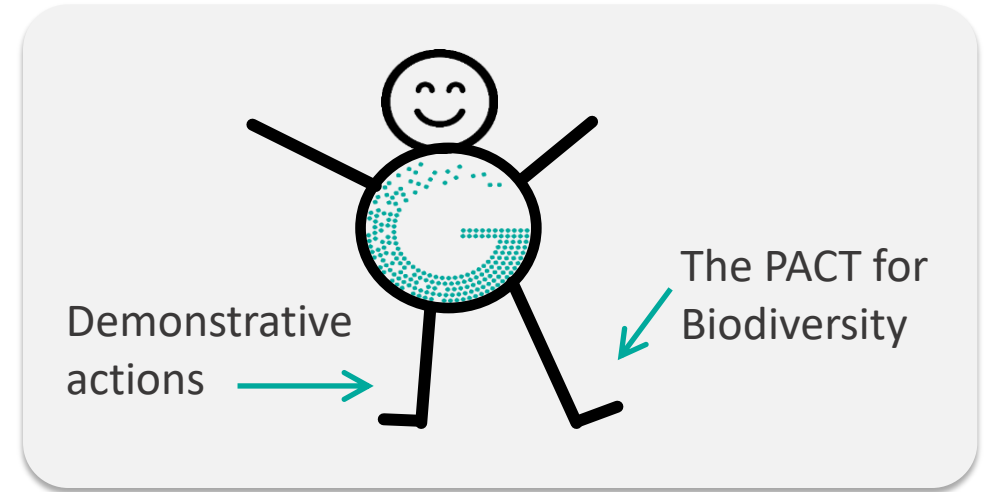
BUDGET € 3.196.595 EU Contribution € 1.917.957

DURATION 01/07/2018 - ~~30/06/2022~~ 30/06/2023



Main objective and tools

Tackling biodiversity loss and enhancing the ecological value of agro-ecosystems in the Pontine Plain and Gozo



HOW?

- by supporting **COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS** -----> **The Pact for Biodiversity**
- by planning and implementing **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE** -----> **Demonstrative projects hosted by partner farms**

LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Pact for Biodiversity

The PACT was planned to be a permanent working table to share tools and practices for the sustainable management of rural areas. It involves, as signatories of a sort of memorandum of understanding:

- **Farmers and their Associations**
- **Decision makers → Rural Development Programme Managing bodies**
- **Environmental associations → Protected Areas Managing bodies**

Preliminary documents of the Pact for Biodiversity was formally signed in July 2020



Objectives of the Pact for biodiversity

The Pact aims to be a collaborative governance environment to promote an «ecosystem services-oriented» approach to the management of rural territories, suitable to enhance ecological connectivity, where ...

- Building a common vision on which plans, programs and initiatives may converge
- Producing shared rules for the environmental management of irrigation canals and windbreaks
- Stimulating the active participation of farmers through tools to facilitate access to finance (CAP)
- Supporting the networking of environmental initiatives (contribute to the ecological network)

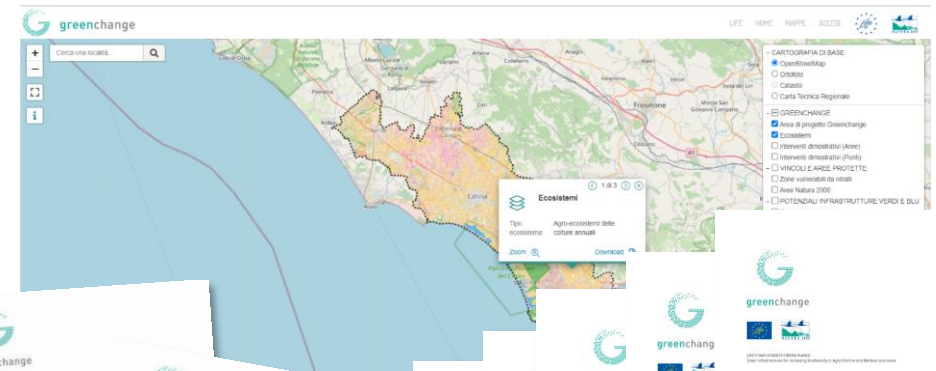


Tools of the Pact for Biodiversity

Greenchange produced several tools to support the implementation of the Pact and its objectives:

- Orientation tools such as information desk for farmers, WebGIS app, training activities for students and for farmers
- Technical documents, such as Guidelines to adopt an ecosystem services approach, Guidelines for the management of new/restored green infrastructures, Guidelines to access and deal with CAP agro-environmental measures

The Pact for biodiversity is implemented through land stewardship agreements, which were tested with partner farms with demonstrative projects.



