

ISCAR WORKSHOP:  
Exploring Alpine Landscapes as Potential Agricultural Heritage  
Systems and Their Contribution to Human Wellbeing



## GOOD HEMP FOR GOOD PRACTICES ALONG THE ALPS

## The Hemp (*Cannabis Sativa*): an ancient plant

Hemp (*Cannabis Sativa*) is an ancient plant that has been **cultivated for millennia**.

Its use dates back to the **Stone Age** (hemp fiber imprints found in pottery shards in China over 10,000 years old).

Native to the regions of **Central Asia**, over the centuries has spread almost **around the world**, overcoming all kinds of environmental adversity.



Pl.293. Chanvre cultivé. Cannabis sativa L.

- In 100 BC, hemp paper was invented in China using hemp and mulberry.
- Since 100 AD, when the Romans wrote a guide to farming hemp it has since been farmed all over the known world.
- From the Germans, Franks, Vikings, Chinese (who have never prohibited the use of hemp all-throughout history), English, Canadians, Egyptians, and even Americans all grew, produced, and thrived off of hemp.
- In 1150 AD, Muslims created the first paper mill and for the next 700 years hemp paper was what most civilizations wrote upon.
- During the Napoleonic Era, ship's sails, ropes, and sailor's clothing were made from hemp.

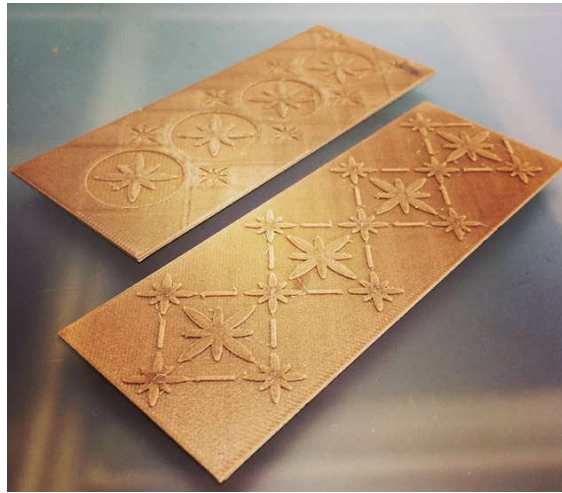


In the **last decade hemp** has been widely promoted as a **crop for the future**.

This is stimulated by **new technologies** which make hemp suitable for industrial paper manufacturing, use as a renewable energy source (biofuel), and the use of hemp derivatives as replacement for petrochemical products.

The increased demand for **health food** has stimulated the trade in shelled hemp seed. Hemp oil is increasingly being used in the manufacturing of body-care products.

