











# INFORM-PRIORITIZE-COLLABORATE: COOPERATION OF REGIONS ON INNOVATION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT, USE OF WOOD AND FOREST-RELATED SERVICES

**Bruxelles - January 29th 2016** 

## Revitalizing the Castanea wood value-chain

Giustino Mezzalira Veneto Agricoltura

Marco Grendele
Studio Landes













### Castanea sativa woods in the Piccole Dolomiti valleys (NE Italy)

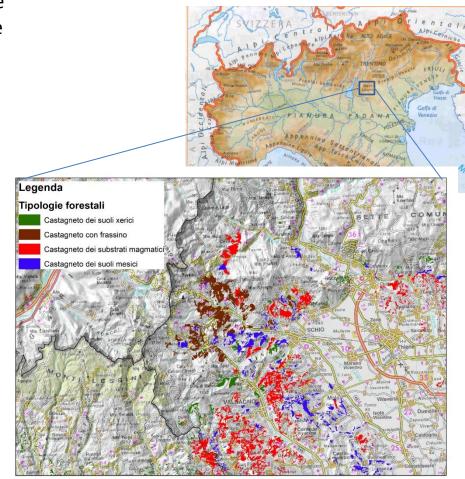
The Piccole Dolomiti mountains are located in the prealpine area of Veneto Region. Their valleys are rich of *Castanea sativa* (Chestnut) woods, mainly managed as coppice.

Traditionally chestnut was a relevant part of the local economy but in the last 40 years it has totally lost its economic role.

The *Castanea* wood has largely been used in the past for the production of poles, furniture, fixtures (windows/doors) and handcraft objects.

Castanea wood is part of local natural/cultural heritage.

The project aims at re-vitalizing the chain of Castanea wood within the area.















## The challenges

➤ lost of value/market of the traditional Castanea wood products

property fragmentation

- phitosanitary problems
- hydrogeological instability





Dryocosmus kuriphilus













## The Project idea

The idea consists in revitalizing marginal territories through the creation of new business opportunities based on the sustainable exploitation of local wood.

The adopted approach foresees the inclusion of the whole chain of *Castanea* wood, from the wood production to valorization/marketing of goods, in a unique integrated strategy.

This approach meets modern consumption trends that enhance local made products (Km0 strategy).















## The innovative aspects for Veneto region

The project aims at a strong cooperation among private forest owners, wood enterprises and, mainly, the wood end-users (SMEs of the *Veneto Wood Consortium*). This process will assure a local wood production (certified according to PEFC scheme) which will be the core marketing strategy for the local enterprises and for promoting the territory.

#### What is new?

- > new market for local certified wood
- > new energetic valorisation of low value wood
- > new cooperation between small private owners
- > new selvicoltural models
- > new market strategy















### The added value for the EU

Castanea woods are widespread in Southern Europe (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece).

Generally *Castanea* wood are owned by small private owners living in marginal areas that aren't able to enter wood products to the global market.

The ideas developped in this project could be spread in other European marginal areas creating new opportunities for local communities and enterprises.















## **The Interregional / Cross border dimension**

The potential interregional dimension consists in:

- transfer of good practices, also coming from already existing experiences;
- creation of a network of value chains to improve the opportunities for sharing experiences and competencies (also after the end of the project);
- sharing common services like training, marketing, procedures, etc.;
- improvement of the range of products and services offered;
- enlargement of the reference markets to which the pilot cases will refer.



**CASTANET Project** 













## Innovation challenges and the role of Operational Group

- 1. Supporting Wood and Biomass Mobilisation
- ➤ lost of value/market of the traditional Castanea wood products

2. Supporting the Provision of Ecosystem Services

hydrogeological instability

- 3. Improving Sustainable Forest Management Approaches and Tools
- > property fragmentation















## Thank you for your attention



#### Giustino Mezzalira

Director of Research and Agro-Forestry Management Department Veneto Agricoltura

giustino.mezzalira@venetoagricoltura.org



Marco Grendele
Studio Landes

marco@landes-group.it