

LA STRADA DELLA VALLE

TOWARDS AN ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGENERATION OF THE VALLEYS IMPERO AND PRINO IN THE PROVINCE OF IMPERIA, LIGURIA, ITALY.

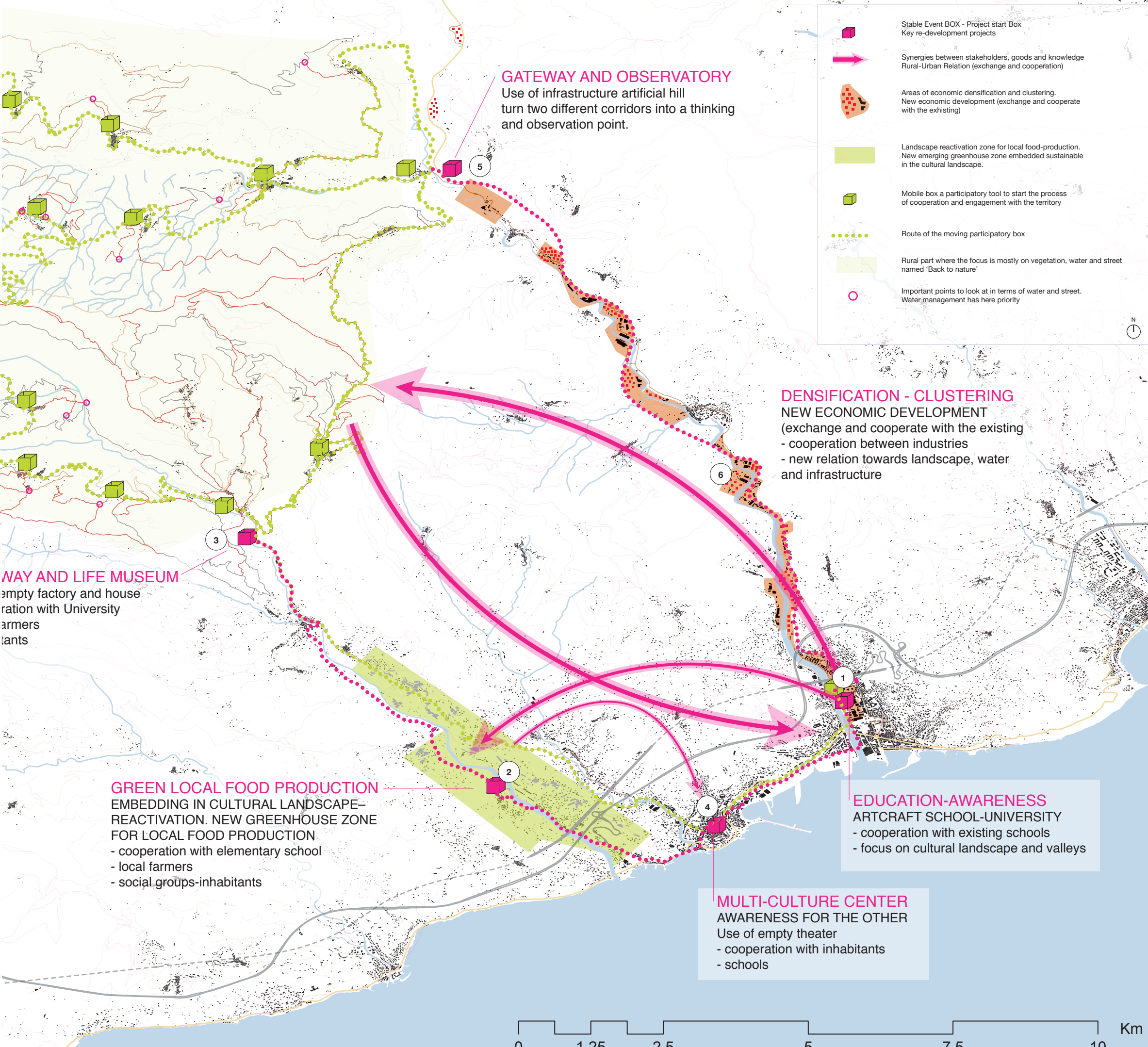
Author: Johanna Michaela Pieritz
Design of the Urban Fabric research group, TU Delft

The vision for the region Liguria is mainly to rebalance the cultural landscape. To bring back the equilibrium between nature and human activity. If the region is within a certain balance than certain problems like draughts, floods as well as landslides will be reduced. On regional scale synergies are created between different elements. One can talk about re-stitch the edges. The important spatial framework which has to be applied to the region is the entity of the geomorphological entity of a valley. This specific region needs to re-stitch the countryside to the coast. There the valleys appears as a good solution to do so.

Two valleys, valley Prino and Impero in the province of Imperia were chosen as an preliminary case study to show how the region should approach this regeneration and new development. They How the valley can become the driver of regional development: how to maximize potentials of cultural landscape and how to cope and reinvigorate depopulation and other symptoms of shrinkage.

The vision for the two valleys is composed of five key re-development projects which are proposed for the regeneration of the two valleys. They are anchor points for the development. The projects start from an spatial (or physical) implementation on human scale. The human scale in this project is important. To engage with inhabitants and show that ideas can be transformed into concrete projects which are giving back life quality and are interwoven into the daily life. Making the process more transparent and more understandable can prevent misuse and damage or unused space.

The five developed projects are flexible and can be also done in other spaces. The main important think is the process of the projects themselves and the way they are embedded into the surrounding area. Cooperation and exchange is a main part of this vision. The projects show how through cooperation and exchange of information, knowledge and physical man craft projects can become much wider in their function and contribution to the place itself. Moreover, invisible synergies are becoming visible and other forms of cooperation will be drawn. The projects and the overall vision incorporates human resources and potentials within people of this two valleys.



GATEWAY AND OBSERVATORY
Use of infrastructure artificial hill
turn two different corridors into a thinking
and observation point.

DENSIFICATION - CLUSTERING
NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(exchange and cooperate with the existing
- cooperation between industries
- new relation towards landscape, water
and infrastructure

GATEWAY AND LIFE MUSEUM
Use of empty factory and house
cooperation with University
local farmers
inhabitants

GREEN LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION
**EMBEDDING IN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE-
REACTIVATION. NEW GREENHOUSE ZONE
FOR LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION**
- cooperation with elementary school
- local farmers
- social groups-inhabitants

EDUCATION-AWARENESS
ARTCRAFT SCHOOL-UNIVERSITY
- cooperation with existing schools
- focus on cultural landscape and valleys

MULTI-CULTURE CENTER
AWARENESS FOR THE OTHER
Use of empty theater
- cooperation with inhabitants
- schools



1 EDUCATION - AWARENESS

The project 'Education-Awareness' consists of two main projects. A bridge over the river Impero connecting the train station with the second project which transforms a vacant Cement Industry into a Educational centre. It starts with a new bridge from the new train station Imperia towards this building. The bridge is an important design element in different senses: first it allows an access to the water through all days of the year also when the river has more water in the basin. A bridge also allows the vegetation to grow naturally without being destroyed or influenced from people. Moreover, with the bridge the design follows the sequences of bridges an founded element in this transect of the river. It gives also a new jewel to the inhabitants. This project is initiated with students from the existing Industrial hand-craft school (Ist.Prof.Di Stato Per L'Industria E L'Artigianato Ipsia 'G.Marconi'), the Municipality Imperia and the consortium group, which is an independent group formed out of Architects, Engineers and experts of valley Impero and other public and private stakeholders, which were gained at the participatory event in the beginning of the whole process. The new emerging Hand-craft school-University is located in the centre of a potential new development area in Oneglia. It is facing the river and connected to the main train station of Imperia through the new designed bridge. The closeness to the train station will be in the future development essential because expert from other parts of the region will have a good access to this institution. The building itself is embedded in a zone where different food manufacturer are located like 'Olio Carli' or 'Olio Isnardi' etc. This location offers an opportunity to cooperate with other institutions and give the students of this school not only an insight and a learning program about the management of the countryside but also about the processing, valorization and re-qualification of products from the countryside.

