

Over a period of six months, participatory prospective workshops were held, from which proposals or courses of action focused on the achievement of urban-rural integration objectives emerged. Based on the preliminary results of the workshops, work is carried out with accompanying tools linking institutional actors (policies and programs) with other local and academic actors.

The resulting actions are analyzed on the basis of three interrelated dimensions: actors, activities and spaces. This frame of analysis allows us to identify three dynamics that emerge from this process: new instances of coordination between rural actors and the city; participation of rural producers and entrepreneurs in popular festivals, making rurality visible in the city; and the reconnection of spaces through the French "pole relais" model applied to rural villages in the district of Tandil.

This process of urban-rural integration represents a first step in the construction of a public agenda where rurality comes to the forefront. On the other hand, the research with involvement in action reduces the gap between scientific results and their materialization in the territory.

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The COVID 19 pandemic and its impact on associativism: the case of Portuguese philharmonic bands

An impressive element in the organization of Portuguese society, associativism represents in many rural communities a unique and highly important element from a cultural, recreational, sporting, social and humanitarian point of view. The COVID-19 pandemic has put the way we live and relate to each other to the test. With the suspension of various activities and the promotion of sanitary measures such as social distancing, we were suddenly pushed towards much more individualistic experiences. In this sense, associativism was one of the most affected and penalized sectors. In the particular case of the Philharmonic Bands, there was a complete stop from March 2020 and it was only in the second half of 2021 that some resumed their activities, still in a very residual way. The total stoppage of activity first posed a serious problem from the point of view of the associations' financial sustainability, since they found themselves unable to carry out traditional pilgrimages, their main source of income. In addition to this problem, which may jeopardize the survival of many associations, there are still others related to the sociability and disinterest of some musicians returning after a break of almost three years. The main objective of this work is to understand the social, economic-financial and technical-musical impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic caused in Portuguese Philharmonic Bands. In order to achieve the present purpose, a semi-structured questionnaire was addressed to all the heads of the philharmonic bands in the country. Semi-structured interviews were also carried out with some association leaders and elements of the local public administration. Through the qualitative analysis of the results, it is concluded that it is paramount to create financial support lines to these associations and to enhance the involvement of the community in their day-to-day life as a guarantee of their survival.

Session 5: Transformation of the rural cultural landscape

Chairs: Justyna Chodkowska-Miszczuk, Maria Helena Pina

Serge Schmitz, Lauriano Pepe, Faustine Roger-Lheureux, University of Liege (Belgium)
A silent transformation of landscape functions due to horsing in Wallonia

The horse, first used for its driving force and the butchery, has become an animal for leisure and a pet. The multiplication of leisure activities related to equidae leads to an increased demand for lands. A pretty old estimation in Wallonia (south Belgium) informed that 150,000 equidae required 40,000 ha of agricultural land (Centre européen du Cheval, 2010); since then, the figures have increased (Schmitz & Pepe, 2023). Equidae already represented an important economic sector with a turnover of one billion euros and some 7000 jobs (RWDR, 2010). In some cases, it can be considered an agricultural diversification. If the literature on the balance between equidae and pastures is abundant, that on economic, social and planning aspects is much sparser. Regarding some regions, they even speak of horsification when horses occupy a large share of open spaces and significantly affect the local economy. This evolution raises the question of competition for access to lands, including their food function, but allows valuing of less suitable lands for farming. While the use of equidae for the maintenance of natural areas is valuable, observations of meadows hosting recreational horses often show overgrazing or undergrazing with deterioration of vegetation or even erosion. Based on a state of the art of similar research in Europe and an analysis of the situation in Wallonia, the communication highlights this relatively silent evolution of agrarian landscapes, which, however, has critical repercussions from agricultural, economic, social and environmental points of view.