



Workshop 5: Meeting of the SOCIAL INNOVATION Working Group
Social Innovation: agriculture welcomes the autism,
a transferable best practice from Marche Region

“THE LIFE PROJECT FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: SOCIAL AND WORKING INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES IN RURAL SETTINGS”

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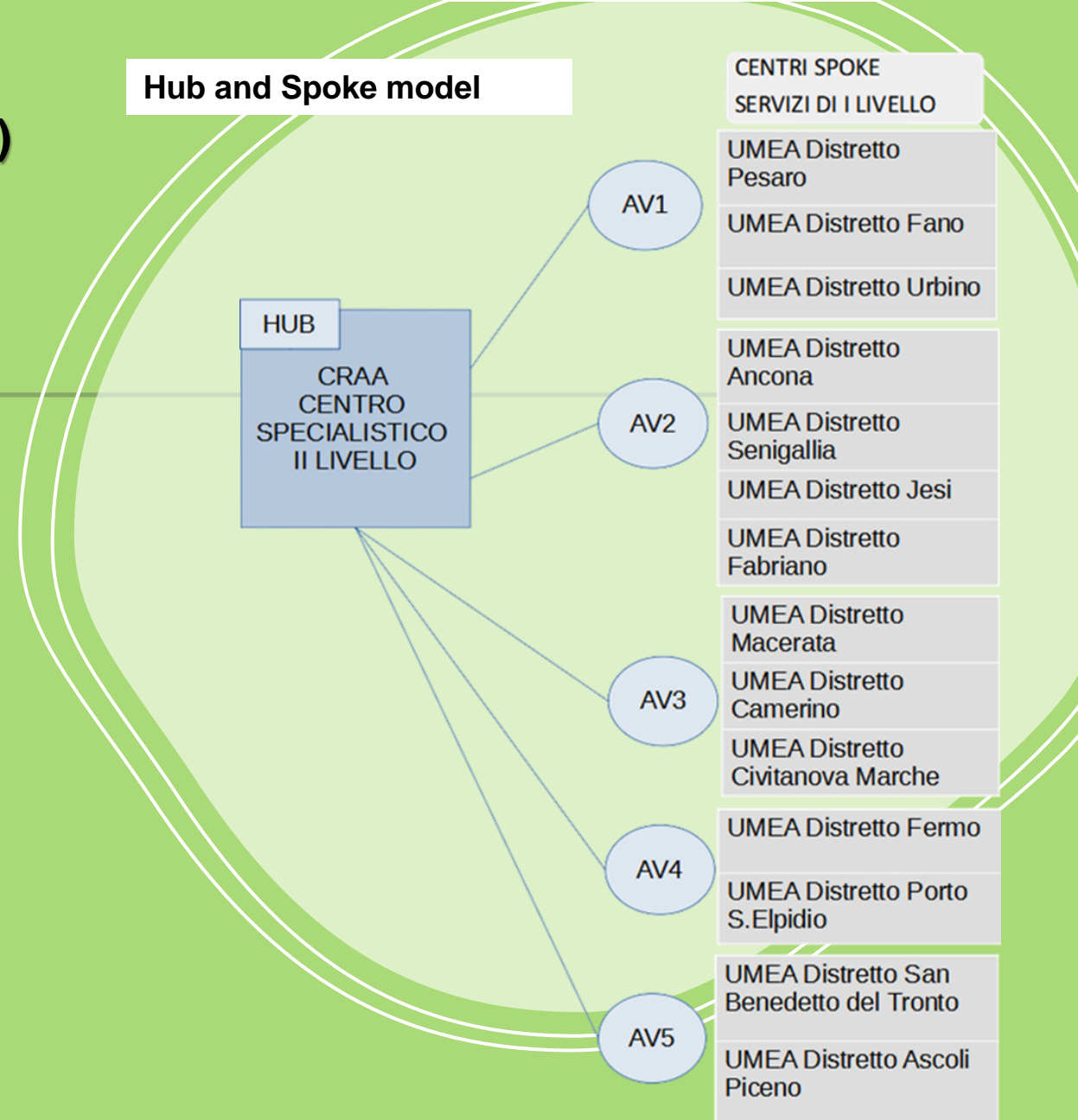
CRAA - Centro Regionale Autismo Adulti (Regional Centre for Adult ASD)

CRAA is a II level health center specialized in adult ASD

It is situated in San Benedetto del Tronto (AP). It began working in March 1st 2018, mainly dealing with:

- ❖ **Multidisciplinary evaluations** of adult people diagnosed with ASD, as well as new diagnoses, with in depth assessment of adaptive, cognitive, and relational skills.
- ❖ **Supervisions** of cooperation activities amongst public health network services.
- ❖ **Education** of healthcare professionals and social workers dealing with ASD
- ❖ **Research** activity.
- ❖ II Level taking in charge of adult ASD patients, and arrangement of **Life Projects**, in collaboration with I Level Territorial Services (Multidisciplinary Unit for Adults -UMEA) to plan and carry out all the interventions.

