



**COGreen**  
COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION  
FOR A GREEN TRANSITION

# FRAMEWORK FOR A GREEN ACTION

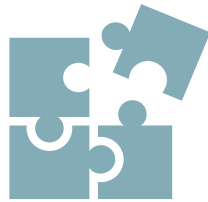
*On-site work for participatory  
processes and practices in local  
communities about green issues*

*The CO-GREEN activities with local  
communities*



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# Our project's objectives



Social  
cohesion

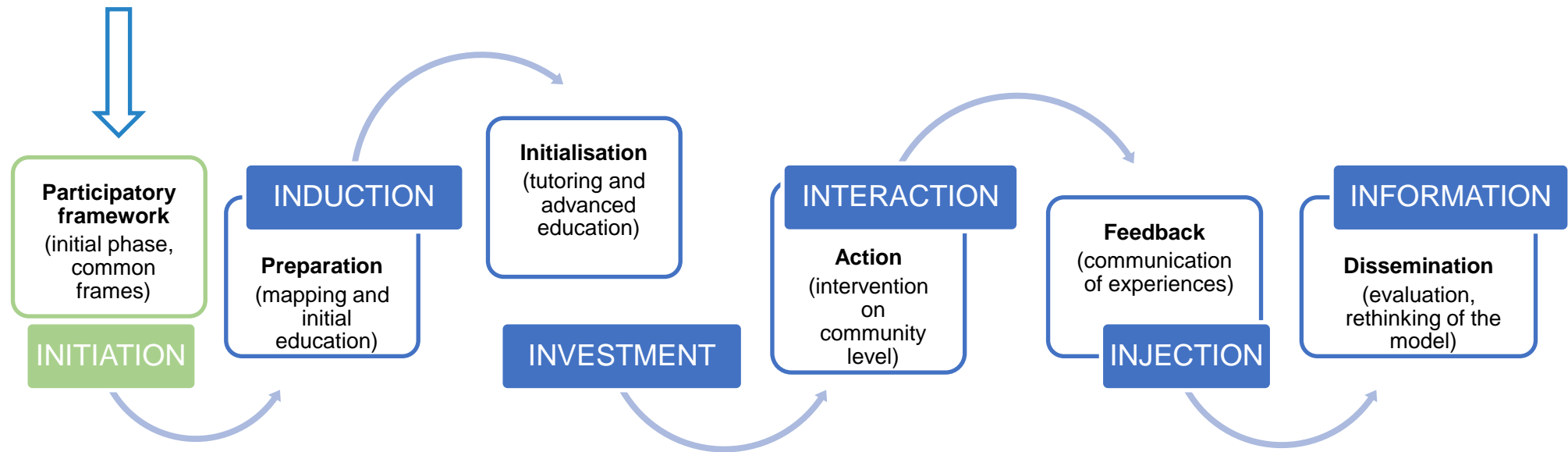
Communities'  
voice



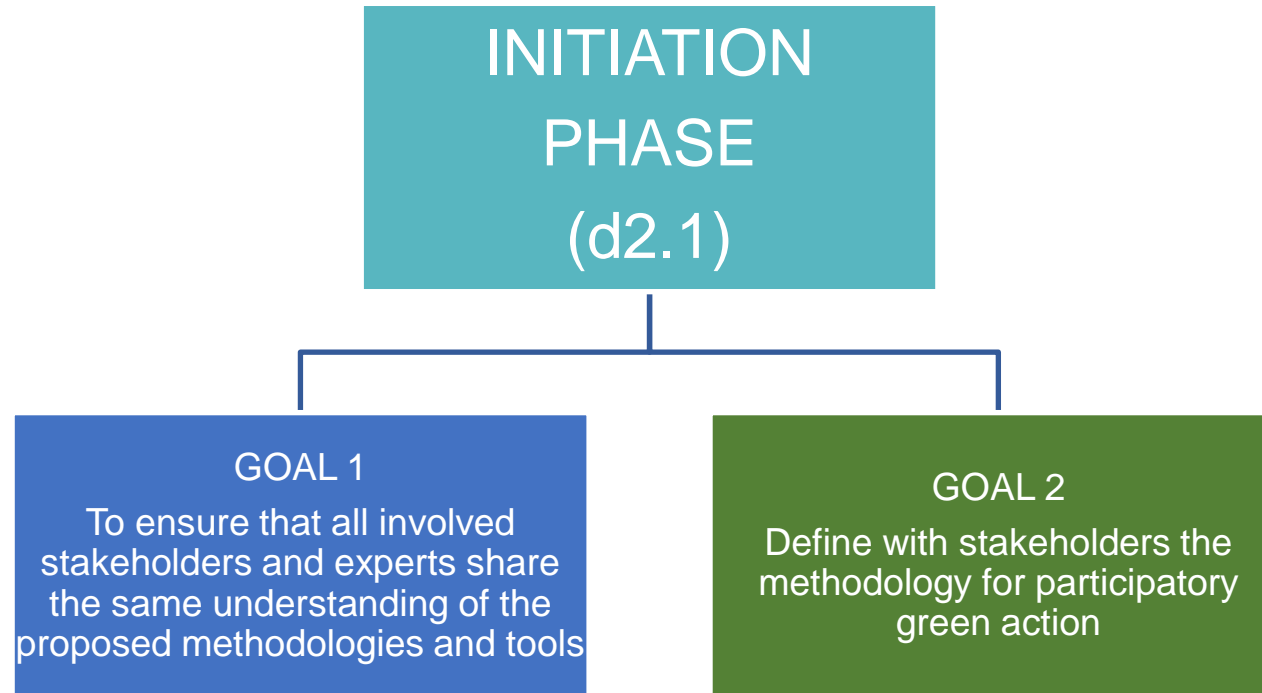
Green  
transition



# Where we are? Project workflow



# Goals of the Event no. 2



# Poland



## Communities

1. Górnó
2. Elbląg
3. Wiązowna
4. Starachowice

Participants: 83



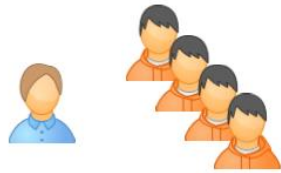
- **Resources:** The base of actions in Polish communities are the Social Service Centres. Locally embedded social policy institutions. With all their diversity, the communities involved are based on effective local government, a network of NGO partners and informal activists. They assess resources focusing on the immediate environment, green infrastructure and quality of life linked to the environment.
