



PALIMPSEST

Creative Drivers for Sustainable
Living Heritage Landscapes

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CALL – Cities in Action for Learning Lab
Department of Architecture and Urban Studies
Politecnico di Milano

European Technical Conference
Cultural landscapes as a paradigm of resilience and sustainability
Palma de Mallorca, 17th October 2023



New European Bauhaus
beautiful | sustainable | together



**Funded by
the European Union**



Photo: F. Fontana,
Basilicata
1978

Landscapes as

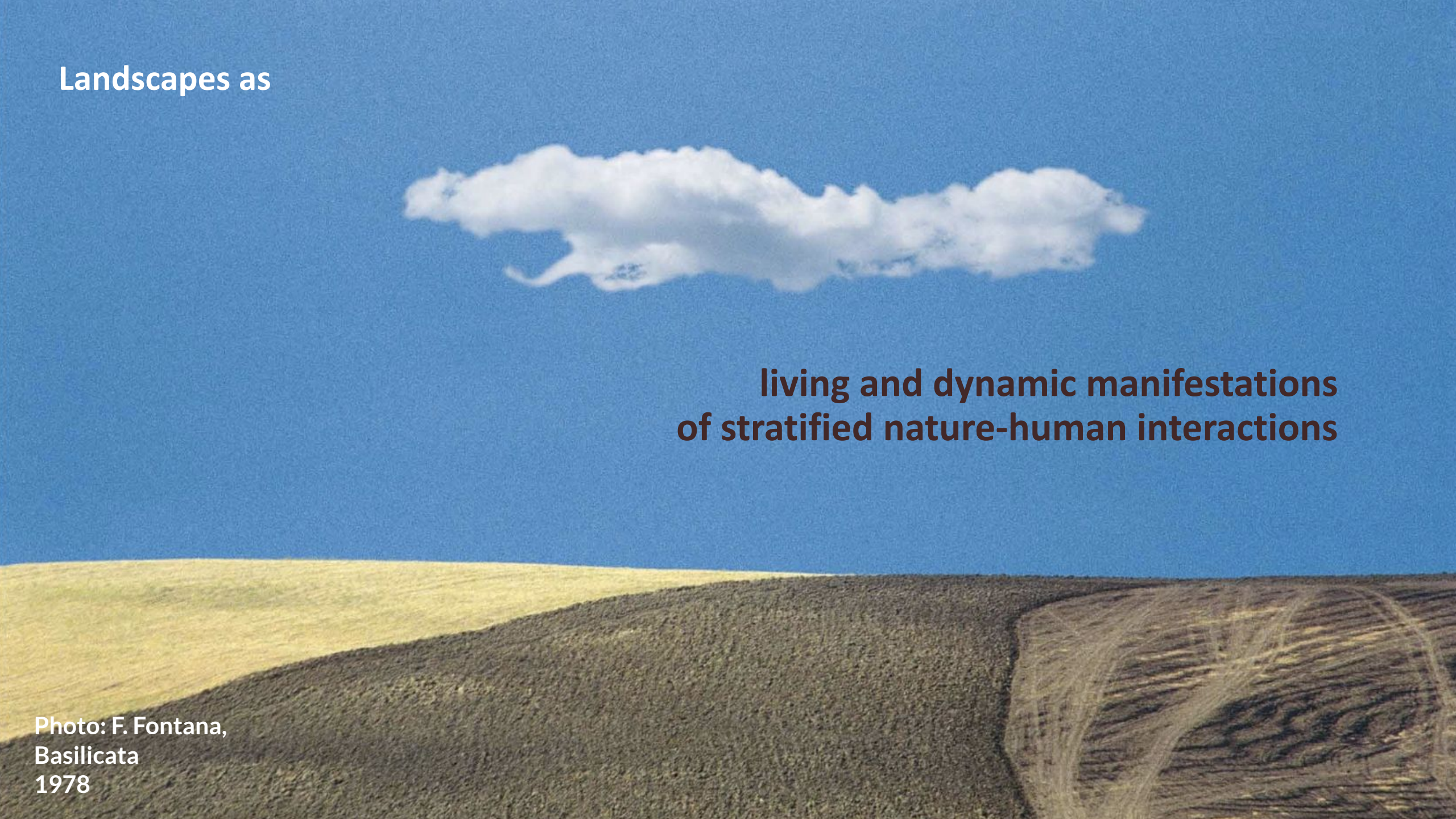


Photo: F. Fontana,
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1978

Landscapes as

**living and dynamic manifestations
of stratified nature-human interactions**

Photo: F. Fontana,
Basilicata
1978



Landscapes as



**privileged foci for the observation of
misalignments, tensions and contradictions**

Photo: F. Fontana,
Basilicata
1978

Landscapes as



**“interface between doing and seeing what is done, between watching-representing and acting, between acting and re-viewing”
(Turri, 2001)**