Il progetto 'Educazione-consapevolezza' consiste in due progetti principali. Un ponte sul fiume Impero collega la stazione ferroviaria con il secondo progetto che trasforma un'industria del cemento vuota in un centro educativo. Inizia con un nuovo ponte dalla nuova stazione ferroviaria di Imperia verso questo edificio. Il ponte è un elemento di design importante in diversi sensi: in primo luogo consente un accesso all'acqua attraverso tutti i giorni dell'anno anche quando il fiume ha più acqua nel bacino. Un ponte consente inoltre alla vegetazione di crescere naturalmente senza essere distrutta o influenzata dalle persone. Inoltre, con il ponte il design segue le sequenze dei ponti, un elemento fondato in questo transetto del fiume. Da anche un nuovo gioiello agli abitanti. Questo progetto è avviato con studenti della scuola industriale artigianale esistente (Ist.Prof.Di Stato Per L'Industria E L'Artigianato Ipsia 'G.Marconi'), il Comune di Imperia e il gruppo del consorzio, che è un gruppo indipendente formato da architetti, ingegneri ed esperti della valle Impero e da altri soggetti pubblici e privati, che sono stati acquisiti durante l'evento partecipativo all'inizio di tutto il processo. La nuova scuola di artigianato manuale emergente si trova al centro di una potenziale nuova area di sviluppo di Oneglia. Si trova all'argine del fiume ed è collegato alla stazione ferroviaria principale di Imperia attraverso il nuovo ponte pedonale progettato. La vicinanza alla stazione ferroviaria sarà essenziale per lo sviluppo futuro, in quanto esperti di altre parti della regione avranno un buon accesso a questa istituzione. L'edificio è incorporato in una zona in cui si trovano diversi produttori di alimenti come 'Olio Carli' o 'Olio Isnardi' ecc. Questa posizione offre l'opportunità di cooperare con altre istituzioni e offrire agli studenti di questa scuola non solo una visione e un programma di apprendimento sulla gestione del paesaggio ma anche sulla lavorazione, la valorizzazione e la riqualificazione di prodotti provenienti dalla campagna.

MOBILE BOX - ENGAGE

The whole process is guided by a participatory 'mobile box' which is moving from village to village. The 'moving box' is a temporary space which will be placed in the local environment to engage with local inhabitants and stakeholders. It has to be able to be installed on every occasion and to be removed at any time easy and without huge effort. This created space is transparent and protecting from the weather. With this bottom up approach one can succeed to have a good first engagement with the inhabitants. Important is to be as transparent as possible and to show understanding for the people which are the ones who are filling the space with meaning and relevant stories. This pop-up space gives the possibility to be more transparent towards the inhabitants. Moreover, the engagement with remote villages can be more elaborated and can be physically seen. Giving attention to the rural part is one step to bind the rural again closer to the urban. Engaging with the community helps to strengthen partnerships and be more welcomed with new ideas for the re-generation of those two valleys.

L'intero processo è guidato da una "box mobile" partecipativa che si sposta da un villaggio all'altro. La "box mobile" è uno spazio temporaneo che verrà collocato nell'ambiente locale per coinvolgere gli abitanti e le parti interessate locali. Questo spazio deve essere in grado di essere installato in ogni occasione ed essere in grado di poter essere rimosso in qualsiasi momento in modo facile e senza grandi sforzi. Questo spazio creato è trasparente ma protegge dalle intemperie. Con questo approccio dal basso si può avere un buon primo coinvolgimento con gli abitanti. È importante essere il più trasparente possibile e mostrare comprensione per le persone che sono quelle che riempiono lo spazio di significati e storie rilevanti di questi posti. Questo pop-up spazio verrà usato in questo progetto anche come uno spazio di elezione di delegati esperti per ciascuna valle.

Inoltre, l'impegno con i villaggi remoti può essere più elaborato e può essere visto fisicamente. Dare attenzione alla parte rurale è un passo per legare nuovamente la campagna più vicina alle aree urbane della costa. Impegnarsi con la comunità aiuta a rafforzare le partnership e ad essere più accolto con nuove idee per la rigenerazione delle due valli.

2 GREEN - LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

The Green-local food production project implements new forms of agriculture-cultivation. It will become a place where farmers can see and apply knowledge of more sustainable horticulture. Furthermore, it uses the former use of the landscape. We can speak about a reactivation and about a new way of embedding the new emerging project in the cultural landscape. New combinations of agriculture-horticulture and social housing as well as new forms of tourism are tested and realized.

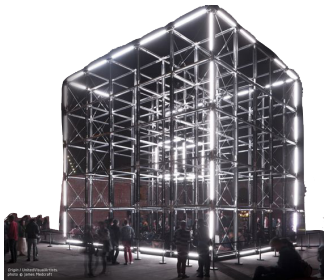
This new greenhouse zone is approximately 100 to 150 meter away from the local elementary school Piani. This closeness offers the possibility to the school to easily introduce gardening in its educational program. A market is suggested to be started with the obtained vegetables and the yearly harvest products from the greenhouses and horticulture lands. This markets is also a tool to bring people together and engage people from the nearby social housing with newcomers and farmers. Moreover, behind the social housing on the hill, the abandoned land will be recovered from its extensive use in the past and will be prepared and transformed into new agriculture land which can also be rent from the residents. By the implementation of new greenhouses and other production sides it is tried to bind beauty with functionality which emphasizes the cultural landscape and its beauty within this valley.

Il progetto di produzione alimentare locale 'verde-locale' implementa nuove forme di agricoltura e coltivazione. Diventerà un luogo in cui gli agricoltori potranno vedere e applicare la conoscenza di un'orticoltura più sostenibile. Inoltre il progetto utilizza l'uso precedente del paesaggio. Possiamo parlare di una riattivazione e di un nuovo modo di integrare il nuovo progetto emergente nel panorama culturale. Nuove combinazioni di agricoltura, orticoltura e alloggi sociali, nonché nuove forme di turismo saranno realizzate. Questa nuova zona di produzione locale si trova a circa 100-150 metri dalla scuola elementare Piani. Questa vicinanza offre la possibilità alla scuola di introdurre facilmente il giardinaggio nel suo programma educativo. Si suggerisce di iniziare un mercato con le verdure ottenute e i prodotti annuali di raccolta, provenienti dalle serre e dai terreni per l'orticoltura. Questo mercato diventerà anche uno strumento per riunire le persone e coinvolgere le persone provenienti dalle abitazioni sociali vicine con i nuovi arrivati e gli agricoltori del posto. Inoltre, dietro l'edilizia popolare sulla collina, la terra abbandonata sarà recuperata e preparata e trasformata in una nuova terra agricola che potrà anche essere affittata dai residenti. Con l'implementazione di nuove serre e altre forme di produzione si cerca di legare la funzionalità con la bellezza del territorio. L'uso del paesaggio culturale e la riconnessione con l'uomo e la sua attività agricola.

EVENT BOX - PARTICIPATE START OF PROJECT

The event-project start box is important when key-development projects are being started. It is needed to make the sign of the start visible. Additionally the event brings stakeholders together and helps in networking and by building a project group which will be formed out of the civil society, the public sector and experts of each field. Events with different topics and workshops regarding the project will take place in the project space. The event-project start box will be a point of reference in the whole process for each specific project.

Questo provvisorio spazio per evento (event-project start box) è importante per segnalare ed avviare i progetti chiave di queste due vallate. È necessario per rendere visibile e dare un segno di inizio. Inoltre, l'evento riunisce persone interessate e contribuisce alla creazione di nuovi legami e alla creazione di un gruppo di progetto che sarà formato dalla società civile, dal settore pubblico e da esperti di ciascun settore. In questo spazio, che rimarrà sul posto del progetto iniziato, eventi con diversi temi e workshop riguardanti il progetto si svolgeranno e contribuiranno per un maggior approfondimento del progetto stesso. Questa 'event-project start box' sarà un punto di riferimento nell'intero processo di sviluppo e sarà stabilito per ogni progetto in questa valle.



3 GATEWAY PRELA' - A LIFE MUSEUM

This project aims to be a interactive showcase of the history. This means people can come to see at this point how old agriculture traditions evolved and how border conditions are and are treated as well as where hiking paths are or festivities will happen in the villages. This gateway gives space for awareness. At this gateway workshops regarding traditional agriculture practice are made as well as historical exhibitions for on oil production. Villages can expose themselves in this gateway but also use it as meeting point or workshop space.

The chosen space offers space for exhibitions, museum and life experience. This project Gateway Prelà is a more local oriented project. It will mostly give the possibility for new comers to understand the rural part. To give suggestions what to visit and how to read the history, the landscape and the people living there. It is a point of awareness towards the rural. The project incorporates abandoned buildings and agriculture land into a open air life Museum of the past. Over time the role of being an awareness-information point is turned into a point where people can learn about historic practices. Over time this place becomes a space to learn about old agriculture techniques and become the point where rural and urban activities will meet and respond to each other needs.

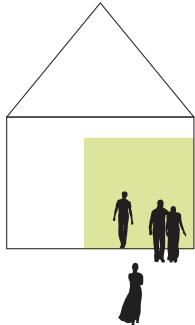
Questo progetto vuole essere una vetrina interattiva della storia. L'Eco museo che ha come obiettivo di rivitalizzare vecchie tradizioni agricole. Questo significa che le persone possono venire a praticare le antiche tradizioni agricole e vedere come si sono evolute. Nell'esposizione i percorsi dei vecchi sentieri e annunci di feste tradizionali dei villaggi saranno visibili come la storia e i singoli villaggi. Questo gateway dà spazio alla consapevolezza. A questo punto vengono organizzati laboratori sulla pratica agricola tradizionale e mostre storiche per la produzione di olio. I villaggi possono esporsi in questo gateway ma anche utilizzarlo come punto di incontro o spazio di lavoro.