- **Challenges:** The biggest challenges are related to the involvement of residents in local environmental activities. An important point is also to move institutions beyond silos and link their activities to new green local development goals. There is a need for a model of citizen participation in green community development processes.
- **Action taken:** They can be divided into two types. On the one hand, these are large and costly institutional projects focused, for example, on the construction of cycle path infrastructure or the electrification of vehicles used by public institutions. On the other hand, there are small scale, low-formalised activities by residents, e.g. cleaning up the neighbourhood. There is a lack of in-between activity, combining residents' activities with those of local government institutions.



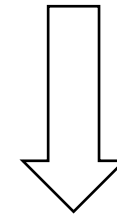
# Model for participatory work in the community (Poland)



Stage 1:



Local coordinator (1) i mentors (4)



Stage 2:



Local laboratory of change  
(local coordinator (1), mentors (4), 15 community members)



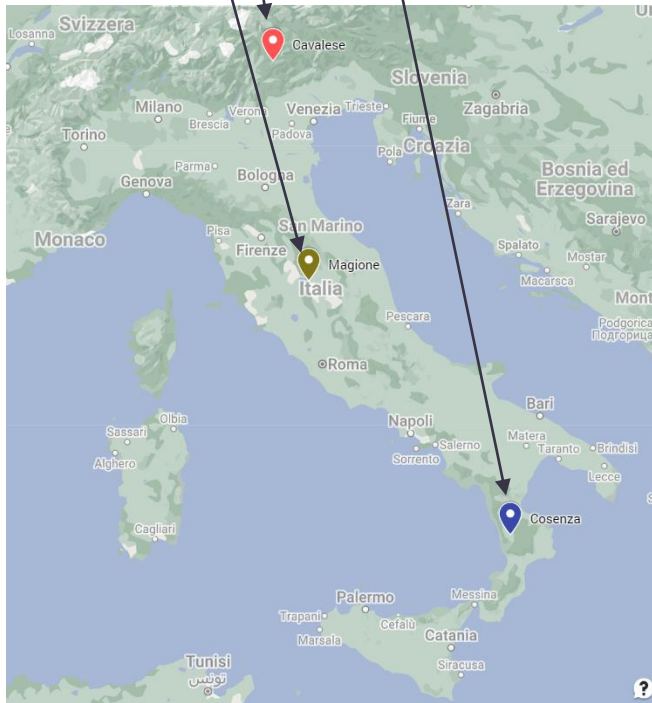
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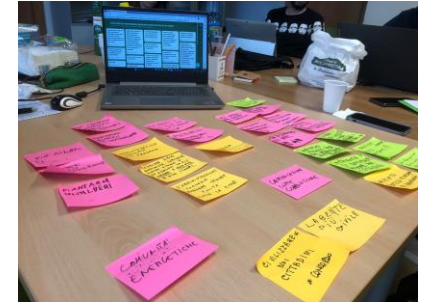
## Communities

