

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

first mentor: L.M. Calabrese
second mentor: M.M. Dąbrowski

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.

Research question:
What alternative planning approach could be used for the Ligurian valleys to valorise the potentials of shrinkage and cultural landscape?

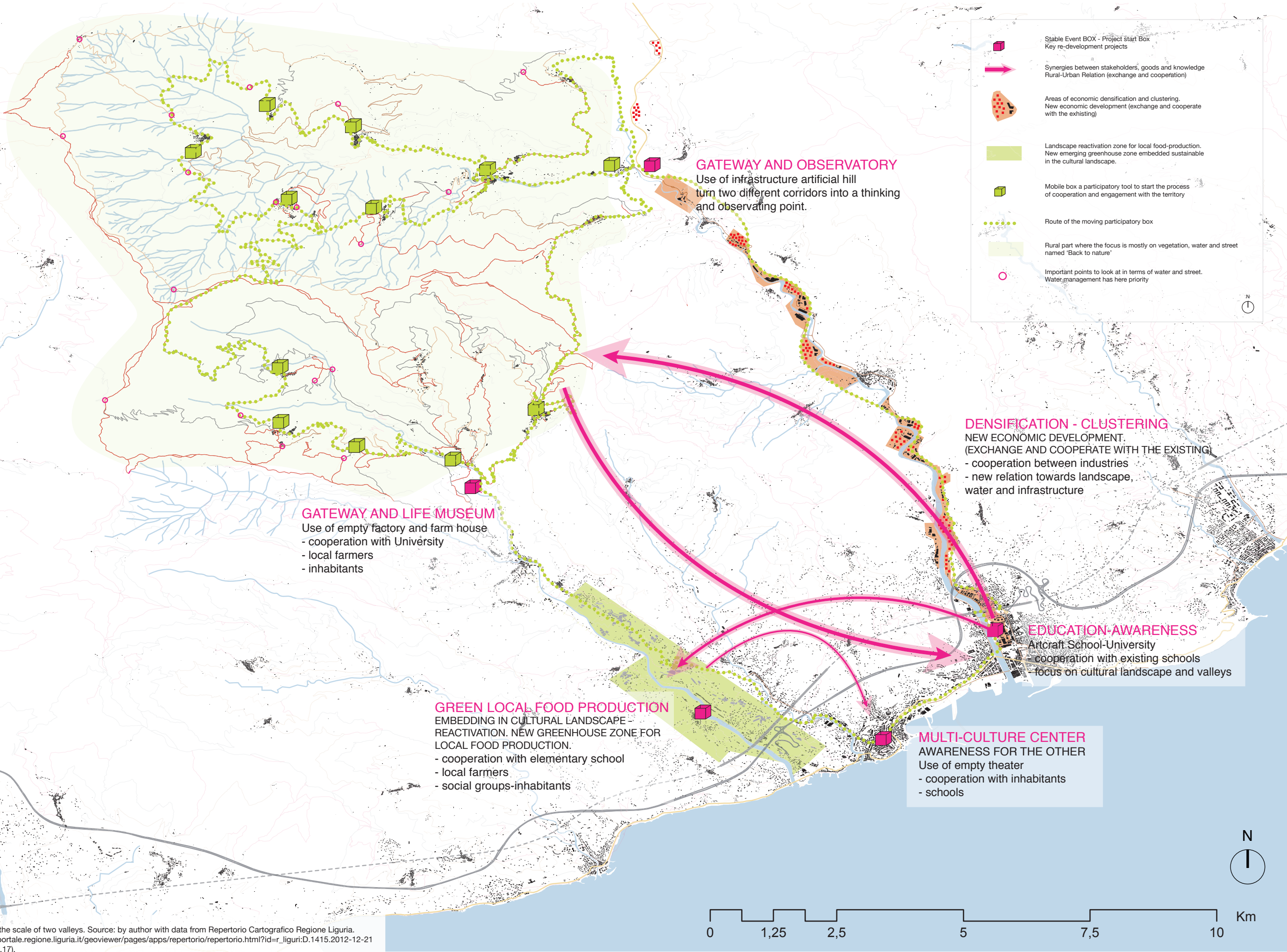
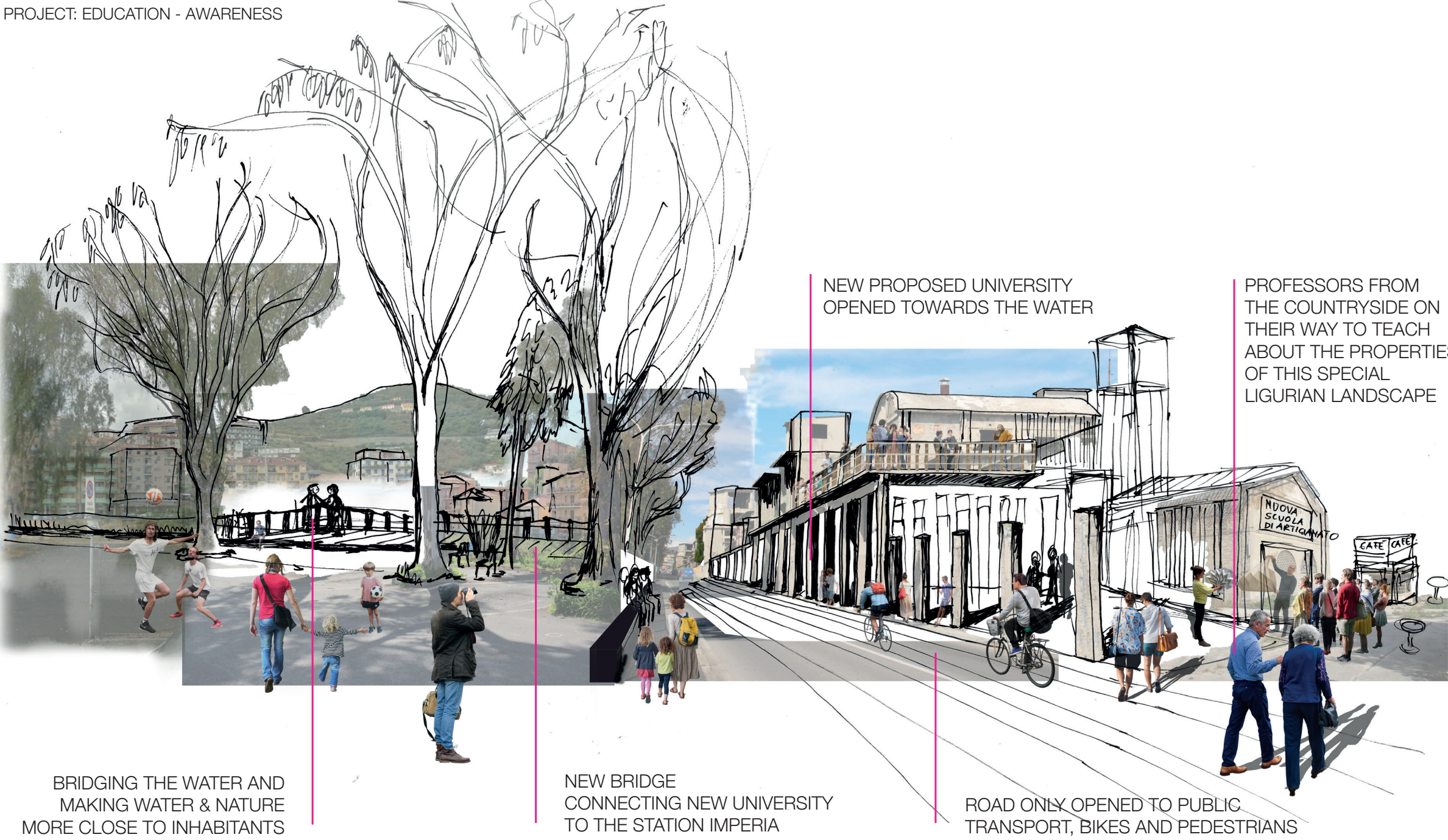


Fig.3: Vision for the scale of two valleys. Source: by author with data from Repertorio Cartografico Regione Liguria, URL: <http://geoportal.regione.liguria.it/geoviewer/pages/repertorio/repertorio.html?fid=1>, figure D.14.15, 2012-12-21 (accessed 02.10.17).