Il 'Gateway Prelà' offre spazio per mostre, museo e narrative sull'esperienza di vita in queste vallate. Questo progetto è un progetto locale. Per lo più darà la possibilità ai nuovi arrivati di comprendere la parte rurale, l'entroterra. Per dare suggerimenti su cosa visitare e come leggere la storia, il paesaggio e le persone che vivono lì. Questo posto funge come entrata. È un punto di consapevolezza nei confronti del rurale. Il progetto comprende edifici abbandonati e terreni agricoli abbandonati e gli rivitalizza in un Eco-museo all'aperto. Nel corso del tempo il ruolo di essere un punto di informazione-consapevolezza si trasforma in un punto in cui le persone possono conoscere le pratiche agricole storiche e imparare. Diventerà il punto in cui le attività rurali e urbane si incontreranno e si risponderanno viceversa-mente.

ENCOUNTER - MEETING SPACE

On long term each villages has to provide a space which is available for meetings, gatherings, workshops. It also gives space to allow inhabitants to present and sell their products. A space for valorization of their life. This room forces the sense of community and is needed especially for rural areas with a high amount of elderly and scattered society. Newcomers and tourist can see the products of the village and can come into contact with the local inhabitants. One can say that this space offers room for the exchange and connection between endogenous and exogenous forces. Space or room for new networks.

A lungo termine, ogni villaggio deve fornire uno spazio disponibile per riunioni, incontri, workshop. Questo spazio consente agli abitanti di presentare e vendere i loro prodotti. Uno spazio per la valorizzazione della loro vita. Questa stanza forza il senso della comunità ed è necessaria soprattutto per le aree rurali con numerosi anziani e con una società dispersa e frammentata. In più nuovi arrivati e turisti possono vedere i prodotti del villaggio e possono entrare in contatto con gli abitanti locali. Si può dire che questo spazio offre uno scambio e una connessione tra forze endogene ed esogene. Uno spazio per nuovi legami e nuove conoscenze.



4 MULTI CULTURE CENTRE - AWARENESS FOR THE OTHER

This project provide a temporary stage which will be placed in-front of the theatre 'Teatro Cavour' in Porto Maurizio. This stage gives space for improvisation and workshops between different people with different cultural background. This performances are mainly organized by schools of the place. Inhabitants and local stakeholders can also reserve the stage for own workshops, celebrations, events or ideas which are related to culture and the place. The author proposes events connected with food and different cousins. Cooking not only connects family and friends, but also serves as a bridge between strangers. Cooking here becomes an event. In the foreground is not the difference in taste, but much more the joint trial and the interest in unknown ingredients and combinations. The interest in the other cousins and the learning of the other, the foreigner is here the main focus. As food connects and gives also the sensation that the other has same basic needs and values loves the barrier between cultures and can help to encounter the foreigner differently. To show own food traditions and festivities enhances proudness and gives more self-esteem back. To engage people through children, in tight relation with school programs helps to tight relations between cultures and strangers.

Questo progetto prevede un palcoscenico temporaneo che sarà posizionato di fronte al teatro 'Teatro Cavour' a Porto Maurizio. Questa fase dà spazio all'improvvisazione e ai workshop tra persone con diversi background culturali. Queste esibizioni sono principalmente organizzate da scuole del posto. Gli abitanti e gli attori locali possono anche riservare il palcoscenico per i propri laboratori, celebrazioni, eventi o idee che sono legate alla cultura e al luogo. L'autore propone eventi legati al cibo e diverse cucine tradizionali. Cucinare non solo collega famiglia e amici, ma serve anche da ponte tra stranieri. Cucinare qui diventa un'evento. In primo piano non è la differenza di gusto, ma molto di più: è la prova congiunta e l'interesse per ingredienti e combinazioni sconosciuti. L'interesse per altre cucine, l'apprendimento dell'altro, lo straniero, è qui l'obiettivo principale. Il cibo connette e dà anche la sensazione che l'altro abbia gli stessi bisogni e valori di base. Questo può aiutare ad abbassare la barriera tra lo sconosciuto, lo straniero e far conoscere lo straniero in un'altro contesto. Mostrare le proprie tradizioni culinari e le proprie festività tradizionali aumenta l'orgoglio e dà più autostima. Coinvolgere le persone attraverso i bambini, in stretta relazione con i programmi scolastici aiuta a stringere i rapporti tra diverse persone con diverse culture e provenienze.

5 GATEWAY - OBSERVATORY

This project on one hand emphases on this two really important connections by suggesting the observatory box. On the other hand it copes with land-sliding by planting special trees, shrubs which are retaining the soil and catch a first part of the rain run of water. This planted shrubs and plants should be part of the 'Mediterranean Macchia', to add value and give also some knowledge to tourists and other inhabitants who are passing through this gateway about the typical landscape of this region. This observatory box is seen from the main roads and is highlighting the entrance to the last villages of the valley Impero. This recommended installation is also interesting from the point of view of European funding. It should show how European funding can be scaled down much more into the local scale and be used more sustainable by stitching the surrounding with the project itself.

Questo progetto, da un lato, enfatizza queste due connessioni veramente importanti suggerendo uno spazio trasparente però chiuso come osservatorio. D'altra parte si occupa dell'erosione del terreno piantando alberi speciali, arbusti che mantengono il terreno e catturano una prima parte dell'acqua piovana. Questi arbusti e piante piantate devono far parte della "Macchia Mediterranea" per aggiungere un valore in più e dare anche qualche conoscenza ai turisti e agli altri abitanti che attraversano questo gate per il tipico paesaggio di questa regione. Questo osservatorio è visibile dalle strade principali e evidenzia l'ingresso agli ultimi villaggi della valle Impero. Questa installazione consigliata è interessante anche dal punto di vista dei finanziamenti europei. Dovrebbe mostrare come finanziamenti Europei possono essere ridimensionati molto più su scala locale e essere utilizzati in modo più sostenibile cucendo l'ambiente circostante con il progetto stesso.

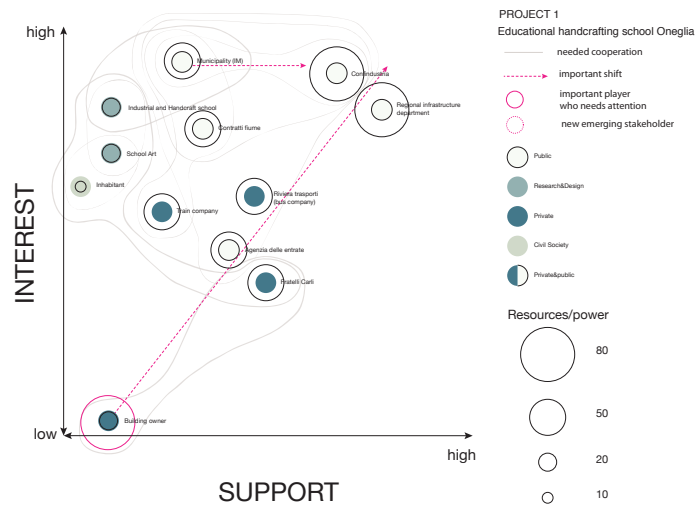
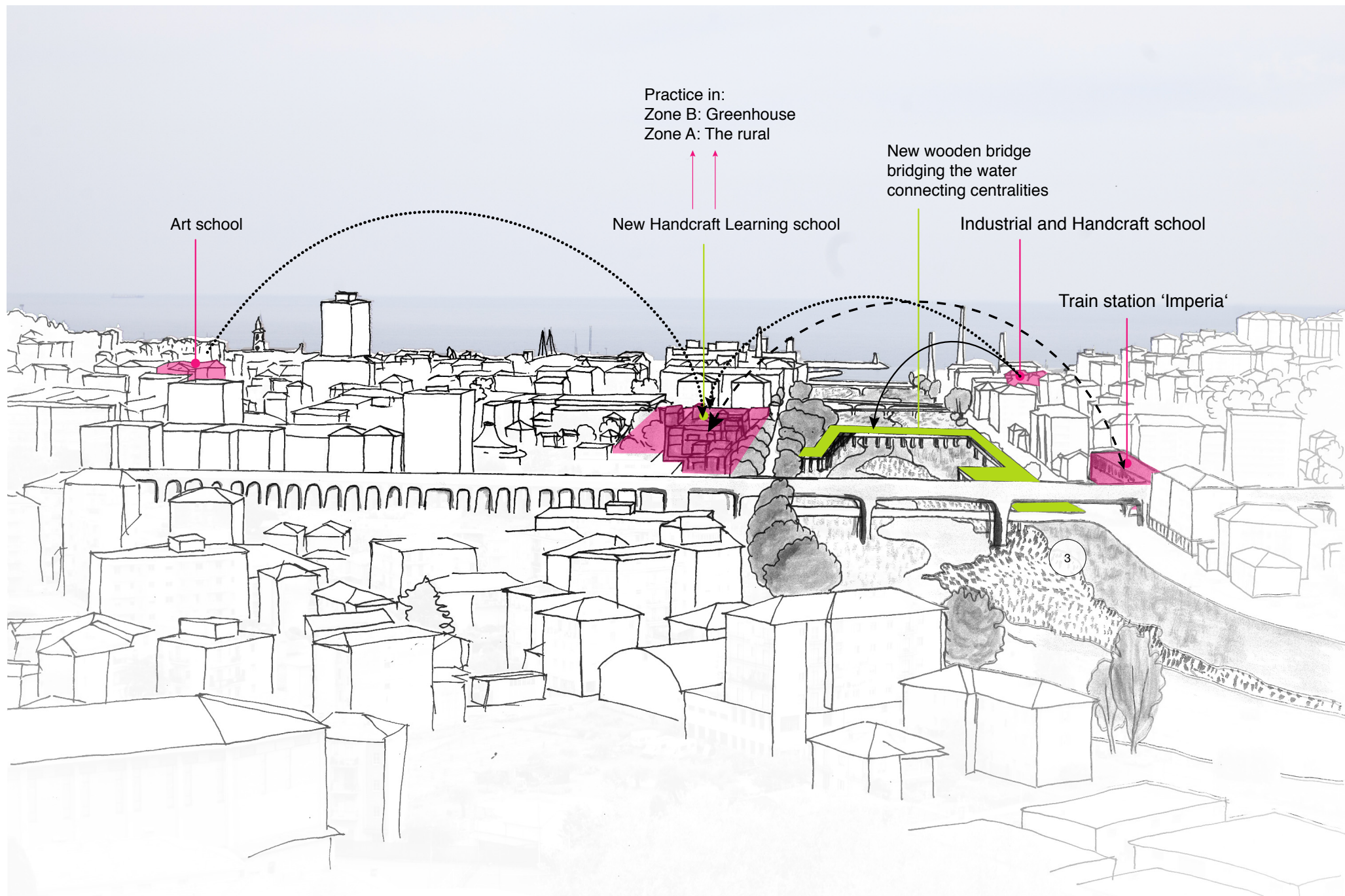


