

EUROPAN 16 ITALIA

Living Cities

BITONTO

Landscapes dealing with urban centers

C1

C2

C3

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

Site representatives	City of Bitonto (BA)
Actors involved	City of Bitonto (BA)
Team representative	Architect, urban planner, landscape designer, engineer-architect
Expected skills regarding the site's issues and characteristics	Architects, landscape architects, planners with expert knowledge in the environmental sector, designers, social scientists, innovators, artists, economists
National communication of projects	Communication after the results of the competition with an exhibition of all projects, awards ceremony and publication of results (March-April 2022).
Jury - first session	The representatives of the sites meet the Jury before the start of works to clarify any questions about the program and goals.
Post-Competition Intermediate Procedure	<p>Workshops locally with the prize-winning teams: winner, runner-up, special mention, to be defined the roadmap according to the process.</p> <p>The Municipality reserves the right to finalize the results of the workshop giving to the winner or to a team of award-winning designers, the commission for successive project steps or for an urban study, by negotiated procedure, provided that the professional subject has the technical and economic requirements in relation to the levels of the project to be developed and which will be defined subsequently at the results of the workshop. In case the professional(s) is not satisfy the requirements, he will associate with other parties in accordance with Article 46, paragraph 1 of D.Lgs.50 / 2016, which satisfy the requirements, in the forms of temporary teams and / or using the availment tool art. 89 of Legislative Decree. N. 50/2016</p>



LIVING CITIES BITONTO SHORTLY

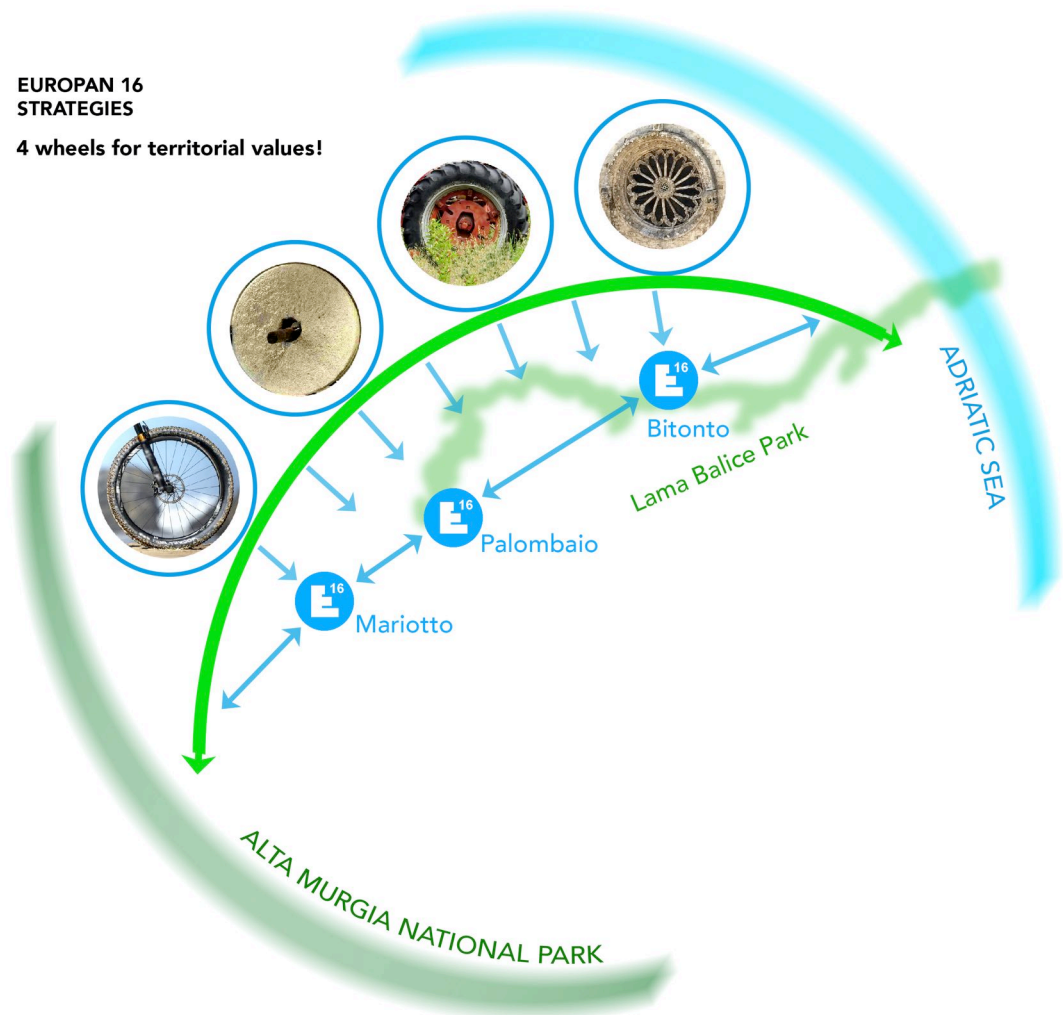
Interaction with the Living Cities topic

The European project is part of a strategic phase of the urban development program of the Bitonto area. Try to imagine a consolidated city, rich in history and culture, an expanding territory that extends from the Alta Murgia Park towards the Adriatic Sea. Try to imagine that this territory is not only made up of the elements of rurality, countryside and nature, but holds two inhabited areas that have the potential to develop a strong identity, given by their values and peculiarities.

It is necessary to bring out these potentials and put them into a system with the entire territory. The squares represent the point where the city talks about itself. The reference point for citizens and travelers. A place where the community meets and identifies itself every day. An attractive place where the spirit of sharing is inevitably synonymous with safety, identity and inclusiveness. The elements for the renovation are all there: great connectivity, a natural space of great quality (Alta Murgia Park, the Bitonto wood, Lama Balice Park, agricultural territory of Palombaio and Mariotto) and an ancient center of great wealth and historical architectural value.

EUROPAN 16 STRATEGIES

4 wheels for territorial values!



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C1 TERRITORIAL URBAN CONTEXT





The City

Bitonto, city of olive trees for the extensive olive groves that surround it and the important oil production. Located 19 km from Bari, the municipal area extends for over 170 km², from Alta Murgia, up to 2 km from the sea, and includes the hamlets of Palombaio and Mariotto, located to the southwest.

Palombaio (3500 inhabitants approx.), is located about 7 km from Bitonto. It is arranged on the route that from Ruvo di Puglia constitutes an alternative route to the SP 231, more internal, up to connecting Palo del Colle, Bitetto, Bitritto and the first municipalities of the metropolitan area through the SP 22.

Mariotto (approx. 2,300 inhabitants) is located about 11 km from Bitonto and in a slightly higher position (240 m a.s.l.). It is characterized as the last settlement outpost of urban consistency before the Murgian plateau. The Bitonto territory borders on ten municipalities: Giovinazzo and Bari to the north, Modugno to the east, followed clockwise to the south with the municipalities of Bitetto, Palo del Colle, Binetto, Toritto, Altamura, to the west with Ruvo di Puglia and Terlizzi.

Historical framework

Bitonto

An important center of the Peucetian civilization, Bitonto became a town hall in Roman times due to its strategic position at the intersection of two main roads: the Via Traiana directed towards the coast and the other towards the inner city.