Photo: F. Fontana,
Basilicata
1978

In the transformation of landscapes



BURTYNSKY OIL

In the transformation of landscapes



... systemic changes
become visible

BURTYNSKY OIL

In the transformation of landscapes



... systemic changes
become visible

... ecological crisis
and the effects of
(un)sustainable
choices materialise

BURTYNSKY OIL



The PALIMPSEST Project

Project ID



PALIMPSEST - Creative Drivers for Sustainable Living Heritage Landscapes

New European Bauhaus Initiative

HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01 – Shaping a greener and fairer way of life in creative and inclusive societies through Architecture, Design and Arts

3yrs: Started in March 23

15 + Partners



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the European Union**

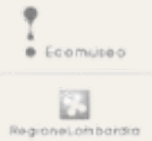
Consortium



COAL




CULTURALINK
CONSULTORIA EN CULTURA Y COMUNICACION



Exploration field

PALIMPSEST explores
creative action for landscape
sustainability transition
through co-production
experiments



The Concept

The metaphor



Land

as a
palimpsest
(Corboz, 1983)

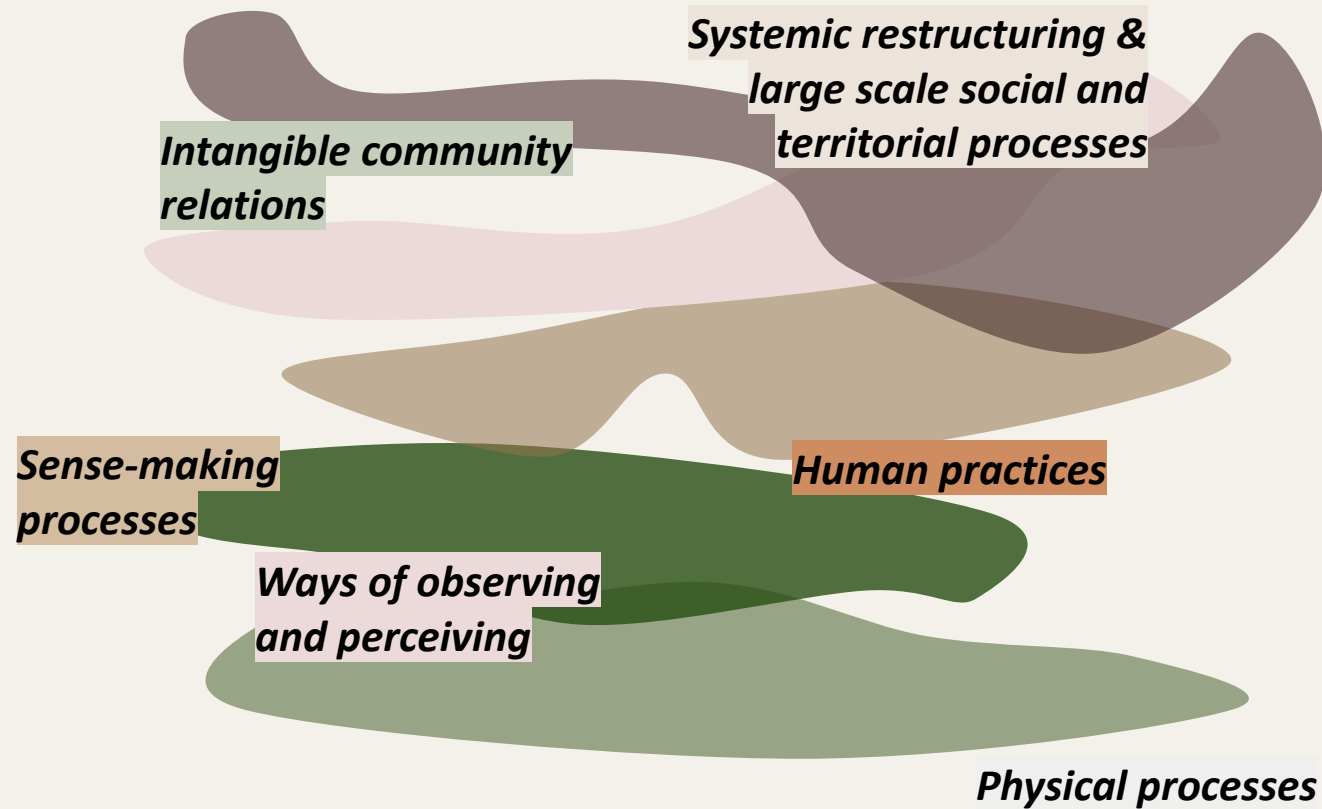
The metaphor



Landscape

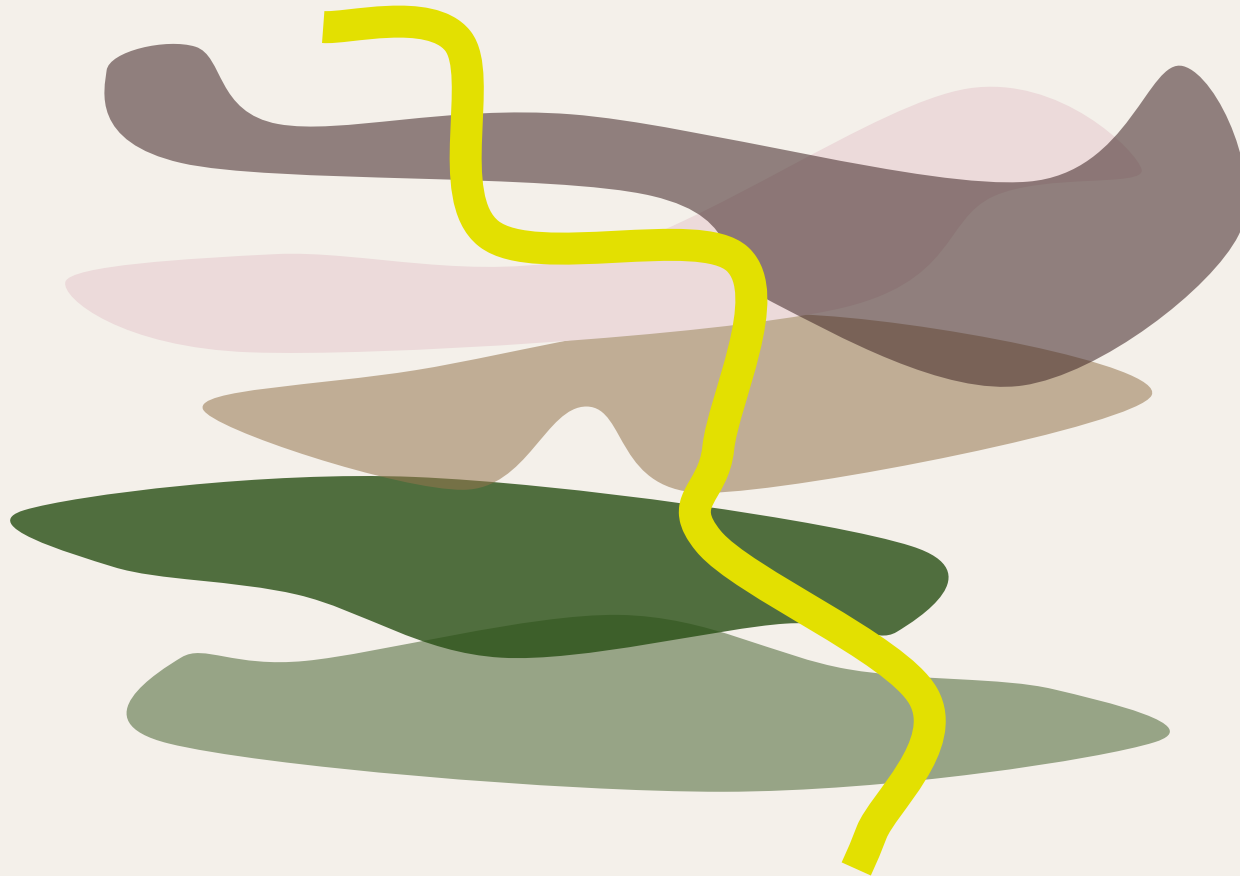
as a
palimpsest

The metaphor



Landscape
as a
palimpsest

The challenge



CC and increasing anthropic pressures modify /accelerate the alteration of “balanced” human-nature interactions

- climate risk production
- deterioration of “living heritage”
- loss of symbolic and relational value

The hypothesis

creative action as a sustainability transition driver?