Fig.1: Stakeholder engagement. Source: by author

1 COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT

LOCAL SCALE
Students from Industrial and Handcraft school ('Ist.Prof.Di Stato Per L'Industria E L'Artigianato Ipsia 'G.Marconi') Imperia are engaged with bridging the water.
 -> making the green and the water again accessible

regeneration of old railway becomes a cooperation project under the name 'more green into the city'

REGIONAL SCALE
 Cooperation with the **University of Genova** is made.
 Engagement of the **agriculture regional institute** ('Centro regionale di sperimentazione e assistenza agricola').
Regional Water management is collaborating.

2 SKILL AND LABOUR:

LOCAL SCALE
Students from Industrial and Handcraft school ('Ist.Prof.Di Stato Per L'Industria E L'Artigianato Ipsia 'G.Marconi') and Art school are engaged for the development of the new handcraft school.
 Knowledge from the rural part is been integrated in the education

- the rural area becomes the space for practice and knowledge enrichment
 PROJECT 3 'GREEN AND LOCAL' and the GATES are the main projects which has to be done by the students

REGIONAL SCALE
 Cooperation with the **University of Genova** is made.
 Engagement of the **agriculture regional institute** ('Centro regionale di sperimentazione e assistenza agricola').
Regional Water management

3 FLOW OF KNOWLEDGE AND PEOPLE

REGIONAL SCALE
 Experts for watermanagement and agriculture field are coming via train, because of the good connection to give seminars and lectures in the new University.
 -> project becomes regional and international



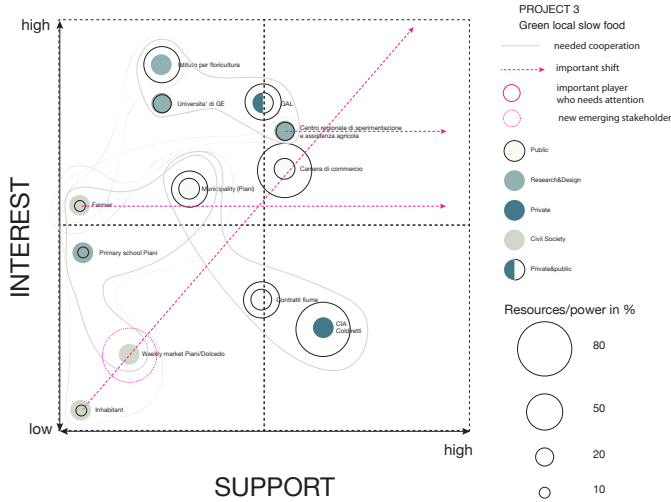
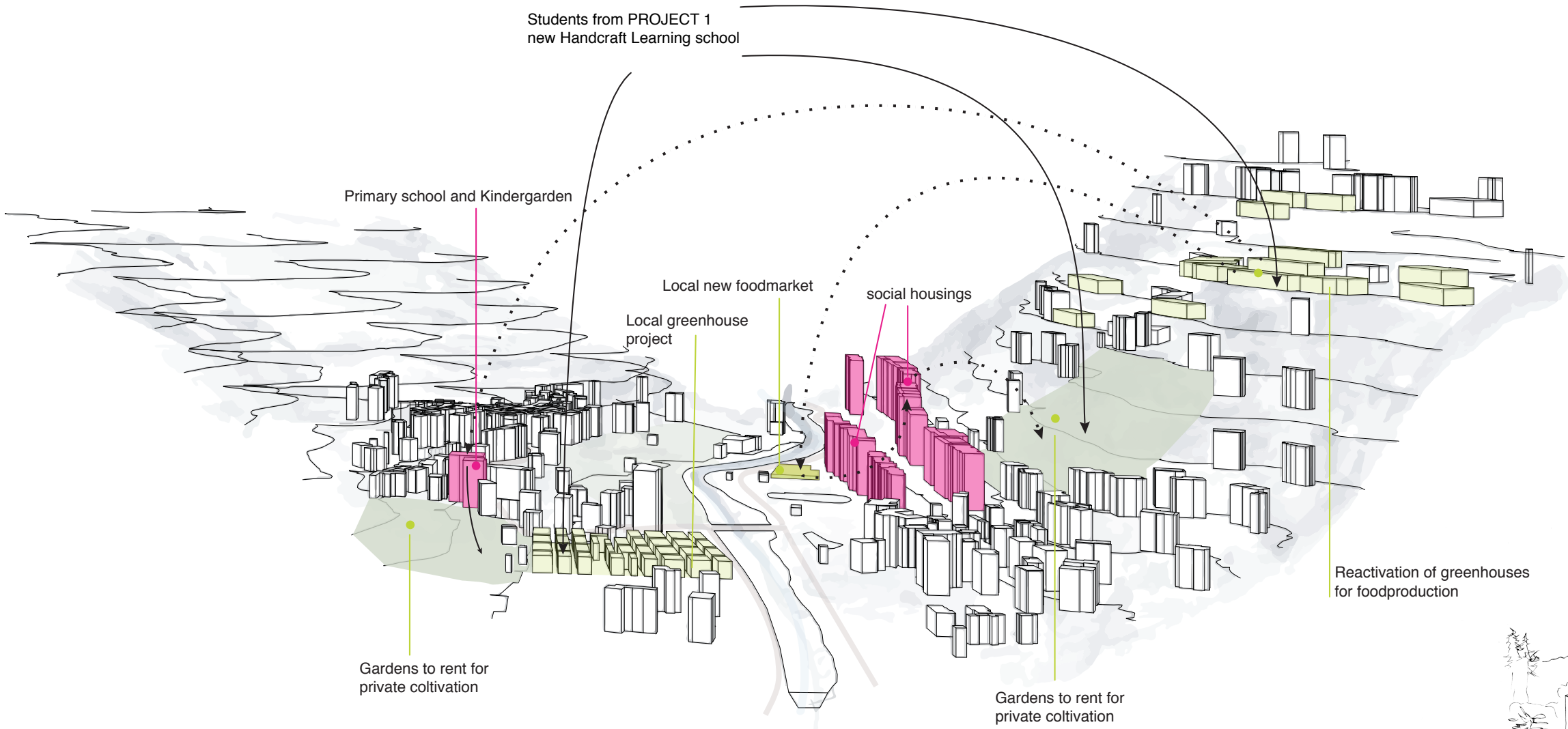
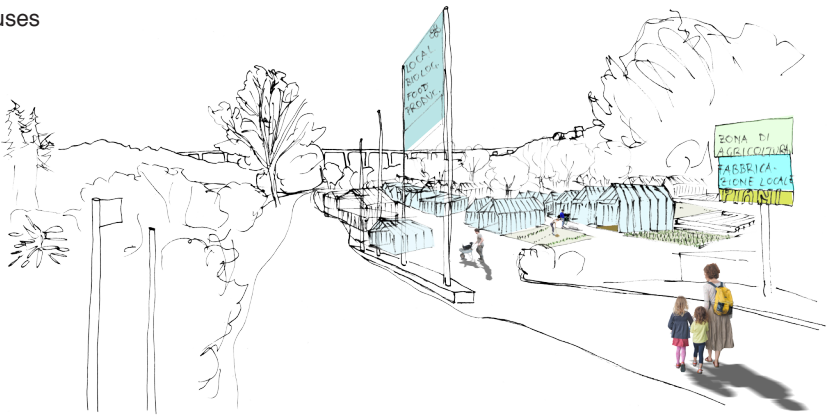


Fig.2: Stakeholder engagement. Source: by author



1 SKILL AND LABOUR:

LOCAL SCALE
Students from PROJECT 1, the handcraft school in Oneglia, valley Impero are engaged with redeveloping the abundant greenhouse zones with new techniques and methods for local food-production. **Farmers** from the valley Prino are part of this process. Knowledge of how to cope with this landscape as well as historic methods are taught.