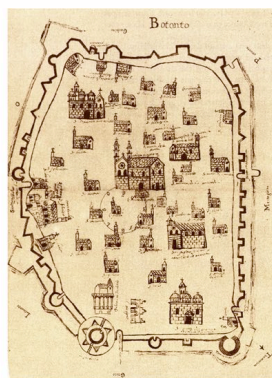
The ancient nucleus developed on a cardo and decumanus with the four access doors (the current Porta Baresana, Porta Maja, Porta Robustina and Porta Pendina) located in the direction of the nearby cities.

In medieval times, the nucleus developed in a north-west direction along via Maggiore, a connection between via Traiana and the market area at the current monastery of S. Domenico. Already in the twelfth century, the urban expansion of Bitonto reached the current delimitation of the ancient center surrounded by walls, whose center of gravity was the Cathedral.

Under Charles I of Anjou, trade with Northern Europe was strengthened. Large convent complexes were built (the Dominicans in the former market area and the Franciscans in the castrale area); new roads and residential and commercial building types (via della Regia Corte and via dei Mercanti); architectural masterpieces (Sylos-Calò loggia, de Ferraris-Regna house, seat of the Popolari, convent and church of S. Gaetano)



pianta - M.Azzaro, 1585



pianta anonima, XVI secolo



pianta di G. Sebastiani, 1727

Beyond the Lama Balice, the new church of S. Maria del Popolo was built and the Carmelite convent was enlarged; to the north the convents of *S. Vincenzo dei Padri Cappuccini e dei Paolotti* and the church of the Crucifix rose.

Worthy of note is the Bitonto sewerage network, one of the oldest in Europe, built between 1512 and the early 1600s, centuries before those of Naples and Paris.

The opening of the Adriatic markets, under Charles III of Bourbon, was an incentive for urban and road development (the Barletta-Bari, the Naples-Bari, the Mediterranean road, now S.P. 231 and the S.P. 89 Bitonto-Mellitto).

The calamitous events forced the city to reconnect with the Lama Balice.

The works concerned the southern edge of the ancient nucleus, the Lama and the reconstruction of the S. Teresa and Carmine bridges, which collapsed following floods. The extra moenia perimeter route was made suitable for vehicles, knocking down the tower in the north-east and south-east corner at today's Piazza Castello.

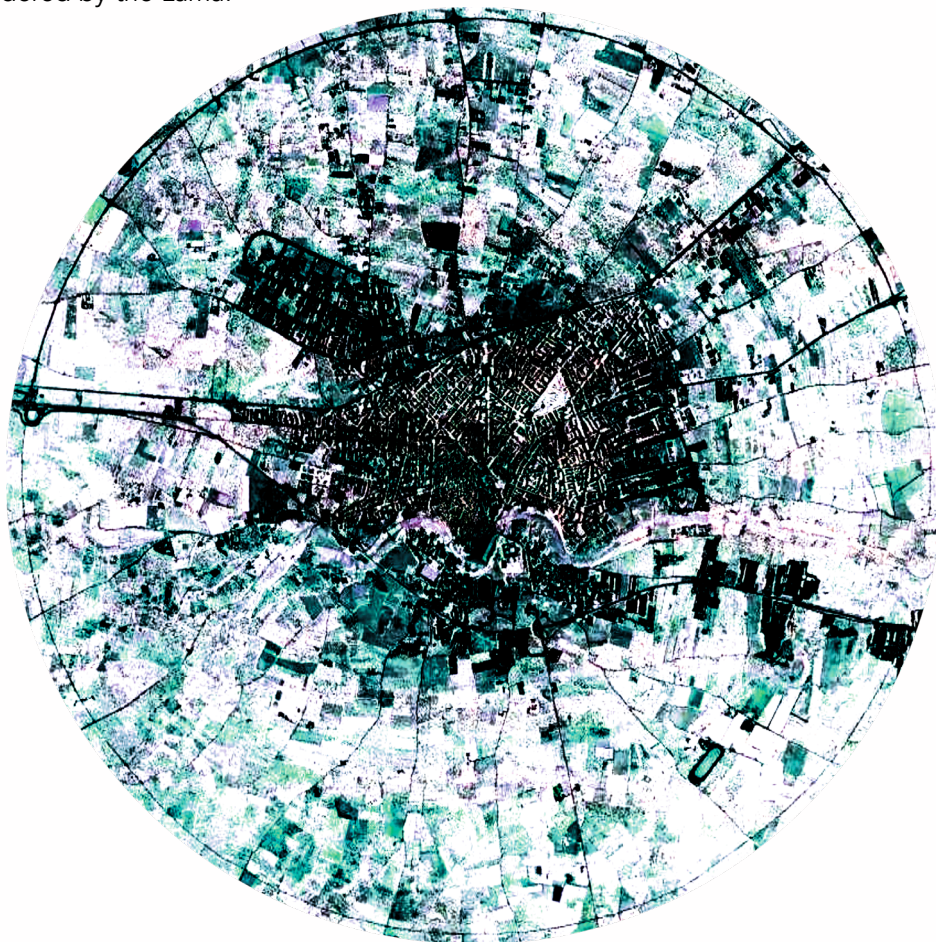
The 1863 Town Expansion Plan established the guidelines for the expansion of the city in the parts not hindered by the Lama.

The urban expansion foreseen by the P.R.G. of 1959 mainly interested the north-east direction. The railway, to the north, represents the natural limit of the inhabited center, beyond which the handicraft area develops.

To the east there is the 167 zone, while close to the S.P. 231, the industrial area extends (today P.I.P. area), which appears as an offshoot of the industrial area of Bari - Modugno.

Fundamental in the twentieth century was the construction of infrastructural works: the first section of S. Spirito mare - Railway - Bitonto, and the ring road known as the "polygonal road". This ring road, in which the residential nucleus is inscribed, forms an almost perfect circle of about 3 km in radius whose center is almost in correspondence with the Angevin tower in Piazza Cavour.

It was conceived and built between 1946 and 1948 by the president of the consortium of local roads Giuseppe Cazzolla with the aim of facilitating the arrival in the city from the countryside but, over time, it has become a link of the various road axes that reach the city .





Palombaio

The Palumbarum village, between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was an agricultural center, consisting of farms and residential farmhouses scattered throughout the various fiefdoms. Due to a disease of the vines, the first cultivation of grapes for the production of wine was replaced by olive groves, almond groves and fruit trees.

Between 1810 and 1832 the construction of a new road that reached Palombaio-Mariotto-le Mattine (the current provincial road 89) and the construction of the church dedicated to *Madonna Addolorata* between the years 1854/1859 favored the settlement of a nucleus of houses,

which gave rise to the hamlet of Palombaio (1907).

The laborers and their families, who worked for the wealthy owners, moved to the new center. The arrival of other families - mainly artisans from Terlizzi and Bitonto - contributed to the expansion of the village.

In the hamlet of Palombaio many finds have been found, such as colored ceramics, which indicate that the area was already inhabited in the Neolithic era, most likely by populations of Balkan origin who landed on the Adriatic coast, in the natural ports of Giovinazzo or Santo Spirito which then pushed inland from Bitonto.



