

# LEADER

Sviluppo guidato dalle comunità locali

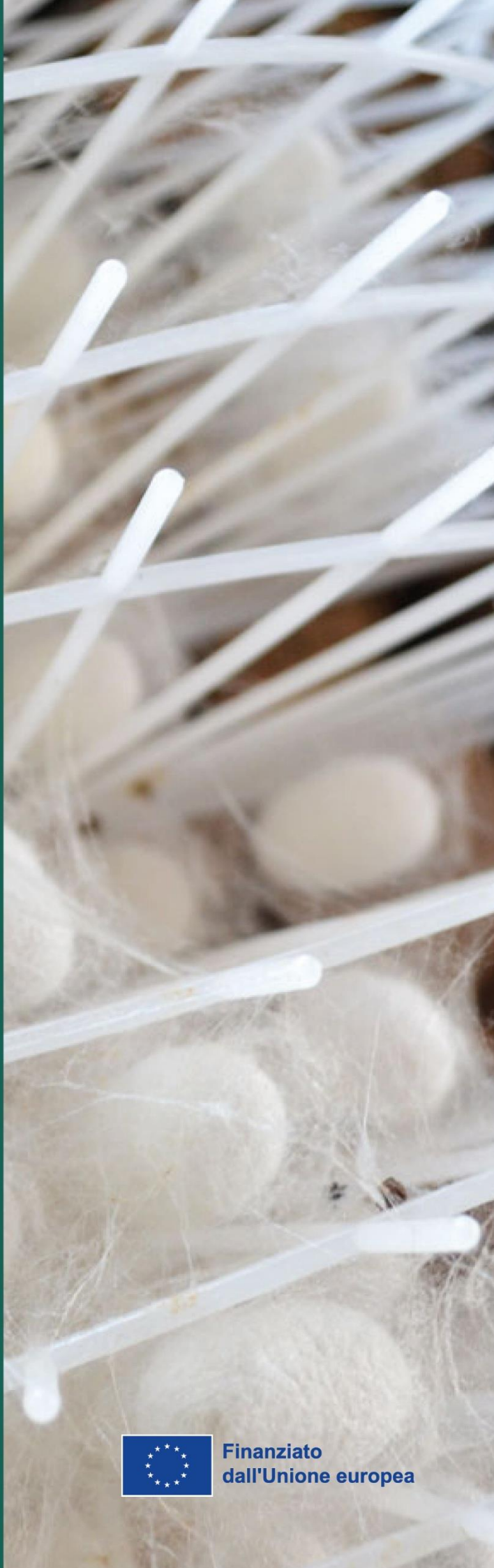
## Living LAB

Building the Council of  
Europe-certified Silk  
Route

### Study visit

The new “silk triangle”:  
Cortale, San Floro,  
Girifalco

Calabria, 28-30 July 2025



## The “new silk triangle”: Cortale, San Floro, Girifalco

### Why start rethinking the 'Silk Route for LAGs' in Calabria, specifically in the 'Serre Calabresi'?

- Because it is a place where the community itself recognised the potential of this silk tradition to drive economic development, even in a challenging area far from tourist routes with a steadily decreasing population.
- Because the local LAG, Serre Calabresi, has supported the initiative started by local stakeholders, but private individuals have been the driving force.
- Because all the components necessary for revitalisation are present:
  - The public body for research and technical assistance (ARSAC), which has worked closely with the territory.
  - Young entrepreneurs united in a cooperative who are able to combine agriculture, handicrafts and tourism, and who can also bring new ideas such as selling via the internet and offering experiential tourism packages.
  - Older farmers and artisans who have passed on their knowledge; cultural associations that promote local traditions and education.
  - A museum that contains treasures brought to life by the local community; slow, non-destructive tourism development; and an unspoilt landscape.

- **What does this case study show?**

That silk can add value even in an extremely challenging context, such as the area under study, where there is no accommodation infrastructure and the regional authorities have never strongly supported the activity.

- **What result do we want to achieve from this visit?**

The aim is not to create a replica of what exists in Calabria, but rather to develop a similar model by researching the role of silk in other LAGs and reinterpreting the Calabrian Serre's experience in a way that considers the different sensitivities of the communities.

The study visit is organised as part of the Living Lab 'Building The Council of Europe-certified Silk Route' with the support of the LAG Serre Calabresi.

*Silvia Cappellozza, CREA - Centro di Ricerca Agricoltura e Ambiente | Laboratorio di gelsibachicoltura di Padova has contributed her expertise and contacts in the framework of the policy action of the Horizon Europe 'Aracne project' Grant Agreement No 101095188*

To have more details on the Living Lab:

<https://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/26500>

## **Monday July 28, 2025**

Monday, July 28, 2025

12:00 Meeting of participants at the Lamezia Terme (CZ) Central Station and transfer to Cortale (CZ)

13:30 Welcome lunch

15:00 Roundtable with LAGs: “Building the European Silk Route”

17:00 Visit to Marianna Bertuca's “From the silkworm to the silk” Company

18:00 Visit to the “Spazio Donne Onlus” Association

19:00: 00 Visit to the historic centre of the Municipality of Cortale

20:30 Tasting of local products at the Municipality of Girifalco

22:00 Transfer to Catanzaro Lido for overnight stay

## **Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

8:45 a.m. Transfer of participants to the Municipality of Lamezia Terme

9:30 a.m. Visit to the ARSAC Experimental Centre (with looms for teaching artisanal weaving and a natural dyeing workshop) in Lamezia Terme

10 a.m. 45 Transfer to the Municipality of San Floro

11:30 a.m. Visit to the “Nido di Seta” Cooperative

1:30 p.m. Lunch at the “Nido di Seta” Cooperative

3:30 p.m. Visit to the Silk Museum within the walls of the Caracciolo Castle

5 p.m: 30 Visit to the LAG Serre Calabresi area historically involved in silk production (transfer to the municipalities of Soverato and Badolato, ranked Italy's 2nd most beautiful medieval village in 2024)

19:30 Transfer to Montauro for social dinner

22:00 Transfer to Catanzaro Lido for overnight stay

## **Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

9:00 a.m. Transfer of participants to the City of Girifalco

9:40 a.m. Visit to Vitaliano Couture Workshop

11:00 a.m. Tour of Girifalco's historic center

12:00 p.m. Transfer of participants to Lamezia Terme Central Station for return

## RETE NAZIONALE DELLA PAC

Autorità di gestione:

Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste

[reterurale@politicheagricole.it](mailto:reterurale@politicheagricole.it)

<http://www.reterurale.it>

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<http://www.facebook.com/reterurale>

## RETE LEADER

[reteleader@crea.gov.it](mailto:reteleader@crea.gov.it)

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## HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT 'ARACNE'

<https://aracneproject.eu/>

Grant Agreement No 101095188



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