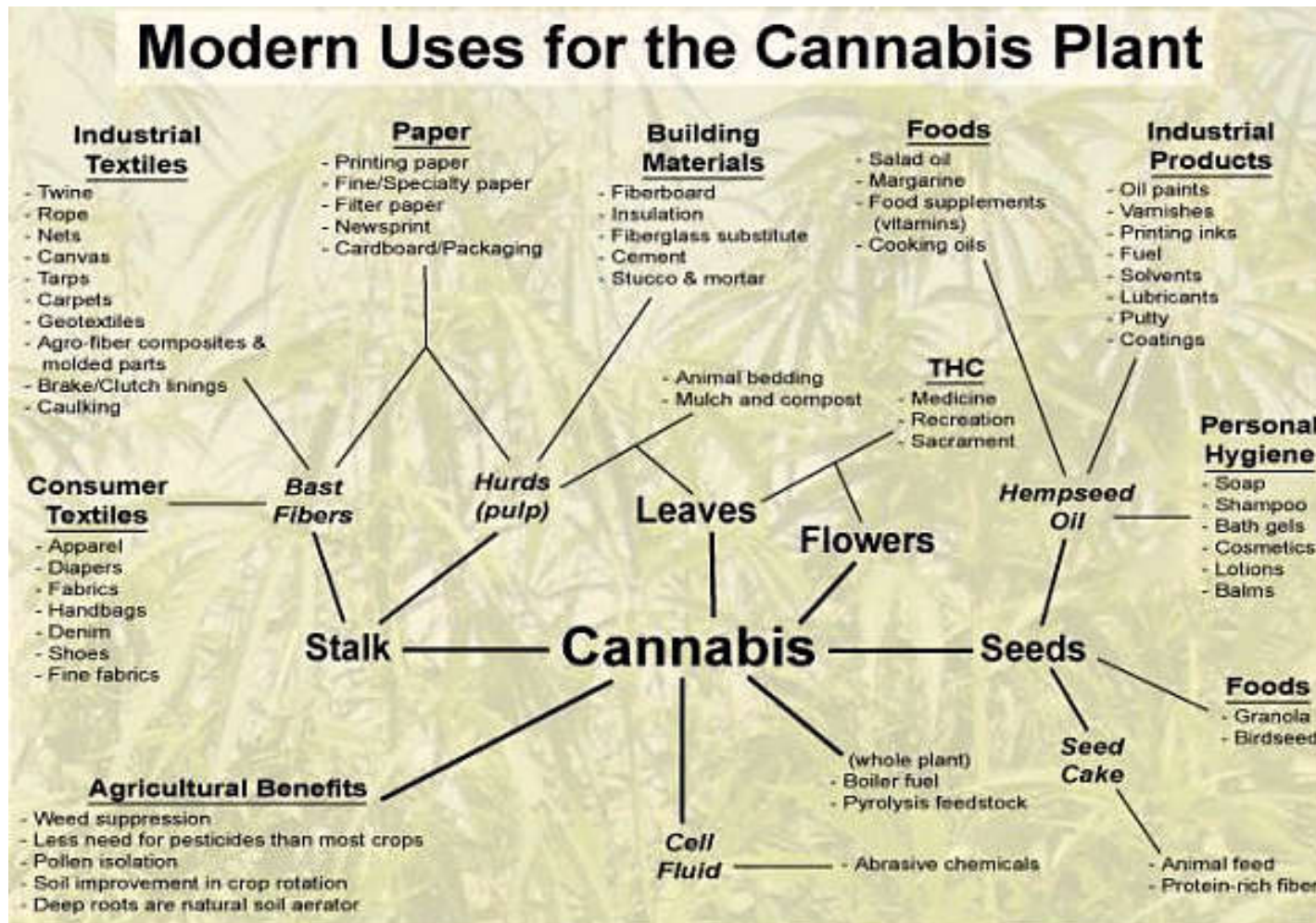




bioplastics  
building products  
healthy food  
typical products  
niche products

