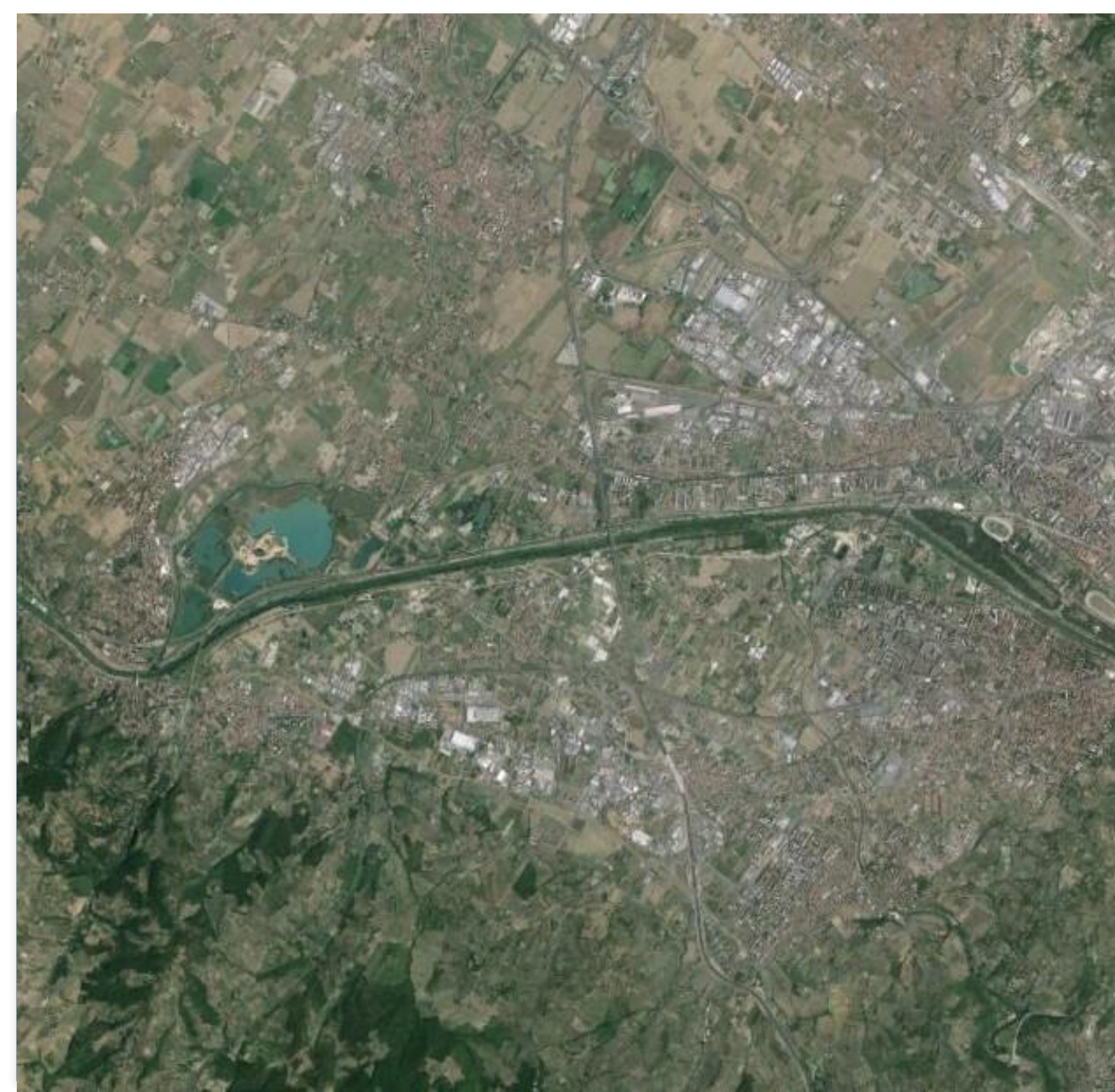


“Coltivare con l’ Arno” – Riverside agricultural park

Working group: Daniela Poli (Scientific coordinator), Riccardo Bocci, Elisa Butelli, Elisa Caruso, Adalgisa Rubino, Maddalena Rossi, Alessandro Trivisonno

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Territorial context

The project area, partly level and partly hilly and entirely crossed by the river Arno, coincides with the periurban area among Florence, Scandicci and Lastra a Signa. More specifically, the site covered by the project is the rural/agricultural area of these three municipalities included among the rivers Arno, Greve and Vingone.