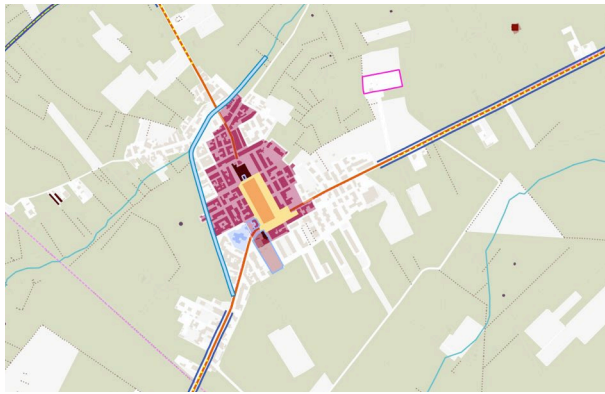
Mariotto

Mariotto owes its name to Mariotto Verità, feudal lord of the territory in the 15th century.

In 1500, following the marriage between Maria Lorita, daughter of Mariotto Verità, and Berardino Gentile di Barletta, the fief was inherited by the Gentile family. Mariotto remained a fief of the Gentile family until 1806, when, with the law of 2 August, issued by Giuseppe Bonaparte, King of Naples, who abolished feudalism, it became free property of the Gentile family.

Subsequently, under the government of Gioacchino Murat, the fiefdom of Mariotto was reclaimed and favored the settlement of a colony of Bitontini, who later gave birth to the village of the same name.

On the road that leads from Palombaio to Mariotto, there is an ancient menhir, grayish in color, partly covered by lichens, about one and a half meters high. Known as the "menhir of Palombaio" it was actually reused over time as a boundary stone between the fiefdom of Mariotto and that of Palombaio. On the facade facing Palombaio it presents the heraldic coat of arms of the Gentile family.



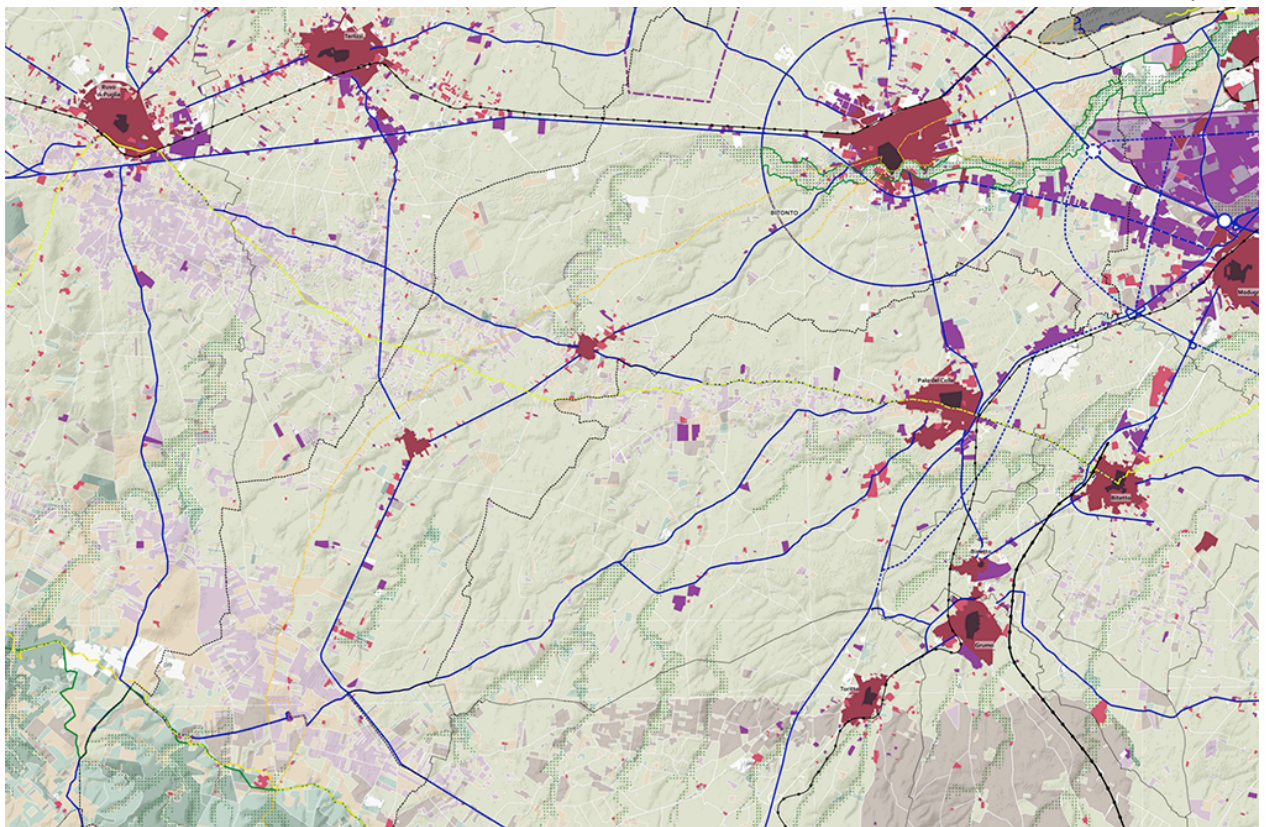
Abstract DPP - ecological network

The urban development of Palombaio and Mariotto is closely linked to their geographical position, with respect to the center of Bitonto and the surrounding rural area, which represents their strength (cultivation of olive trees and grapes and production of oil and wine). The urban fabric of Palombaio (closest to Bitonto) develops radially in consideration of the main access roads. Compared to the original nucleus, which starts with the construction of the Church in 1854, the main route is that of direct connection with the urban center of Bitonto (SP89). Its role is to be a hub between different landscapes and a gateway to the systems of use of the landscape heritage (given its proximity to

the Lama Balice) and cultural heritage (given the large number of assets nearby).

The urban fabric of Mariotto farthest from the center of Bitonto develops with blocks distributed in a regular way. The directrix connecting with Bitonto crosses the city to the south and laps a side of the Piazza Roma that extends towards the northernmost building connected with the SP 108 directed towards Terlizzi. Compared to Palombaio, its role is to be an urban presidium of a naturalistic system of great importance such as that of the Alta Murgia.

Abstract DPP - Wide area territorial system



Connections

Bitonto has a road and rail-tram network connected to Bari, the north of Bari and the cities of the southern Adriatic coast. It constitutes an important connecting node. 3 km north of the center, the Bitonto tollbooth of the A14 Bologna-Taranto motorway, for the wide-ranging road connection. Bari's "Karol Wojtyla" International Airport is an important hub serving the Metropolitan City of Bari, BAT, the Province of Matera and part of the neighboring provinces of Foggia.

The main and secondary extra-urban roads constitute the territorial link road system. The provincial road SP 231 connects Bitonto to Terlizzi and Modugno and skirts the southern part. Among the secondary suburban roads: the SP 156 which connects Bitonto to Palese and the airport; the SP 91 for S. Spirito; the SP 88 for Giovinazzo; the SP 55 for Molfetta; the SP 119 for Palo del Colle; the SP 218 that is the "Polygonal" that connects all the secondary extra-urban roads, interrupting in the part next to the Lama Balice, towards Bari. The SP 89 delle Mattine connects the chief town of the municipality with the two hamlets and the Murgia.