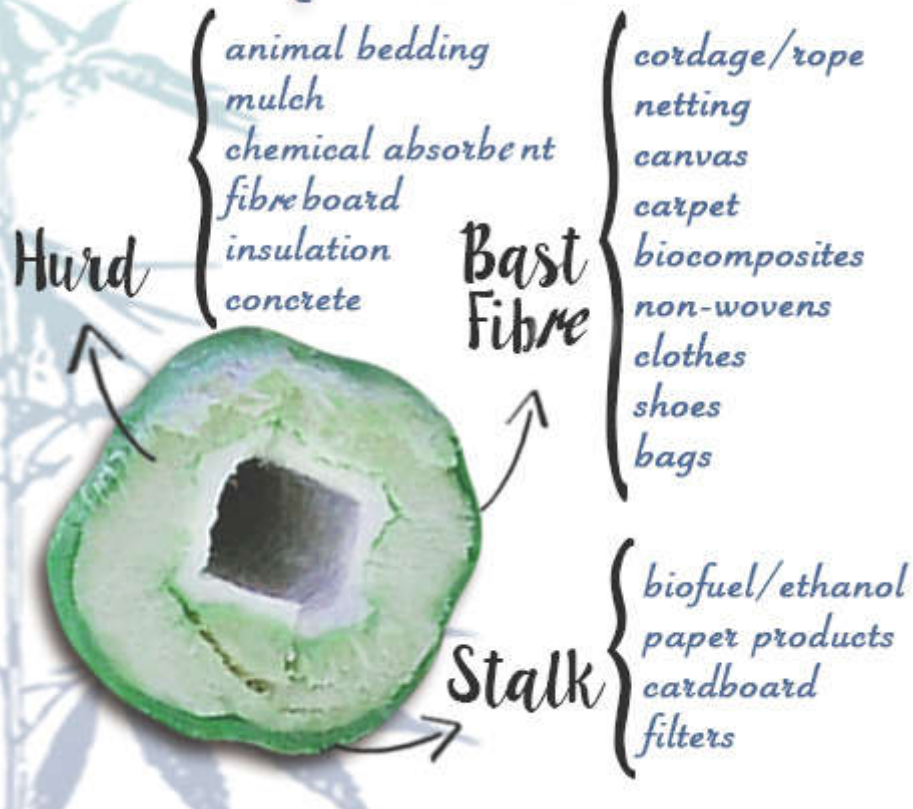






*Although hemp has been used around the globe since the beginning of human existence, the stigma associated with marijuana (hemp's cousin) has somewhat stalled its agricultural and industrial uses. Fortunately, that stigma is starting to change, and we are seeing more hemp-based products as a result.*

# hemp stalk



## Designed to build, not to smoke. **HEMPCRETE**



# Hemp and Eco-Sustainability

**Hemp offers many different uses that can promote a more sustainable world.**

Our current reliance on fossil fuels and petroleum based products has created a substantial impact on our environment.

Some **alternative possibilities using hemp** include the following:

- Food Resources
- Material Products Non Toxic
- Bio-Fuel
- Disease and Pest Resistant
- Green Jobs
- Durable products
- Recovery of Terraces





## Hemp and Alps

The climate in some regions of the Alps, with the exposure to the sun, the composition of the soil, and the altitude is very favourable for growing medicinal and aromatic plants, such as the hemp.

For centuries, several inhabitants and farmers have cultivated the hemp, a plant well adapted for many uses in their everyday lives (ropes, textiles, bricks as well food). It wasn't an industrial production, but of subsistence.



At the beginning of the 20 Century - and in particular after the II world war - people abandoned the cultivation of hemp in the Alps. Recent studies have highlighted that the **Alps** are still a huge **out-migration and depopulation area**. They can be defined as **marginal areas**, which are mostly unproductive due to soil conditions, landscape features, climate conditions, or other such factors.

The effects on the environment caused by the abandonment of agropastoral practices have extended beyond the local scale, changing landscape characters and cultural traditions. Nevertheless some activities has recently been implemented in some **Alpine villages**. This is the case of several projects who aim at protecting their landscape but also at revitalizing the local economy through the reintroduction of specific cultivations, such **hemp** and rye.

# Hemp and Alpine Projects: Italy



## ecopassion

südtiroler hanfsystem  
sistema canapa alto adige

<https://www.ecopassion.it/it/>



8. Juli 2017, 20.25 Uhr RAI Südtirol



“Landscape and identity: the cultivation of hemp in the Ossola Valley” - YOUNG ACADEMIC AWARD 2016

<https://www.restartalp.it/edizione2016/2016/07/05/restartalpini16-evelina-felisatti/>



<http://www.canapalpino.it/>



## Slovenia: history and tradition

Slovenia has a small but thriving **subculture of hemp use**. Traditionally, hemp was of crucial importance to the **rural farming economy**, and now efforts are being made to **revive history and local heritage**.