Population:

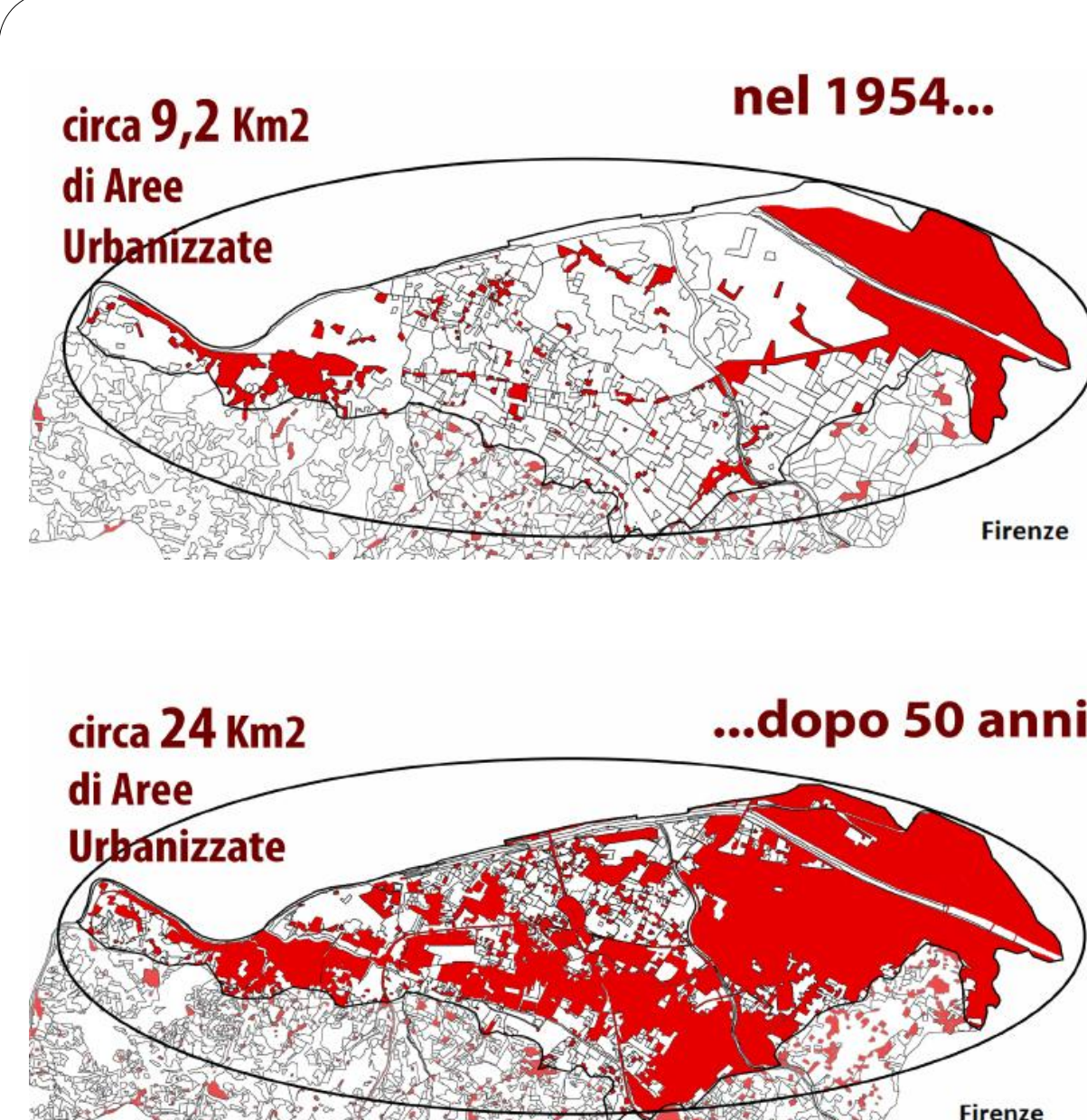
About 130.000 inhabitants (2015)