KEY RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PROJECT: EDUCATION - AWARENESS



(EDUCATION - AWARENESS) SECTION BRIDGING THE WATER.

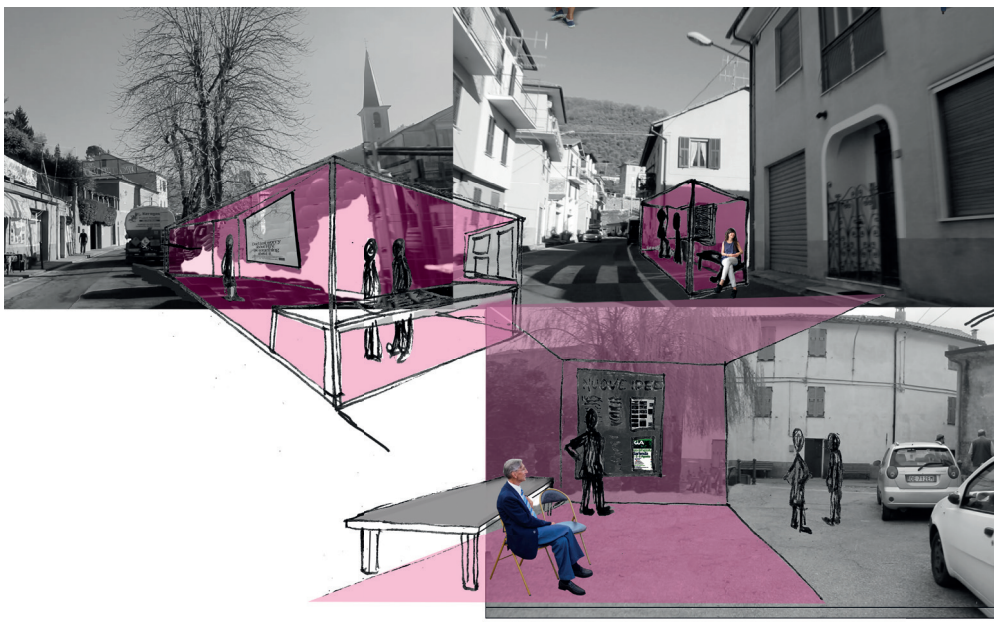
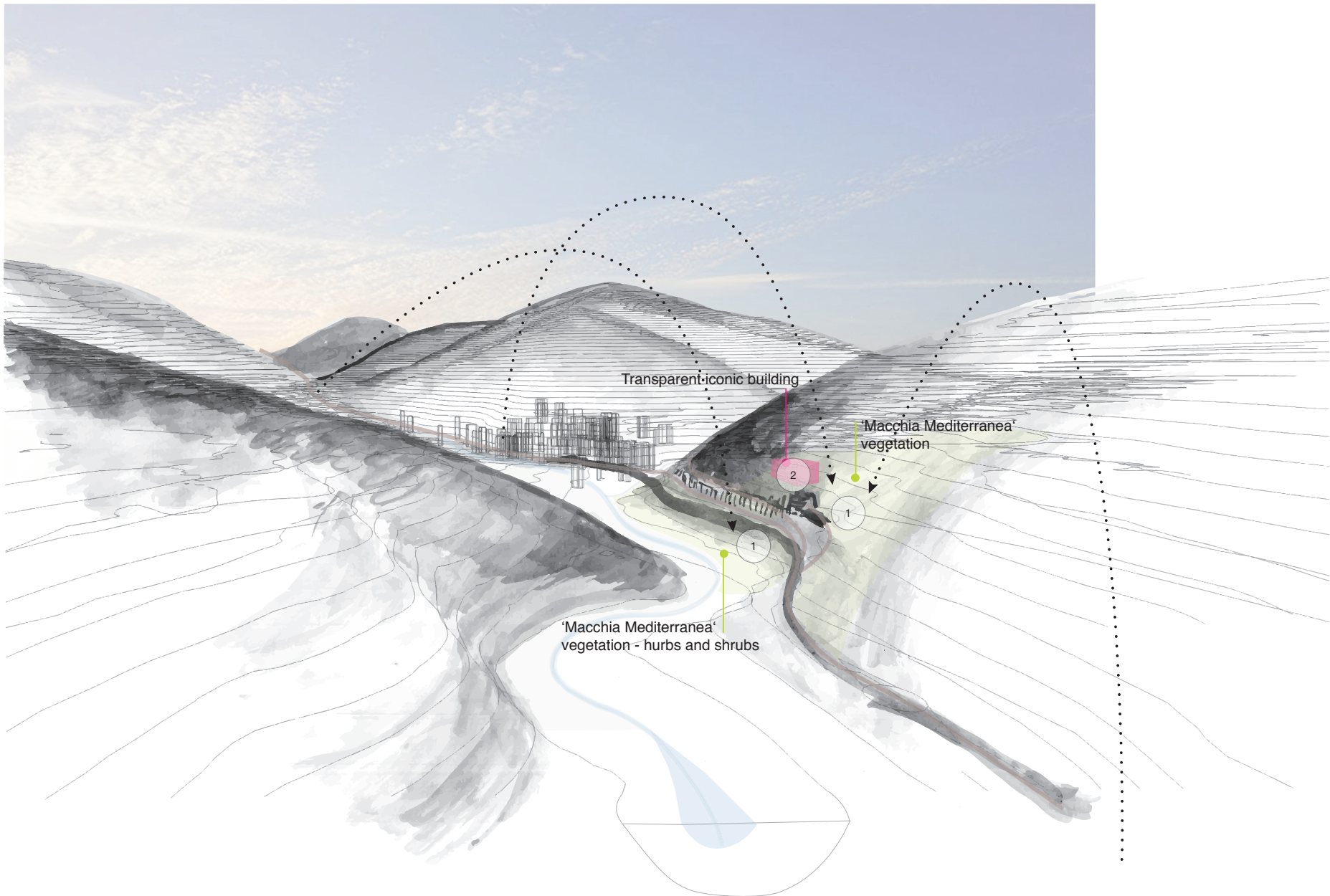