Creative actions have the potential to

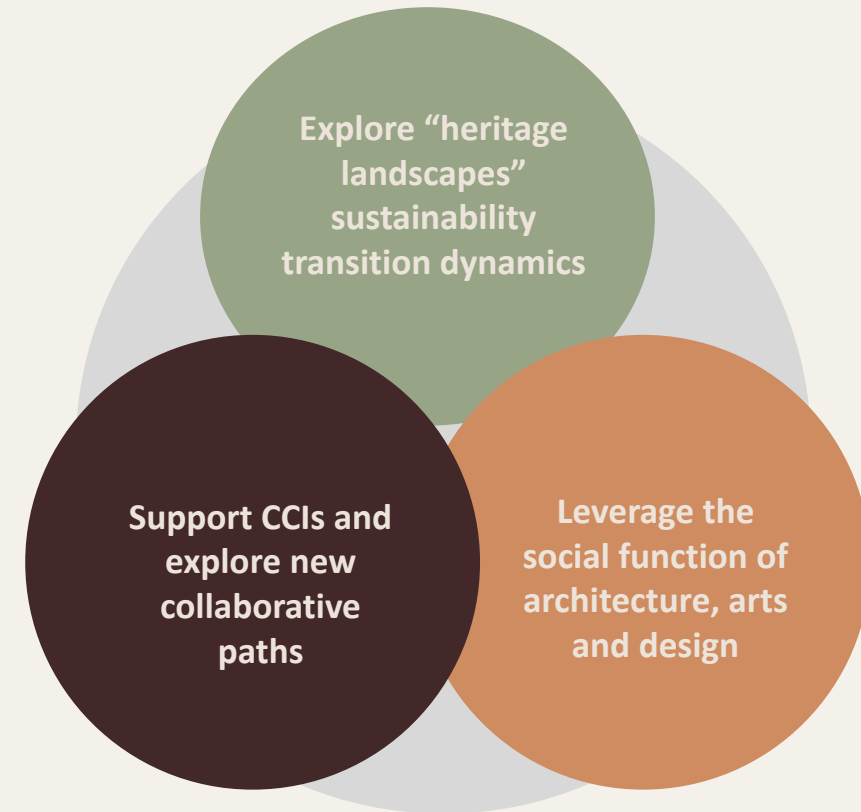
- provide **alternative ways of framing and understanding**
- imagine **other ways of (inter)acting**
- give voice to **multiple agencies**
- create rooms for **new alliances**
- give space to the **intangible / invisible dimension**