Radial paths connect the urban core both with the countryside and with other centers not immediately corresponding between the coast and the interior and which create a connecting network completely immersed in the plain of olive trees. The reticular system itself extends beyond the belt of the inland municipalities up to the Pedemurgian line, which is not always continuous, consisting of sections of the SS. PP. 89 and 174.

The railway-tramway connects the cities of northern Bari, Bari and the airport.

Near Bitonto the two lines join and the central station (SS. Medici stop) become the first two points of exchange.

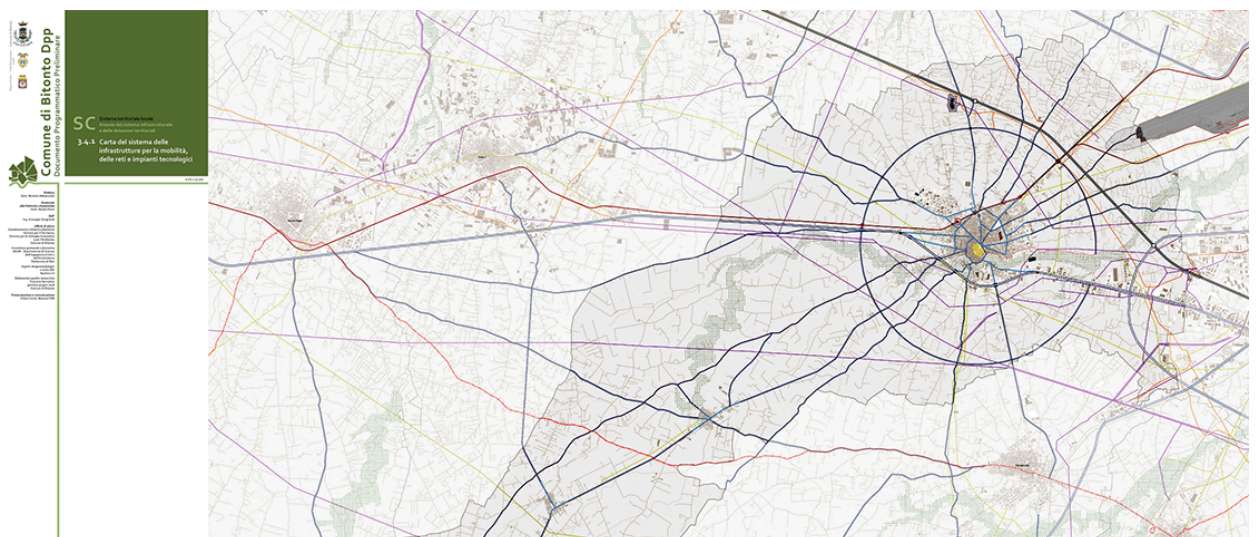
Public transport by road. STP Bari manages the bus lines that connect Bitonto to Adelfia, passing through Palo del Colle, Bitetto, Binetto, Grumo Appula, Sannicandro di Bari and Bitritto; in Toritto, following the path to Adelfia up to Grumo; in Molfetta, passing through Giovinazzo. Cotrap connects Bitonto to Santo Spirito.

The A.S.V. company manages urban transport services. In particular, there are two lines that also connect the city to its hamlets.

The Rail-tramway also manages bus lines that connect the city to Bari via Modugno.

The project guidelines for the PUG identify objectives and actions relating to the mobility system. The Bitonto area is affected by the strategic plan of the "Bari node" with the 2015-2019 Implementation Plan of the Regional Transport Plan (PRT). The adaptation of existing infrastructures and the construction of new ones are foreseen, such as the relocation of the Bari Nord tollbooth.

The completion of the town "polygonal" SP218 is also expected, which will allow the diversion of urban traffic towards the outside of the city and take advantage of a faster connection between suburban areas and inland areas. The northern section becomes an alternative route to the SP231. The southern section would retain its more agricultural value, of distribution in the countryside.



Dati demografici

The city of Bitonto has 52,546 inhabitants. The demographic trend, from 2002 to 2018 on the average of 56,000 inhabitants, has undergone a further decrease since 2019.

There is also an increase in the average age, from 36.1 in 2002 to 43.1 in 2020.

An interesting fact about Palombaio is the remarkable demographic development, which in recent years has seen its population double.

The population is distributed according to the following age percentages: 25% population over seventy; 50% productive population, 25% under 24 youth population.

Foreigners residing in Bitonto as of January 1, 2020 are 877 and represent 1.7% of the resident population.

The largest foreign community is that from Romania with 29.2% of all foreigners present in the territory, followed by Albania (18.8%) and Tunisia (6.7%).

The analysis of the data on the distribution of the population shows that the peripheral areas have a much higher concentration of inhabitants than those located in the more consolidated part of the urban center.

The average population density for the urban center of Bitonto is equal to 12.53 inhabitants / sq km, while for the hamlets of Palombaio and Mariotto the values are reached respectively of 5.79 and 4.72 inhabitants / sq km.

The scenario that emerges from the calculation of the social hardship index is the presence of higher conditions of hardship in the part of the settlement beyond the blade and in the peripheral sectors both to the west and east of the urban center of Bitonto, especially in correspondence of public housing.

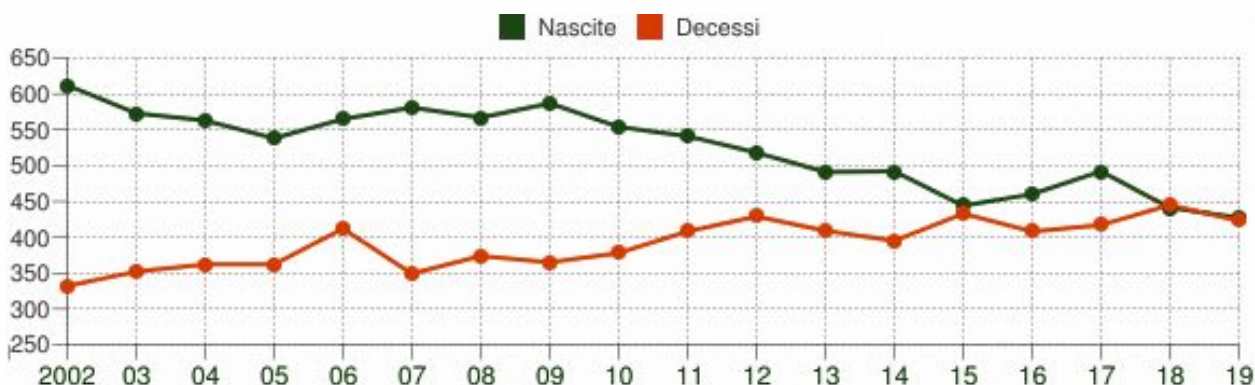
The same uncomfortable conditions are common in the hamlets of Palombaio and Mariotto. Within the historic center, the portions in particular suffering, even if lighter than those of the peripheral areas are those of the southern and western quadrants.



