



WG2 Case study profile (updated March 2014)

WG2 Thematic group	WG2.4. Housing and neighbourhood
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Institution	Università <i>Mediterranea</i> di Reggio Calabria
Title of case study	Housing and social inclusion of immigrants in Calabria. The case of Riace
Country/region/place	Italy Calabria Municipality of Riace
Social service sector investigated • Housing and neighbourhood	Housing and inclusion policies for immigrants
Category of case study ('what' is investigated) • Policy/programme (meso-level): x • Initiatives/practices (micro-level): xxx • Actor(s): xxx • Place (s): xxx	<p>The focus is on the micro-level: the local practices and initiatives for the housing and social inclusion of immigrants in the municipality of Riace, a small rural community of Calabria.</p> <p>In the absence of any housing policy for immigrants, neither at the national nor at the regional level, the paper investigates the way Riace (and a few other surrounding municipalities) have creatively attempted to meet the demand for housing coming from asylum seekers, through the self-help rehabilitation of abandoned dwellings and the integration in local activities.</p> <p>A number of local-specific factors have enabled the implementation of such innovative initiatives. Among these a key role was played by local actors (the mayor, local associations, residents). The existence of abandoned dwellings must also be considered, as well as the particular category of immigrants (asylum seekers).</p>
Time frame considered	Since 1997 (the first 'landing' of immigrants) to date
Five 'perspectives' • Cost efficiency/user satisfaction: x • Governance: xxx • Social/territorial cohesion: xxx	The focus is mostly on the governance aspect (who does what and how the users can become part of the solution) and how virtuous practices can increase social inclusion, also through users satisfaction.
Three processes in restructuring + crisis • <i>Vertical</i> division of labour among government levels • <i>Horizontal</i> division of labour (involvement of/outourcing to other suppliers)	Both the relationship among different government levels and among local actors are major foci of the paper. In what concerns the former, this is an interesting case of 'upscaling': local innovative initiatives have triggered the enactment of a Regional law that attempts to institutionalize such practices; in what concerns the latter, the interaction between institutional and civil society actors appears to be a key factor for the success of the initiative.
Specific questions/focus	<p>The paper critically addresses the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integration of two goals: the rehabilitation and repopulation of abandoned dwellings and the hosting of immigrants (housing and inclusion policy) • The institutionalization of bottom-up social innovation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sustainability of such innovative practices in the long run• The replicability of such practices in other contexts and for other categories of immigrants.
Local Stakeholder Network (LSN)	<i>Do you intend to set up a LSN:</i> YES