



# Lessons learnt from the national strategy for Italy's inner areas

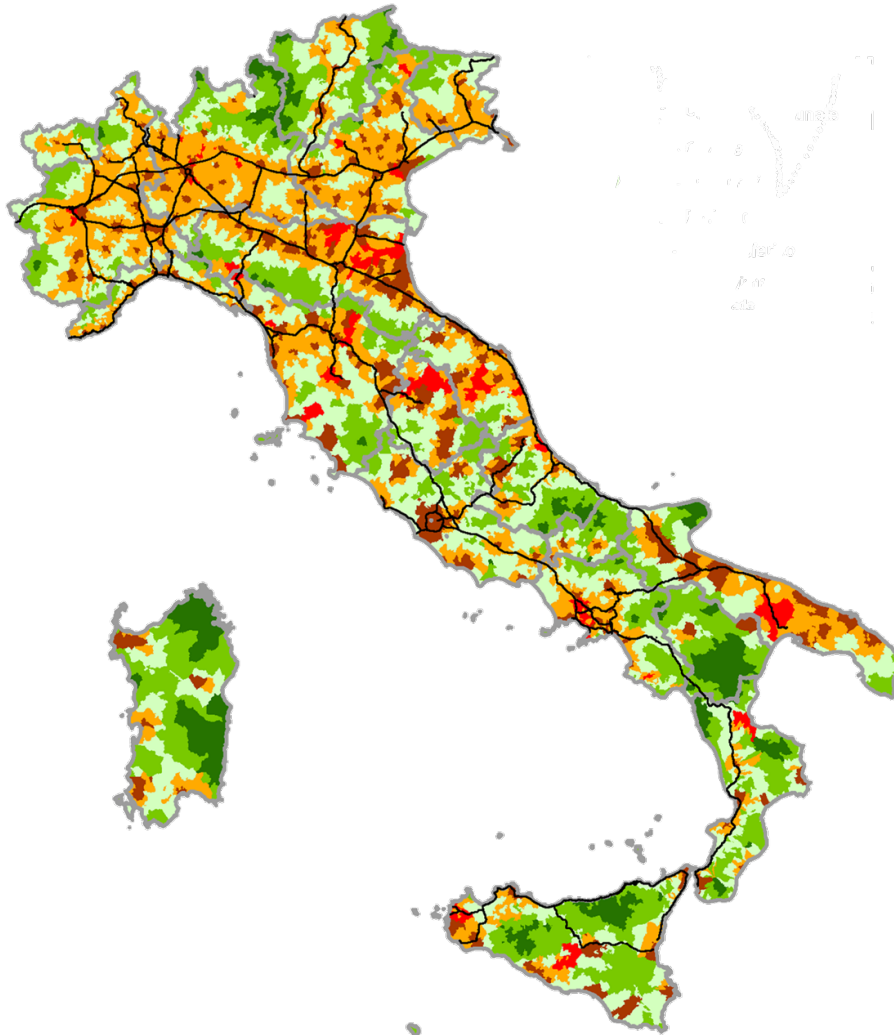
Francesco Mantino (CREA)

Taking action to tackle rural depopulation  
29 June 2023,

# Inner Areas Strategy: features and methods

- ❖ **72 Pilot Areas** in which to experiment the Strategy (around 1.000 municipalities, 16,7% of the national territory, 2M pop, 85% mountain municipalities, strong population decrease)
- ❖ **Multi-level governance** → different institutional actors working closely with local stakeholders (local, regional, and national)
- ❖ **Local partnership of municipalities** as driving force of local strategies, supported by a national task force of experts
- ❖ **Multi-fund approach:** services (school, mobility, healthcare) are covered by National budgetary law funds, while local development projects are financed by EU Structural Funds (ESF, ERDF, EARF)