REGIONAL SCALE
 Cooperation with the **University of Genova** is made. Engagement of the **agriculture regional institute** ('Centro regionale di sperimentazione e assistenza agricola'). **Regional Water management** is collaborating. **Institute for floriculture** ('Istituto per floricultura') is engaged.

2 COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT

LOCAL SCALE
Students and farmers prepare parcels for community gardens and for educational purposes in elementary school Piani. **School** and **Inhabitants** are participating.

REGIONAL SCALE
 New educational program for schools will be developed. From the field to the plate.

3
 4 LOCAL GOODS AND AWARENESS

LOCAL SCALE
 Produced vegetables are used for the mensa in all schools of the valley Prino.
 -> rise of awareness about local food and its producers

Vegetables are used for cooking events in PROJECT 2 CULTURAL GATHERING or other cultural events.

Produced vegetables are sold on a new emerging market in the Municipality of Piani and on other markets.
 -> 1/3 of the money goes into mantainance of te rural



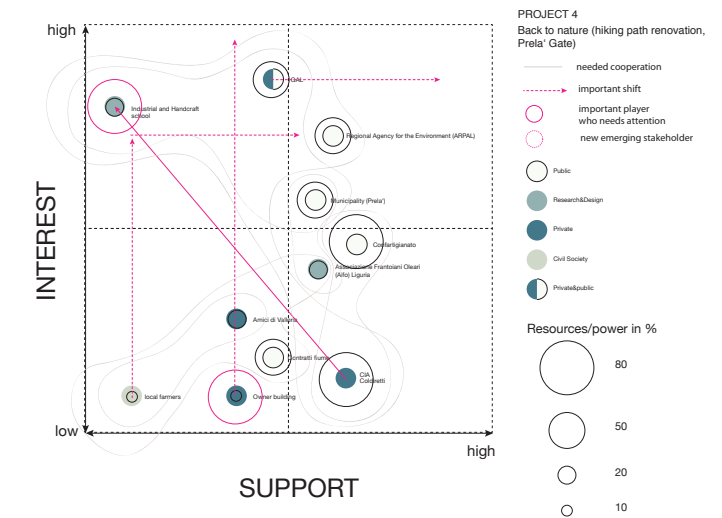
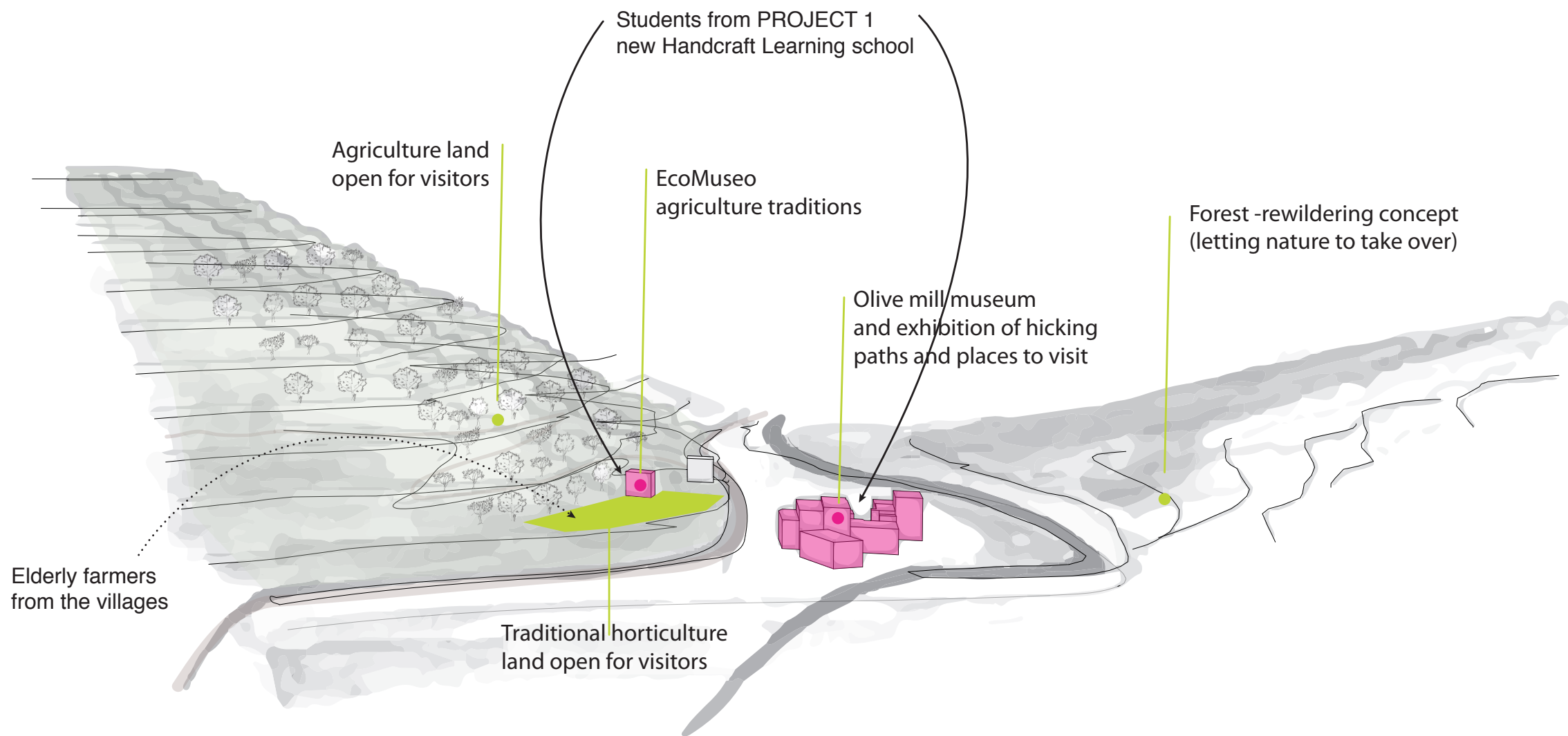


Fig.3: Stakeholder engagement. Source: by author



1 START OF THE GATE

LOCAL SCALE
Students from PROJECT 1, the handcraft school in Oneglia, valley Impero are engaged with redeveloping the abundant greenhouse zones with new techniques and methods for local food-production.
Farmers from the valley Prino are part of this process. Knowledge of how to cope with this landscape as well as historic methods are taught.
 GAL as local support for awareness.

REGIONAL SCALE
 Engagement of the **agriculture regional institute** ('Centro regionale di sperimentazione e assistenza agricola').
Regional Water management is collaborating.
Institute for floriculture ('Istituto per floricultura') is engaged.