Surface:

About 9.400 hectares, of which 6.300 hectares of rural territory

Utilized agricultural area:

About 3.700 hectares

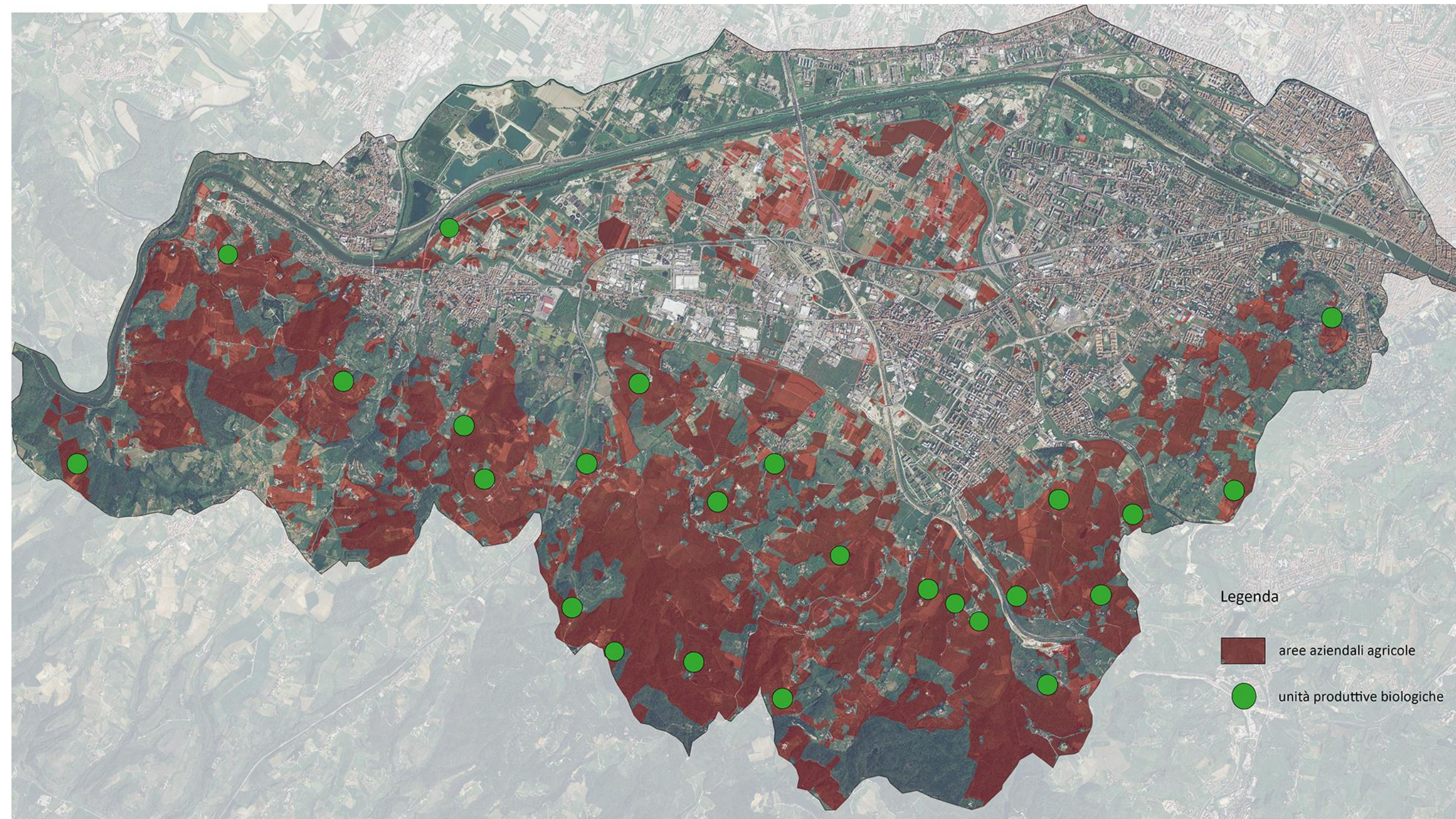


Spatial Planning/history phenomenon

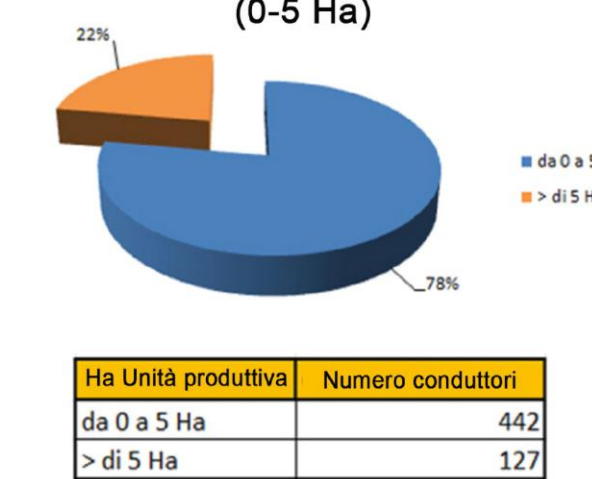
Years/ Levels	Regional	Provincial	Municipalities
1990	Master Plan for the Florence-Prato-Pistoia metropolitan area (Schema strutturale per l'area Metropolitana Firenze-Prato-Pistoia). This document tried to innovate the vision of the plain: from no man's land or void to fill, to resource for revitalizing the inner-city area.		
1995	Regional Law 64/1995 "Rules concerning urban and architectural transformations in areas with prevailing agricultural function" ("Disciplina degli interventi di trasformazione urbanistica ed edilizia nelle zone con prevalente funzione agricola").		
2014	Integration to the PIT ("Piano d'indirizzo territoriale", Territorial Master Plan) in order to define the agricultural park of the plain and to redevelop the Florence airport		
2014	Regional law 65/2014 "Rules for the territorial government" ("Norme per il governo del territorio"). Definition of the perimeter of urbanized areas and block of land consumption outside their boundaries		
