



## A community co-operative prevents rural depopulation



**ITALY**  
GAVERINA  
TERME



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

L'Innesto was set up in 1999 to develop the area of Val Cavallina, which covers 16 municipalities, 111 square kilometres and 35,000 inhabitants.

It is a community-based multi-stakeholder social co-operative which carries out work integration. It operates in agricultural production using traditional seeds and methods and also in gardening and tourism.

The co-operative carried out work under contracts both with the local and provincial authorities and with private organisations. It carries out social agriculture and more specifically the upkeep of green areas and the planning and management of environmental education.

In 2017 it organised a crowdfunding exercise to acquire the Casa del Pescatore 'Fisherman's House', the premises it had been using for the last 16 years. This raised €15,000 in donations and €405,000 in shares – i.e. risk capital. It also brought the co-operative 72 new members, bringing the total membership to 227.



### GOVERNANCE MODEL

The co-operative's assembly is its sovereign body, and comprises founder members, worker members, employees and volunteers. It is supported by the board of directors, control body and area managers.

Real and effective involvement of members is ensured through other organs and methods, namely:

- area and service meetings involving members working in a given area or service
- informal meetings to involve the community
- other communication channels such as the crowdfunding campaign mentioned above
- training for members, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to its management.

The co-operative has a good relationship with the trade unions, and supports their role in protecting workers' rights.





START DATE:  
1999



LEGAL FORM:  
Community co-operative



N° EMPLOYEES:  
70



## SOCIAL IMPACT

L'Innesto collaborates with research institutes to measure its social impact. It has created 100 jobs in areas such as health care, education, tourism and waste treatment. It has avoided the depopulation of the Val Cavallina area.



## STRENGTHS

- Has created 100 jobs and prevented rural depopulation.



## WEAKNESSES

- Lack of structural policies to develop marginalised areas.
- Increased competition resulting from the law on social enterprises.

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