

CALL FOR CASES FOR THE XVI CONFERENCE ON FRAGILE AREAS

The fragile *third*

The institution of common good in rural areas

19-20 March 2021, Rovigo, Italy



Who is the "third" of the fragile areas? How does it evolve over time and where does it lie between rural margins and urban centers? We can define third as a set of values, norms, relationships and customs that guide the life of people and local communities. It could also be called an 'institution', provided it concerns every entity - public or private, formal or informal – having social recognition and prestige. These entities have a history, they are born, evolve and sometimes degenerate, becoming useless or despotic. What are the most widespread and important third parties for fragile rural areas? Are there any radically new ones?

The thought goes to institutions such as the family, the municipality, churches, cultural and professional associations, community cooperatives, adding bridging institutions with a larger scale of intervention, such as provinces, health districts, development agencies, Local Action Groups (LAGs), up to temporary and intangible third parties such as participatory platforms, media and friend networks, village festivals, development projects. A list of (Italian) institutions relevant to rural areas is featured in the [position paper](#).

The purpose of the conference is to see if and how third-parties have developed in recent decades in peripheral areas where sociality is thinned out or at high risk of disintegration. The guiding hypothesis is that the 'third parties' are particularly weak in these areas (institutional deficit). The conference aims to analyse systematically these situations, capturing all the positive signs in continuity or not with the past, bringing out exemplary third parties, in particular bridge-institutions with urban areas.

Cases of emblematic initiatives in Europe and beyond are welcome. The abstract (up to 500 words) must be sent **by January 15, 2021** to g.osti@unipd.it and areasfragili.rovigo@gmail.com, using the form below. More information [here](#). The call is open to scholars, artists, administrators, public officials, grassroots operators, farmers, ecologists, social and profit entrepreneurs. To the authors of the abstract accepted by the scientific committee, we will offer dinner on March 19 and a buffet on March 20, covid permitting. Travel and accommodation expenses cannot be reimbursed, with special exceptions. Acceptance of the abstract will be communicated by **10 February 2021**.

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www.areefragili.it/convegno-2021

Speaker/s:

Name Surname

Email address

Affiliation / Profession

Abstract title:

Title

Abstract (up to 500 words):