Andamento della popolazione residente

COMUNE DI BITONTO (BA) - Dati ISTAT al 31 dicembre di ogni anno - Elaborazione TUTTITALIA.IT

(*) post-censimento



Movimento naturale della popolazione

COMUNE DI BITONTO (BA) - Dati ISTAT (bilancio demografico 1 gen-31 dic) - Elaborazione TUTTITALIA.IT



elab. RMV studio

Socio-economic-cultural context

The most representative sector of the economic scenario is the commercial one, followed by the construction industry and the manufacturing sector.

The municipal area of Bitonto stands out for its purely rural character.

The large olive groves distinguish agricultural activity.

Bitonto has about 3,840 farms in agricultural wood crops, of which 347 also deal with viticulture and 3,779 with olive growing.

The city is historically known for the cultivation of olive trees and the production of an extra virgin olive oil obtained from the "Cima di Bitonto" variety of olives of the highest quality and exported throughout Europe.

The town and the countryside are full of oil mills, *trappeti* and agricultural farms.

Even the buildings and farms show their belonging to this agricultural-productive reality, both as complex agricultural production structures and as connotative elements of the rural landscape.

The rural areas for the total agricultural use of the territory, show a poor mix with naturalistic uses. Even the hamlets of Mariotto and Palombaio have numerous estates and farms.

The main activity is agriculture (olive growing and vineyards). The "San Barbato" wine is produced in Mariotto. Bitonto is known as the "City of solidarity wellbeing" thanks to the presence: of the hospice for the terminally ill "Aurelio Marena"; a home-accommodation for AIDS patients; an Alzheimer's Center and a shelter for the families of the patients.

The policies related to culture and technological development have carried out actions and projects among which we note:

- **Urban Center Bitonto**, in the reactivation phase, with the aim of supporting the participatory and public communication process during the training path of the new General Urban Planning Plan (PUG) and more generally in relation to the main transformations of the territory;
- **FABLAB POLIBA** - Fabrication Laboratory of the Polytechnic of Bari - Interprovincial Technological Center for Digital Manufacturing highly specialized laboratory aimed at strengthening the know-how widespread in the digital manufacturing sector in the region in view of open innovation models that provide the possibility for the aforementioned companies to integrate their skills with research and development activities carried out by the center;



- **Cinecittà Creative Hub** in agreement with FABLAB, Municipality of Bitonto, Polytechnic of Bari and the company Cinecittà Media Srl for the creation of a technological space intended to identify and support projects and startups related to technological research in the digital audiovisual sector.
- **The Palazzo del Talento e delle Arti**, still only designed in strategic lines, represents the opportunity to create a center for the emergence of talents, bureaucratic facilitation and support for business creation in the agricultural and food sectors, hospitality, creative and digital economy by connecting with the structures already planned and under construction
- **Social Lab in Villa Sylos** where the first nucleus of the *Cittadella del bambino* is found, a place where playful culture will spread. The goal is to promote the well-being of local communities through the shared and participatory enhancement of cultural identity, experienced as a fundamental element of every social and economic activity.

The "Bitonto Goldenshire" project starts from the hamlets, centered on the enhancement of EVO oil also through the revitalization of a rural atmosphere still present in Bitonto, built on the emotion of oil milling and the rituals connected to it.

The tourism sector in Bitonto is experiencing a period of strong growth. Tourism is mainly linked to historical-monumental itineraries strengthened by new attractions such as the National Gallery, the Diocesan Museum, and the Archaeological Museum, which have endowed the city with an important museum offer.

But city tourism also relies on religious events and entertainment and music events that move large numbers of visitors and pilgrims to the city. In recent years there has been a growth in naturalistic tourism that will determine a new productive flow in the development phase, which will affect the hamlets of Palombaio and Mariotto for the naturalistic heritage such as Lama Balice and the Alta Murgia Park, which welcome mountain enthusiasts bikers and hikers.

The "Bitonto Goldenshire" project also starts from the hamlets, centered on the enhancement of EVO oil also through the revitalization of a rural atmosphere still present in Bitonto, built on the emotion of milling the oil and the rituals connected to it.

Villa Sylos - restoration works just completed





Events

The socio-cultural programming of the City presents many festivals and proximity events, now consolidated together with cultural projects among which are cited:

- Arena Rogadeo, which brings auteur films to various locations in the city and in the hamlets.
- Bitonto Città che Legge, (bookshops "del Teatro", "Raffaello" and "Hamelin" and the cultural centre "Mo Heart")
- I Galà del gusto, organized by the Municipality and by Gal Nuovo Fior d'Oliv: the Galà of Focaccia and the Galà of Ice cream.

Festivals

- Memento - (from January 27 to February 10)
- Cortili aperti -(a weekend in May)
- Bitonto Not(t)e di Musica (July)
- Bitonto Estate (July-September)

Among the festivals of the Network (22 theater and music festivals throughout the year):

- Beat Onto Jazz Festival (August),
- Bitonto Blues Festival (September),
- Bitonto Folk Festival (July),
- Festival del Folklore (August),
- Le Corti dei Miracoli (August),
- Bitonto Opera Festival (July-August)
- Assodeejay Festival (September).

Religious events

Patronal feast of Immacolata concezione (May)

Open air feast of Santi Medici Cosma e Damiano (September)

Presepe vivente - Palombaio. During the Christmas holidays, the organization catalyzes the life of the village for many weeks. From 8 December to 6 January, the nativity scene re-proposes some scenes of peasant life and highlights the handicraft activities and the typical Bitonto gastronomic products such as oil, bread and wine.

Patronal feast of Maria Santissima Addolorata - Mariotto

Patronal feast of Maria Santissima Immacolata - Palombaio. The first Sunday of September. The festivities lasts three days: Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

Carnival of Palombaio. With the volunteers of the parish "Maria Santissima Immacolata" and of the ANSPI Association, papier-mâché floats parade, which go around the hamlet on the last Sunday of the carnival period.

Sport events

Especially in recent years, the naturalistic areas are also the protagonists of sporting events.

