



Regional Participatory  
Guarantee System

- LOMBARDY -



WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF



*C'è CAMPO* is a **Participatory Guarantee System** (PGS) developed in 2012 in **Lombardy** by three NGOs focused on promoting a sustainable and solidarity-based economy, with the support of AIAB (Italian Association of Organic Agriculture) and IFOAM (*International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements*).

PGSs are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on **active participation** of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of **trust**, social networks and knowledge exchange.

PGS offers a complementary, low-cost, **locally-based system of quality assurance**, with a great emphasis on social control and knowledge construction. PGS, as a complementary method to third-party certification, is essential to the continuous growth of the organic movement, especially if we want to include smallholder farmers and consumers (members of the local CSAs or from the local solidarity-based purchase groups) and other stakeholders (i.e. environmentalists, etc.) from local communities. Like other third-party guarantee systems, *C'è CAMPO* is aimed to develop a trustful assurance that certifies producers' social and environmental responsibility.

**Como, Varese and Monza** have been the first three areas involved in the project, where the first local committees have been set up. Tens of individuals - farmers, producers, consumers, experts, etc. - have been sharing their knowledge about organic farming, their needs and their ethical beliefs, in order to develop production standards suitable for the local environmental and social frameworks.

The compliance to the standards is verified by *peers* (mixed groups made up by another farmer, a consumer and, if necessary, a suitable technical expert) by means of an "inspection" to the farm, the so-called "visit". The visit also provides an exchange of ideas whereby all parties learn about the standards and each other's farming practices.

The output from this process is a record of the peer review visit that records details of what was seen and any non-compliance activities.

In 2015 **Bergamo, Brescia** (Valcamonica), **Milano** (Rural Park South Milan) and **Sondrio** (Valtellina) provinces have joined the project, covering most of our region.