Fig.2: Participatory tool. 'Mobile box' collage in different villages. Source: by author with people from www.skagubbar.se



Fig.1: Topic relations. Source: by author

PROJECT: GATEWAY-OBSERVATORY



REFLECTION

The chosen projects are located strategically within the valley and form different urban-rural relations. Cooperation and participation is a key element in this project and is made visible by three different physical spaces. This project claims to make cooperation and engagement also visible in the physical space. Being aware of the environment and having a space for observation of it is essential in this projects. Not every time it is important to reverse shrinkage to growth but it is important to keep identities of the past still readable for a future re-generation. By making the landscape qualities accessible and bringing back the water as an element in the daily life of the inhabitants this project reaches a sustainable development in each key re-development project. The cultural landscape became the element which combines natural forces and human activity without destroying each other's performance. If a cultural landscape is within a dynamic balance than we will see a beautiful performance and choreography on the stage. The spectator will see both actors contributing to the image of the dance and both using the stage equally. It will be always a giving and taking, a releasing and a tightening. Consequently, cultural landscape becomes the tool that connects urban and rural performances. It helps also to understand the complex system of the region or place specific occurring shrinkage of the region better. Thus, the cultural landscape does not only help to give a better understanding of the interrelation between urban and rural systems but it also allows for a more space-bounded approach and helps to define specific elements which can help to re-generate a shrinking region. As the cultural landscape is seen as a binding element, we can say that it supports de-growth strategies to use the core, place-specific elements, of shrinkage and will help to reshuffle those elements to new opportunities for a new development which will be much more adaptable to change than what de-growth approach offers.