Land stewardship in Greenchange: 2 templates (per region)

1. LS agreements with partner farms to allow the realization of demonstrative projects and ensure and their maintenance → **TEST**
2. LS Agreements to transfer the management of windbreaks and riparian strips to frontager farms → **Replication**

WHO?

Land owners

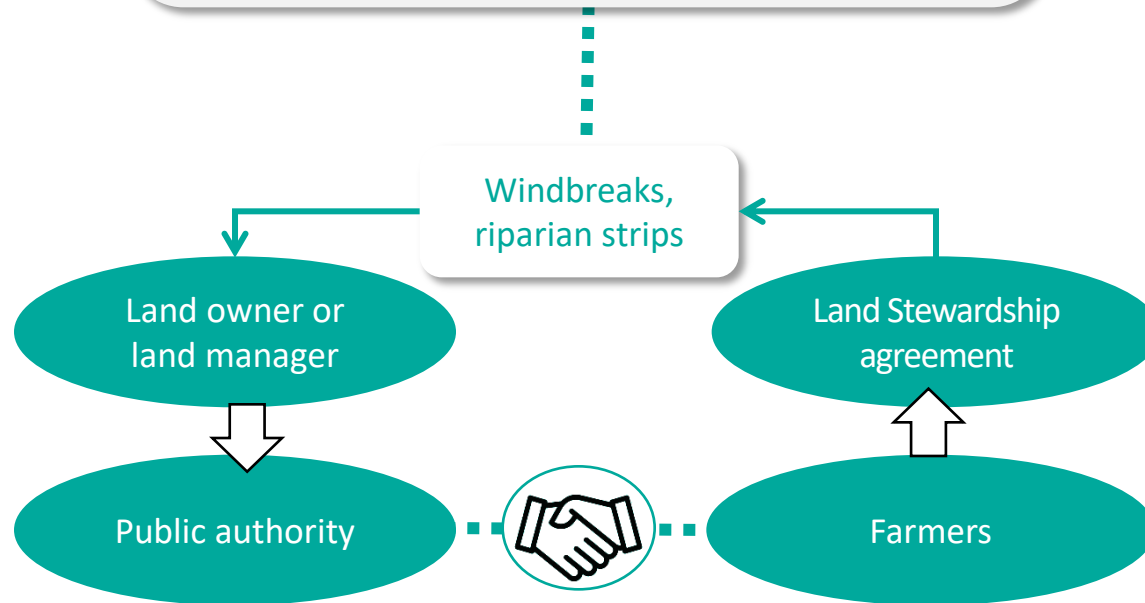
Farmers (LS type 1)
Public property (LS type 2)

Land stewardship organizations:

Lazio Region, Province of Latina
Land reclamation Authority
Farmers' association (Confagricoltura)

Land stewardship in Greenchange

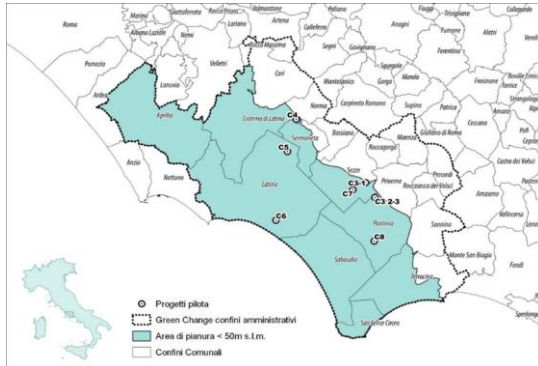
The formula adopted by Greenchange reversed the roles of the more common LS agreements: a public authority transfers the areas on loan for use, in compliance with the shared rules concerning the management methods of the environmental restoration interventions



Land stewardship in Greenchange: pilot agreements

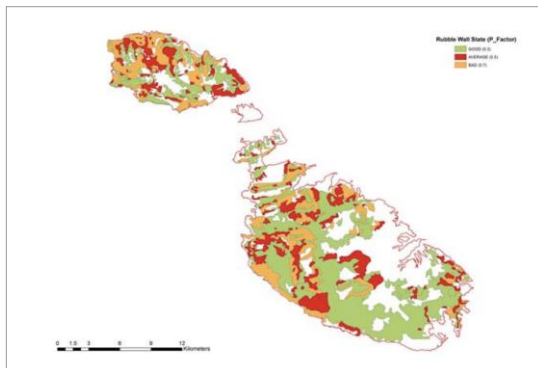
Objective: To demonstrate that it is economically feasible and sustainable to establish and maintain ecological connections also within active and productive farms.