1. Cosenza Panebianco
2. Cavalese
3. Magione



Participants: 80

# Italy



**Resources:** The three communities are diverse in terms of environmental conditions and local social capital, just to name a few. One common trait can be highlighted, though: local associations and NGO (the so-called “Third Sector”) are aware of the need to take action to improve citizens’ living conditions. To do so, they are creating networks with different players, and are also partnering with local public authorities to channel resources towards the common good.

**Challenges:** The involved neighbourhoods require sensitization towards environmental issues and sustainable practices. The urban area of **Cosenza Panebianco** is addressing challenges related to areas to be regenerated and green spaces to be created. The **Magione** smalltown on the Trasimeno lake and the mountain town of **Cavalese** are engaged in measures to protect and enhance the local natural resources.

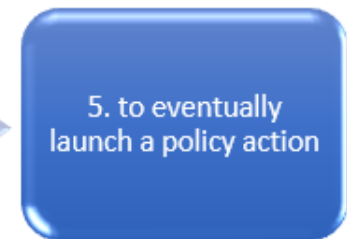
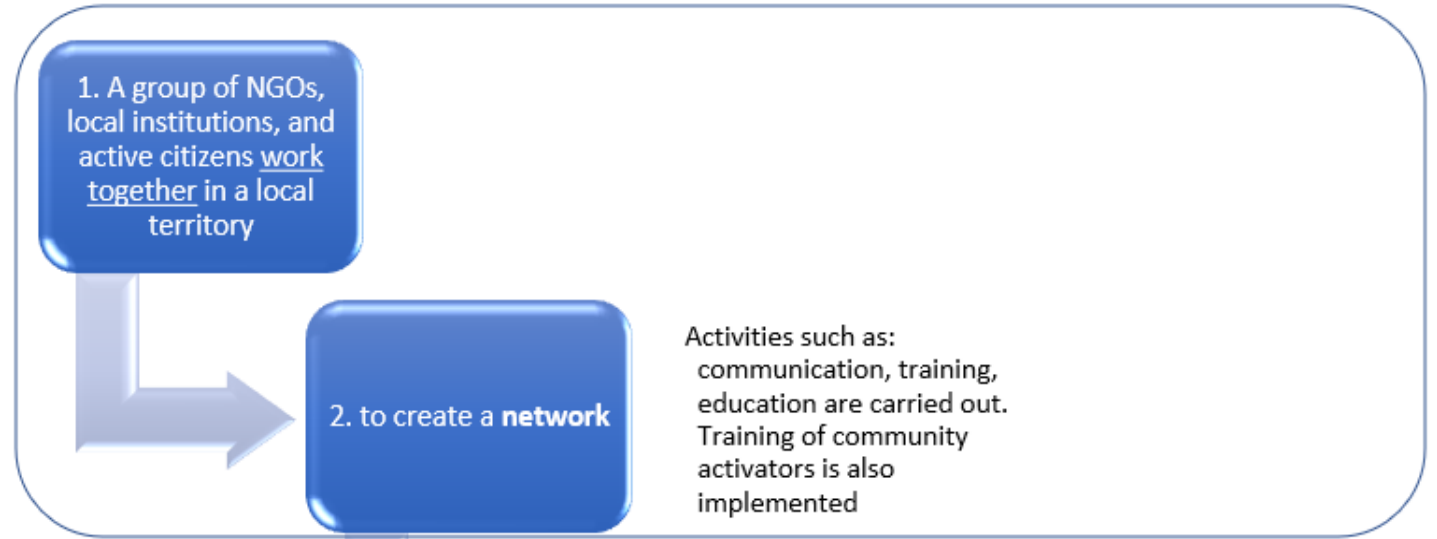
Efforts should be made to educate residents and tourists about the importance of environmental conservation, resource efficiency, and sustainable living. In this respect, targeted communication and direct involvement of the local communities can be effective solutions.