In fact, in the small Slovenian **village of Trimlini**, the annual hemp harvest incorporates traditional rituals practiced since ancient times.



quote: <http://www.dopemagazine.com/slovenia-tiny-alpine-hemp-land/>

## Slovenia: tradition and innovation

The Country Estate Trnulja is a gorgeous hotel featuring bio-apartments made from hemp, is closed for the season. I'll have to schedule another visit in the summer, as this was a destination I truly wanted to see. The hotel is surrounded by hemp fields, and the restaurant serves homemade delicacies such as hemp gnocchi.





# The SA.T.I.V.A. Project

*SA*ve a *T*erritory *I*ncreasing  
*V*alue of *A*griculture





## The starting point

In 2014 within the Course of *“Mountain Territories and Local Development: Projects and European Funds”* organized by ARS.UNI.VCO Association in Domodossola, some participants have developed the idea of a project for the reintroduction of hemp-growing "SATIVA" in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola.



## The Mark SA.T.I.V.A.

Deemed worthy and interesting by teachers evaluators of the course, on their explicit suggestion, the Working Group decided to proceed to the formal registration of an **individual mark at the Italian Patent and Trademark Office**; the mark has been called **SA.T.I.V.A. - Save a Territory Increasing the Value of Agriculture**.

The SATIVA group then decided to give to ARS.UNI.VCO Association the free use of the trademark to verify the opportunity to develop the project.

ARS.UNI.VCO has created an internal committee to the association to build up a research line on sperimental hemp (cannabis sativa) in Verbano Cusio Ossola mountain areas.



---

*Good Hemp for Good Practices along the Alps, Cottini and Cerutti*



## The SATIVA Committee

SA.T.I.V.A. COMMITTEE: Set up by resolution of the Board of Directors ARS.UNI.VCO 25.09.2014, the Committee is an advisory body of the Association, which has the ownership of the project.

Scientific Responsible: *Stefania Cerutti* (Univ. Piemonte Orientale)

Scientific Coordinator: *Andrea Sasso*

## The aims

The SA.T.I.V.A. project aims at:

1. rediscover and re-evaluate the hemp as a typical alpine natural resource
2. identify new opportunities for economic growth and for social development
3. preserve and pass on the material and intangible local culture.



# The Experimental Project

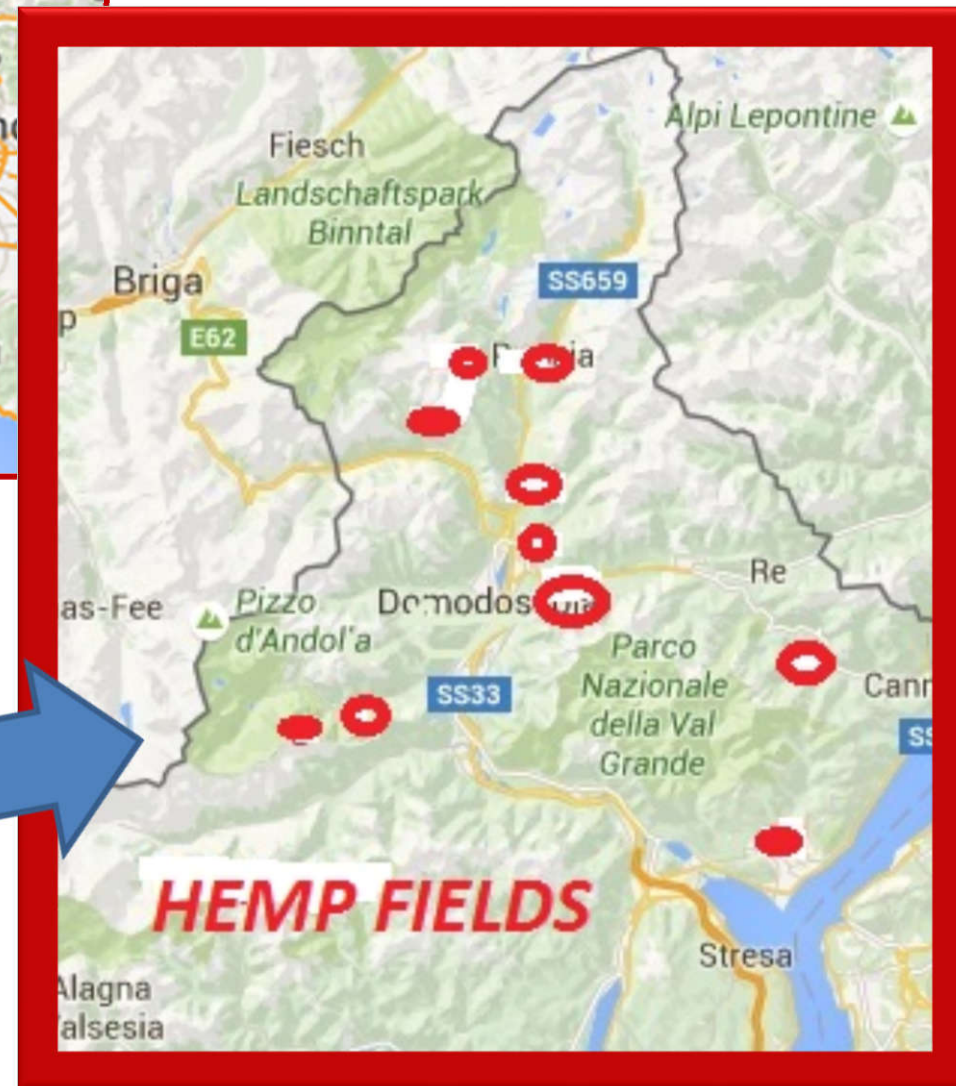
In 2015 it was decided to identify an aspect of immediate application of the project considering:

- the availability of agricultural land abandoned or unused
- the availability of institutions and local associations to support this initiative.

The project has been started in March 2015, and lasted for the whole year.

All activities were carried out at no cost.





# Results

## 1. Recovery of the territory:

- large participation - still growing interest and number of participants
- strong demand for new collaboration both for privates and for public subjects; growing pilot areas for subjects already participating.

## 2. Contrasting to hydrogeological risk:

- This aspect is under analysis

## 3. Verify the most suitable hemp varieties:

- the variety of hemp seeds used (futura75) for 2015 has been very successful; it would be interesting to be able to compare and test some other varieties, especially Italian ones

## 4. Problems detected:

- strong legislative limits to production and sale of hemp products (**since 2017 it is in force L.n. 242/2016 laying down provisions for the promotion of cultivation and the agroindustrial chain of hemp**)
- particular mechanization needs and necessity of more costly tools
- adequate space for storage
- shortage (and distance) of centers for handling food crops



## 5. Analyzing of types and of cannabinoids quantity inside flowers and leaves:

collaboration with University of Milan – *see publications for details*

## 6. Training:

- the Agrarian Institute “Fobelli” of Crodo has been involved for growing and for harvesting; production of brewing hemp within the school workshops
- in the coming years it's hypothesized a collaboration with other local schools, especially for research and training on the use of products made from hemp (including the hotel management school “Maggia” of Stresa for the food industry)
- active participation of schools for the creation lab ropes “In a thread of hemp”

## 7. Interests and collaboration of the private subjects:

the project has generated a lot of interest, collaboration, information sharing and historical culture items, networking resources, problems and possible solutions

## 8. Enhancement places and work tools:

there is much material that would require studies and *ad hoc* projects especially from an anthropological perspective, with possible developments from the point of view of (eco-sustainable) tourism (almost every countries of our valleys had a *maceratoio* for hemp)

## 9. Keeping the local culture:

organizations, associations, municipalities, museums, CAI have already developed historical research that should be valued synergistically and made more accessible:

[Processing Canapa Sativa at Cossogno – Coltivazione Canapa Sativa Cavandone](#)

