

## Sustainable and Innovative Food Systems: The Mediterranean Diet as a Tool for Tourism and Local Development in EUSAIR Communities

**Bari (Italy), 29-30 September 2025**

**Name and surname of the speaker:** Lodovico Gherardi

**Name of the institution:** IPA ADRION Programme – Emilia-Romagna Region

### Short CV

Lodovico Gherardi is a Senior Professional of the Emilia-Romagna Region and the coordinator of the Managing Authority of the INTERREG IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Program.

He holds a PhD in Forestry Economics and Planning, and after university experience at the Universities of Florence, Palermo, Venice, and the Polytechnic University of Milan, he has been collaborating with the University of Eastern Piedmont since 2016, teaching the Public Administration Sciences course in the Political Science and Administration program.

Since 2000, he has been working on INTERREG programs for the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Specifically, during the 2000-2006 EU programming period, he served as vice president of the Italian National Committee of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Programme and as an official member of the Monitoring Committee and the Financial Control Group. He represented the Emilia-Romagna Region on the Steering Committee of the INTERREG IIIA "Adriatic cross-border" program and was selected by the Ministry of Infrastructure as an external expert, representing the program's national coordinator, in the evaluation of projects under the INTERREG IIIB ARCHIMED Programme.

During the 2007-2013 programming period, he served as President of the National Committee and National Contact Point for the SEE (South East Europe) transnational European Territorial Cooperation Programme and was a member of the Monitoring Committee for the SEE and the Italy-Slovenia Cross-border Programmes.

Due to his roles, he was a member of the Task Forces that developed the South East Europe (2007-2013 programming period) and ADRION (2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods) INTERREG Programmes. Since the Emilia-Romagna Region was designated the Single Managing Authority for the ADRION Programme, he has coordinated the Programme's Managing Authority, overseeing all operational issues.

After twenty years of experience managing EU funds, to complement and integrate his skills, he earned a master's degree in public management & innovation from the Bologna Business School.

Photo



<p><b>Title of the presentation:</b></p> <p>The role of the IPA ADRION Programme as an essential financial and implementation tool for the EUSAIR strategy.</p> <p><b>3 KEY TALKING POINTS – please list here your 3 key talking points in presentation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Since 2014, the Interreg transnational Programme ADRION has been the main supporter of the EUSAIR macro-regional strategy. Almost all of its project-related funds are aligned with EUSAIR goals and flagships, thereby contributing significantly to the implementation of the Strategy. The Programme launched and closed its last call for proposals in early summer this year, through which it plans to allocate all its financial resources by mid-2026. The call addressed several indicative actions matching with the topics subject of the event of today.</li> <li>2) Looking at the Mediterranean Diet through a holistic lens, ADRION has already granted 7 projects in the current programming period and 4 in the previous one, mainly aimed at promoting a common rand and quality standards for sustainable tourism. This strong interest within Interreg transnational cooperation confirms the beneficiaries' sensitivity towards these issues. The projects granted range from support for sustainable and competitive aquaculture and fishery (FISHIMPACT) to the preservation of marine biodiversity and the safeguarding of Posidonia oceanica and mussels (TEAMFORADRI), as well as the protection of soil biodiversity from pollution (ECOBASE and LANDS). Supporting the Mediterranean Diet also means introducing innovation for biodiversity protection and sustainability: the projects BioFarms, Cluster and ADRURAL introduce smart solutions in circular bioeconomy, while the project CIRCUS promotes circular economy in the agri-food sector of the Adriatic and Ionian coastal communities</li> <li>3) While it is crucial for programmes to ensure sound project implementation, the rooting and follow-up of these projects involve many stakeholders, each according to their role. What comes next? What is truly meaningful for the population, which, in the end, is the final beneficiary of our projects? The IPA ADRION Programme therefore calls on the distinguished speakers of this session to initiate a discussion and contribute to the exploration of effective ways to ensure the follow-up of granted projects at local level and beyond.</li> </ol>	<p>Contact details for online connection:</p> <p>Email:  lodovico.gherardi@regione.emilia-romagna.it</p>
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