Hub and Spoke model



The Life Project

CRAA cooperates with UMEA services in realizing the Life Project (Progetto di Vita, PdV) for adult ASD patients

The PdV is training path, which aims at promoting the highest level of participation and inclusion in productive, recreational, educational and social contexts, according to the following **THREE AREAS** of intervention:

1. **Autonomy/Health care home**
2. **Affectivity/Relationships**
3. **Activities/Work**



Social farming: an opportunity for ASD patients

Agricultural companies may promote mental and physical health. They represents an extraordinary opportunity, since their final products do not bear the stigma of potential difficulties in manufacturing.

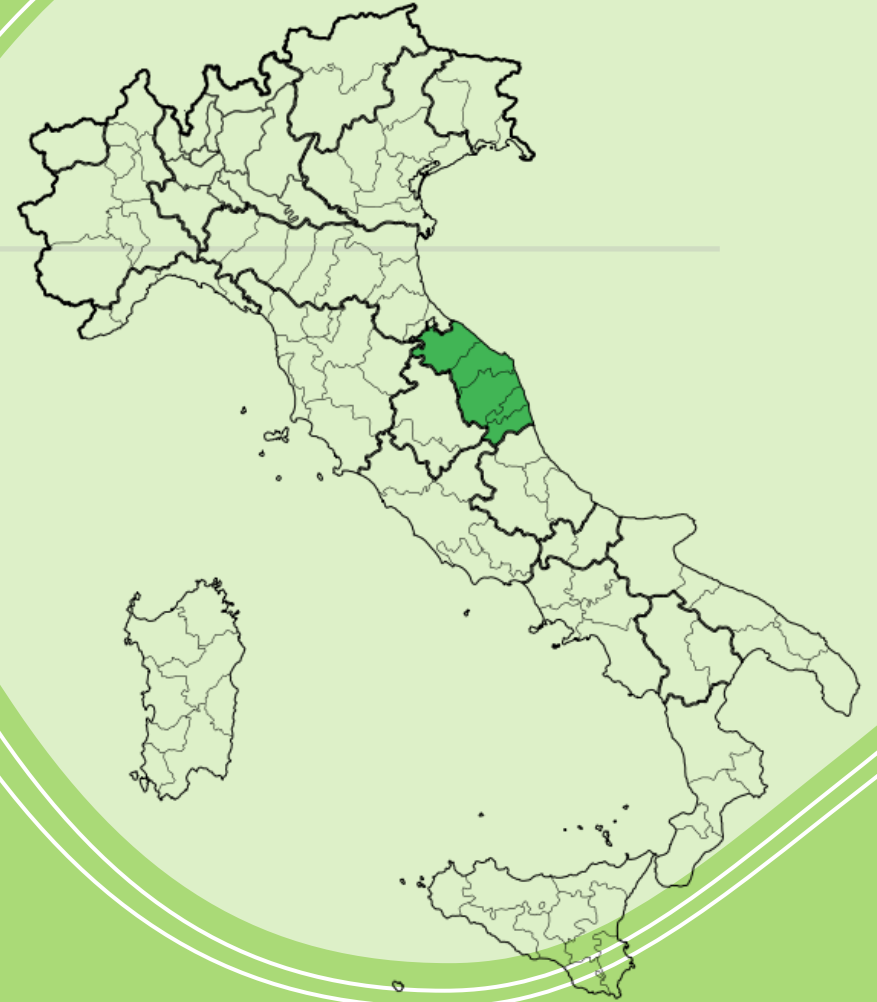
Moreover, **thanks to a certain tolerance towards errors in the production process**, the inclusion of disabled people may be highly promoted.

Recently, national and international scientific literature has pointed out the positive impact that social farming may have on **Autism Spectrum Disorders patients**.



The Region Marche project: «Social and working inclusion opportunities of ASD patients in rural settings»

- To create an **integrated healthcare and community system**, in order to promote a virtuous example of innovative welfare
- To conceive, supervise, and monitor **specific tailored training courses for ASD patients**, in order to promote their improvement of social, relational and working skills, with the aim of their possible job integration
- To educate people in the **healthcare and community context**, as well as in farming companies, on the inclusion of ASD patients.



Attendees enrolled in the project

The social and working integration project in rural settings enrolled:

- 8 subjects in AV1
- 2 subjects in AV2
- 3 subjects in AV3
- 3 subjects in AV4
- 6 subjects in AV5 (5 subjects pending)

TOTAL: **22** (+ 5 pending)

In autumn further attendees should be enrolled



Project progress

In May and June 2022, all attendees underwent the following clinical assessments:

- Cognitive skills evaluation by means of Raven's Matrices, WAIS IV, Leiter-3
- Adaptive functioning evaluation by means of the Vineland-II scale
- Functional profile evaluation by means of TTAP battery: working attitudes, working behaviors, independent functioning, leisure time skills, functional communication, interpersonal behavior.





Thanks for your attention!

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