# Italy's Inner Areas in the programming period 14-22

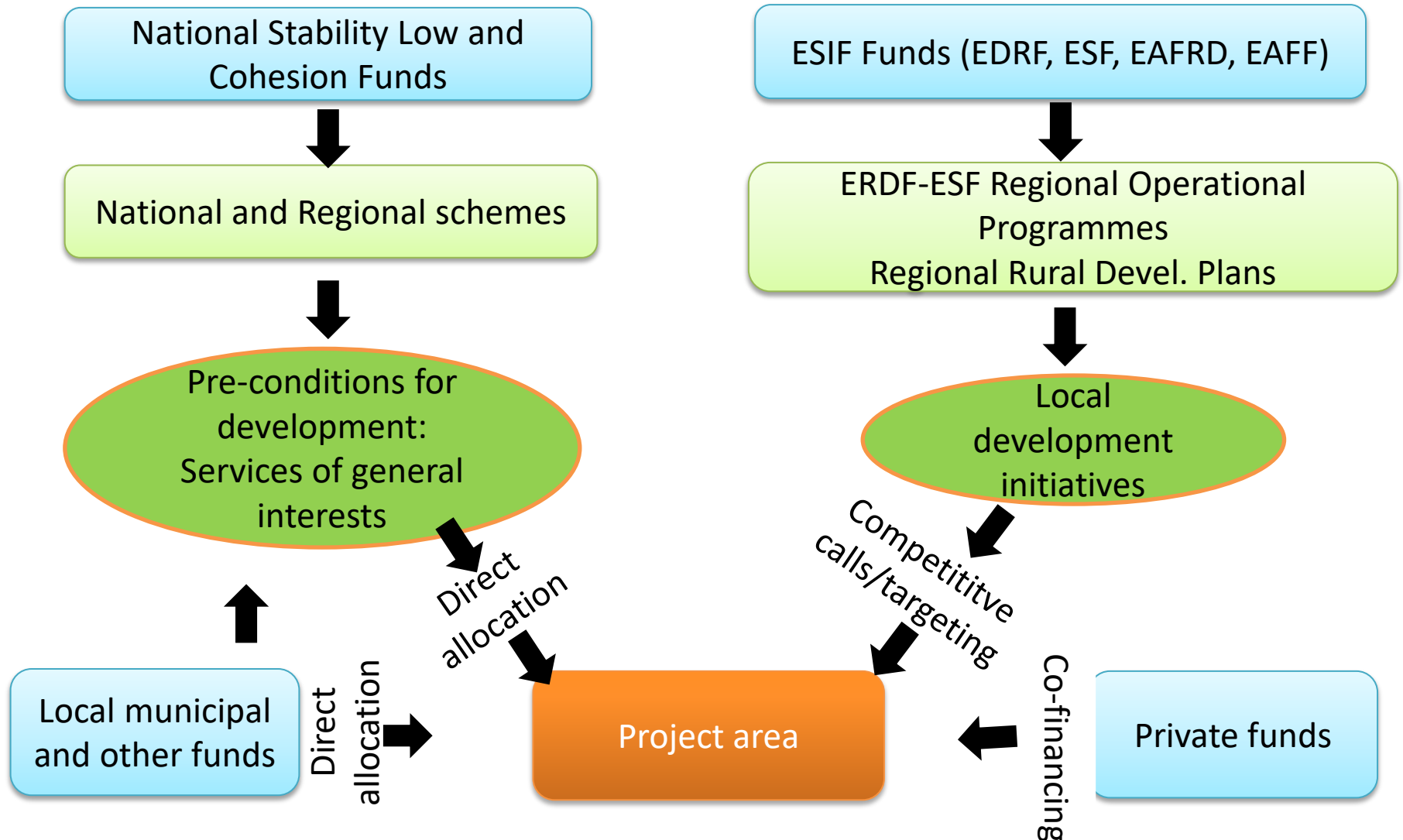


**■ = Eligible Inner Areas**

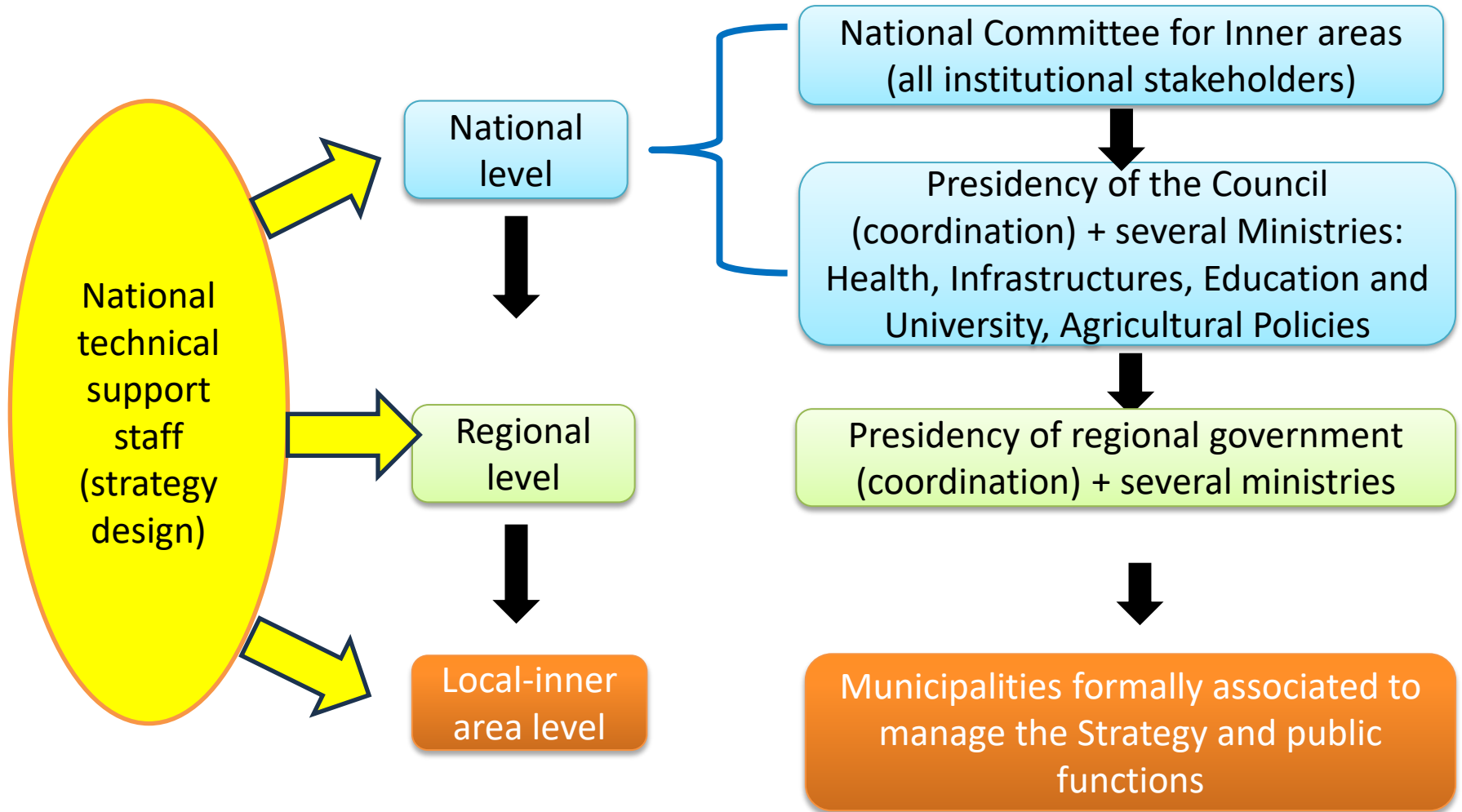


**= 2014-2020 Pilot Areas (72)**

## A multi-fund approach to place-based policy

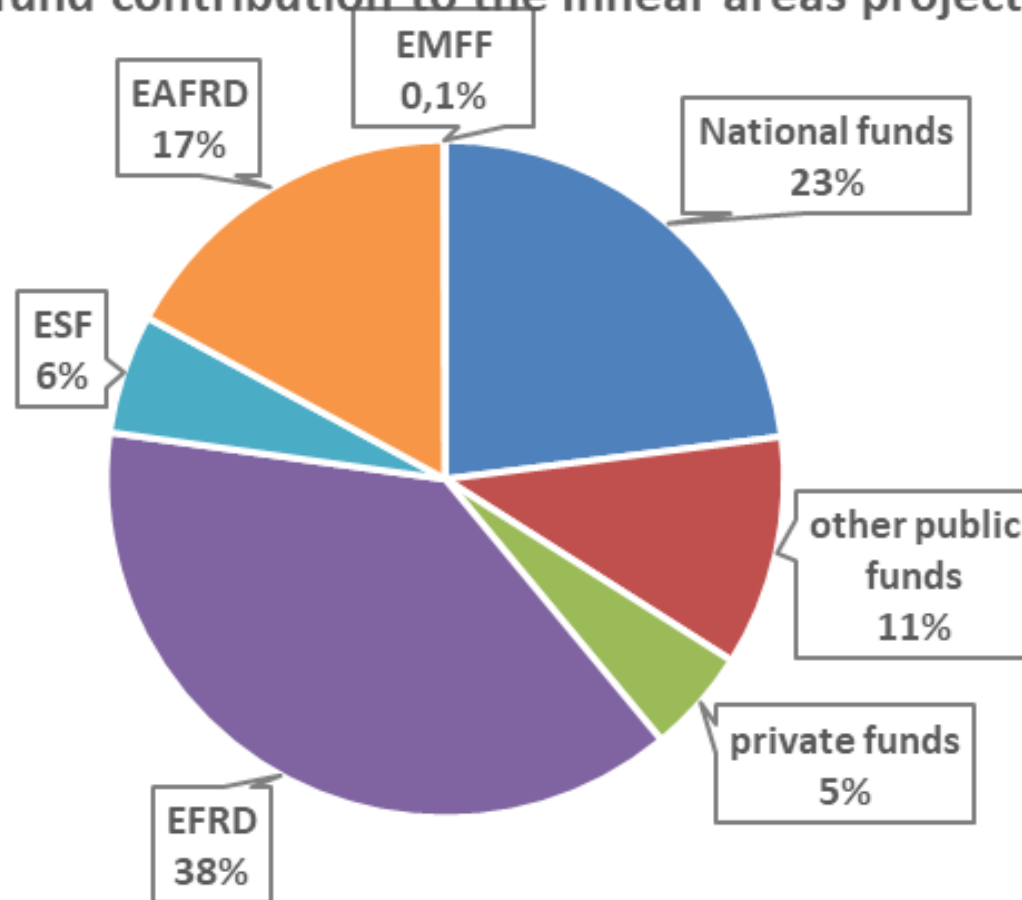


