

# THE BIONET PROJECT: AN ITALIAN REGIONAL NETWORK FOR CONSERVATION OF POULTRY BIODIVERSITY



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**STARTING PROJECT.** In 2012, the BIONET project was approved by the regional government (PSR2007-2013, 214H) with the main objective of providing genetic information useful for the production and preservation of poultry local breeds. The Bionet project is based on 8 working packages (WP) and 7 animal and crop species. The WP4 is devoted to poultry conservation.

**MAIN AIM.** The main goal was to develop plans to safeguard indigenous Veneto poultry breeds using EU and regional agricultural funding as well as national projects.

**SPECIFIC AIMS.** The specific aims of the BIONET project are:

- 1) to characterize and monitor the genetic variability of the groups of animals under conservation by DNA analysis with molecular markers of the latest generation;
- 2) to study several traits which will cover data analysis of reproductive (data related to incubation, candling and chicks weight) and production (live weight, age at maturity and average daily gain of animals) performances, as well as the qualitative aspects of carcasses and meat of turkey, duck and guinea fowl.

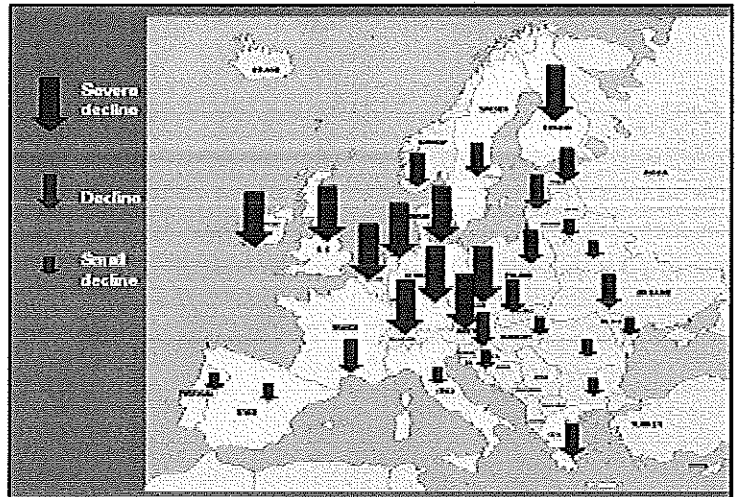
**FUNDS.** BIONET Project was funded by the Rural Development Plan (PSR 2007-2013) applied by Veneto Region with EU funds.



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**EXPECTED RESULTS.** For some of these species information on quality traits of carcass and meat will be recorded in order to detect possible peculiarities and characteristics to be exploited in the market.

**CONSERVATION LINK.** A link with other regional and national avian conservation projects will be created (e.g. BIODAVIT).



Farmland bird declines in Europe (1970-1990) (Source: Donald et al. (2001) based on data for 40 farmland species from BirdLife/EBCC European Bird Database)

### 5 SPECIES and 15 AVIAN POPULATIONS in CONSERVATION

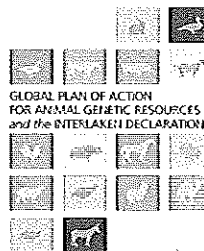
**POULTRY.** Padovana Camosciata, Padovana Dorata, Polverara Bianca, Polverara Nera, Robusta Lionata, Robusta Maculata, Emerlinata di Rovigo, Pepoi, Millefiori di Lonigo,

**TURKEY.** Comune Bronzato, Ermellinato di Rovigo

**GUINEA FOWL.** Camosciata

**DUCK.** Germanata Veneta, Mignon

**GOOSE.** Padovana



**BIONET APPROACH.** The BIONET project conservation scheme is based on the strategic following 4 Strategic Priority (SP) Areas:

**SP Area 1:** Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks.

**SP Area 2:** Sustainable use and development

**SP Area 3:** Conservation, preserve genetic diversity and integrity, for the benefit of current and future generations.

**SP Area 4:** Policies, institutions and capacity-building

BIONET Project group is based on