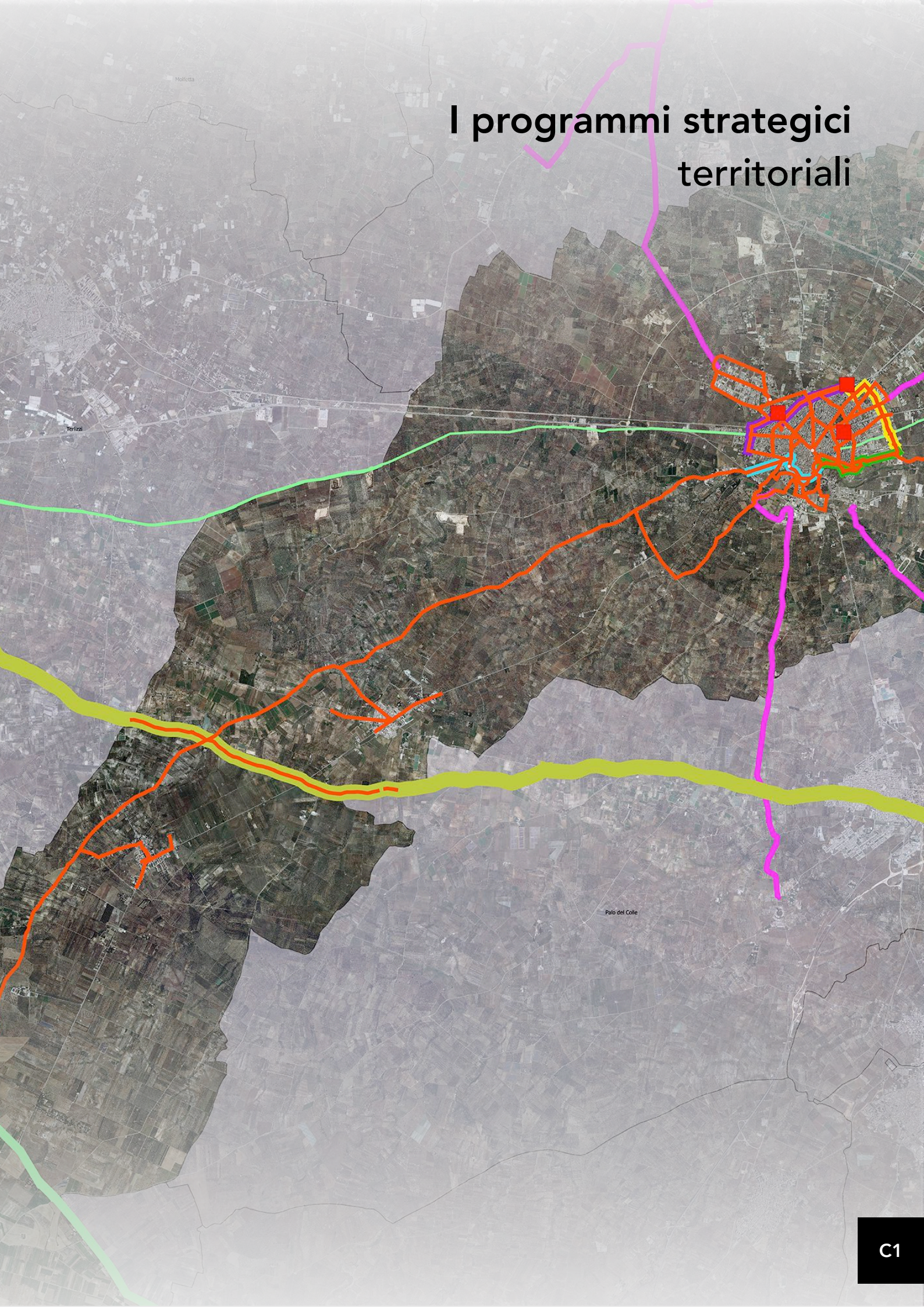
Iron Bike - 2018 - Mariotto-Bosco di Bitonto

BiTrail -3 editions - Bosco di Bitonto

Marathon - 3 editions - Bosco di Bitonto.



I programmi strategici territoriali



Territorial strategic programs

- **Strategic Document of the Puglia Region (Dsr) 2007-2013.** General scheme of programmatic orientation for the use of community resources of the 2007-2013 programming cycle, on the basis of which the Operational Programs are prepared to draw on Structural Funds;
- **ERDF (fesr) Operational Plan 2007-2013 / 2014-2020**
- **Rural Development Program for Puglia 2007-2013 / 2014-2020**
- **"Periferie aperte" 2016 program.** Extraordinary intervention program for urban redevelopment and safety of the suburbs of metropolitan cities.
- **Pact for the development of the Metropolitan City 2016.** Areas of development lines: infrastructures, environment and territory, economic and productive development, tourism and culture, social requalification and metropolitan services.
- **Puglia Regional Operational Program 2014-2020**

The territorial planning tools are :

- **Strategic Plan of the Metropolitan City of Bari.** Law 56/2014 identifies the strategic development of the metropolitan area as the primary purpose of the Metropolitan Cities. The Metropolitan City of Bari has signed with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers the "Pact for the Development of the Metropolitan City of Bari - Implementation of Priority Interventions and Identification of Strategic Intervention Areas", for a quick start and implementation of strategic interventions, through funding sources
- **Hydrogeological Plan (Pai)** prepared in accordance with Law 183/1989 (currently implemented by the new Environmental Code Legislative Decree 152/2006 of 04/14/2006).

- **PPTR - Puglia Regional Territorial Landscape Plan** for the protection and conservation of environmental values and social and cultural identity and the promotion and implementation of sustainable forms and development of the regional territory. Two areas affect the Bitonto area: 5 Central Puglia and 6 Alta Murgia. Among the critical aspects of the landscape: anthropic occupation of karst forms, those related to surface hydrography and those of the slope. These occupations (housing, road infrastructures, plants, service areas, tourist destinations, etc.) fragment the natural morphological continuity of the forms, and increase the hydraulic risk. Urban expansion has also partly affected the precious landscapes of the blades, both by breaking up the rural fabrics that circumscribed them, and by physically occupying the blades themselves.
- **Strategic Plan of Tourism 2016-2021.** The plan involves all operators in the sector, both public and private. Six thematic areas are identified: promotion, product infrastructure, innovation, training and hospitality.
- **Regional Cycling Mobility Plan.** Regional Cycling Mobility Plan. The plan identifies 16 cycle routes, including variants to the main routes, some of which connect to the European and national routes of Eurovelo and Bicalitalia.
- **Biciplan Metropolitano.** It provides a network of cycle paths in urban and extra-urban areas and integrates with sustainable mobility plans at regional, national and European level. 3 cycle routes: Adriatic cycle path and the Bari basin; Ciclovía delle Lame and Ciclovía dell' Alta Murgia.
- **(SIC 1) Registered site of EU interest** - Special Protection Areas (ZPS) "Alta Murgia".
- **ZES** Interregional Adriatic Puglia-Molise

C2 STRATEGIC SITE



The strategic area of EUROPLAN 16 takes into account two important elements of the entire urban system: the anthropized fabric that focuses on the system of squares, described in the section of the project sites, and the naturalistic and rural system that today constitutes the key to connection for new urban metabolisms.