## 10. Generating interest to rethink local economic development:

- the interest by privates and public subjects has been proved, now we need to solve problems of product management (processing, sales channels)
- **it is also meaningful, how many have been the demands of interest shown in this little starting project and how this case study has a huge potential for development**

# The Conference

## SA.T.I.V.A

*Save a Territory Increasing  
the Value of Agriculture*

venerdì **16 settembre 2016**, ore **9.00**

*Centro Culturale "LA FABBRICA" di Villadossola - I piano*



Unione Montana  
Valle Ossola



ISE  
Istituto per lo Studio  
degli Ecosistemi



*Good Hemp for Good Practices along the Alps, Cottini and Cerutti*



# The Conference Proceedings



Free download E-book:

[http://www.univco.it/uploads/public/extra/SATIVA\\_Atti\\_Convegno\\_Villadossola\\_16.09.2016.pdf](http://www.univco.it/uploads/public/extra/SATIVA_Atti_Convegno_Villadossola_16.09.2016.pdf)

*Good Hemp for Good Practices along the Alps, Cottini and Cerutti*



## SA.T.I.V.A

*Save a Territory Increasing  
the Value of Agriculture*

**ATTI del CONVEGNO**

**Villadossola, 16 settembre 2016**

*All'interno il Testo della L.n. 242/2016: Disposizioni per la promozione  
della coltivazione e della filiera agroindustriale della canapa*



*a cura di*

***Stefania Cerutti e Andrea Cottini***

**ARS.UNIVCO**

Associazione per lo Sviluppo della Cultura, degli Studi Universitari e della Ricerca nel Verbano Cusio Ossola