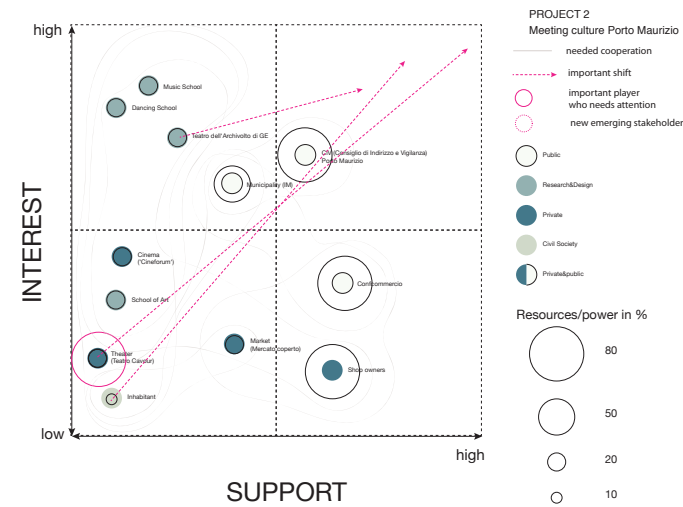
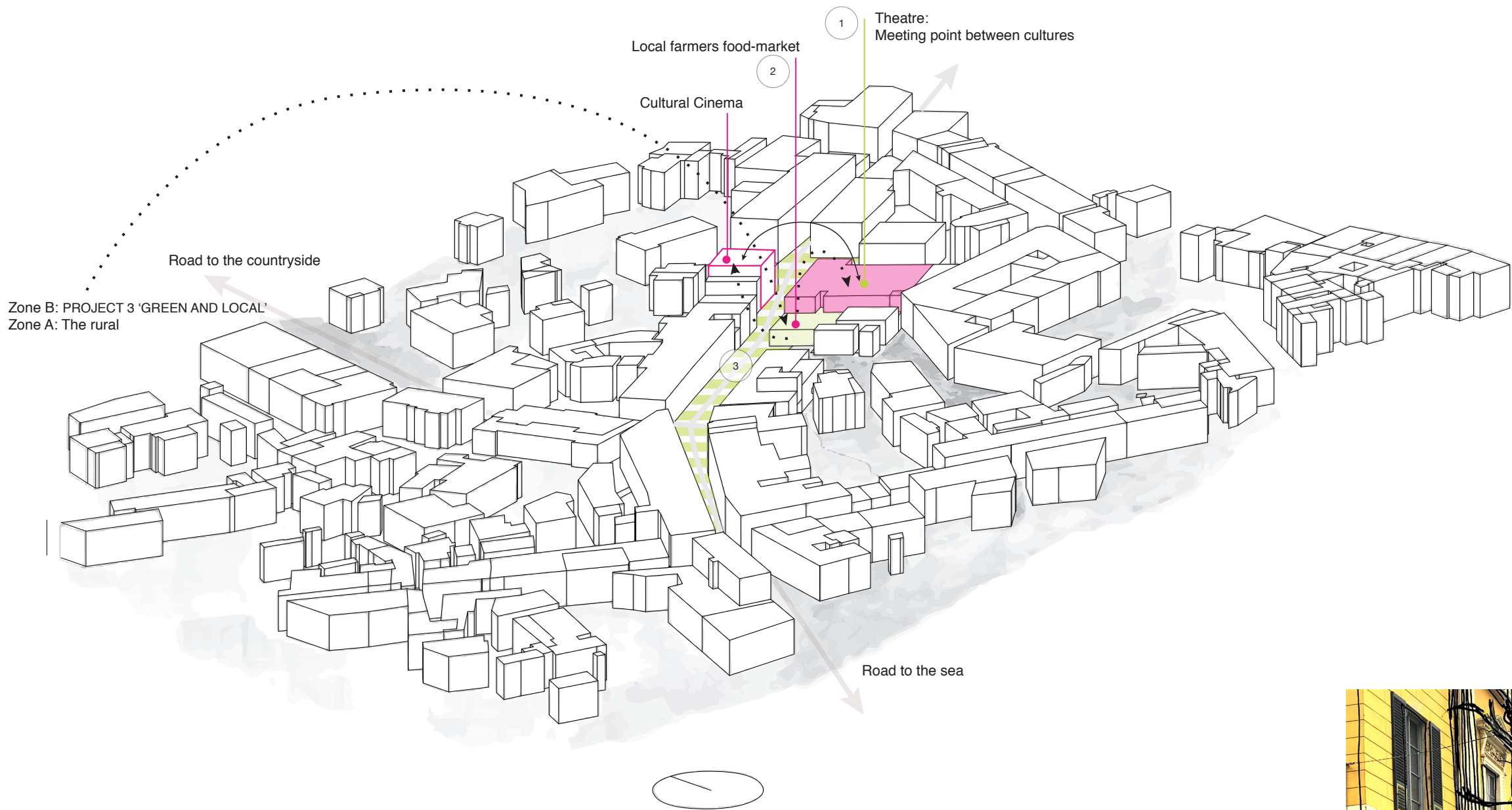
2 KNOWLEDGE - LEARNING ABOUT THE PAST

LOCAL SCALE
Schools use the Eco Museum as a place to show the history of agriculture to their students.
Tourists are using this place as their gate towards the place, the rural villages.
 Workshops are made on the spot.

REGIONAL SCALE
Associazione Frantoiani Oleari (Aifo) Liguria are sustaining and supporting the Eco Museum.
 Regional Agency for the Environment (ARPAL) as financial support



4 MULTI CULTURE CENTRE - AWARENESS FOR THE OTHER



1 2 LOCAL GOODS AND AWARENESS

LOCAL SCALE

Vegetables from PROJECT 3 'GREEN AND LOCAL' are used for cooking events from different food cultures
-> integration of people from different countries

Produced vegetables from PROJECT 3 'GREEN AND LOCAL' are sold on the market
-> 1/3 of the money goes into maintenance of the rural

3 COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT

LOCAL SCALE

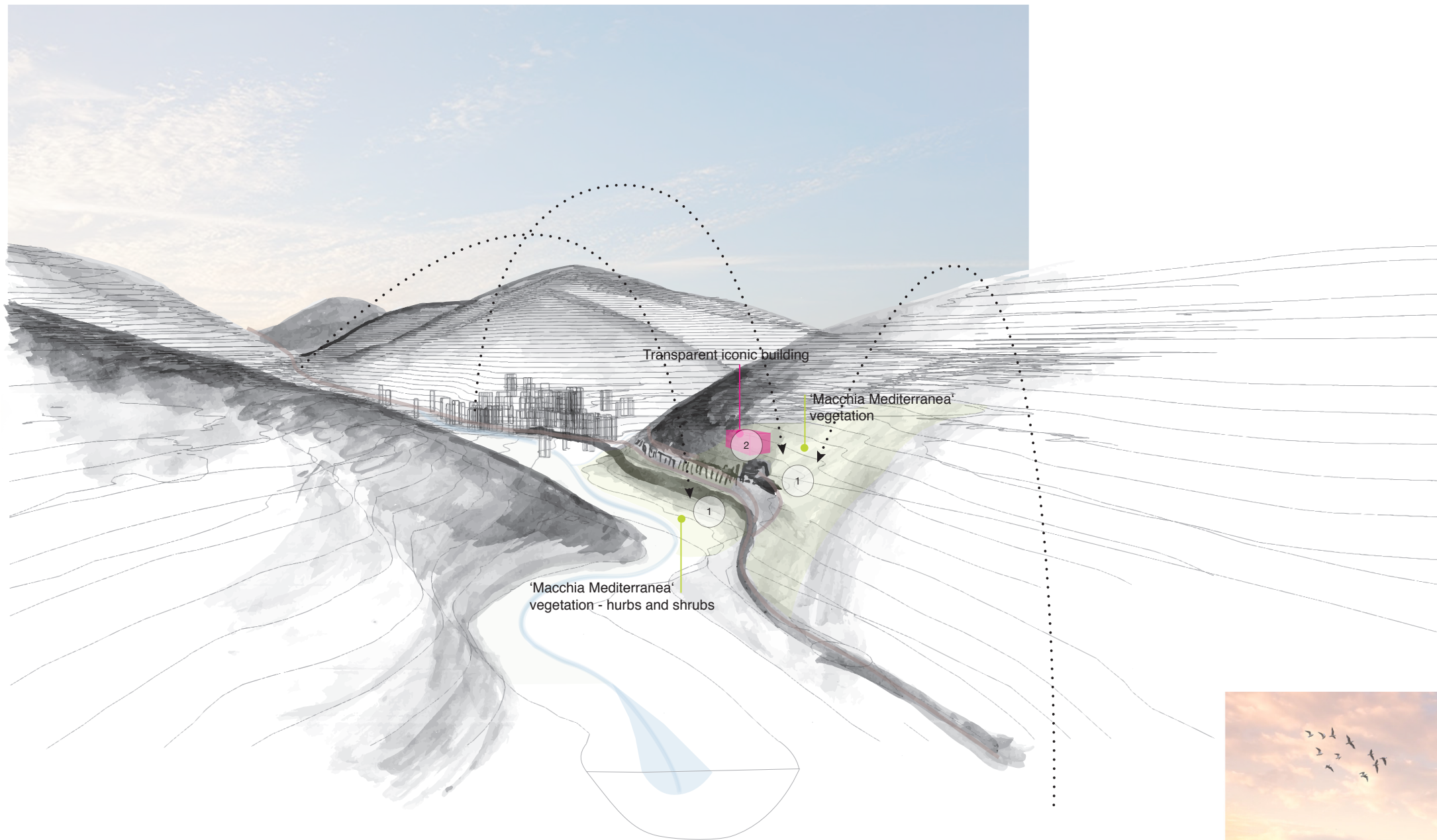
Cooperation between farmers market, theatre and cinema events are strengthen

The street becomes the space of interaction

Schools are using the reopened theatre for performances and exhibitions

-> Children = tool to get different people from different countries together.
-> first step towards lowering the 'fear' of the other





1 SKILL AND LABOUR

LOCAL SCALE
Students from project 1, the handcraft-school university in Oneglia are engaged with planting 'Macchia Mediterranea' vegetation, typical herbs in the abandoned land and to stabilise the soil.
Farmers from the villages are part of this process and helping in understanding the place.
Knowledge of how to cope with this landscape as well as historic methods are taught

REGIONAL SCALE
Cooperation with the **University of Genova** is made.
Collaboration with the regional and provincial **road department**.
Regional Water management is collaborating.