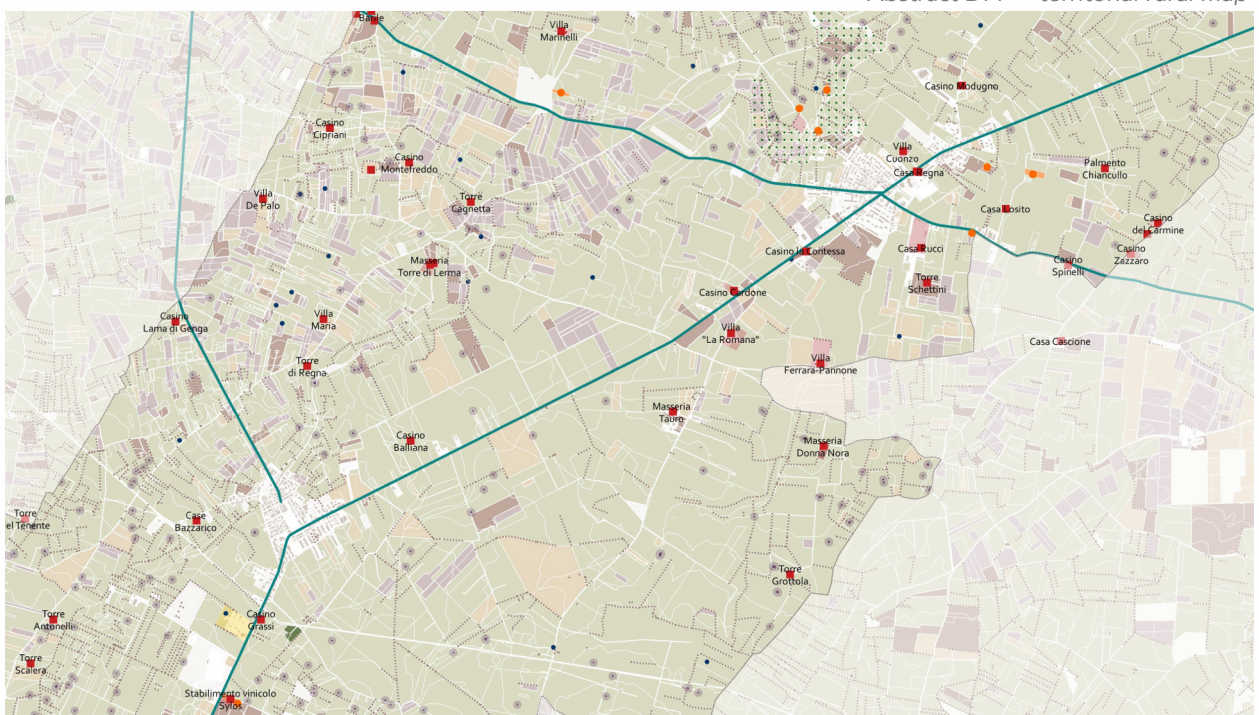
The "Lame" have a high rate of naturalness compared to the surrounding open space. In order to protect the residual elements of naturalness, the Lama Balice Regional Natural Park was established, a protected area of 504 hectares. The areas belonging to the Alta Murgia constitute the most important reservoir of naturalness, as evidenced by the establishment of the Alta Murgia National Park and the presence of the SIC (IT9120007, Murgia Alta) and the ZPS falling within the territory.

The second band is that of the hinterland olive grove, currently affected by intensification dynamics as are the vineyards and orchards. The third strip of the rural landscape is the Pedemurgian one, where there are areas destined for forestry-pastoral production.

The towers, *casini* and villas of the coastal strip and of the lower Murgia are part of an ancient system of rural settlements typical of the areas of olive groves, vineyards and almond groves. Numerous sites and the hypogea and rock churches along the blades confirm the settlement continuity of this territory since the Neolithic era. The hamlets of Palombaio and Mariotto are located at altitudes between 200 and 300 meters above sea level.

Until the entire eighteenth century, the agricultural landscape was characterized by "Towers" and "Chiasce" immersed in scrubs, woods and pastures: the only form of human settlement was that linked to pastoralism and residences scattered throughout the area.

EUROPAN 16 living cities



Planning at the scale of the strategic site



Planning at the scale of the strategic area

- **PUG** (General urban plan), being drafted, in line with the territorial projects for the regional landscape identified by the PPTR (the Regional Ecological Network; the city-countryside pact; the infrastructural system for soft mobility; the integrated enhancement of coastal landscapes; territorial for the use of cultural and landscape assets);

- **PUMS (Urban Plan for sustainable mobility)**, in line with the national and regional European objectives, in order to offer citizens more mobility possibilities and improve their quality of life. The PUMS identifies ZTL, ZTS and zone 30, parking lots and interchanges, cycle and pedestrian paths.

The ongoing projects developed in line with the Preliminary Planning Document (DPP) are:

1) Redevelopment of Piazza XX Settembre.

Project financed by the tender *"Patto per la Puglia - Selection of strategic interventions for the use of areas and infrastructures, aimed primarily at improving the quality of reception systems and services in the tourism sector"*. The interventions include:

- the pedestrianization of the stretch of via Pasculli along the square and the asphalted area of the church of the Annunziata, intended to be incorporated into the square itself;
- the stone repaving of the whole area,
- the redevelopment of urban green areas;
- insertion of street furniture and posters;
- replacement of the current fountain;

2) Enhancement of Lama Balice and realization of the *Patto Città – Campagna* hub through the construction of a metropolitan visitor center.

The macro intervention includes:

- The construction of the belvedere on Via Castelfidardo and pedestrian paths reuniting the city with the sports area
- The structural and architectural recovery of the former slaughterhouse
- The creation of a network of cycle paths that from the Alta Murgia National Park leads to the coastal cycle path
- Augmented reality set-up of the park's assets at workstation and software. Virtual room presentation of the parks in metropolitan land to be built at the set-ups of the metropolitan visitor center envisaged in the network project on Lama Balice.

3) Path to enhancement of natural resources from the historic center to Lama Balice.

The macro intervention includes:

- Redevelopment of Piazza Caduti del Terrorismo;
- Redevelopment of via Solferino and via Castelfidardo;
- Interventions of recovery and enhancement of the Angioino Tower;
- Completion of the second floor of the interprovincial technological center;

4) Reconversion of the artisan area in APPEA

(Landscape and Ecologically Equipped Production Area)

5) Cycle path connecting two stations in

Bitonto adhering to Action 4.4 of the P.O.R. Puglia (FESR-EFS) ERDF ESF 2014 - 2020



C3 PROJECTSITE

Description

The project sites are located in a strategic position for the entire municipal area.

It is a system of three squares - Piazza Castello, Piazza Guglielmo Marconi and Piazza Aldo Moro in Bitonto; Piazza Milite Ignoto in Palombaio and Piazza Roma in Mariotto.

Together they constitute voids of the consolidated cities directly connected to the rural environment.

Bitonto

The current historical core of the city, with a trapezoidal shape, is bordered at times by the remains of the Norman period walls and has an undefined pattern with arched passages and courtyards. The nineteenth-century urban development spreads radially towards the north-east and, in part, towards the west. The project site in Bitonto concerns the specific sequence configuration of these three irregularly shaped squares with a strong north-south direction.

The squares define the most important urban void of the urban fabric, formed in the southeast, close to the ancient walls, near Piazza XX Settembre, Porta Baresana, the Angioino Tower in Piazza Cavour.

The site is crossed by the main axes of the city, connections with the major attractions of the municipal area.

From the north, clockwise, we note: via Giacomo Matteotti, connection with the railway station and the underground Bitonto Centrale; via della Repubblica Italiana with the Basilica of Santi Medici Cosma e Damiano; via Giovanni XXIII, connection with the SP 91; via Crocifisso, via Traetta in the direction of the Capuchin Friars Monastery, and via Galilei and via Galvani that touch the Lama Balice.

This determines the "inevitable" car / man coexistence, emphasized by the presence of a roundabout between Piazza Guglielmo Marconi and Piazza Aldo Moro.



Palombaio

The project site in Palombaio concerns Piazza Milite Ignoto, the fulcrum of the hamlet from which the exit axes that connect Palombaio to Bitonto and Mariotto, Ruvo di Puglia and Palo del

Colle but above all to the neighboring countryside start out radially. Piazza Milite Ignoto represents the heart of the hamlet overlooked by the elementary and middle school, the church of SS. Immacolata and the post office.



