

The Agenzia del Demanio (the Italian Public Property Agency) presents with MiBACT and MIT the “Valore Paese - CAMMINI E PERCORSI” project

The “Public Consul @ation” is now online, leading to a call for bids for the free concession of public buildings on historical-religious and cycling-walking trails for those aged under 40

Rome, May 9th 2017 – Renovate and reuse over 100 public buildings along the cycling-walking and historical-religious “**CAMMINI E PERCORSI**” routes across Italy to transform them into hostels, small hotels, refreshment points, bike workshops, service points and assistance for all pilgrims, tourists, walkers and cyclists who travel along these trails each year. Encourage and support the development of slow tourism by offering the possibility of reusing public buildings as ‘containers’ for services and authentic experiences, strongly rooted in the territory: this is the concept behind “**CAMMINI E PERCORSI**”, the new network project of the **Agenzia del Demanio** (the Italian Public Property Agency), promoted by MiBACT and MIT. Alongside “*Valore Paese-Fari*” (the Lighthouse Project), the initiative dedicated to renovating lighthouses and coastal buildings that has already proved very successful, the Agenzia is once again focusing on a new vision of tourism that is more aware, respectful of the territory and the environment and designed to highlight local attractions. “**CAMMINI E PERCORSI**” is part of the Strategic Tourism Plan 2017-2022 and of the National network of tourist cycle routes / Special Plan for Tourist Mobility.

Presented this morning in the "Spadolini Hall" of MiBACT by the Director of the **Agenzia del Demanio**, Roberto Reggi, together with the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, **Graziano Delrio**, and the Head of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, **Giampaolo D'Andrea**, the initiative aims at launching joint actions towards safeguarding and reusing both the heritage of local traditions, such as farmhouses and retreats, and buildings like small stations, road workers' houses, waterworks houses and cultural heritage sites, as well as more precious buildings of the country's heritage like monasteries, castles and villas. The properties involved in the project are located along the Via Appia, Via Francigena, the Way of St. Francis and the Way of St. Benedict, along the *VEnTO (Wind)*, *SOLE (Sun)* and *Acqua - Acquedotto Pugliese*

(Water/Puglia Aqueduct) cycle trails, and along other well-known local itineraries. They include 103 properties, 43 owned by the State, 50 owned by Local Authorities and 10 by Anas. The properties will be entrusted either by free concession (9 + 9 years) through open calls for bids published this summer "to companies, cooperatives and associations, composed of mainly staff/members up to 40 years old" (as envisaged by the legislative decree *Art Bonus e Turismo*/Art Bonus and Tourism) or by concession for valorization up to 50 years to operators who can develop a tourist project with notable potential for the territories, in the spirit of public-private partnership, and for the benefit of the entire community.

The theme of the trails and religious-historical paths is at the heart of the agendas of many institutions and public opinion because it is transversal: it involves the community of walkers, pilgrims and bikers, but also the Regions, the Provinces and all peripheral and central territorial authorities. For this reason, the Agenzia del Demanio, with the support of the Italian Touring Club, has issued a Public Consultation at www.agenziademanio.it from today until June 26th. This allows to explore the various aspects of the initiative, gathering ideas and suggestions and with an approval rating expressed by public opinion, young people, third party associations and by the business community in view of the publication of the calls for bids.

"CAMMINI E PERCORSI – said Director Roberto Reggi - is a project that includes all the strategic goals driving the daily work of the Agency: reclaiming unused public buildings, supporting and collaborating with Local Authorities, the continual exchange with other institutions to find solutions to problems, citizen involvement, transparency in managing State properties, attention to local situations and the desire to generate economic and social value through public-private collaboration. As for the Lighthouse project, today is the beginning of an exciting journey of transforming and renewing these 100 or so structures that will involve young people and the local context in which they live, a real benefit for local territories and tourism."

"The presence of accommodation and service facilities for hikers and cyclists - said Minister Graziano Delrio - will help consolidate these trails and routes as a national infrastructure for slow and sustainable mobility. The qualitative standards of the routes and the beauty of the places crossed will help mobilize interest in national and foreign tourism, without losing sight of

other more famous trails. The consultation will also enable adhering to the grassroots proposal, which also guided the national selection of trails already identified by associations and territories."

"Thanks to this initiative, made possible by the Agenzia del Demanio's census, - said Minister Dario Franceschini - it will be possible to valorize disused public buildings that may become stopping points along the paths and trails in the country's inland and support entrepreneurship for the under-40s. In this way, it will help develop a broader and higher quality tourism, able to make these journeys a genuine experience."

Over the next few weeks, the **Agenzia del Demanio** will organize, together with other project-partners, "*Open days on the move*" along the trails that run close to the properties and buildings in the "**CAMMINI E PERCORSI**" project.

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