2 AWARENESS

LOCAL SCALE
Visible **iconic transparent building** on the top of different road networks, build from the winners of an announced landscape-architecture competition. **Observation** of the typical vegetation of this region. More consciousness about this point of being a gateway to the rural and to an important economic corridor for the region Liguria. This research can be an example of how a new network can be built and contribute to creating a backbone for a shrinking region.

REGIONAL SCALE
A **showcase** for combining different edges, elements, and departments of different scales together.
Expert and touristic attraction.
Educational purpose about the typical vegetation of this region and a new water drainage system combined with the road system.

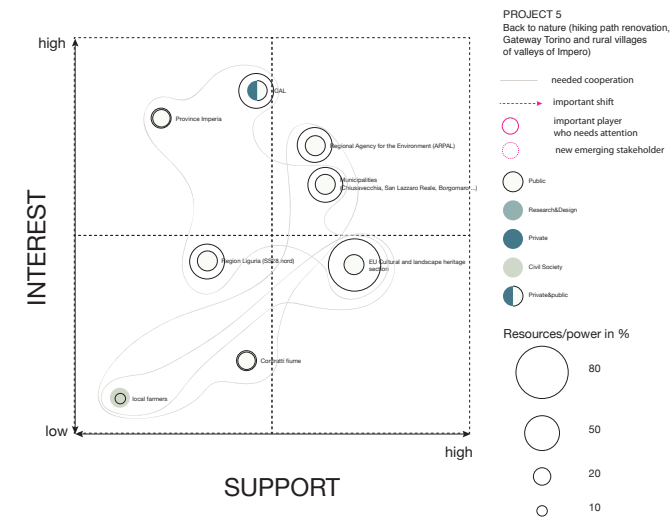
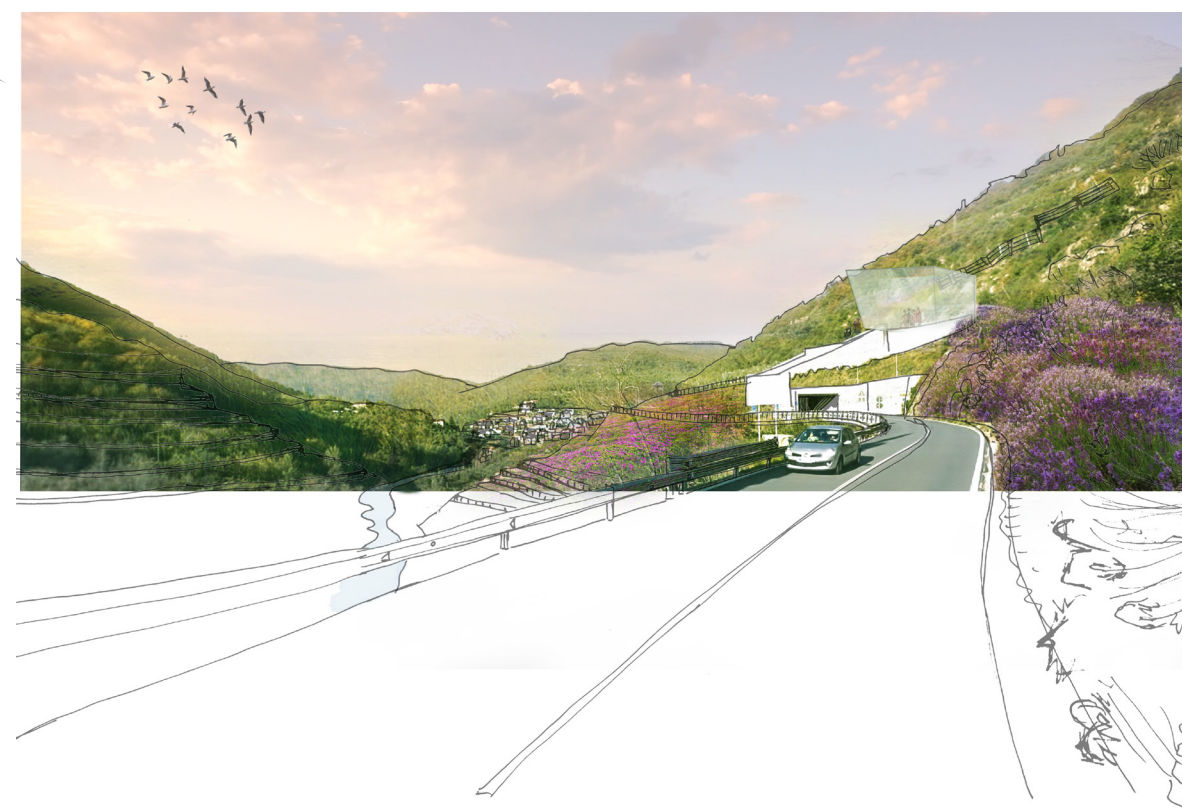