2015	Territorial Master Plan (PIT) with function of Landscape Plan		

Urban Agriculture Types

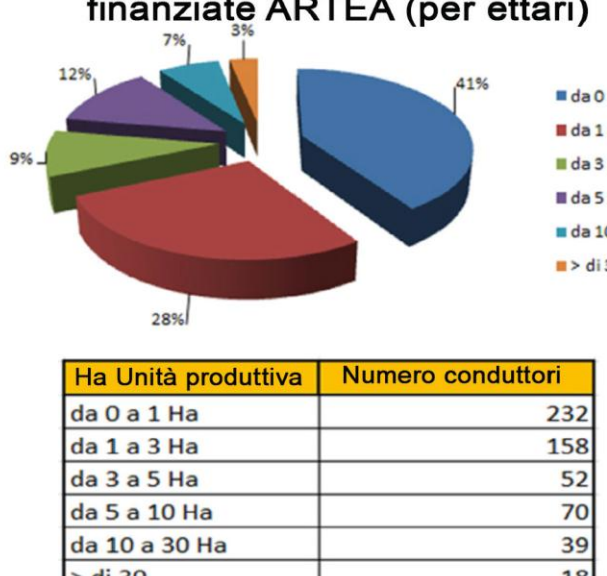
The plain between Florence and Lastra a Signa is strongly urbanized (in 1954 the urbanized surface was 23% of the total, passed to 60,5% in 2007). Nevertheless, the territory situated on the left side of the Arno river preserves a rural connotation, hosting proximity agriculture and horticulture. In some riverfront areas (Mantignano, San Colombano) and on the lower hilly slopes of Scandicci, there are small or medium plots of land creating an agricultural mosaic. This kind of fabric is characterized by the association of arboreal and herbaceous crops (mostly vineyards and olive trees) and by a traditional texture which is still dense or medium-dense. There are also little fields of mixed crops (herbaceous and grapevine), which are really valuable for their meaning in terms of historical and cultural heritage. The level of ecological diversification is generally quite high.



