

Preface

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Questions and problems contained in this volume were firstly discussed at the EASA 2020 Conference in Lisbon, entitled “New anthropological horizons in and beyond Europe”. Though all the Conference was celebrated in an online version, the Panel P122 “Bio-cultural heritage and communities of practice: rethinking participatory processes in rural territorial development as a multidisciplinary fieldwork” offered the opportunity to present and passionately discuss several cases and themes showing the added value of disciplinary cooperation for interpreting as well as planning strategies to support communities and enhancing territories through the joint action of expert researchers and local stakeholders aiming at participatory and shared goals of development.

This publication, aroused from this conference occasion, has been developed and enriched across the months through the contribution of some special multidisciplinary addressing topics and methodologies connected: first of all the Erasmus Plus Project EARTH – Education Agriculture Resources for Territories and Heritage and the different research-actions of the Centre of Research “BIOCULT - Biocultural Heritage and Local Development” of the University of Molise, engaged since 2015 in an articulated plan of shared researches on a multi-situated, multidisciplinary and multi-actors embedded analysis as well as oriented to sustainable, critical and deeply community-based projects of development.

The principal aim of the group of all the contributors has been to provide an overview to different cases, experiences and good practices outlining several different forms to enhance the awareness about the value of local rural heritage as well as the potential of the multifunctionality in rural activities (eco-systemic services, tourism, sustainable and high-quality food production, intangible and cultural safeguard and conservation, and so on).

Rural and inner areas are observed as stratified and complex fieldworks where the ethnographic, interpretative and modelling effort contribute to a deep understanding of lights and shadows of sustainable development processes.