

## Initiatives for communities and local areas

In 2023, the Group's contribution to the sustainable development of the local areas and communities was also reflected in the implementation and support of 368 **sustainability projects**, a growth compared to 2022, despite the difficult international economic situation.

The projects, which range from the construction of facilities and infrastructure, education and culture, adaptation to climate change, saving water and energy resources to promoting social inclusion for the most vulnerable, are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

### PROJECTS OF THE IREN LOCAL COMMITTEES

To identify the needs of the local areas and develop shared initiatives with the communities, Iren Local Committees develop a process of constant listening and participatory planning with stakeholders

» [SEE PAGE 123](#). Through the tool of the Local Committees, the Group can on the one hand intercept the needs of the local area and on the other hand detect the potential impacts of its activities on the communities.

In this sense, the Iren Local Committees guarantee:

- listening to communities and mapping key issues and reports;
- sharing information on the Group's strategies, actions, projects and services in the local area in a logic of transparency and collaboration;
- raising awareness of responsible behaviour, which is necessary to promote the sustainable development of communities and the local area;
- active participation of local communities in the implementation and identification of projects for the environmental and social sustainability of the local area.

**111**  
projects  
completed  
at the end  
of 2023

In 2023, the Local Committees of Genoa, Parma, Piacenza, Reggio Emilia and Turin incubated 50 projects - 32 of which already completed during the year, and the others in the development phase - concerning environmental, social and educational issues. At the end of 2023, there are a total of 111 projects implemented by the Committees, which can be consulted on [Irencollabora.it](#). Below is a breakdown of projects completed in 2023 and those in the pipeline.

## PROJECTS REALISED IN 2023

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>The Shared Garden</b> (Associazione Donne Ambientaliste di Parma)	Parma	Setting up a green space at the Liceo Scientifico Marconi to activate a green classroom for environmental education, both for the High School students and for other city schools, with which to develop integrated teaching paths. A meeting place, open to citizenship, to promote environmental sustainability and education projects on biological diversity, and carry out knowledge exchange activities and experimentation.
<b>Well-being in Nature</b> (Parma Sostenibile)	Parma	Development of extensive environmental sustainability and wellness education pathways, with indoor and outdoor resident workshops, guided tours of urban parks and nature areas, farmers markets and organic farms, and the Picasso Food Forest public green space. The target group are children and young people aged 3 to 18, involved in workshops on biodiversity, critical consumption, self-production, environmentally and socially sustainable agricultural practices, and the local and solidarity-based economy.
<b>Solidarity Trails</b> (CAI Section of Parma)	Parma	Promotion of new synergies between the mountain world (CAI and municipalities in particular) and the realities of social cooperation type B of Parma (with the inclusion of disadvantaged people in the workforce), through a structured collaboration aimed at the maintenance of local trail networks. The distinctive competences of the CAI in the field of hiking and the competences of the type "B" social cooperation in green management are valorised.
<b>Memories of Water and Stone</b> (CAI Section of Parma)	Parma	Maintenance and restoration of a number of historical fountains in the Parma Apennines to preserve the memory of vanished uses and pay more general attention to water resources, especially in springs and aquifers whose protection has become increasingly important. In addition, the Comprehensive Institutes located in the local areas of Langhirano and Corniglio were involved in order to promote the historical and cultural aspects connected to the creation and use of public fountains in the past and to raise awareness on the correct management of water resources in our territories.
<b>Neighbourhood VIPs</b> (CSV Emilia of Parma)	Parma	The creation of a proximity network that can support those who in a period of their life need help, not only for economic reasons, but also for reasons of health, loneliness or temporary dependence on others. The network consists of several people with different skills who, voluntarily, provide support and help to those in need. Those involved are traders, artisans, shopkeepers, cooperatives and entrepreneurs.
<b>Theatre Paths</b> (Associazione Ermo Colle)	Parma	A two-year course aimed at adolescents from the vulnerable groups, migrants, with disabilities, and therefore with "fragility", in the care of social services. Educational action oriented towards active citizenship, capable of enhancing social and cultural intertwining and effective integration based on "doing together" through theatre, with theatre workshops on topics that allow students' cultural and especially civic growth (inter-culturalism, gender issues, peer relations, legality, environmental issues).