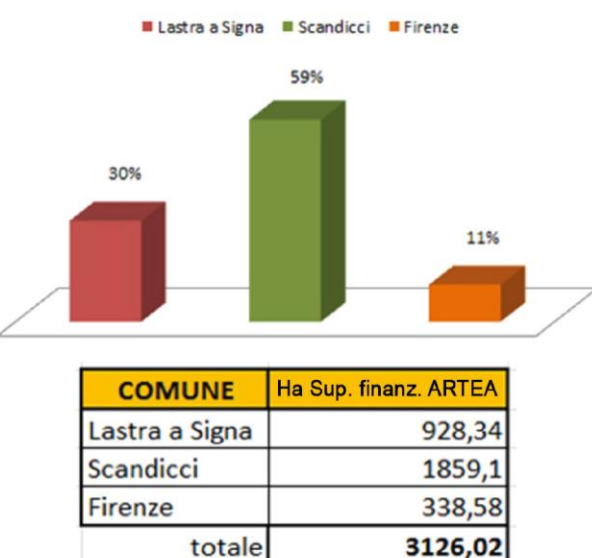
Classificazione Sup. finanziate ARTEA (0-5 Ha)



Classificazione Unità produttive finanziate ARTEA (per ettari)



Ettari superfici finanziate ARTEA



In our territory, productive units are:

- small farms (< 3 Ha);
- mostly situated between Scandicci and Lastra a Signa;
- mostly conventional but with some biological farms situated especially in the municipality of Scandicci

“Coltivare con l’ Arno” – Riverside agricultural park (Parco agricolo periferuale)

Type: Urban food gardening and urban farming
Year: 2015

ha : 9.400 ha tot surface / 6.300 ha rural territory / 3.700 ha agricultural territory

Promoter: Provincia di Firenze (chief Institution); Comune di Firenze; Comune di Scandicci; Comune di Lastra Signa; Dipartimento di Architettura - Università di Firenze (LaPEI - Unità di Ricerca “Progetto Bioregione Urbana”).

Actors: Farmers, Publics Administrations, Petting farms and Social farms.

Functions: productive, cultural, historical, social, recreational.

The project “Coltivare con l’Arno” is promoted by the Metropolitan City of Florence (former Provincia di Firenze, chief institution), by the Municipalities of Florence, Scandicci and Lastra a Signa, and by the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence.

In 2014 the project has been supported by the Regional Authority for the promotion of participation of Regione Toscana (L.R. 46/2013).

The project started in march 2015 and is currently under preparation. Its goal is to realize a new tool for the shared and participated territorial government aiming to find patrimonial rules for regeneration, safety by natural risks, transformation, construction of new economies.

