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**The project
of ecological network in
Ptcp of Mantova**
Manuela Fornari

The *Piano territoriale di coordinamento provinciale* (Ptcp), drafted and approved by Mantova Province in 28 november 2002, actually is under upgrading according to Lombardia Region law n. 12/05 concerning territory management: first outcomes consists in pilot plan and environmental evaluation Documents (june-october 2007).
Territorial development strategies relating to update plan confirm natural-environmental resources valorisation, landscape preservation and green network design purposes, to pursue through environmental system analysis and explanation. Provincial ecological network design represent an instrument for the Province to identify environmental and landscape areas of interest and define criteria for their transformation and use, and a tool to define the directions for the Municipalities to define urban development choices compatible with environmental systems enhancing.
Thus Ptcp main objectives are: construct a 'green network' to ensure continuity of the areas already existing and/or in formation; protection of the more vulnerable zones and of the semiurban areas; safeguard the biological variety of flora and fauna to enhance the complex environmental systems; protect the soil with a high agricultural capacity of use, containing the urban use of the land and reducing the spread of urbanisation. Ecological network project was develop in some step:
- environmental system analysis, physical-natural system components; damage to the environment

issues; environmental supra provincial directions and criteria (f.i. Regional Plans);
- draft of green main structure, by marks (recognized for high environmental value) and corridors (waterways-linking strips of land), establishment of ecological provincial network drawing 3 areas with different levels of regulatory guidelines: first level, environmental major corridors, regulatory obligations, second level, environmental value safeguarding areas, regulatory directives, third level, natural-agricultural value preservation areas, regulatory directions. Principal indications consist of:
- increasing green equipment of the urban areas and manage the planning in the peripheral ones;
- safeguarding of relevant passages as links between existing ecological corridors and open areas of agricultural or naturalistic interest;
- provide to carrying out a study on infrastructures interferences on environmental system;
- indicate the zones in which promote the establishment of Natural parks of supra municipal interest (Plis);
- preservation and develop of agricultural lands, well-matched with natural resources, by the use of sustainable production methods and collective promotion actions. All Ptcp dispositions are the frame of reference for action at extraprovincial, provincial, supramunicipal level and for municipal town planning, as well tools for private policies;
- proposal of specific projects and directions for their execution (in the first level), to integrate the ecological network in greater or external goals. Main outputs concern: seven new Plis established in the first level of ecological network; draft of Provincial

cycle-path plan in coherence with Ptcp ecological network;
production of study to verify effect of significant settlements and infrastructures on environment and landscape. At the present first and second level areas are under characterization, but is necessary to integrate all ecological network design with new elements. New competences Province has to deal with (f.i. landscape value and agricultural land preservation) represent opportunity to integrate directions and criteria for rural areas with ecological and green network topics.