**ERPI panel - Fragile Areas**

**BUILDING ALTERNATIVES to right-wing populism in the European countryside.**

**ABSTRACT**

SPOP. DESIGNING THE FUTURE

SARDARCH (Francesco Cocco, Nicolò Fenu, Matteo Lecis Cocco-Ortu)

SPOP is a research project conceived as an open platform of civic collaboration to redesign villages which are dealing with the decreasing in population and which risks becoming a ghost town. The project focus in the territories around the Omodeo lake; in the center of Sardinia. The project is coordinated by Sardarch in collaboration with Fondazione di Sardegna and Comune di Nughedu Santa Vittoria.

SPOP CAMPUS OMODEO is a learning experiences that brought experts, practitioners from different universities in Italy to a countryside church “Novenario di San Basilio” outside the main village where the campus is based, the design collective included people of all disciplines to participate in the project. Sardarch‘s Campus Spop open up a discussion regarding the state of Sardinia’s rural areas dealing with depopulation in a participatory design-applied research pathway, where the previously desolate spaces are now filled with people creativity and identity, reflecting the stories and experiences of the Barigadu residents, citizens and newcomers researching through design and art, focusing how creativity can be a platform of social innovation and design a transformative agency for social change in urban and rural environment.

During the Campus are taught a ray of different topics and explored different possible strategies of how a reality such as the village of Nughedu Santa Vittoria could design their future. Lecturers talked about requalifying old buildings, investing in sustainable tourism, economic models based on local economy, welfare and welcome, agriculture and slow food.

During the second edition of the campus was signed a collective mission created with the “learning community” and stakeholders of the territory, which was joined by projects related to the themes of social agriculture, sustainable tourism and generative welfare.