The experiment

The objectives

PALIMPSEST seeks to develop and test

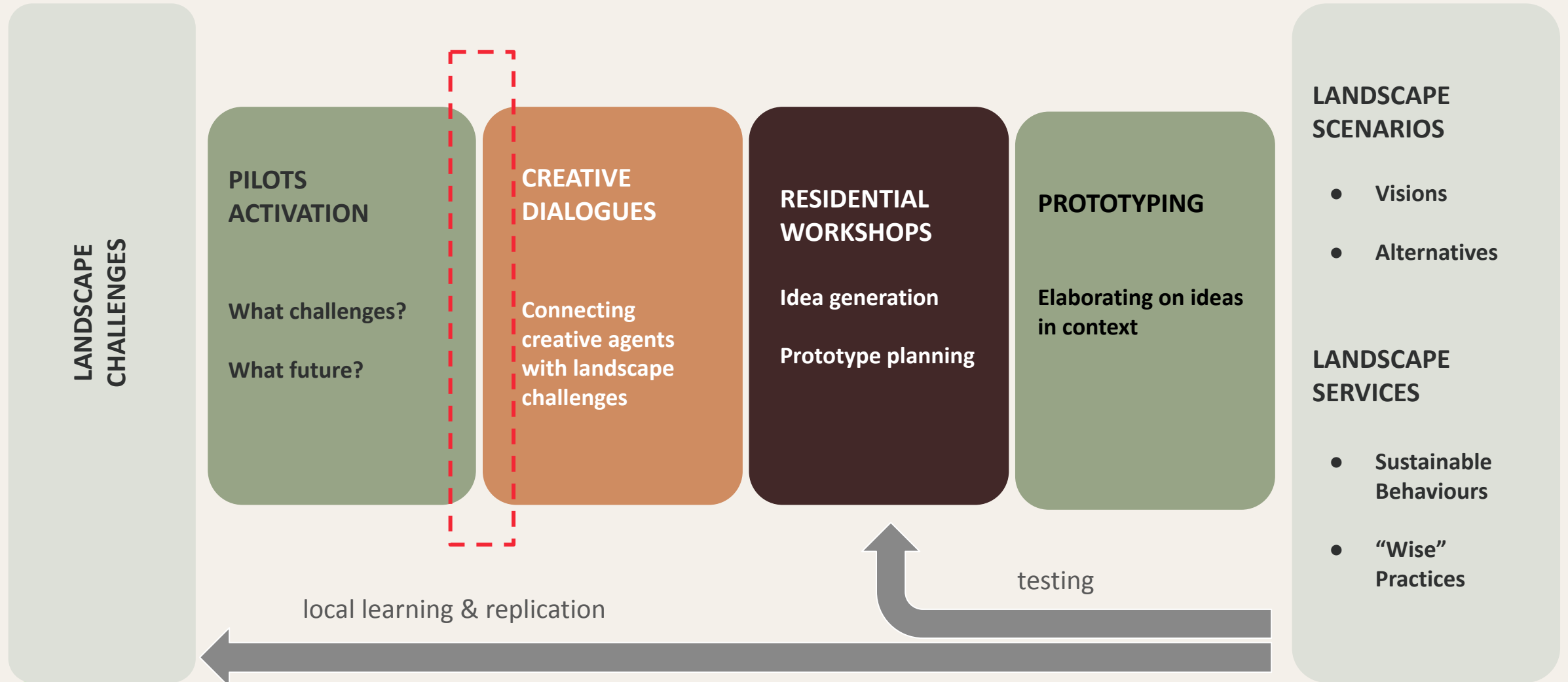
- 1) an **operational process** to imagine innovative practices favouring sustainability transition dynamics
- 2) **methodologies** to support collaboration among architects / artists / designers, communities and institutions
- 3) **tools** to empower and put to use the value creation capacity of artists and cultural operators