## A multi-level governance system



Total Planned expenditures for 72 areas: 1,167 million Euro

### Multi-fund contribution to the Inneer areas projects

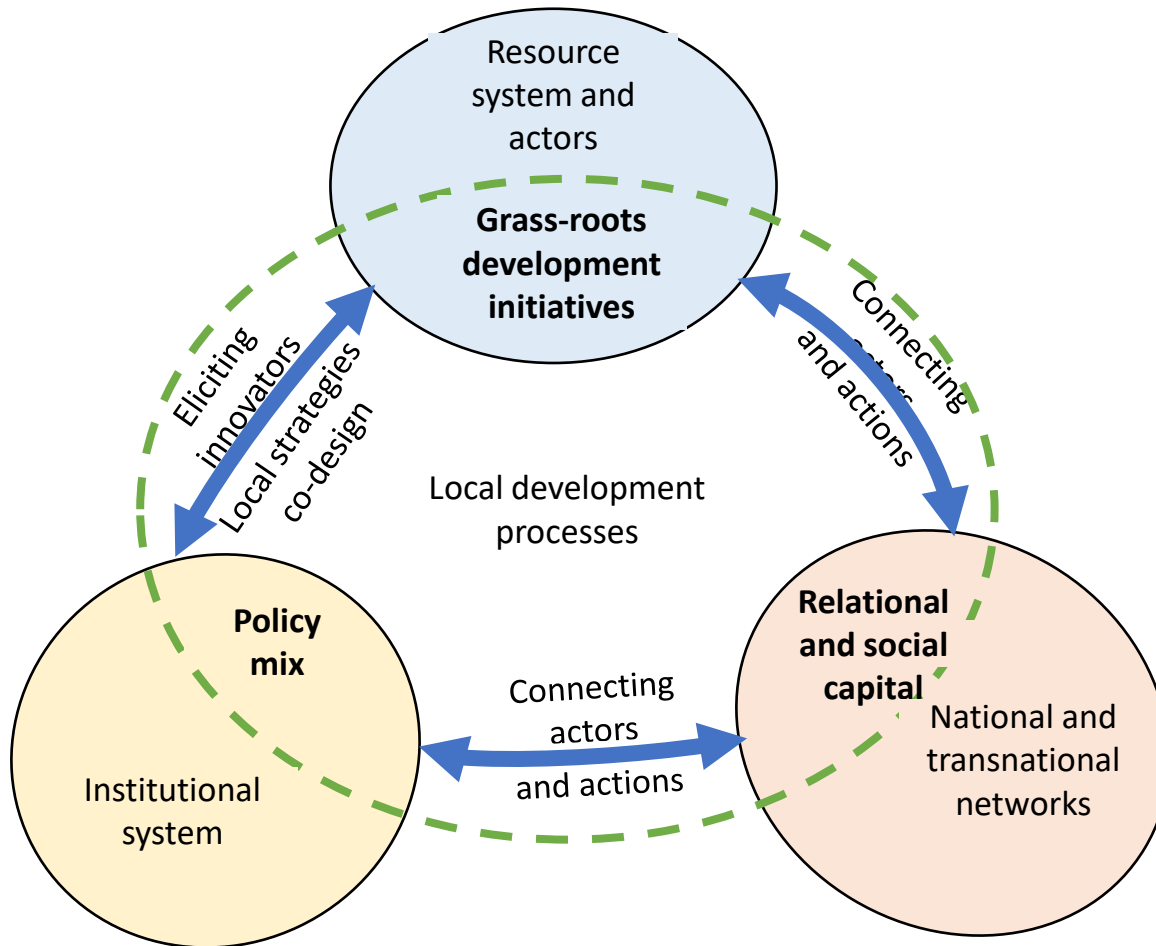


# Evaluation study

- How have Inner Areas Strategies been implemented ?