**ISBN 978-88-98357-07-9**





# The Alpine Week



ARS.UNIVCO

Progetto *SA.T.I.V.A.*

*SA*ve a *T*erritory *I*ncreasing *V*alue of *A*griculture



**EURAC**  
research



**ecopassion**  
economie rurale  
système agricole et de production



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

**VENETO**  
AGRICOLTURA  
Associazione Agricoltori per i prodotti Agricoli, l'ambiente e la qualità del territorio

**K**  
konopko

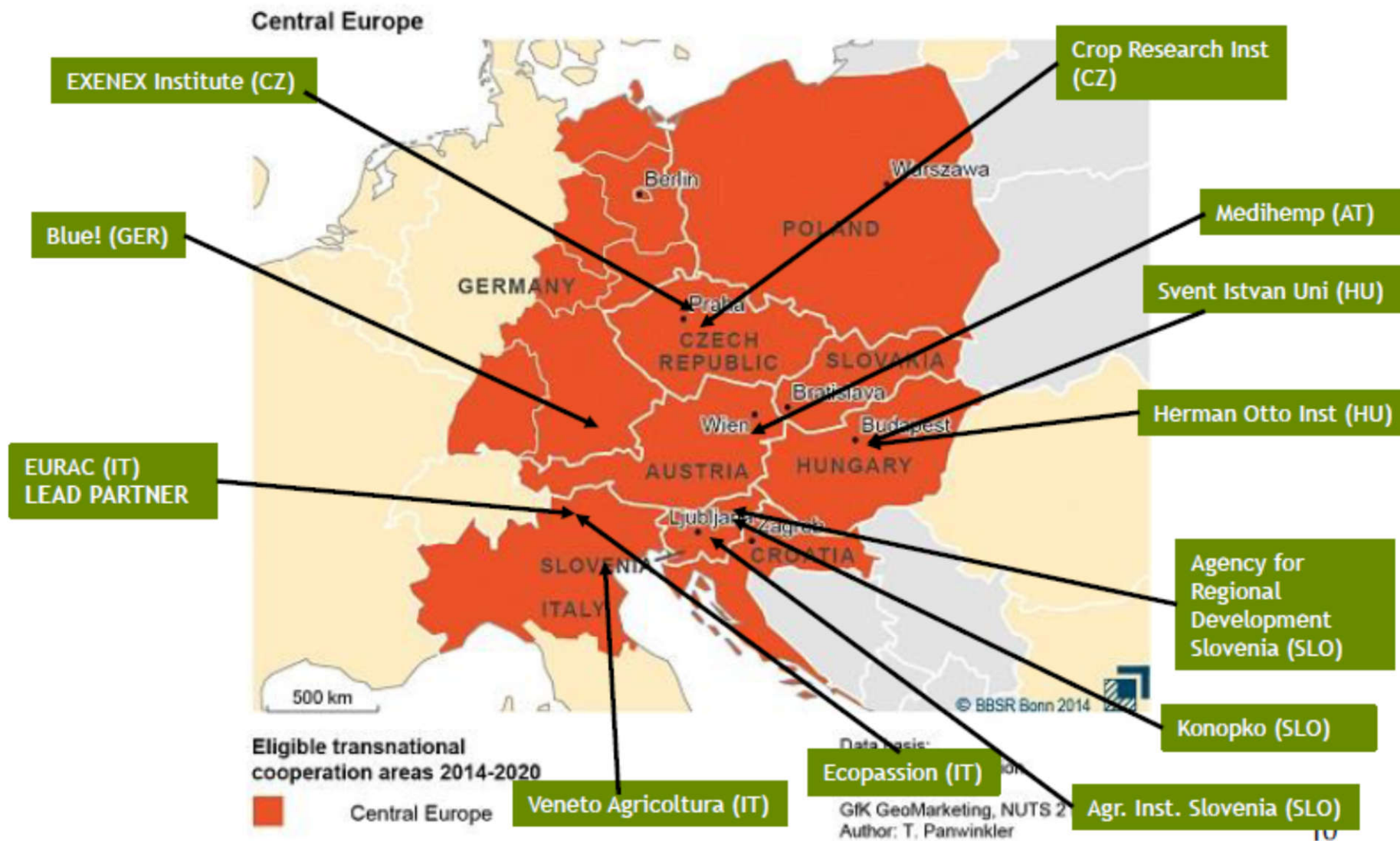


**MEDI**  **HEMP**

**SZENT ISTVÁN**  
UNIVERSITY

 Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije

# The UE Project Hemp2020, network and partners



## The future is now...

Many people showed us high interest to our project, in order to collaborate in the:

- recovering of the knowledge and the know-how of previous generations;
- conservation of places and objects (expanding existing museums or creating new cultural paths);
- reintroduction of hemp-growing for sustainable agriculture and economy. Some local companies, interested in this project, would like to diversify/convert their production currently in crisis (textiles, plastics, construction, pulp and paper, agriculture);
- return of inhabitants in the Alps;
- tourism and cultural proposals.

# What's going on...



**Alpine Canapa Association**  
to enhance the experience of  
historical culture of hemp in  
different areas of the  
Verbano Cusio Ossola

Simona Brini  
[canapa.alpina@gmail.com](mailto:canapa.alpina@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/canapalpina/](https://www.facebook.com/canapalpina/)



**TERRA VI.VA. project**  
To develop functional recovery of a part  
of the terraced system of the Antrona  
valley through the involvement of the  
local community and stakeholders

Daniele Piazza, Coordinatore Progetto  
[terraviva@scienzenaturalivco.org](mailto:terraviva@scienzenaturalivco.org)  
@TERRAVIVA\_VCO



LA CHANVOSA

**LA CHANVOSA**  
Local farm in Baceno (VB)  
female agricultural enterprise  
cultivating and selling  
cannabis sativa products

Evelina Felisatti  
[info@lachanvosa.it](mailto:info@lachanvosa.it)  
[www.lachanvosa.it](http://www.lachanvosa.it)



*Good Hemp for Good Practices along the Alps, Cottini and Cerutti*







“Great things are done  
when men and mountains meet”.  
*William Blake*



stefania.cerutti@uniupo.it  
andrea.cottini@univco.it



More info and details on:  
progetto.sativa@univco.it  
www.univco.it

