PRESS RELEASE

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– #BACKTOTHELAND –
EUROPE

il Resto del Carlino

**Wednesday,
May 20th. 2026**

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Borghi, la sfida europea all'abbandono rurale

Ten representatives from Italy, Greece, France, Cyprus, and Croatia visited the municipality of Borghi, welcomed by Mayor Silverio Zabberoni and Councilor Genny Bagagli.

The visit is part of the European Erasmus Plus-Back to the Land project, organized by the Italian partners Territori and Italianità, an international ecosystem founded by Andrea Succi from Romagna and Aura Mundi, Katia Mastroeni's tour operator specializing in rural tourism, and in collaboration with the I Rubiconi Food and Wine Area, agricultural producers, rural tourism entrepreneurs, and local administrators.

The meeting took place in the historic center of Borghi, exploring the area's historic sights, products, and activities, and discussing practical methodologies and actions to address the challenges posed by rural abandonment.

Silverio Zabberoni, mayor of Borghi, said: "Since the beginning of our mandate, one of our goals has been to enhance the local area and its agricultural businesses to address a series of issues, thus halting depopulation and, at the same time, in the absence of generational change, promoting new family and business settlements and enhancing existing agricultural businesses in our area.
We need to keep traditions and the local area alive. This is a process that must be undertaken in collaboration with neighboring municipalities. We continue to work, aware that there are many challenges, but we want to break down the parochialism and political ideologies that are too often present."

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Representatives from the five towns then traveled to Villaventi in Roncofreddo, exploring winemaking techniques and the 'Tempi di recupero' project to combat food waste.

The program in Romagna concludes today with a training exchange meeting to be held at the La Clorofilla farm in Mercato Saraceno, in collaboration with the Municipality of Mercato Saraceno and the Unione Valle Savio.