- What impacts have been generated in diverse territories across Italy?
- Which progresses and limitations have been met in managing different policies and involving stakeholders?

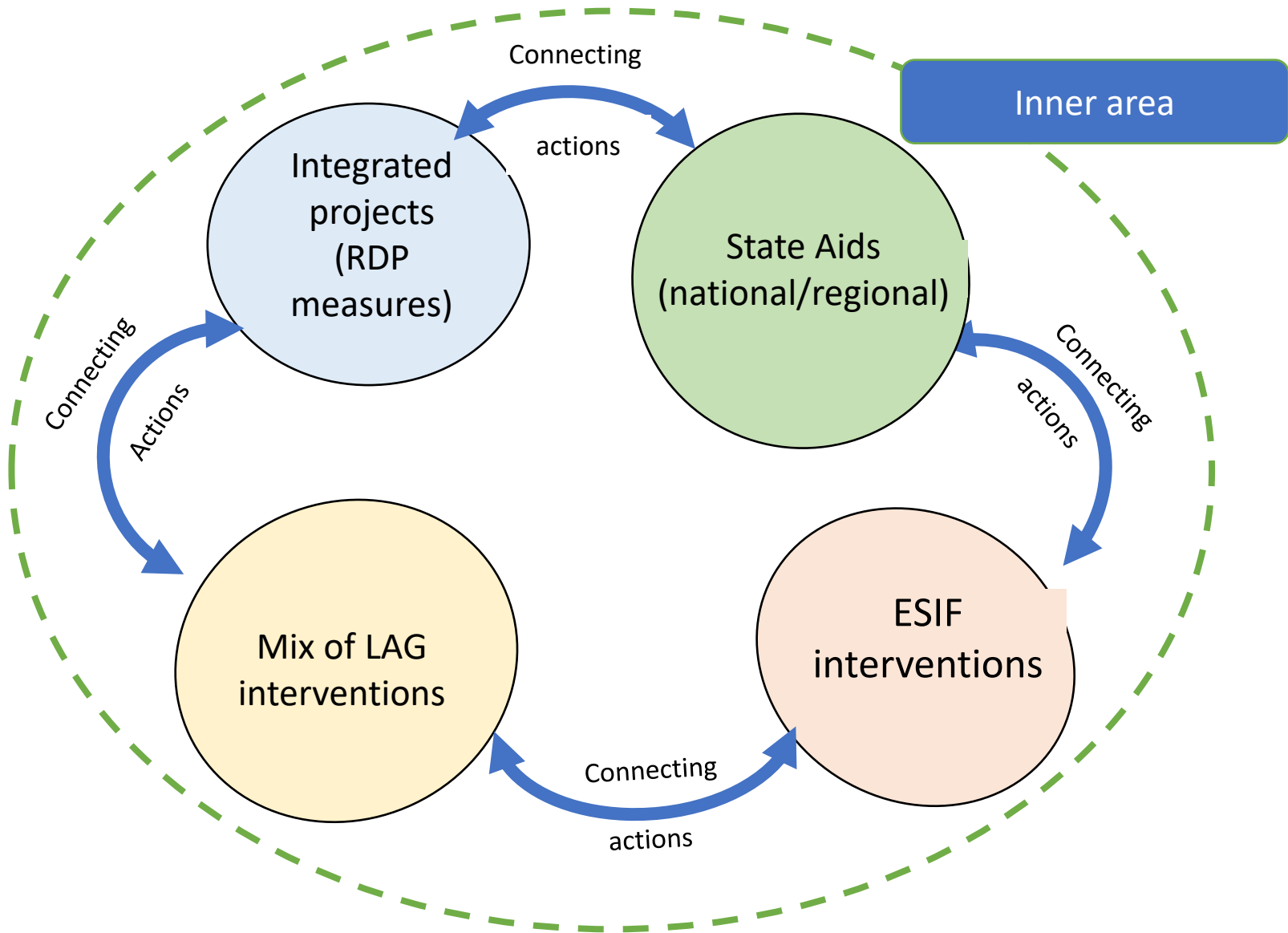
- 10 case study areas distributed across the Italian regions
- Focus on local development projects
- Desk analysis of the available data and information
- Focus groups and interviews with regional, municipal stakeholders and local beneficiaries of the projects
- Participative method
- Single report for each area and Synthesis Report