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>Dilemma 2nd phase</b> (Cibopertutti/ Kuminda Network)	Parma	The game Dilemma stimulates reflection on the relationship between competition and cooperation and encourages the exploration of social, environmental and economic issues, consistent with the goals of Agenda 2030. To disseminate the project, 30 tutors were trained, mainly educators and social workers, and 215 teens were involved in experimenting with the game. The project was disseminated in Parma high schools in collaboration with Edulren.
<b>Alter Fest</b> (Kult APS)	Piacenza	A participatory and innovative festival, held in October 2023, aimed at addressing the issue of caring for others through a discussion of environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability topics. Over the three days, workshops and events were held on the topic of sustainable development, inclusive politics, circular economy, and caring for others, with the ultimate aim of promoting the usability and environmental enhancement of the area.
<b>Twice upon a Time...</b> (Des Tacum Social Cooperative)	Piacenza	Recovery of objects in good condition that, thanks to repair and creative reworking, are sold at bargain prices while continuing to fulfil a function. The recovery activity is carried out by fragile people (unemployed, migrants, ex-offenders, etc.) that, once trained, put to use old and new skills. Three city schools (primary, lower and upper secondary school) participate in the project with the creation of instant spots for reuse and the dissemination of good practices through families, social channels and the websites of the organisations involved.
<b>The Air Machine</b> (ISII G. Marconi of Piacenza)	Piacenza	Creation of a greenhouse inside the School Institute aimed at purifying the air in a part of the building, planting plants suitable for the purpose. The project stems from the need to improve school life, starting from the basics, the air we breathe. Panels illustrating the project, its functionality and the benefits it brings to the environment are installed in the vicinity of the greenhouse. Group works were also organised so that the children can actively participate in setting up the greenhouse.
<b>Hack the Waste</b> (The Hub Reggio Emilia)	Reggio Emilia	Hackathon aimed at students from universities and postgraduate training institutions, to raise awareness of the circular economy and waste reduction among young people, and to bring out new messages, behaviours and possible entrepreneurial projects. Participants competed in a challenge, based on "design thinking", to come up with new solutions to recycle and reduce waste, taking into account factors such as feasibility, innovativeness and sustainability.
<b>Music in Nature</b> (Cooperative Risonanze)	Reggio Emilia	Orientation of children and adults towards respecting, protecting and discovering nature, through music used as an engagement tool. The project saw the realisation of a series of initiatives on environmental protection, aimed at schools in the area (e.g. reproduction of sound scapes with the musical instruments built) and all citizens.
<b>Footprint Zero - a sustainable summer</b> (Heron SCSD)	Reggio Emilia	Pilot project of sustainable educational paths aimed at reducing the impact of a summer centre, through the constant support of a dedicated sustainability team. In addition to the educational course for all enrolled children, the interventions included the study of sustainable mobility, reducing the use of plastic, and days dedicated to the plant-based diet, to raise awareness of reducing meat consumption in order to reduce one's impact.