Images of the territory of project



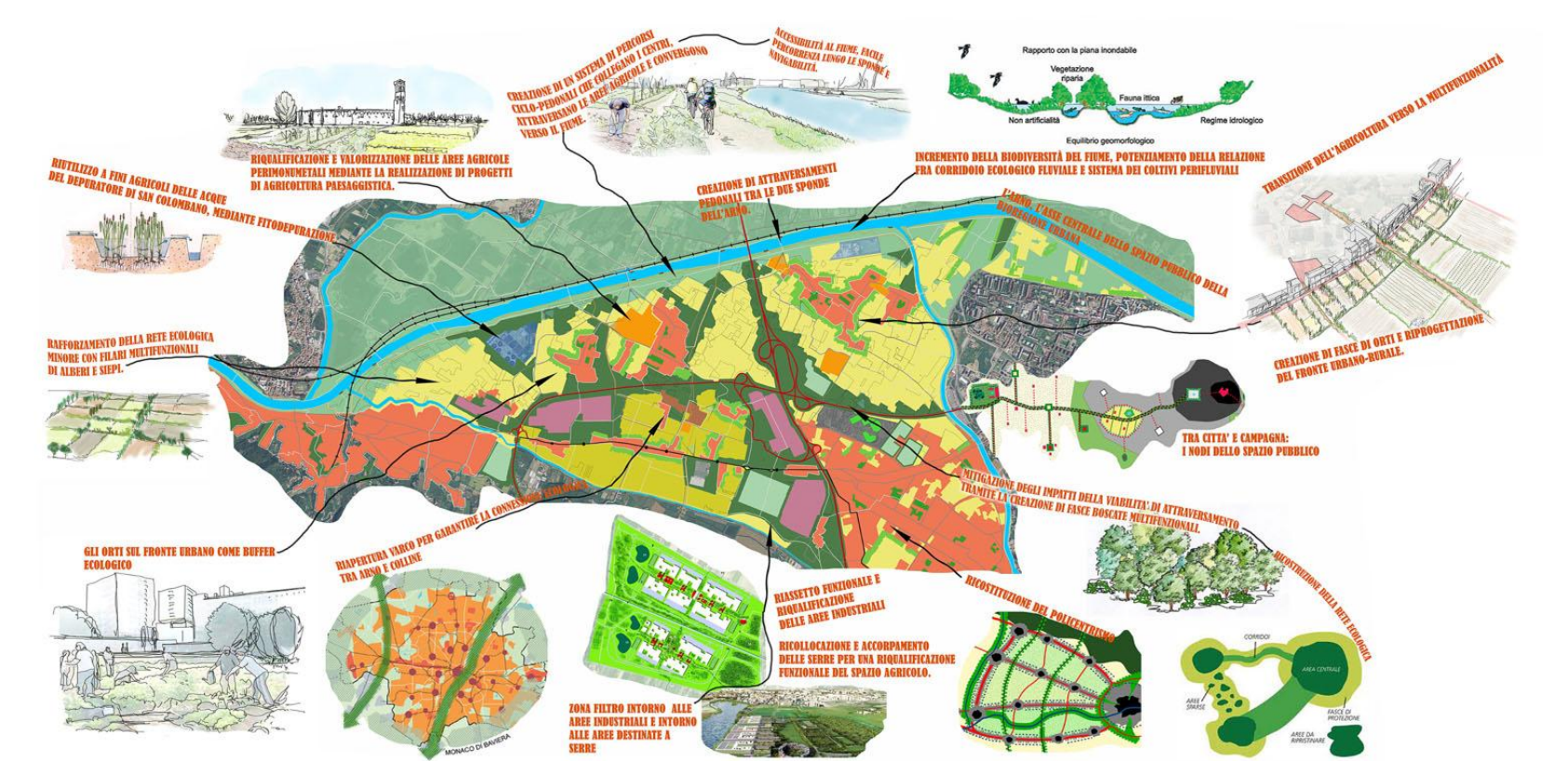
Actors and Public Policies



Farmers are the main actors of this system. At present, for the Oltrarno-Oltregre area, the project has censused and localized the productive unities that have applied for ARTEA (Azienda Regionale Toscana per le Erogazioni in Agricoltura) funds. The project identifies in the Green Public Procurement an important tool for public Administrations, since it encourages sustainable development and the growth of a low environmental impact market. Petting farms and social farms are another important actor for the project. In the Quartiere 4, e.g., the “Fattoria dei ragazzi” (Children’s farm), is conceived as the historical representation of a typical Tuscan environment where children learns where agricultural products come from and the rules of rural trades.