# Three factors influencing the success of Inner Areas Strategy





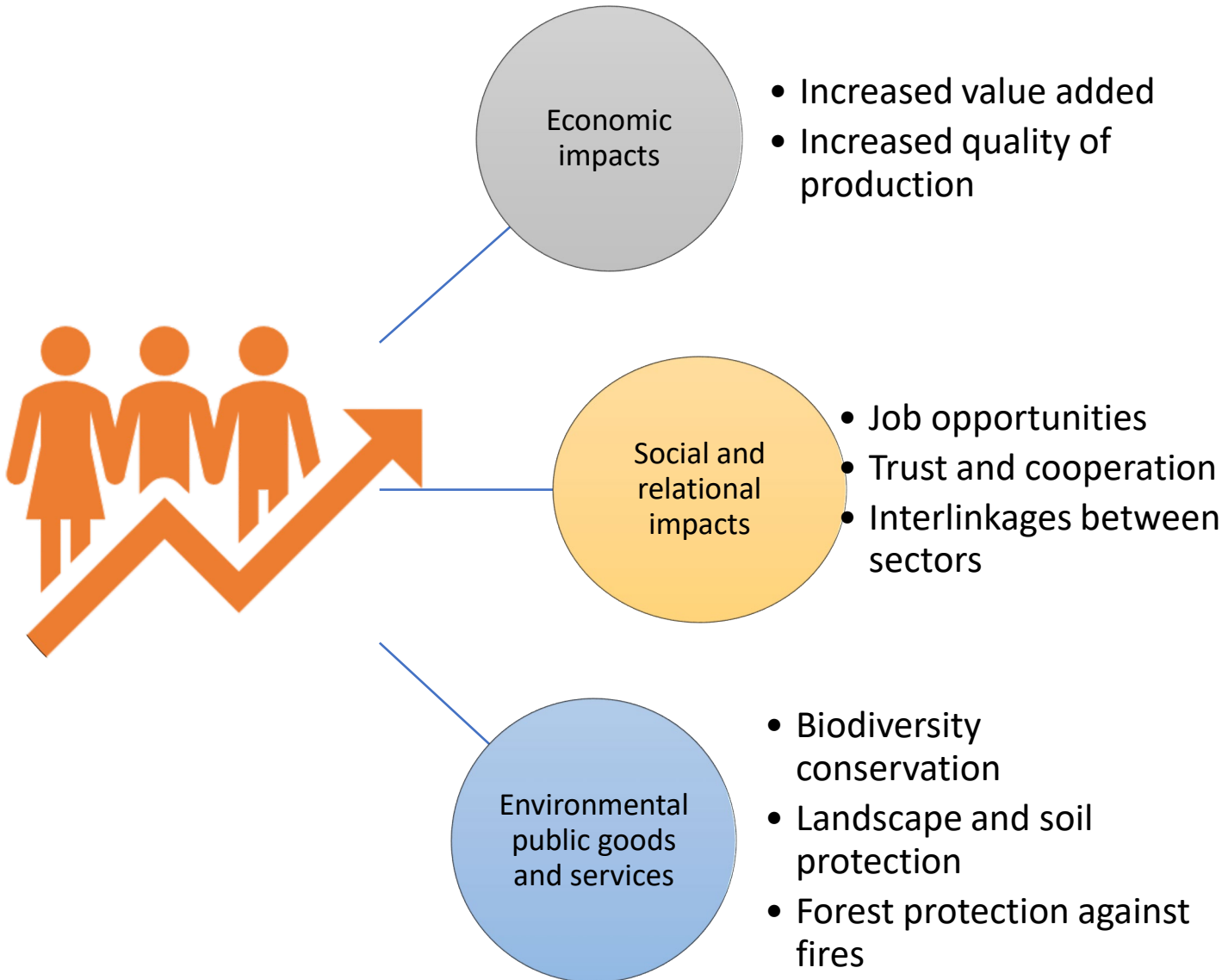
# Different typologies of policy mix



# Who did connect actors and which policy mix ?

| Who did connect actors and policies | Which kind of policy mix (integration) |                   |                                |                    | Inner area cases  |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|
|                                     | Integrated projects (RDP measures)     | LAG interventions | State aids (national/regional) | ESIF interventions |   |
| Managing authority                  | X                                      |                   |                                | X                  | Appennino Emiliano (Emilia-Romagna)   |
| Local action groups                 |  | X                 |                                |                    | Gennargentu-Mandrolisai (Sardinia); Gressoney (Val d'Aosta)                   |
|                                     |  | X                 | X                              |                    | Langhe and Terre Occitane (Piedmont)  |
|                                     | X                                      | X                 |                                |                    | Madonie (Sicily); Appennino piacentino (Emilia.Romagna); Garfagnana (Tuscany) |
| Local partnerships                  | X                                      | X                 |                                |                    | Appennino piacentino (Emilia-Romagna)   |

# Different types of impacts of projects in IAs



# What impacts have been generated in diverse territories across Italy?

| Categories of impacts         | Impact indicators                                     | Description of impacts   |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Economic impact               | Increase of Value Added in Inner territories          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major values of the final production coming to local operators,</li> <li>- Increased direct sales to final markets</li> <li>- Increased exports share on total sales</li> </ul> |
|                               | Increase of quality production                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintenance of typical breeds' production</li> <li>- Valorisation of mountain brands/labels</li> <li>- Increase of PDO certification</li> </ul>                                 |
| Social and relational Impacts | New/stronger job opportunities for local population   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase of young employees</li> <li>- Maintenance of young farms</li> </ul>  |
|                               | Stronger trust and cooperation in local value chains  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New public-private partnerships set up in local projects</li> <li>- Horizontal and vertical cooperative relations (through contracts/agreements/associations)</li> </ul>        |