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<p><b>NaturalMense</b> (Caritas Diocesana Reggion Emilia - Guastalla)</p>	Reggion Emilia	<p>Adoption of reusable tableware (cutlery, glasses and melamine plates) in the widespread canteens served by Caritas Diocesana Reggion Emilia - Guastalla, which are aesthetically more similar to those used in the domestic sphere and have characteristics of durability and resistance, making it possible to considerably reduce the impact in terms of waste production.</p>
<p><b>Second Chance</b> (Società Cooperativa Sociale Rigenera)</p>	Reggion Emilia	<p>Narrative on the issues of circular economy and environmental sustainability that highlights how apparently unusable objects and materials can be transformed into other artefacts, acquiring new life. The following are activated: training aimed at people with disabilities to carry out small creative recycling jobs; environmental education workshops with primary school children; a workshop narrating the results of the course to the neighbourhood population and sale of the objects made; social stuffing and green care workshops open to citizens.</p>
<p><b>Nature between your Feet</b> (Ecosapiens - L'Ovile Cooperativa di Solidarietà Sociale)</p>	Reggion Emilia	<p>Realisation of equipped spaces within the former Cave Corazza Oasis of the Poviglio municipality, with experimentation of innovative educational paths in the environment for infant-toddler centres, preschools and first cycle of primary schools. The space set up, designed by teachers and children, remains available for citizens who can use it for independent activities in nature. Entirely natural and environmentally friendly facilities are set up in the Oasis, dedicated to play and innovative educational activities, outdoor education activities are organised, as well as questionnaires, online interviews and project impact assessment activities.</p>
<p><b>Cooperfor2030</b> (Confcooperative - Unione Provinciale Reggion Emilia)</p>	Reggion Emilia	<p>Promotion of initiatives to raise the awareness of companies, proposing good practices and concrete actions to contribute to achieving the 17 SDGs by 2030. Activities have been carried out aimed at employees of participating companies to promote virtuous behaviour in the workplace, meetings/workshops/visits aimed at member cooperatives and external stakeholders, and communication activities to promote sustainability towards specific targets.</p>
<p><b>A Journey around Food</b> (CNA Reggion Emilia)</p>	Reggion Emilia	<p>Food and environmental education aimed at Reggion primary school children to provide them with the tools to adopt consumption choices and conscious behaviour. The project raises awareness of environmental sustainability, starting with zero-kilometre food, reuse in the kitchen, food packaging and the use of packaging, and ending with the issue of food waste. The project involved CNA artisans through company visits by schools and educational workshops to present artisan products, their history, their link with the territory, the ingredients used, nutritional properties and environmental sustainability aspects.</p>

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>DIGIAMBIENTale Education</b> (The Hub Reggio Emilia Soc. Coop.)	Reggio Emilia	Correcting and reorienting young people's passive attitudes towards new technologies, promoting sociability, making them understand the pervasiveness of the digital, whose usefulness, but also sometimes non-essentiality, it is important to appreciate. The project develops three educational workshops, aimed at 8-13-year-olds, on the theme of reuse, environmental sustainability, and the circular economy. In the form of a game, each workshop is a working project covering in a simplified manner all the activities and skills required of a digital design team.
<b>Portina.io</b> (CNA Reggio Emilia)	Reggio Emilia	Activation of concierge service, in the "Polveriera" area, to accompany and support the residents of the neighbourhood in the knowledge and use of proximity services and the support of a digital platform. The creation of a network of professionals for the provision of proximity services and the activation of training courses aim to respond to the needs of the territory, particularly the most vulnerable inhabitants.
<b>Clear Waters</b> (Pro Natura)	Reggio Emilia	Production of systematic cataloguing and localisation of the wetlands present in the Reggio Emilia hills, increasing knowledge of the provincial natural heritage and making an important tool available to land management bodies (Central Emilia Park Authority and municipalities) that facilitates them in planning activities and protection of the territory.
<b>Participation and Creativity for the Well-being of Communities</b> (ACER Reggio Emilia)	Reggio Emilia	Aimed at the residents of Villaggio Stranieri and Viale Magenta, the project contributes to the implementation of a process of urban, building and living requalification of the public housing neighbourhoods, through the promotion of social cohesion activities and the care of common spaces, leading to the promotion of the formation of neighbourhood committees. Meetings were developed with adolescents and their families to explore topics such as: waste and sorted waste collection, good practices of civil coexistence, exchange of goods and reuse, home economics.
<b>Upper Valleys of Lanzo Network</b> (Valliadi APS)	Turin	Eco-sustainable mobility and enhancement of the environmental, cultural, sports and accommodation heritage of the Upper Valleys of Lanzo, through the installation of an e-bike recharging station in each of the 12 municipalities in the area. A service is provided free of charge to residents, tourists, holidaymakers and amateurs, who are increasingly using e-bikes to visit the Alte Valli while promoting the enhancement of the area and its facilities.
<b>Children's Theatre</b> (Allegra Compagnia Mr Brown APS)	Turin	Theatre course for children with writing and staging of a show on the topic of circular economy. The protagonists and active players are boys and girls who, turning their attention to the major issues concerning the environment, climate change, sustainable development, and the circular economy, have created 4 theatre performances for citizens, taking care of the writing, set design, costumes and music.

