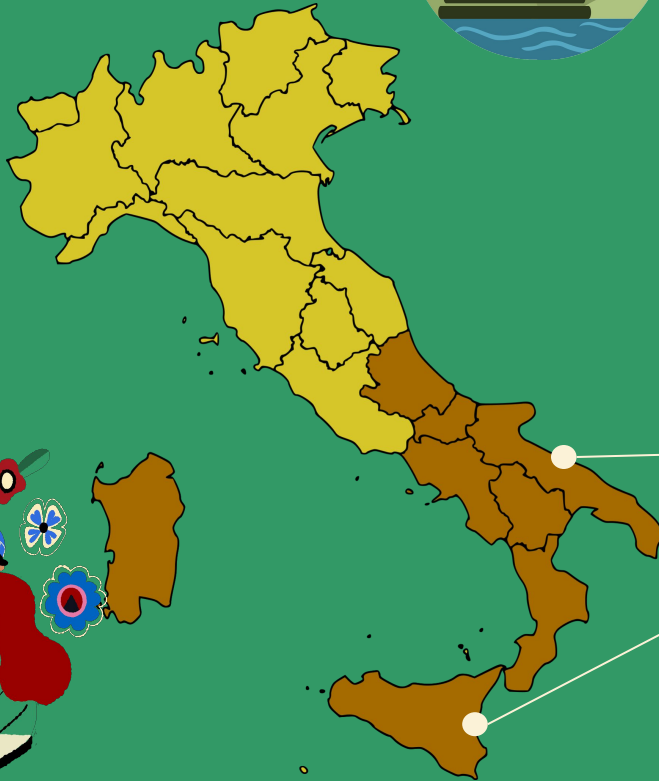




Wiki Sud Italia

Creating an active
Wikimedia community
in an economically
challenged region



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WIKIMANIA
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Context: a geographical and demographical fracture

- Not all regions in Europe are equal when it comes to **human and financial resources**
- An economical and human resources gap between **North and South of Italy**
- **Systemic issues** (e.g. very inefficient and underfunded administration)
- Workers and students migrate to the North, **brain drain in the South**



What it means for the Wikimedia Projects

- Historically, **more events, more activities, more funding** taking place the North
- In the South, (GLAM) institutions are **less informed** about the possibilities of Wikipedia and have **less funding** for such projects
- **Less people to edit = less content** on the Wikimedia projects when it comes to the culture, heritage, biographies, languages and landscape of the Southern regions



The need to reactivate the community

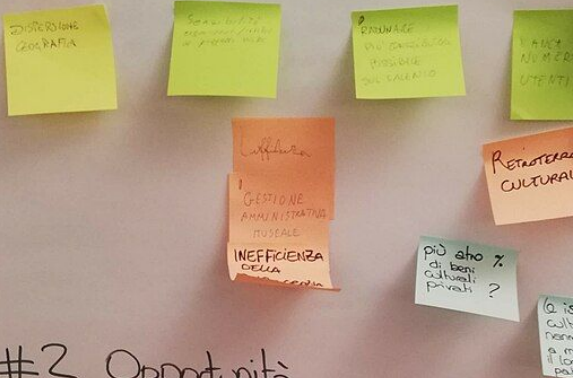
- Active group in **Puglia** running events, collaborations and projects
- Activities took place in the past in other regions but **didn't take on again after COVID**
- Some attempts from Wikimedia Italia to **activate some regions**, such as “Wiki Takes Calabria”



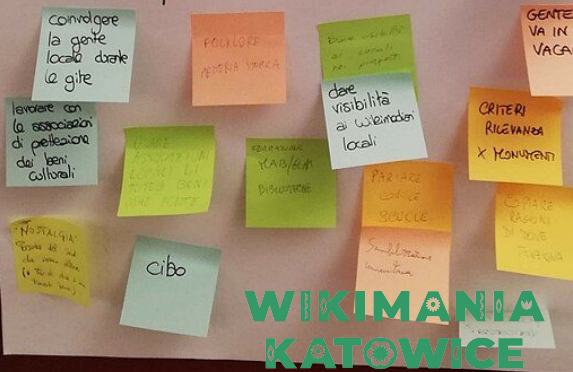
The first steps of the WikiSud Italia project

- A **brainstorming session** during the Italian WikiCon in Bari in November 2023
 - What are the specific **challenges** of the Southern areas of the country?
 - What are the **strengths** we can activate and the **opportunities**?
 - How can we **increase the activities** and engagement in the South?
 - What **practical steps** can we implement?
- From there the **WikiSud** group was born!

#1 Sfide particolari



#2 Opportunità



[File:Sfide e opportunità dei Wikimediani al Sud Italia - presentazione - itWikiCon2023.pdf on Wikimedia Commons](#)

Building a support network



- **Monthly online meetups**
- Sharing **updates** about what we are doing
- Sharing **knowledge and experience**
- Develop a **visual identity**
- **Co-organize events** (e.g. Hackathon in Catania)
- Actively **look for active editors** in “deserted” regions
- Finding resources: build capacity on **grant applications**



Our plans and ideas for the future

- Run **communication campaigns** to find more existing editors from the Southern regions
- Propose editing campaigns on topics like **folklore, regional gastronomy and history**
- Participate actively in existing campaigns (**Wiki Loves Monuments**/Earth/etc.)
- Continue running **presentations** of the Wikimedia projects and **training sessions**
- Engage with people coming to the South on **vacation** or visiting their family



Our plans and ideas for the future

- Give **visibility and responsibilities** to active editors in the Southern regions (e.g. regional coordinator role)
- Host more **national and international events**
- Create more bridges with **local institutions and nonprofit organizations** (nature protection, photography, youth associations), as well as **schools and universities**
- **Get inspired** by the ideas and methods in the international Wikimedia movement



Let's get inspired! Mini brainstorming session

How to **boost the Wikimedia community** and **collaboration with institutions** despite **economic and structural barriers** ?



- Feel free to **raise your hand** and take the microphone to contribute!
- We only have a few minutes - please keep your suggestions concise :)



Thanks for your participation!

before, during and after Wikimania!



- **Wiki Sud Italia** page on Meta: [\[\[Gruppi locali di lingua italiana/SudItalia\]\]](#)
- **Telegram** group: t.me/WikiSudItalia
- [Proposal at the upcoming Italian WikiCon](#)

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Credits

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