The process



PALIMPSEST



The fields of experimentation



CLEAN AIR POST-INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE IN LODZ

Heritage: industrial heritage + cinema

Main challenge: air pollution

The fields of experimentation



CLEAN AIR POST-INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE IN LODZ

Heritage: industrial heritage + cinema

Main challenge: air pollution

WATER SENSITIVE LANDSCAPE IN MILAN

Heritage: Lambro river agricultural landscape

Main challenge: water scarcity and pollution

The fields of experimentation



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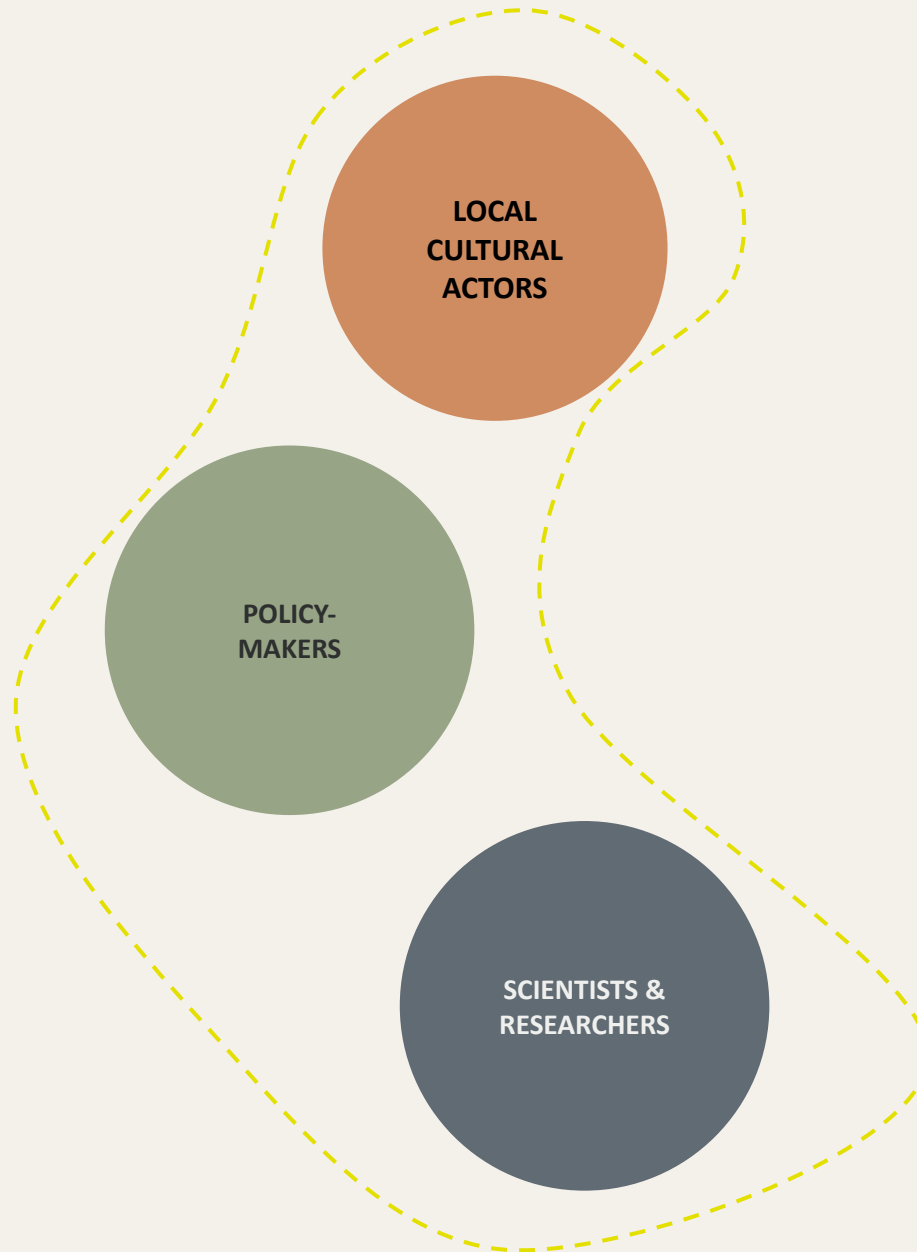
Main challenge: water scarcity and pollution

ENERGY TRANSITION LANDSCAPE IN JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

Heritage: traditional wine landscape / flamenco

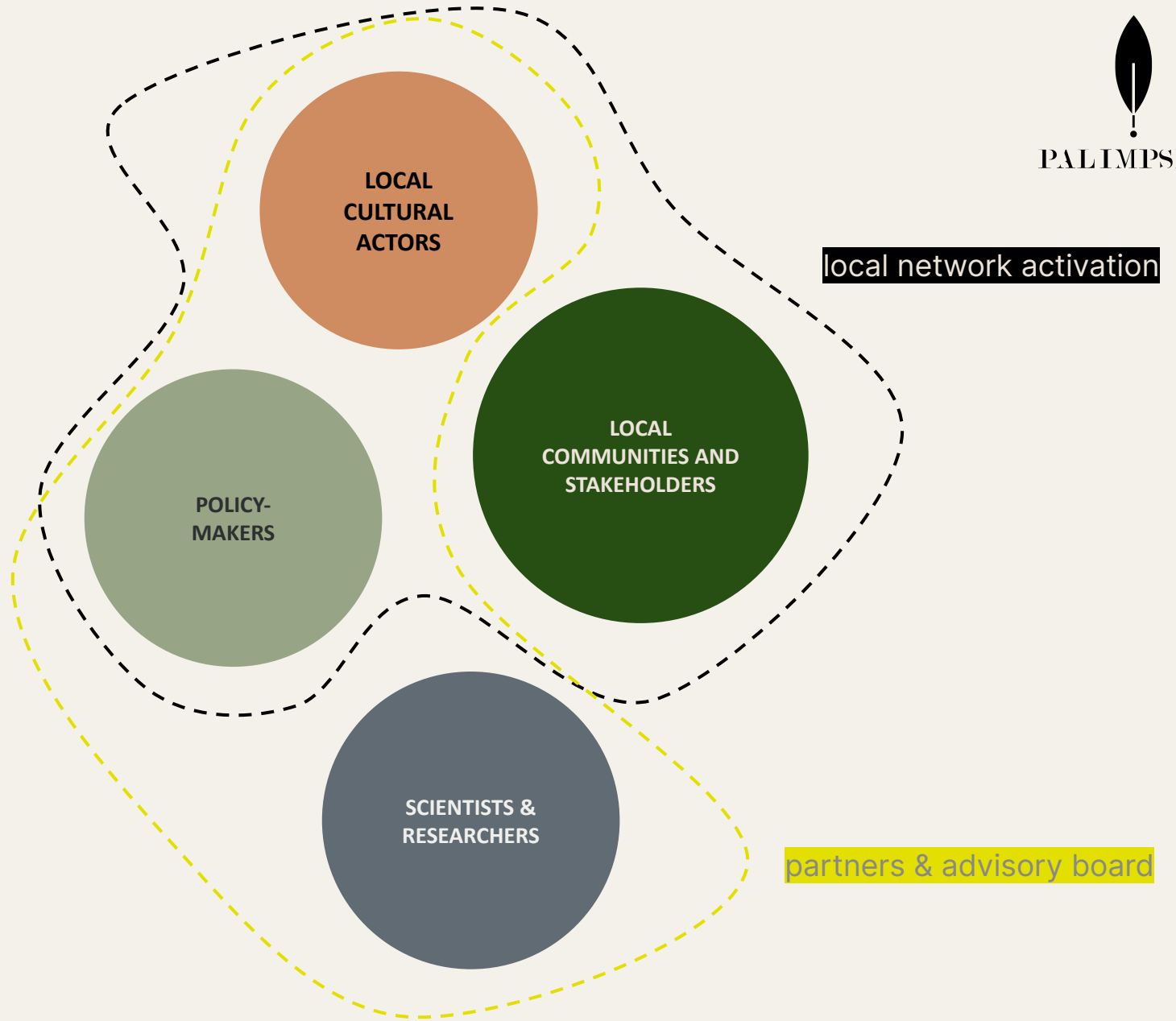
Main challenge: land use conflict (renewable energy)