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>The Network of Green Community Gatehouses</b> (Rete Italiana di Cultura Popolare)	Turin	Building, together and with citizens everyday services and a place for meeting, culture and sociability in Turin's Borgo San Paolo district. A green area has been redeveloped and open-air classrooms have been created with laboratory activities for children and adults, as well as a bike sharing station and a small cycle workshop with related courses, charging points for electric vehicles, in addition to an area for open-air cinema.
<b>The Path through the Forest</b> (Amici dei Sentieri)	Turin	Making usable one of the variants of the hiking itinerary linking the Basilica of Superga to the Sacro Monte di Crea, allowing us to reach the Romanesque abbey of Santa Fede in Cavagnolo. The project saw the restoration and protection of the area, including through the placement of appropriate signage (notice boards with description panels, route markings, photographs). The trail also makes it possible to carry out environmental education initiatives and organise open-air events.
<b>The River Box for fluid teaching</b> (Anna Marino)	Turin	Teaching proposal with experiential teaching methods, through innovative educational tools in which creativity and learning are stimulated. Through this educational proposal, students of primary schools, lower secondary schools and upper secondary schools were made aware of issues of global importance such as the responsible use of water resources, climate change and monitoring of the quality of rivers.
<b>Grugliasco Reuse Network</b> (Le Serre)	Turin	Creation of a place for the exchange and donation of used objects among citizens. Through awareness and sharing, citizens carry out initiatives to safeguard the territory. Thanks to the use of a dedicated platform, citizens plan the exchange of goods and manage the "time bank", where they can make their skills available for the repair of small objects. The project is completed by the dissemination of initiatives for waste reduction and environmental protection (apps against food waste, collection centres for used clothes, etc.).
<b>Lead Nature - Green Leaders</b> (AIESEC Turin)	Turin	Creating environmental awareness in communities, through seminars, recreational activities and events, with the aim of changing daily habits and the relationship with the environment, stimulating the use of green areas in the city. 12 international volunteers and 7 volunteers of Legambiente involved local school students in this path of education to sustainability, collecting direct testimonies and documenting the concrete effects of the program with respect to the stakeholders involved.
<b>The Community Culture Gatehouse</b> (Rete Italiana di Cultura Popolare)	Turin	A travelling concierge school offering art workshops with recycling materials, sewing courses, digital literacy courses, ABC technology for the elderly, support in the use of apps and Italian driving licence courses for foreigners. The solidarity purchasing group of the Inhabitants of the Gatehouse, set up by traders, craftsmen, associations and active citizenship, delivers groceries free of charge to those who request them.

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>Green Brugneto</b> (ASD Wild Lake Val Brugneto)	Genoa	Cleaning the Brugneto lake, raising awareness of sorted waste collection and knowledge of the area's flora and fauna, through 2 days of environmental workshops, guided visits to the Brugneto dam plant and demonstration activities for cleaning the Brugneto lake.
<b>We Reporters too!</b> (Bet She Can)	Genoa	Creation of a community of teachers on topics such as: personal development and potential, environmental protection, inclusive language, resilience and sustainability, giving a leading role to girls and boys to make their voices heard, directly questioning the key testimonies of the proposed topics and communicating with them to open up to different points of view and experiences. The interviews carried out by the children with the key testimonies, shared with the entire school, were followed by a final moment of elaboration with the teachers, to consolidate the learning.

## PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION IN 2023

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>The Social Recovery of Textile Waste</b> (Cooperativa Fiorente)	Parma	Recovery and reuse of used clothing and textile material through home collection in a residential area of the city. The project develops a service with high social value as it engages people with disabilities who participate in socio-educational and work training courses.
<b>BIN MAN... Super Hero Sweeper!</b> (Cooperative Sirio)	Parma	Civic education to respect the environment and those who care for it. There are 2 "neighbourhood sweepers" to activate workshop paths, aimed at young people aged 7 to 12 from schools in the Molinetto district, with the objective of activating civic co-responsibility and motivation on the topic of the "clean city", experimenting a model of civic-environmental education that enhances the active role of those in the field who deal with waste sweeping and sorted waste collection.
<b>Sustainable Roads</b> (Laboratorio di Strada ODV)	Piacenza	Awareness-raising course on issues relating to care for the environment (reuse, combating waste and cleaning the spaces that are used), the future perspective, and a sense of responsibility through a participative and aggregative dimension. The target group is represented by boys and girls aged 13 to 19, mostly foreigners but not exclusively, who met specifically in informal gathering places (pedestrian zones, green areas, playgrounds, clubs, squares, etc.).
<b>When Necessity goes Hand in Hand with Virtue</b> (Cooperativa Sociale L'Orto Botanico)	Piacenza	Combating food waste, implemented at the Piacenza prison, through the re-use of surplus whole fruit and vegetables, their transformation into products (jams, purées and marmalades as well as pastes and sauces) and their introduction, at reduced prices, into the collective catering and retail circuit. Eight detainees are given the opportunity to work in prison, learn a job and strengthen their chances of fully integrating into society once they have served their sentences.

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
<b>I Coccioli</b> (Brainfarm)	Piacenza	Waste, shards, scraps, objects now considered useless, regain their value in the form of "Coccioli", cute animated and interactive characters, protagonists of a smartphone app associated with trekking routes in the Piacenza valleys. The app is structured as a treasure hunt, in which it will be possible to interact with the "Coccioli", learn all the information on the correct disposal and life cycle of waste, and explore topics related to environmental, civic, historical and naturalistic education.
<b>Concerto Kids 2024</b> (Associazione Concerto APS)	Piacenza	As part of the Concerto festival, the Kids section offers workshops, screenings and snacks to address the issue of sustainability together with children, parents and teachers. The screening of short films on the topic of environmental sustainability is the vehicle to promote culture through art, education and interaction; the focus also on adult education is a key element to activate environmentally aware and environmentally friendly behaviour.
<b>Synergy for Energy</b> (Circolo Rathaus)	Piacenza	Four projects, aimed at citizenship, on education for sustainability: "Faster than the planet" dedicated to the fight against fast fashion, "Eco-anxiety club" to support all those (especially young people) suffering from climate change anxiety, "Knowledge for Piacenza" talk and workshop on the recovery of discarded objects and the reduction of domestic emissions, "Archaeoplastics exhibition" made up of "finds" found in the Po and a day dedicated to cleaning the great river, in collaboration with Legambiente.
<b>Plain in Pot'Enza</b> (Officina Acsè)	Reggio Emilia	Redevelopment of the Fontanili area in Praticello di Gattatico by planting fruit trees, reinforcing the existing trees and creating an equipped area. The community is made aware and actively involved in the protection of the asset through events and communication activities.
<b>Discovering Energy with FCHgo</b> (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)	Reggio Emilia	Educational activities, based on a narrative and imaginative approach, for understanding hydrogen energy and its technologies. The project involves around 200 primary and lower secondary school students, 10 teachers and 2 local associations/cooperatives. Specific training is given to teachers and, at the end of the course, debates are held to give an account of the skills developed and the results achieved.
<b>DACCS Technology and Carbon Printing for a Net-zero Future</b> (IESS - European Institute for Advanced Studies)	Reggio Emilia	Laboratory for capturing CO <sub>2</sub> generated by human activities indoors. An ecological laboratory active in environmental monitoring and climate mitigation is created in the school building. The experimental ecological hub houses an environmental sensing station, a plant for the direct capture of CO <sub>2</sub> in the air with the production of calcium carbonate, a device for the generation of calcium carbonate and polylactic acid extrudates, and an end-user of the extrudates for the creation of objects by means of a 3D printer.



Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
Acting for the Climate with 3V (Istituto Comprensivo Volpiano)	Turin	Creating a link with the land to raise awareness among the younger generation on issues such as deforestation, cementification, desertification, drought, global warming and climate change. Starting from the awareness of climate change and global warming, through the discovery of the benefits produced by plants and the enhancement of urban greenery, the students will be the protagonists of a reforestation project for the development of active citizenship, shared with the older ones.
ColtivAbile - Phase II (Autismo e Società)	Turin	Employment and work placement of autistic youngsters through the restoration and cultivation of a plot of land located in the municipality of Moncalieri through the creation of a greenhouse where training and cultivation activities can be carried out even during the winter months as well as the creation of educational workshops, where autistic youngsters take a leading role, on the topics of circular economy and respect for the environment.
A cleaner Po (Casa Malta)	Turin	Enhancement of the Lungo Po Machiavelli area in Turin through urban regeneration and awareness-raising. Improvements will be made to the area, permanently rectifying some of the problems related to degradation and neglect, as well as carrying out awareness-raising activities through workshops and photographic exhibitions on environmental issues.
Families in Solidarity (Balgasar)	Genoa	Circular economy in a neighbourhood Charity Shop networking various local realities. The neighbourhood network is involved and in particular, the services offered by the Emporio Solidale, the Ce.Sto community centre and the Ghettop literacy school to boost the collection of used or donated goods, supporting and participating in the creation of a neighbourhood Charity Shop.
To University ... pedalling! (CUS Genoa)	Genoa	Facilitating the sustainable mobility of university students between study and sport, promoting a healthy lifestyle and spreading the culture of road safety education. It is planned to purchase 20 muscle bicycles, equipped with a GPS lock, which will be placed in racks in university departments and sports facilities. The service will be available through the CUS Genoa app. There will also be 10 e-bike rides (provided by CUS Genoa) at Genoa forts, with a qualified instructor.
(I) IMPACT (Teatro dell'Ortica)	Genoa	Social theatre, ecology and activism for secondary schools, in a project that aims to combine the methodological approach of Social Theatre with environmental issues. The students will be directly involved and, extensively, also their teachers and families.

Project (implementer)	Local Committee	Description
Becoming sustainable Champions (Lions 108 iA2)	Genoa	Sport, environmental education and art for all in a project involving the social services of the municipality of Genoa and over 30 associations in the municipal area. Beneficiaries will be over 300 girls and boys, supervised by social services, engaged in sports, arts and activities related to environmental and social sustainability, renewable energy and water.
Sustainable Irrigation for Social Gardens (Amici di Ponte Carrega)	Genoa	Recovery and distribution of rainwater for social gardens created on a redeveloped plot in Val Bisagno. The activation of a collective land cultivation process in fact involves private citizens who will donate part of the harvest to the needy families in the care of the association.

## OTHER INITIATIVES OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

In 2023, the new editions of the AmbientAzioni call were promoted - the seventh for Piacenza, the fifth for Turin and the second for Reggio Emilia - which had as their object the design of tools, actions and initiatives to save energy and water resources, the reduction of waste production, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> production and the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Piacenza and Reggio Emilia calls for tenders were aimed at citizens over the age of 18, school and university institutes, organisations and associations of persons or companies, while the Turin call was aimed at young people aged between 18 and 26. Participants were asked to submit innovative projects that could be replicated in other contexts and with demonstrable economic and social benefits for the community.

The dialogue that the Local Committees have established with the territories continued, in order to explore and monitor the future energy scenario and the actions introduced by Iren Group for households, businesses and local areas, with a focus on renewable energy communities.

The Iren Local Committees were also a place for in-depth discussion and debate on issues such as the 2022 Sustainability Report, the update of the Iren Business Plan, the assessment of sustainability issues material to the strategy and drafting of the 2023 Sustainability Report and the transition to the free market of electricity and gas.

In 2023, 5 videos on the activities of the 5 Committees were made and disseminated on the Group's social channels, with the aim of spreading awareness of the activities developed and stimulating more projects from the territories.

The year 2023 also marked the renewal of the three-year mandate of the Piacenza Local Committee.