|                               | Stronger linkages between sectors and rural/non-rural | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New partnerships set up in local projects</li> <li>- New cooperative relations (through contracts/agreements)</li> </ul>  |

# What impacts have been generated in diverse territories across Italy?

| Categories of impacts                          | Impact indicators                                | Description of impacts  |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Environmental public goods and services</b> | <b>Biodiversity conservation</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal and vegetal typical breeds maintained and improved (hectares and livestock)</li> <li>- Set up of genetic tracking and germo-plasm conservation</li> </ul>   |
|  | <b>Landscape enhancement and soil protection</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New area under controlled grazing and sustainable cultivation (organic or diversified crops/trees); diversified landscape</li> <li>- New area under soil protection techniques (dry-stone walls, terraces etc.)</li> </ul> |
|  | <b>Forest protection against fires</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduced occurrence of wildfires in forests and shrublands or reduced extent of burnt areas</li> <li>- Set up of forest management plans</li> </ul>   |

## Enabling factors

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Planning   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Funds devoted to marginalised areas (no unfair competition with other areas)</li><li>▪ Setting a frame of objectives and policy instruments</li><li>▪ Political emphasis at national level</li></ul>   |
| 2. Multi-level governance   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-design of local strategies with a national support team of experts in different fields</li><li>• Dialogue between local-regional-national institutions</li></ul>  |
| 3. Multi-fund approach  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coverage of different and complementary needs</li><li>• Connecting actions upon services and local development</li></ul>   |
| 4. Connecting actors and actions at local level (partnerships/coalitions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crucial role of existing local agencies (i.e., LAGs) and cooperatives/associations which can trigger social innovation</li><li>• Possibility to cover the transaction costs (information and cooperation) of the local coalitions</li><li>• Connecting local knowledge with external networks (e.g. local entrepreneurs and universities/research centres)</li></ul> |

Thanks for your attention!

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