HOW CAN CREATIVE PRACTICES HYBRIDISE WITH PROFESSIONAL ACTIONS AND DIALOGUE WITH PLACE-SPECIFIC NEEDS?



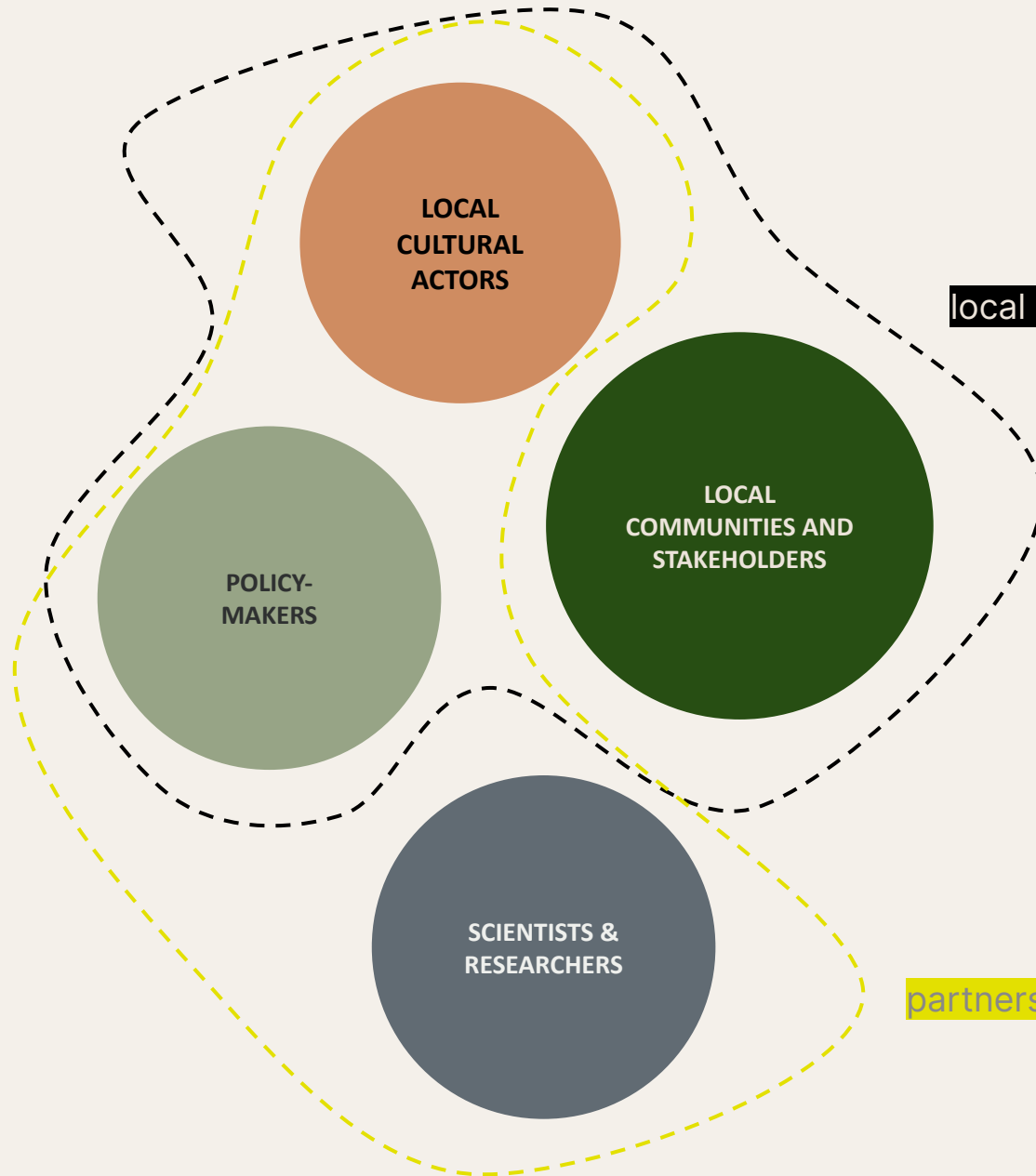
partners & advisory board

HOW CAN CREATIVE PRACTICES HYBRIDISE WITH PROFESSIONAL ACTIONS AND DIALOGUE WITH PLACE-SPECIFIC NEEDS?



HOW CAN CREATIVE PRACTICES HYBRIDISE WITH PROFESSIONAL ACTIONS AND DIALOGUE WITH PLACE-SPECIFIC NEEDS?

CREATIVE DIALOGUES
international call for ideas



local network activation

partners & advisory board

The Creative Dialogues



PALIMPSEST

**Are you a Creative Mind
Interested in Sustainable
Landscapes?**

Apply to the Creative -
Dialogues Open Call!*

*until the 18th of September



New European Bauhaus
beautiful | sustainable | together



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141 proposals
55 Milan / 50 Jerez / 36 Lodz

Applications from **26** Countries
/ **18** EU Member States

97 individual applicants / **44** Teams

> **50%** Women

Multiple fields of creative research

**We selected the shortlisted
candidates last week!**

Proposals for Jerez

5 SHORTLISTED PROPOSALS

'Nuevo Canto de trabajo' - Spain

We can't eat soil, but do it - Austria

The Songs of Nearby Earth - Spain

From Land to Soil - Spain

Peacegaming the Countryside - France

Proposals for Jerez

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changing energy needs

unsustainable food
production

local identity loss

land use conflicts

biodiversity loss

Proposals for Jerez

5 SHORTLISTED PROPOSALS

'Nuevo Canto de trabajo' - Spain

We can't eat soil, but do it - Austria

The Songs of Nearby Earth - Spain

From Land to Soil - Spain

Peacegaming the Countryside - France

relational art

changing energy needs

performances

ceramics

unsustainable food
production

art-based data
collection

local identity loss

sound composition

land use conflicts

flamenco

serious gaming

biodiversity loss

work in progress...

stay tuned!



Insights for the discussion

About the words we use

sustainability and **resilience** discourses

- facilitate strategic navigation (Hillier, 2011) in times of uncertainty
- orient action towards a “mission” (Mazzucato, 2018)

... how do we tackle issues of **ambiguity**?

About the future we imagine

towards a climate-neutral, risk-resilient,
socially inclusive, just future

... how do we tackle
spatial / sectoral / generational **trade-offs**
across processes affecting landscape transformation?

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spatial / sectoral / generational trade-offs
across processes affecting landscape transformation?

... what forms of action can give
policies a **projective capacity**?

CRAFT @ POLIMI

CRAFT - Competence Center Anti-fragile Territories

- A PERMANENT, PLURAL, OPEN OBSERVATORY ON FRAGILITY
OPEN FORUM
- ACCELERATOR/INCUBATOR / PILOT PROJECTS
ANTIFRAGILITY LAB
- PLATFORM FOR ADVANCED TRAINING / EDUCATION
EXCELLENCE SCHOOL



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI



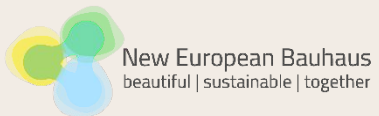
**DIPARTIMENTO
D'ECCELLENZA
FRAGILITA' TERRITORIALI
2023-2027**

Thanks for your attention!

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