What: farms agree to manage, in accordance with shared rules, the green infrastructures built with LIFE funds partly on their property and partly public property, provided that LIFE beneficiary playing the role of “enabler” received the authorization to work on the public property.



Pontine plain

4 Agreements: Province of Latina (as landstewardship organization) + 4 farms involved in 4 demonstrative interventions



Gozo Island

4 Agreements: MIEMA + 4 farms involved 6 demonstrative interventions (on 6 areas)

Land stewardship in Greenchange: results (demonstrative projects)

C4 Improvement of ecological functionality and increase of biodiversity in the “Giardino di Ninfa” Natural Monument – Pantanello area



C5 Creation of green infrastructure in the Caetani Foundation Farm



Land stewardship in Greenchange: results (demonstrative projects)

C9 Linear ecological connections, rubble walls and wildflower strips in Gozo



The rubble walls restoration works in Manikata



Before and after rubble walls restoration works



Starting of the wildflower strips installation in Manikata

The planned timeline

0 CAP Regulations 2021-27
National Strategic Plan



Action C1

1 PACT SIGNATURE

ORIENTATION

Action C2

2



LAND STEWARDSHIP

Disseminating
land stewardship agreements:

4

TARGET by 5 years

50



3

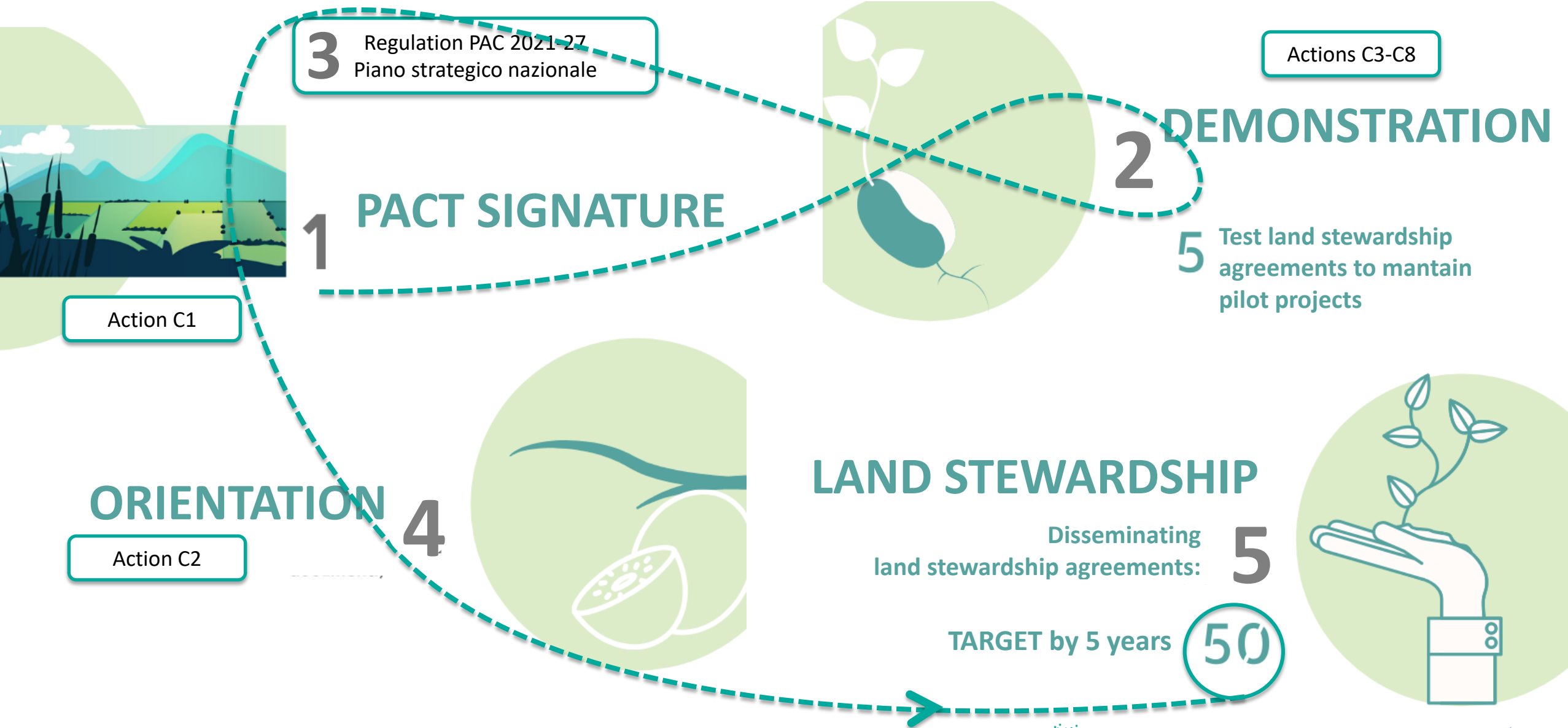
DEMONSTRATION

Actions C3-C8

5 Test land stewardship
agreements to maintain
pilot projects



The actual timeline



Critical issues

- 3 years delay in the CAP entry in force
- Awkward interaction with the Regional Authority (Covid, managers turnover, low participation, resistance to transfer any right on public property)
- Very poor opportunities for green infrastructures from the rural development measures activated by the Region
- Difficulties in presenting opportunities, making commitments and offering agreements to farmers

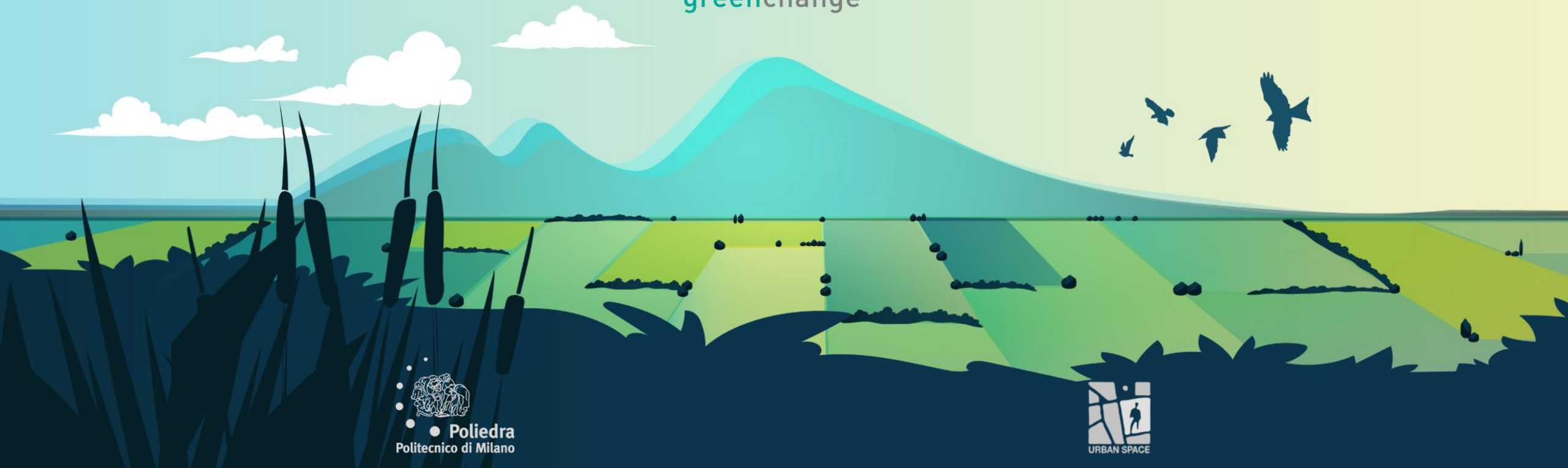
Opportunities

- Other experiences with collaborative governance process and tools in the territory
- Sincere interest from some farmers on land stewardship practices at certain conditions





greenchange



Federica Benelli - fed.benelli@gmail.com

Serena Muccitelli - serena.muccitelli@gmail.com



@lifegreenchange

FOLLOW US!
www.lifegreenchange.eu/it/