Fig.5: Stakeholder engagement. Source: by author



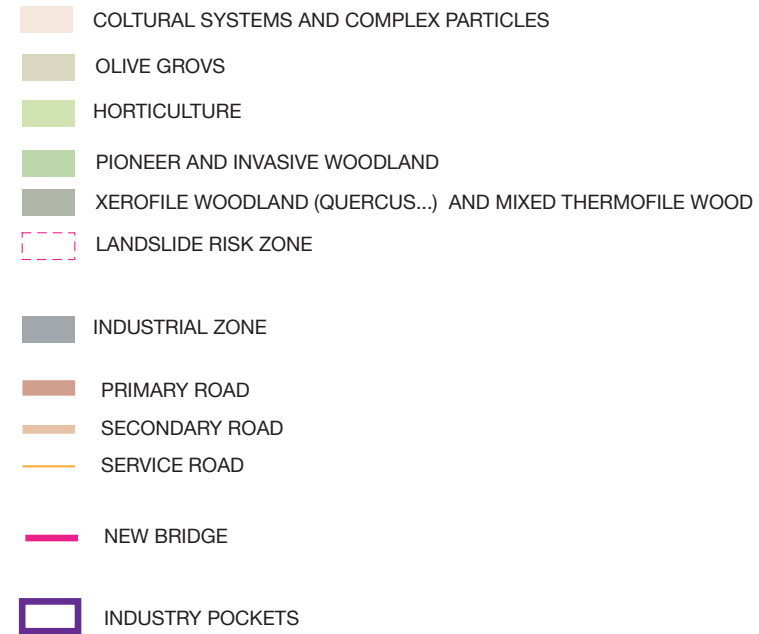


Fig.6: Stakeholder engagement. Source: by author

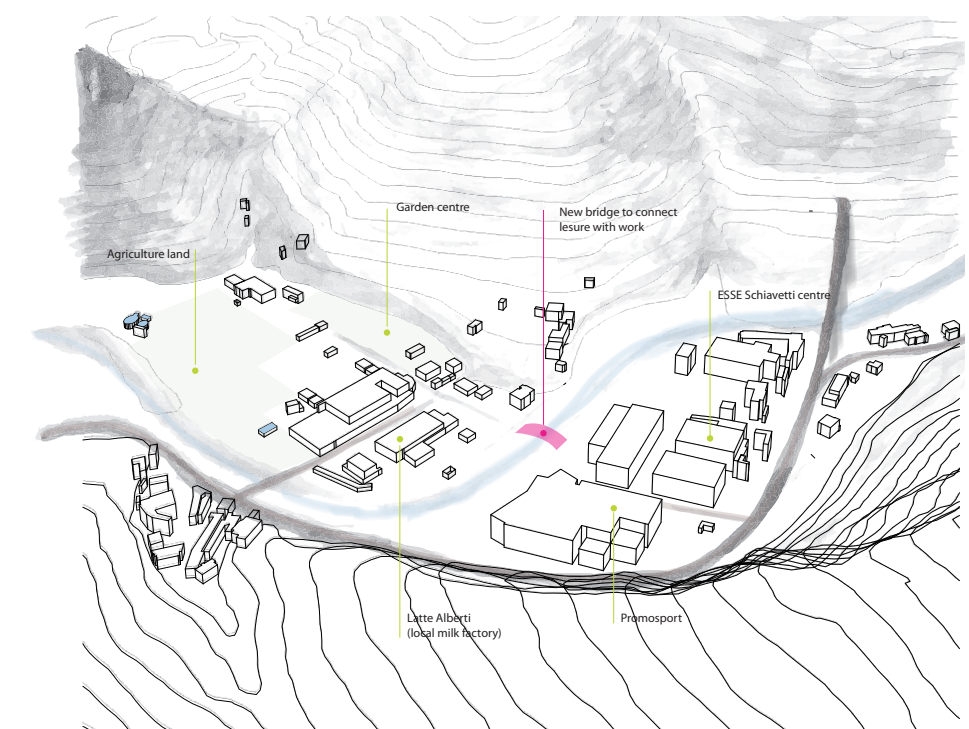
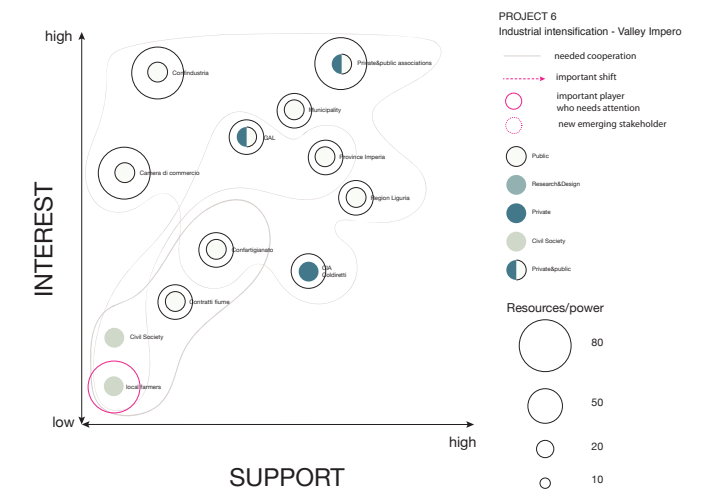


Fig.7: Pockets for clustering and densifying. Source: by author with data from Repertorio Cartografico Regione Liguria.

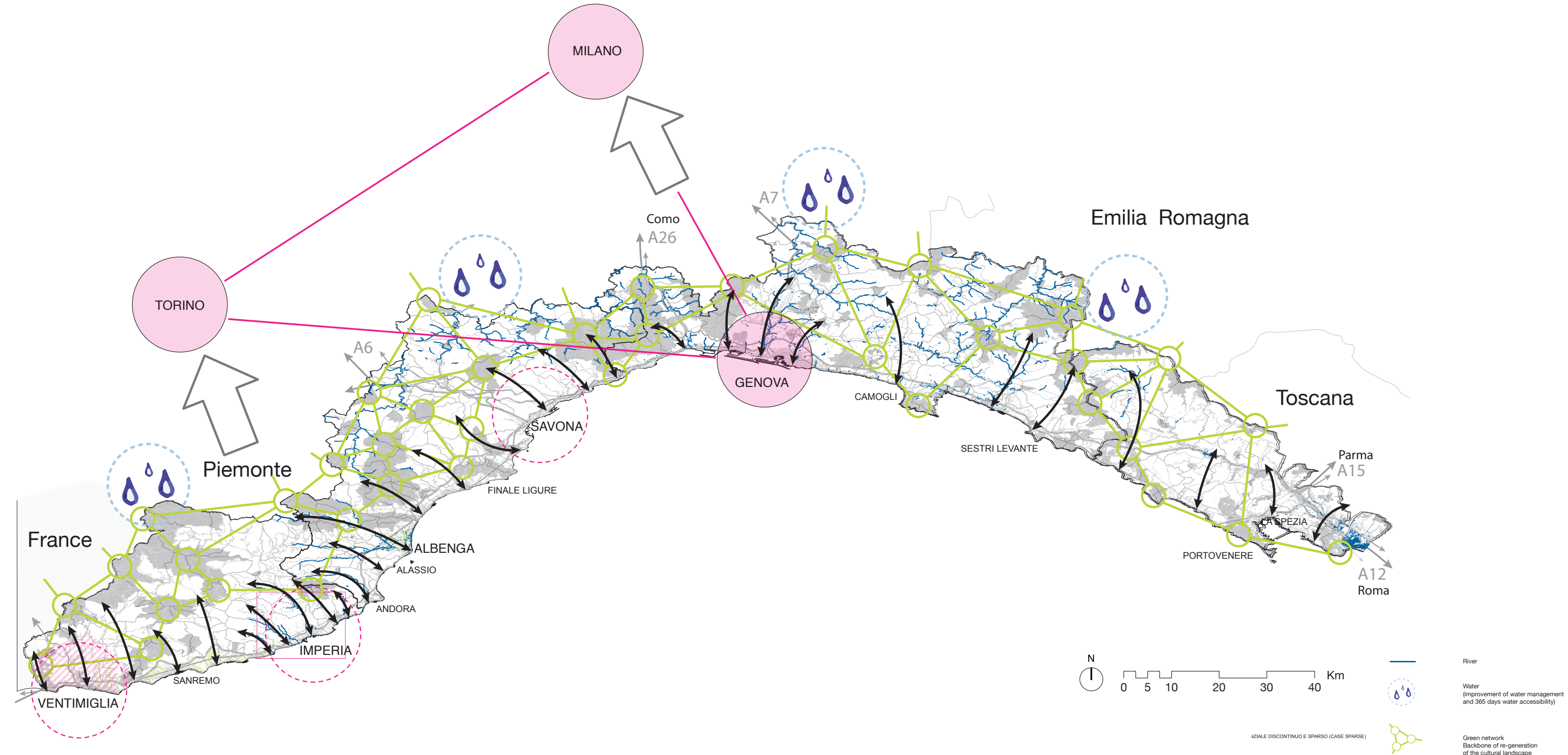


Fig.8: Vision for the region Liguria. Source: by author with data from Repertorio Cartografico Regione Liguria. URL: http://geoportale.regione.liguria.it/geo-viewer/pages/apps/repertorio/repertorio.html?id=r_liguri:D.1415.2012-12-21 (accessed 02.10.17).

- River
- Water (improvement of water management and 365 days water accessibility)
- Green network Backbone of re-generation of the cultural landscape
- Natura 2000 areas
- Economic trading area FR-IT
- Economic triangle
- Potential economic centres
- Economic corridor
- Valley strengthen relation urban-rural through the concept of a valley
- Road
- Residential area

The vision for the region Liguria is mainly to rebalance the cultural landscape. To bring back the equilibrium between nature and human activity. If the region is within a certain balance than certain problems like draughts, floods as well as landslides will be reduced. On regional scale synergies are created between different elements. One can talk about re-stitch the edges. The important spatial framework which has to be applied to the region is the entity of the geomorphological entity of a valley. This specific region needs to re-stitch the countryside to the coast.

The effect of rebalancing by re-stitching will provide new job opportunities and fosters the economic system. The new emerging job opportunities are more related to the specific environment which means that with the qualification of the labour can immediately apply their knowledge on the spot. People will gain a closer connection to the environment which will bring the effect that the region over time more young families will establish themselves within the countryside.

The vision re-evaluates values and forgotten activities and establishes new meaning to it. It will put parts of the cultural landscape into spotlight or create new connections between different natural parts, that the

landscape and its meaning will change. The green-blue structure will be classified in three categories: high, medium and low maintenance. This three categorisations are offering different amount of jobs. For the high maintenance areas approximately 610 555 job opportunities will be created.

Thinking in a new entity gives also the opportunity of widening up cooperation and exchange forms. The valley becomes the driver for regional development. This effects new corporations and a different way of managing the whole region. New exchanges and corporations between different projects within the region are made. The backbone for this cross-provincial and croos-border cooperation will be mainly base in first place on the green-blue structure. By the green-blue structure it is meant the water relations between the countryside and the coast as well as the structure of the environment. The protected green areas will become a whole network instead of being scattered over the region. The particular landscape (with its villages, vegetation, water and inhabitants) and its unique will attract a certain type of tourism which evaluates the values of it. By seeing the beauty and the region's specific values offers also to accept parts of the countryside to be rewilded or abandoned.

The important thing about this acceptance is that the region still repairs edges so that the parts are not lying apart and for its own but are integrated within the whole concept. The main infrastructural corridors are kept, strengthened and connected stronger in the way they are connected to the system surrounding them. On local scale the traffic will be reduced by providing different transportation modes and by applying small scale interventions and methods.

On governance level this vision allows more simplicity and more transparency in the bureaucratic system. This will be done partly by the new planning entity 'the valley' which will cover the gap between the region and the municipalities. Moreover, EU policies and funding will be used on different scales and will give a wider benefit to the project itself and the local scale. Trigger down effects are implied but also bottom up initiatives will be hold and evaluated differently. The region will take two valleys as its testing case from which more projects will start within the other parts of the region.

Moreover, national and international relations are strengthen which will enhance private-public relations.