**Action taken - directions:** Many of the suggestions for the Co-Green project involve a focus on communication, or rather, effective communication that triggers an empathetic mechanism to awaken a shared sense of involvement and participation in project actions, activities, and initiatives, aiming to raise awareness and consciousness about the importance of everyday behaviours .



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# Model for participatory work in the community (Italy)





# Croatia



## Community

1. Primorsko-goranska  
županija

Participants: 21



**Resources:** unique geographical conditions combining mountain ranges and the sea. Its excellent location at the intersection of transport routes balances the intimate of the community with the possibility of contact with the outside. Under the pressure of mass tourism.

**Challenges:** An important element is the precise management of roles in green development activities. Efficient communication within the project and with the local community is needed. It is important for the project to maintain direct contacts between those involved and to use digital tools to organise the work.

**Action taken - directions:** To cater to the diverse needs and interests of community, establishing sub-groups based on sectors of interest can be beneficial. These sub-groups allow for focused discussions, knowledge exchange, and targeted initiatives within specific domains. By encouraging specialization, the network can facilitate deeper engagement and deliver more tailored solutions.





Greece



## Community

### 1. Karditsa

Participants: 20

**Resources:** Karditsa is a place of contrasts and unparalleled beauty, with the mountain range of Agrafa to the west and the plain of Thessaly to the east. The mountainous, semi-mountainous and lowland areas occupy 42 %, 9 % and 49 % respectively. The mountainous area is covered with a rich flora and, together with the existing fauna, constitutes a natural environment of particular beauty which prompted the creation of many organisations involved in the protection and management of the natural and built environment.

**Challenges:** Encouraging participation and input from community members in the planning and implementation of green initiatives, and ensuring that the benefits of the green transition are shared by all members of the community is a very challenging task. Main objective is the development of a comprehensive plan for the transition that addresses all aspects of the community including the economy, environment, social well-being and ensure that the transition is inclusive and addresses the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups, and that it does not create new forms of inequality.

**Action taken - directions:** The community of Karditsa demonstrates a high level of involvement in participatory processes, with individuals engaging either as representatives of civil society organizations or as active citizens. This active participation indicates a strong commitment to shaping their community and influencing decision-making processes.



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# Some concluding remarks (1/2)

**Natural resources:** Several communities benefit from the presence of natural resources, such as parks, rivers, lagoons, and national parks. These resources offer opportunities for improvement of community wellbeing as well as strengthen local resilience.

**Infrastructure:** communities have focused on infrastructure development, including bicycle paths and transport systems. Their quality presents itself differently in different communities, while being identified as one of the most important points for determining the standard of living. It is also often associated with green themes, strongly involving the local community.

**Environmental awareness and sustainability:** Some communities express the need for continuous efforts to enhance environmental awareness among residents and promote sustainable practices. Environmental education, clean-up campaigns, and incentives for eco-friendly behaviours are mentioned as actions taken. The importance of social cohesion and the need for community spaces are highlighted in multiple communities. Establishing communal spaces, parks, and meeting areas fosters community relationships, socialization, and a sense of belonging.



# Some concluding remarks

**Frames for participatory actions:** The competencies of the engaged communities vary. Some of them have experience in organising joint activities on their own, relying on a strong and efficient local government or active NGOs. For others, communities are more passive in nature, relying more strongly on the activities of public institutions and top-down development policies. Communities also approach relations with external actors in different ways. Some are hermetic and focus on themselves and their resources. Some, on the other hand, also try to open up to knowledge, experiences and resources from outside. During the meetings, the role of networking, relationship building and face to face contacts was highlighted.

**Participation:** communities show a different level of citizens' activities and diversified model of community engagement. Various communities highlight the presence of active young people, seniors, and community groups such as Rural Housewives' Clubs, eco-associations, and non-governmental organizations. These groups play an essential role in community development, organizing events, and supporting initiatives. Active involvement and participation of residents are emphasized as crucial factors in addressing challenges and promoting community development. Initiatives such as community meetings, participatory planning processes, and resident associations are mentioned as ways to activate resident participation.



# For more information

Email: [cogreen.project.eu@gmail.com](mailto:cogreen.project.eu@gmail.com)

On Facebook:

