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RMSTADELDOTTORATODIRICERCAINARCHITETTURA,ARTIEPIANIFICAZIONEDELL'UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO - DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA





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In copertina

Agenda 2030 Chiara Palillo







La Rivista

Storia e Tecnologia che dal 1994 viene pubblicata grazie all'impegno dei dottori e dei dottorandi di ricerca del Dipartimento di Architettura (D'ARCH) dell'Università di Palermo (UNIPA). La rivista, che si propone come spazio di dialogo e di incontro rivolto soprattutto ai giovani ricercatori, è stata inserita dall'ANVUR all'interno dell'elenco delle riviste scientifiche dell'Area 08 con il codice ISSN 1828-2482. Ogni numero della rivista è organizzato in cinque sezioni di cui la prima è dedicata al tema selezionato dalla redazione della rivista, mentre le altre sezioni sono dedicate all'attività di ricerca in senso più ampio.

In folio è la rivista scientifica di Architettura. Design. Urbanistica.

Tutti i contributi della sezione tematica sono sottoposti a un processo di double-blind peer review.

Per guesto numero il tema selezionato è: "Agenda 2030: Contraddizioni e goals"

L'Agenda 2030 è un piano d'azione adottato dalle Nazioni Unite nel 2015 e rappresenta una sfida a livello globale per porre fine alla povertà, proteggere il pianeta e garantire uno sviluppo sostenibile per tutti entro il 2030. L'Agenda ha stabilito 17 Obiettivi di Sviluppo Sostenibile (SDG) per affrontare sfide globali come la povertà, la fame, la disuguaglianza, il cambiamento climatico e la perdita di biodiversità.

Attraverso i 17 Goals, si punta ad un'evoluzione in modo equilibrato delle tre dimensioni dello sviluppo sostenibile - economica, sociale ed ecologica - nonché a porre fine alla povertà, a combattere l'ineguaglianza, ad affrontare i cambiamenti climatici e a costruire società consapevoli che rispettino i diritti umani. Tale impegno richiede la partecipazione di tutti i soggetti coinvolti, dal settore privato a quello pubblico, dalla popolazione civile agli operatori dell'informazione e della cultura.

L'Agenda 2030 è un esempio di problema complesso che richiede un approccio interdisciplinare. Per raggiungere questi obiettivi, infatti, è necessario che i governi, le organizzazioni, la società civile, le aziende, le comunità scientifiche e tutti gli altri attori coinvolti collaborino per sviluppare soluzioni integrate e sostenibili, anche per superare ostacoli o possibili contraddizioni riscontrate nel tempo. L'Agenda può, infatti, presentare dei limiti a causa della sua attuale visione prettamente antropocentrica, contraddicendosi sugli studi che richiedono invece una visione integrata dell'intero ecosistema. In questo contesto, l'architettura svolge un ruolo cruciale nel raggiungimento di questi obiettivi, in quanto può aiutare a creare città sostenibili e vivibili, promuovere l'uso di energie rinnovabili e contribuire alla conservazione delle risorse naturali.

I paper contenuti in questo numero condividono riflessioni e avviano un dibattito su una nuova visione dei goals presenti in agenda, sui possibili limiti riscontrati, sulle possibili sfide e contraddizioni, partendo da esperienze in contesti locali, azioni progettuali e ruolo della tecnologia e dell'innovazione tecnologica, processi di partecipazione raggiungimento degli Obiettivi di Sviluppo Sostenibile.

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Madonie in Motion. Guide to innovative technological solutions for Sustainable Development Goals

Sezione I - II tema

Luisa Lombardo

The Madonie, a mountainous region in the heart of Sicily with its 21 villages, is a territorial area that has been facing significant challenges for years, such as depopulation and lack of employment. However, the economic opportunities provided by Europe can be a driving force to pursue the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The contribution explores the possibility of designing an atlas of sustainable and built-compatible technological solutions applicable locally to achieve the SDGs.

Keywords: Madonie Smart Villages, Atlas, Development Goals, Sustainable Technology, Sicilian Inner Rural Areas

The Enchanting Madonie Region: A Microcosm of Challenges and Sustainable Opportunities

The Enchanting Madonie Region: A Microcosm of Challenges and Sustainable Opportunities

The Madonie Park, an extensive natural area situated in the heart of Sicily, encompasses around twenty-one municipalities within the Province of Palermo. It extends from the town of Caccamo in the west to San Mauro Castelverde in the east. Renowned for its profound historical, artistic, architectural, and, above all, natural significance, the park ranks as the second-largest green expanse on the island. In 2015, it received the prestigious UNESCO Geopark designation. The geological features of the region, admired by scholars and captivating to those less experienced in the field, include diverse landscapes transitioning from slopes to mountain peaks, curious formations of fossils embedded in rock formations, refreshing emanations from numerous springs, and the enigma of countless caves serving as gateways to subterranean and unexplored realms. In addition to its intrinsic naturalistic values, the Madonie Park is a hub for the production of high-quality local products, representing the entire island, particularly Slow Food products. These ensure remarkable territorial excellence, with approximately 60-70% of Sicilian local products originating from this area, gaining recognition nationally and internationally. Within this expansive green sanctuary, twenty-one villages thrive as bastions of the landscape, contributing significantly to the millennia-old history of the region. The fusion of nature and human ingenuity makes these places globally unique. Divided between Upper and Lower Madonie, and Madonie Imeresi, each area possesses distinct characteristics and unique traits. The municipalities of the Madonie region, as illustrated in Figure 1, play a central role in the narrative of Madonie Park, and their future is inexorably linked to their management [Aiello et al., 2023].

These villages function as tightly-knit communities deeply ingrained in the land, where time-honoured traditions, customs, religious observances, and popular celebrations endure. Furthermore, they embody a profound sense of active citizenship, community, and collaborative spirit, bearing witness to their enduring strength. Undoubtedly, the Madonie region represents a valuable reservoir of potential. Unfortunately, contemporary circumstances compel us to acknowledge that this region currently faces a series of formidable challenges. The pervasive issue of depopulation has initiated a gradual weakening of the local communi-



Fig. 1. Isnello, a municipality in the Madonie District; ©Luisa Lombardo, 2021

ty, leaving behind municipalities and hamlets that are experiencing a progressive decline in their vitality. Foremost among these challenges is the exodus of the younger population to urban centres, driven by the search for employment opportunities, services, and a more dynamic environment. Despite its exceptional aesthetics and unparalleled historical and architectural heritage, the Madonie region faces the daunting task of attracting new generations and innovative enterprises capable of infusing vitality into its economic fabric. The lack of profitable job opportunities and innovative entrepreneurial initiatives poses a formidable impediment to sustainable progress [Calderone et al, 2023]. The Madonie region, with its historic towns, lush landscapes, and traditional agriculture, has struggled to retain its population and offer opportunities to its residents. Young people often seek better prospects in urban areas, leaving the region with a declining workforce and an ageing population. The lack of economic diversity and limited access to quality education and healthcare services further exacerbate these challenges. It's a story all too familiar in rural areas worldwide. Nevertheless, hope prevails, as research, innovation, and architecture actively strive to address these needs. Sustainable and technological solutions and strategies are emerging to meet the unique requirements of the region but also to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals [Basile et al, 2023].

Navigating Sustainability: SWOT Analysis and an Atlas of Technological Solutions for the Rehabilitation and Enhancement of the Inner Areas of the Madonie Region

Italy is renowned for its abundant cultural heritage, artistic treasures, and awe-inspiring landscapes. However, over the past few decades, numerous small

villages, including those in the Madonie region, have encountered significant challenges. These challenges encompass the absence of public services, limited economic opportunities, insufficient investment in infrastructure, an ageing population, depletion of natural resources, geographical isolation, absence of regional development strategies, and the erosion of cultural traditions. This decline has resulted in various issues. including the closure of schools, shops, and public services, placing the very existence of these communities in jeopardy. The concept of sustainable development is a pivotal perspective for rural areas in Italy, especially those in the Madonie region. Achieving this requires the pursuit of goals outlined in the 2030 Atlas agenda [Mancini, 2023]. Specifically, it is essential to examine some of these goals and their implications for rural areas and the 21 villages within the Madonie Park:

- Goal 7: Clean and Affordable Energy The adoption of renewable energy sources and sustainable energy practices could reduce energy costs in small communities, promoting local economic development.
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Creating sustainable jobs in tourism, organic agriculture, and craftsmanship can contribute to increased employment in rural areas.
- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure Investments in digital and physical infrastructure in the Madonie could foster innovation, business competitiveness, and connectivity with external markets.
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities Sustainable development could help reduce socio-economic inequalities between rural and urban areas, ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities.
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Urban redevelopment and the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Madonie could lead to the creation of

0 Threats Strengths Weaknesses **Opportunities** 5 The Madonie Park is a vast natural area with profound architectural, and natural significance. It is the municipalities and hamlets The exodus of the younger second-largest green expanse on the island and received the prestigious UNESCO Geopark centers poses a challenge designation in 2015. The region's geological features, diverse landscapes, and fascinating caves attract scholars and captivate the interest of visitors. The twenty-one villages within the park thrive as bastions of the landscape, contributing to the region's rich history. The production of high-quality local products products, adds to the territorial excellence and represents 60-70% of Sicilian local products

Fig. 2. SWOT Analysis for Madonie inner mountain area; ©Luisa Lombardo, 2023.

sustainable communities that are attractive for tourism and suitable for habitation.

- Goal 13: Climate Action Mitigating hydrogeological risks and promoting sustainable agricultural practices could help protect the Madonie from climate change and natural disasters.
- Goal 15: Life on Land Environmental preservation and the promotion of eco-friendly agricultural practices could contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in the Madonie.

To achieve a comprehensive improvement of the Madonie region and foster new models of living, it is crucial to initiate a virtuous process of sustainable development. This involves taking measures to revitalize abandoned buildings and neglected surrounding areas, transforming isolated assets into hubs to promote commerce and sports activities. Above all, it requires bringing the built heritage into a contemporary state, as well as promoting the region's resources within a perspective of potential for a more flourishing, sustainable, and attractive future. Additionally, it is essential to develop tourist-cultural and gastronomic circuits, preserve and recover the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage, and promote the consumption and sale of Slow Food products.

In summary, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals provides a pathway to preserve the culture of these villages, improve their quality of life, create economic opportunities, and ensure a sustainable future for future generations. Investing in rural communities not only benefits these areas but enriches the entire country by preserving its unique heritage and promoting more equitable and balanced development. As we navigate the path toward sustainability in the Madonie region, this study serves as a guiding compass, offering valuable insights, data-driven strategies, and a renewed sense of purpose. It embarks on a scholarly journey through the multifaceted landscape of this Sicilian gem, providing a comprehensive examination of its prospects and challenges. This insightful study is rooted in a robust SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis [Fig.2][Lo Presti, 2023], delivering a meticulous assessment of the region's intrinsic attributes and vulnerabilities. It acknowledges the strengths that serve as the foundation for revitalization efforts, recognizing the cultural heritage, natural beauty, and historical significance that stand as pillars of promise. Simultaneously, it delves into the weaknesses that have contributed to the region's demographic decline and economic stagnation, addressing issues such as depopulation, lack of youth engagement, and scarcity of employment opportunities. However, it is in the exploration of opportunities and threats that the narrative gains depth and dimension. The study unveils a tapestry of possibilities, spotlighting technolo-

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Fig. 3. Madonie's Smart Village Map, reproducing a tube map; ©Luisa Lombardo, 2022.

gical innovations, sustainable initiatives, and cultural preservation as avenues toward resurgence. Simultaneously, it confronts the perils that loom on the horizon, from environmental challenges to socio-economic disparities.

Integral to this scholarly journey, enriched by a level of protection dictated by the landscape constraints present in the area and endorsed by the Superintendent of Cultural and Environmental Heritage of the province of Palermo, is the Atlas component. This component serves as a visual and spatial representation of the assets and challenges within the Madonie region. Cartographic data and geographic analyses converge to provide a compelling visualization of the region's topography, resources, and socio-cultural dynamics. Following an initial analysis of the territory, the Atlas functions as a practical tool for policymakers, researchers, technicians, businesses, and stakeholders, delivering a comprehensive understanding of the region's landscape. This study acts as a guiding compass, furnishing valuable insights, data-driven strategies, and a renewed sense of purpose. It encourages all relevant parties to participate in a collective effort to safeguard and rejuvenate this Sicilian and Italian treasure, ensuring a vibrant and prosperous future for generations to come. The Atlas of Technological Solutions for the Rehabilitation and Enhancement of the Inner Areas of the Madonie Park, an outcome of this research, is taking form as a practical tool for all professionals involved in this context, including municipal administrations. Its primary objectives are threefold: promoting and disseminating best practices for the rehabilitation of existing building heritage, presenting technological solutions compatible with the built heritage, and simplifying bureaucratic processes for application submissions, both public and private.

This Atlas is currently under development and continuously enriched with additional technological and innovative solutions. It is categorised into various sections, including, but not limited to: energy efficiency, seismic vulnerability, water recovery, expanded accessibility, energy communities, urban decor, digitisation, community cooperatives, financing, governance, business plans, and acoustic adaptation. Each category outlines specifications for proposed solutions, accompanied by practical examples and reference case studies. Virtuous interventions that have already proven successful in the Madonie region or in other countries are included. The Atlas also takes into account the municipalities within the Madonie Park area, ensuring that the proposed solutions are relevant and tailored to each local context. Furthermore, the Atlas of Technological Solutions for the Rehabilitation and Enhancement of the Inner Areas

of the Madonie Park aligns with the objectives of the United Nations' Agenda 2030. This makes it a significant tool for guiding the sustainable development of the Madonie region, contributing to the global goals established by the United Nations' Agenda 2030 by blending tradition and innovation.

Paving the Path to Sustainable Success: Adoption and Outcomes of the Madonie Atlas

The implementation of this work on the Atlas of Technological Solutions for the Rehabilitation and Enhancement of the Inner Areas of the Madonie Park promises a range of significant outputs and outcomes for the region. Here are some key outputs:

- Policy Guidance: The Atlas provides valuable guidance for local and regional policymakers. It offers data and evidence-based solutions to address socio-economic and environmental challenges in the Madonie region, contributing to targeted policy formulation and effective resource allocation (digitalization and solution for smart governance and smart municipalities).
- Promotion of Building Rehabilitation: The Atlas highlights solutions for the restoration of existing building heritage, helping to reduce the degradation of historical structures and increase the cultural heritage value of the region (innovative materials and .
- Local Economic Development: The technological solutions and best practices collected in the Atlas can promote the development of local businesses and innovation, creating new job opportunities and stimulating economic activity.
- Environmental Sustainability: Energy efficiency, water recovery, and additional solutions outlined in the Atlas contribute to environmental sustainability. They work towards diminishing the environmental impact of human activities, promoting responsible resource usage, and endorsing technological solutions that have no adverse effects (water mills for electricity generation).
- Community Empowerment: The Atlas encompasses categories like "community cooperatives," fostering the active involvement of local communities in resource management and development with the help of a community catalyst.
- Reduced Seismic Vulnerability: Solutions addressing seismic vulnerability improve the resilience of infrastructure, buildings, and communities to seismic events, thereby enhancing the safety and stability of the region. This includes the proper use of metal chains in buildings, blending technology and innovation.

- Facilitation of Access to Funding: The Atlas provides information on possible sources of funding, simplifying the process of researching and accessing funding for local development projects (crafting a business plan before pursuing a european grant).
- Boosting Sustainable Tourism: Solutions for urban aesthetics and accessibility can improve the region's tourism appeal, promoting sustainable tourism and the valorization of cultural heritage (tactile maps and handrails, and totems for enhanced accessibility in public spaces).
- Streamlining Bureaucratic Processes: The Atlas aims to simplify bureaucratic processes related to project approval, enabling greater efficiency in the implementation of public and private initiatives.
- Alignment with Agenda 2030 Goals: The outputs of this work contribute to the implementation of the United Nations' Agenda 2030 goals, promoting sustainable development, reduced inequalities, and environmental protection.

In conclusion, the Atlas of Technological Solutions serves as a valuable instrument for promoting sustainable development and well-being in the Madonie region. It offers practical solutions to address regional challenges and create opportunities for local communities. Its positive impact spans from the preservation of cultural heritage to economic growth, and from environmental sustainability to community participation, all aimed at shaping a prosperous future for this distinctive region. Taking a smart and innovative perspective, the Atlas aims not only to advocate specific solutions but also collective approaches that can be adopted by all 21 municipalities in the region, as well as in other areas with similar characteristics and challenges. To optimally integrate and adapt the identified success stories, a specific graphic representation [D'Amico, 2023], inspired by the approach used in many European smart villages, has been developed for the Madonie area using the "London Underground" technique (Fig.3). Drawing on the analyzed case studies, this representation offers a clear overview of the smart villages and refines the research objectives. It seeks to link the Madonie region to technological and innovative strategies across different lines of action (each related to one or more municipalities in the Madonie), all converging towards the primary goal, highlighted by a thicker green line. of sustainability. This objective is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ultimate goal of this research is to foster a culture of collaboration and opportunities that, if shared, could lead all municipalities, regardless of their level of virtue or

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disadvantage, to adapt not only technologically but also to more contemporary lifestyles. Regenerated villages are those centers capable of independently meeting their energy needs, reducing wastage, and safeguarding resources, which, in turn, encourages a population increase. In these supportive communities, the goal is to preserve and revive ancient artisanal traditions while promoting the appreciation of the wisdom of the elderly as a foundation for new forms of sociality and citizenship, creating smart villages.

Sustainable as SMART

On the one hand, the measures aim to revalue the In conclusion, the essence of this research revolves around adopting highly sustainable strategies, proven successful in other contexts. The atlas plays a pivotal role in this context, serving as a guiding beacon and a source of inspiration to trigger virtuous processes within the Madonie region. The secondary objective of this research is to achieve the development of smart territories. The SMART philosophy [Graziano, 2023], however, extends beyond the acronym, advocating intelligent guiding principles while preserving the traditional fabric and encouraging innovation simultaneously. Every solution implemented, both in built heritage and landscape, should seamlessly integrate with the surrounding environment, respecting and celebrating the unique characteristics of the area. The Atlas serves as a blueprint for other rural regions seeking to transform their future. It provides insights into innovative technological solutions and best practices adopted by Madonie in its pursuit of the SDGs. From revitalising agriculture to embracing renewable energy and fostering a culture of sustainability, Madonie's journey serves as an inspiration for rural areas worldwide. The region demonstrates that, with vision, innovation, and a commitment to sustainability, even the most traditional and rural areas can embrace the future while preserving their unique identity. It stands as a testament to the power of technology and community engagement in building a sustainable and prosperous future, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Looking ahead, Madonie stands as a beacon of hope and an example of how innovation can drive progress, creating a brighter, more sustainable future for rural communities. Embarking on the path toward sustainable development in Sicily and Italy's inner areas is an imperative, allowing the preservation of extraordinary cultural and landscape heritage, a unique treasure in the world. These hidden regions hold vast potential to promote progress towards sustainable de-

velopment using the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) approach. This takes shape through the valorisation of local resources and the promotion of eco-friendly initiatives. The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and the promotion of renewable energy are pillars for the journey toward sustainable development in Italy's inner areas. Achieving the goal of sustainable development in these regions involves creating local job opportunities and ensuring access to vital services such as education, healthcare, and clean drinking water. Promoting technological and digital innovation is a crucial element in the path toward sustainable development in Italy's inner areas. The objective of the journey toward sustainable development for Italy's inner areas is centred on building resilient communities capable of addressing environmental and social challenges with equity and efficiency. These regions can serve as laboratories for sustainable solutions, demonstrating how environmental preservation and economic development can progress hand in hand. Achieving sustainable development in Italy's inner areas is a significant challenge, but it also offers an extraordinary opportunity to preserve the beauty of our country and ensure a better future for all. Active participation by local communities also plays a fundamental role in achieving success on the path to sustainable development in Italy's inner areas. These regions can stand as examples of excellence in the context of sustainable development, inspiring other regions worldwide to follow our path.

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