Social Benefits

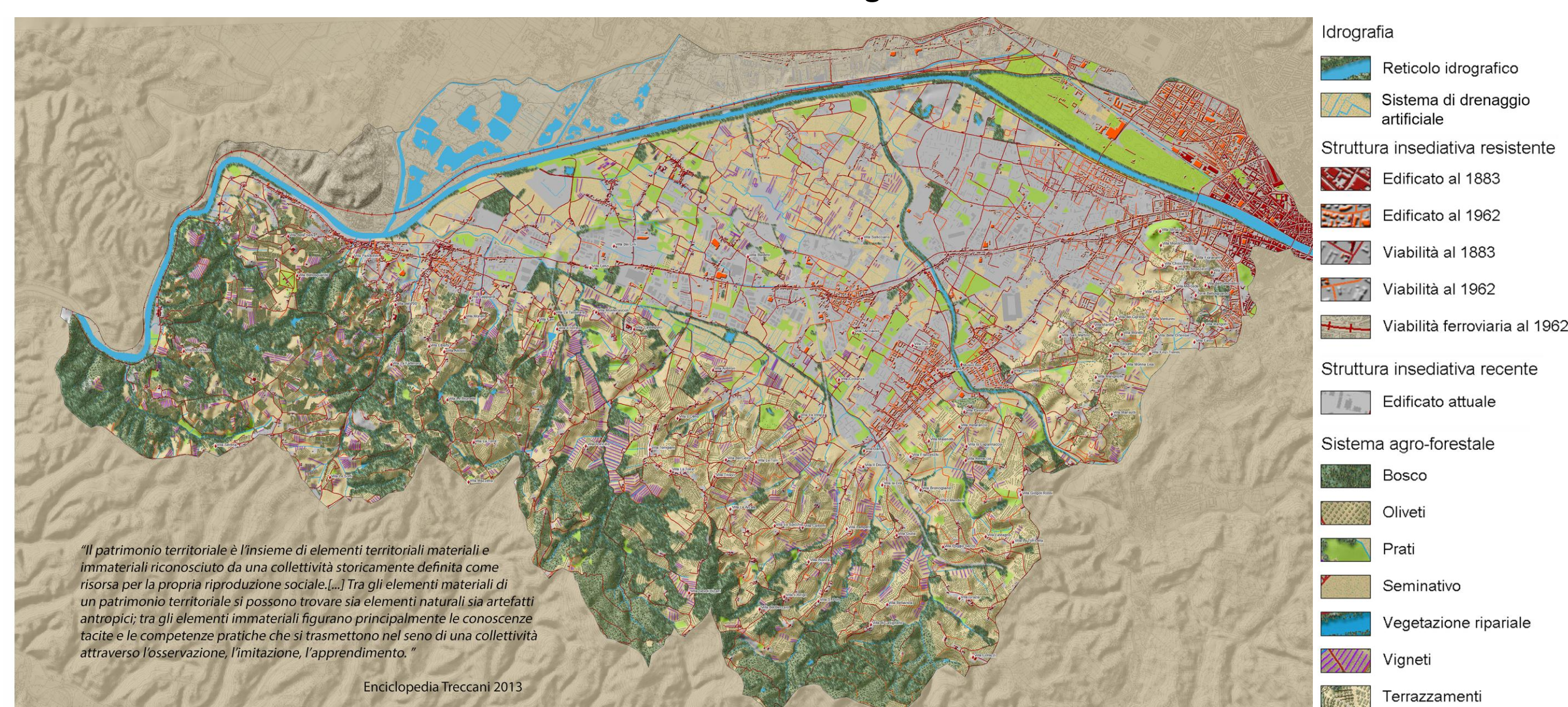
1. Recovery of wastelands with general environmental and landscape improvement.
2. Access to the land for young farmers.
3. Construction of new entrepreneurship.
4. Public use of the area related to the multifunctional agriculture.
5. Recovery of virtuous relationship between town and countryside.
6. Development of new economies related to neo-rurality and to proximity markets.



7. The river as central axe of the urban bioregion, with a recovery of the relationships between the inhabitants and the river.
8. Redevelopment of fringe areas and reconstruction of a public space system.

Spatial effects

Territorial heritage



Urban Agriculture Metabolism

The project aims to the use of sustainable farming methods that can preserve natural vibrancy and fertility of soils. This goal can be reached by use of natural fertilizers and avoiding the use of harmful substances for the ground and human health. A related objective of the project is the conservation and restoration of ecological networks and an increase in the environmental performance of agricultural areas. Finally, the attention to biodiversity, to the achievement of closed cycles and to the maintenance of ecological functions allows the activation of effective ecosystem services.