

## Fireplaces, Meetings and experimentation in the rural area

Foghíles, Incontri e sperimentazione nello spazio rurale



LOCATION

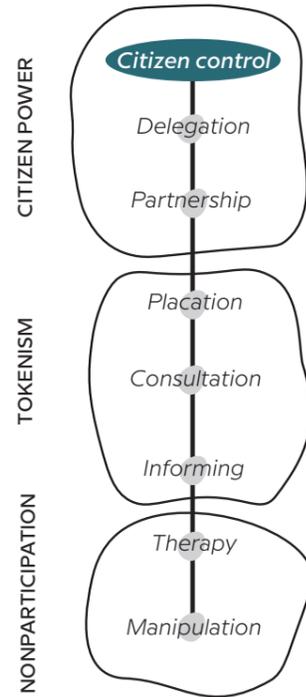
**Semestene, Italy**

TIME PERIOD

**Since 2018**

### THE PROJECT

Foghíles project aims to extend and enhance the life of the little Village of Semestene, bringing in active people eager to promote and organize opportunities for meeting and experimentation in the rural area and to imagine and design the future of the place together. Every year, it takes place for ten days in September and then includes two days of meetings during the following solstice and equinox. The activities take place in different locations around the village; for the space analysis, we focused on one of the spots: the Bia Lada farmland.



animate activities. This project has been **completely self-financed by participants**, and it has come to life thanks to the locals and the visitors from the neighboring towns.

### RESULT

Initially, Po.Ps. Rurbana aimed at bringing life back to Semestene, collecting many people from Sardinia and abroad for ten days a year, making Foghíles a big festival. More than three years after its implementation, we can say that Foghíles has partly reached its goals. Even if they succeed in engaging many people in Semestene, the activities have not brought thousands of visitors to the place.

However, according to the organizers, this "failure" was luck because **bringing in a large crowd in a short time would have disrupted the pace and dynamics of such a tiny community**.

Today, the project is mostly well perceived by locals, even if they struggled to interpret the scope of the project at the beginning.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Semestene is a tiny **village of 120 people** located in the northern central area of **Sardinia**. The town develops according to a medieval urban scheme with an almost radial development around two churches. Its characterized remoteness (4/5) comes from **economic inferiority and difficulty accessing daily-life-support facilities**. Above all, this place is suffering from the digital divide. In terms of connectivity with other cities, Semestene does not lack infrastructure. Due to its size, this settlement does not have large public spaces but **rather small squares and recreational spaces**.

**Sardinian territory**, a potential place for the development of new lifestyles for future generations.

### ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

Foghíles means "fireplaces" in sardo logudorese, the local dialect. In the past and still today, the **meetings around the fire** represent the occasions for transmitting knowledge and direct learning through tales and experiences. Accordingly, this project is strongly connected to the **cultural heritage** of the region, and it has been promoting, since 2018, rural life and the empowerment of the countryside. Various activities have occurred, from a torchlight parade to a pastry workshop. **The community's involvement often happened through the stimulation of memories**, and some locals even proposed themselves to

### INITIATION AND ACTORS

The project is curated by **Po.Ps. Rurbana**, an association that promotes specific interventions and long-term projects in the



Bia Lada during the preparation of the creative works 2  
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"In sa domo 'e su furru yard" (Umberto I street) during the preparation of the fire for the torchlight parade  
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"In sa domo 'e su furru yard" (Umberto I street) during the preparation of the fire for the torchlight parade  
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Bia Lada before the creative works  
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Semestene, Sardinia, Italy

more about this project





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Link to the publication:  
<http://www1.uirs.si/en-us/book/id/119>