Mariotto

The project site in Mariotto concerns Piazza Roma. Like Palombaio, the small size of the hamlet means that the square in question represents the city center and of public interest. Crossed by via Tommaso Traetta, link road of the SP89, connection between Bitonto and the Alta Murgia area, and SP108 connection with via Cela, the site is the place where the main activities of the hamlet are located:

Maria Santissima Addolorata church, post office, pharmacy and food services.

The squares of the hamlets have always represented the center of social aggregation for city life, a role that instead the squares in question in Bitonto have lost, due to the concentration of traffic arteries in these areas. Therefore the project will have to take into account the particular attention paid to the future image of this system.



Guidelines for the strategic and project site

The strategic site, also the subject of proposals by the participants, represents the driving force for the new uses of the squares. Affected by new flows, it will favor the connection of the hamlets of Mariotto and Palombaio to the city of Bitonto.

The project guidelines will have to focus not only on architectural and environmental recovery, but above all on a new development system capable of making the city live and/or re-live with the support of all the programs activated by the City of Bitonto. The possible design scenarios will have to compare with the design of green infrastructures and ecosystem services, mobility and sustainable use of resources and heritage capable of guaranteeing economic and social benefits.

The strategic area, in synergy with the socio-economic structure of the territory is characterized by the presence of the Alta Murgia National Park, the Lama Balice Natural Regional Park connected to the Adriatic coast, but also to the wooded areas represented by the Bosco Comunale di Bitonto and the Bosco Marinelli (Lo Jacono) which are part of the path of plants and flowers of the GAL Fior D'Oliv.

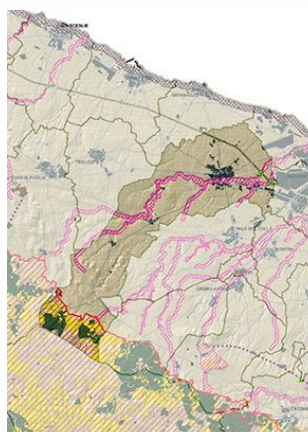
The hamlets of Palombaio and Mariotto need to be reprogrammed through a relaunch strategy, also in relation to the strategies of the City-Countryside Pact (Patto Città-Campagna). Being immersed in the countryside must obviously be the strong point for their urban and social redevelopment.

The urban center of Palombaio, in keeping with its history, should be enhanced in its role as a hub between different landscapes and gateway to the systems of use of the landscape (given its proximity to the Balice Lama) and cultural (given the number of assets near it).

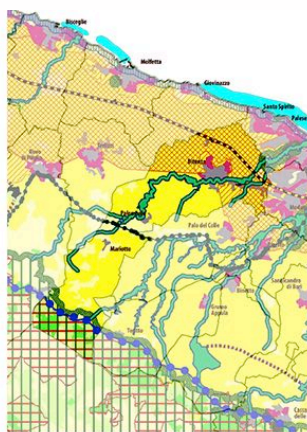
In the urban center of Mariotto, immersed in the deep countryside, the role of urban presidium in a space characterized by marked rurality and slow landscape, should be enhanced.

Furthermore, the two centers suffer from the lack of public facilities for the satisfaction of which an integrated and combined action is proposed, which sees locating the new equipment preferentially on the margins of the two centers, in the space between them, together with the qualification of the route for slow mobility, in order to optimize spaces and investments to make them happen.

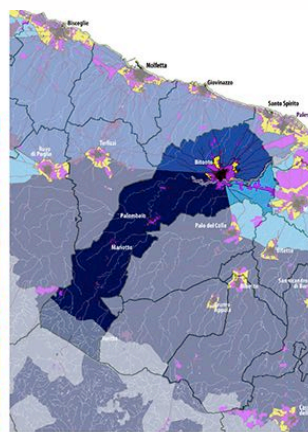
The connection strategy between the hamlets and the municipality of Bitonto adopts the provisions of the "General Strategic Program and feasibility studies of the city-countryside pact: enhancement of natural attractions - the natural parks and the blades of the land of Bari" approved by the Municipality of Bitonto with De. G.C. n. 116 of 27/5/2016 and subsequently included in the Three-Year Plan of Public Works, as well as in the feasibility study on "Integrated Landscape Projects within the Territorial Landscape Plan of the Puglia Region in implementation of the Regional Program of Actions for the Environment".



4.2.1.1 La rete della Biodiversità



4.2.1.2 Schema Direttore della Rete Ecologica Polivalente



4.2.2 Patto città-campagna



4.2.3 Il sistema infrastrutturale per la mobilità dolce

The environmental, rural and cultural heritage must be valued for functions related to the use, accommodation, promotion of typical products by encouraging local activities through public works to equip spaces for farmer markets, fairs, events linked to local culture and economies. The area could experience important economic benefits deriving from flows related to tourism in the vicinity of the post-pandemic era. Citizens could be strongly attracted to this new way of enjoying the natural landscape and rural areas.

It is planned to create a cycle / pedestrian route on a slow extra-urban road that from the Alta Murgia Park, connecting to the GreenWay, leads to Bitonto and then continues towards the municipal boundaries where it will connect to the tracks that lead to the airport and to the route cycle path that leads to the sea through Palese.

The refurbishment of the Vicinale road of Via Cela, which connects the SP 231 to the polygonal SP 218, would favor the use of these areas to a wider public, with the opening of sales services and knowledge of the territory and investments for new job opportunities .

The ancient Via Cela, which runs approximately parallel to the current provincial road to Palombaio and Mariotto, is destined to become the cycle-pedestrian path that will allow travelers and cyclists coming from the itineraries of the Alta Murgia Park to change landscape through a experience that will lead them to cross a territory full of naturalness, art and culture.

Lama Balice is configured as a landscape and fruition axis that allows you to connect the deep countryside and the inhabited center of Palombaio with Bitonto, connection with the coast.

The Historic Center-Lama Balice ensemble constitutes a distinctive landscape and cultural unicum of the city of Bitonto, which requires careful safeguard measures aimed at preserving and enhancing it as a unique place in the metropolitan area and an urban cornerstone in the Lama Balice Regional Park.

In this way the third project site is defined on the south-eastern border of the historic center of Bitonto, as the nerve center of Bitonto's public life and the arrival point of the connection path with the two hamlets.

The site represents the "good living room" of the city, a real business card for visitors.

The intervention strategy requires a unitary vision of functional connection with the other two project sites, qualitatively raising the perception of the landscape and the quality of the public space.

Palombaio and Mariotto will have to represent the land of the sustainable development model that has its roots in the organic production method, the quality product and the typical Bitonto tourism-product combination on the Tuscan model. A model capable of addressing the behavior of operators and citizens in an ecological sense and, in particular, their approach to the production method and consumption. The ecosystem services and the enhancement of the use of the territory offer a very positive response also in the social sphere. Elderly people and children could be recipients of projects related to environmental sustainability, use and knowledge of the territory.

The aim of the project is the redevelopment and adaptation of the system of the Cavour, Moro and Marconi Squares which occupy the most significant part of the center of the city of Bitonto to form the link between the Ancient Center and the nineteenth-century expansion. The area is characterized by very dense vehicular traffic, with a dense provision of parking spaces and the total absence of areas for cycling and pedestrian mobility. Improving the quantitative and qualitative aspects of urban mobility (in the intervention sites and in the strategic area) ensures the integrated use of the territory and accessibility to the nuclei, services and the attractors system.

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