

# COMUNE DI CASTAGNOLE DELLE LANZE

Provincia di Asti



## Application Dossier



[Castagnole delle Lanze](#) is an Italian village located in Piedmont in the District of Asti, bordering on the district of Cuneo. It has a geographical and territorial location that places it on the edge of Langhe and Monferrato. The name of Castagnole delle Lanze is made up of two parts: the first comes from the Latin name “castinea” that means “small chestnut” and the second one takes the name of the aristocrat “Lancia” family who owned the territories between 1190 and 1206. Castagnole delle Lanze is divided into two urban areas: the old village, located in the hilltop, and the new area called “San Bartolomeo”. The old village has just awarded an important recognition: it has been admitted in the association “I borghi più belli d’Italia”. Last year the “orange flag” of the Italian Touring Club has been assigned to Castagnole delle Lanze.



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Despite being a small village, Castagnole delle Lanze has got a department for European Politics and it has been organizing twinings since 1996 involving first the towns of [Brackenheim](#) (DE) and [Charnay-lès-Mâcon](#) (FR), followed by [Zbrosławice](#) (PL) in 2007, [Tarnalelesz](#) (HU) 2011 and [Valledolmo](#) (IT) in 2019.



An assigned agency in charge of managing the twinning, connected to the Town Hall offices, has been created by people of Castagnole delle Lanze. It was first a committee and then, since 2013, an Association, whose purpose is to promote European culture and citizenship, especially among young people. Castagnole delle Lanze has been running twinning projects even since 2010. Poverty, volunteer work, European memory, democratic participation of citizens, inclusion and immigration have been the main themes of these projects.

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In 2012 the Municipality was awarded with the Call “Volunteer for Europe”. Castagnole delle Lanze has an extraordinary richness: it can be proud of the presence of many volunteer organizations active in sports and culture, social and leisure activities in favor of children, young people and adults. In those days, volunteers from Germany, France, Poland, Hungary and Italy compared their experiences: they also decided, officially, to help each other in case of natural disasters.



Every year, thanks to the twinning experiences, about 250 participants are involved. They are always hosted by local families in Castagnole delle Lanze. The foreign delegations usually reach our village on the occasion of the Barbera Festival “Di Cortile in Cortile”. About eighty families are involved in hospitality. People from Castagnole, as well, visit the twinned towns on the occasion of their celebrations and festivals.

The Municipality always works together with the Twinning Association that has got its own Staff Board with a President and two Vice Presidents including the Municipal Councilor for European Policies.



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In 2014 a library was created with a contribution from the European Community, a project that is part of the European program “Europe for Citizens Programme”. The project had as its fulcrum the support for the conservation of the European Memory and the re-launching of civic engagement for the future of the same. The aim was to develop the activation of individual European citizens (of all ages) to bring their own contribution to the cultural, social, political and civic growth of the Union. The schools of the twinned Municipalities were involved in the implementation, with activities capable of: highlight the common roots (cultural, economic, artistic); develop the identity of European citizenship; relaunch the social, civil and political commitment of the individual citizen. The realization of the Library of European Memory (LEM), is located in the secondary school of Castagnole delle Lanze and is provided for the publication of multimedia material on the sites of the various twin towns and on the main social networks.



In October 2015 about 40 students that were attending the third year of the Middle School "C. Vicari" reached together with their teachers and the Mayor Calogero Mancuso the town of Verdun in France for a trip to the places of the great battles of the First World War, the World Peace Center, the Fort of Deaumont and other interesting historical and cultural sites.

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In 2015 the Municipality was awarded with the Call "Democratic participation, the awareness of feeling European citizens" held in December when 150 friends of the twin cities joined us in Castagnole.



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In 2016 a group of young people between 15 and 18 years old reached the “town of youth” in the name of food and wine during which cooking classes, historical-cultural visits and group sports were held.



In 2016 the town of Brackenheim dedicated, on the occasion of 20 years of twinning, a roundabout that host a sculpture created by the Italian artist Marcello Giovannone containing the symbols of our territory such as Hazelnut, Barbera, punch ball players, the Tower of Count Paolo Ballada of Saint Robert.



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Some meetings, along the years, were organized in Castagnole delle Lanze and in the other twinning towns, in the name of sport, culture, food and wine, aimed at promoting intercultural knowledge among our young people.



In 2017 the Twinning Association in collaboration with the Municipality applied to the European Call within the Europe for citizens 2014-2020 program), Democratic engagement and civic participation on the theme “Immigration and Integration and Integration in Europe” called “be my neighbor”. The project involved the Middle School "C. Vicari and the twinned countries. As part of the program carried out in Castagnole delle Lanze, a visit to Sermig was significant, from Arsenale di Guerra to Arsenale di Pace.

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In March 2019, the Mayor Calogero Mancuso signed the last Twinning Agreement with the Municipality of Valledolmo (PA), the first with an Italian town. Our towns have been closed since the sixties because of an immigration flow that brought a lot of people from Sicily to Piedmont and in particular to our village. Nowadays in Castagnole lives a large group of people from Valledolmo that are well integrated into our community.



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 a “March for Peace” was organized by the Municipality and the Twinning Association in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and against all wars and fighting around the world.

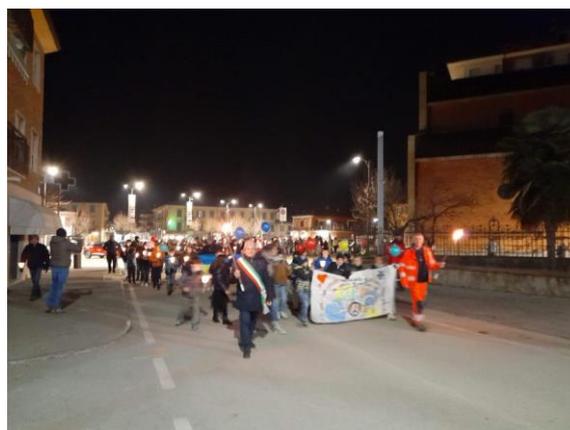
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In December 2022 our Municipality awarded another important recognition by the Council of Europe: the European Label of Excellence in Governance (ELoGE).



From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Castagnole delle Lanze hosted the final event of the Project “Immigration for Integration...tell your story” founded by the EACEA – Europe for Citizens. The aim of the project was to encourage intercultural dialogue and mutual understandings through the participation of the Citizens on local, national and European level, starting from the importance of roots and memories of remembrance in order to overcome stereotypes, prejudices and any kind of discrimination about immigrants and all people coming from other Countries. Thanks to this project children and youngsters from Italy, Germany, Hungary, France and Poland worked together on the themes mentioned above at a local level, in their schools together with the help of their teachers and the twinning committees, they collected interviews, they made drawings, slogans etc. that

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merged together in a video story of integration that can be found [here](#).

A remembrance room was also created here in Castagnole: it is a room for children, young people and adults to meet, discuss, spend time together and think about future projects.

Young Delegations and adult delegations had the opportunity to spend 4 days together where they met together, shared opinions, worked on the immigration history, visited the Immigration Museum in Genova and had fun together with traditional music and dance.



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The final event of this project was also the occasion to launch the “Twinning Square” in Castagnole delle Lanze in honour of the Former Mayor that started Twinnings.



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In the old village of Castagnole delle Lanze the municipal administration a small corner dedicated to the twin towns of Brackenheim, Charnay-lès-Mâcon, Zbroslawice, Tarnalelez and Valledolmo was built. The fine art ceramic tiles were realized by artisans from Valledolmo.



Our Municipality considers “twinning” a useful instrument to encourage and develop cooperation between towns, in order to strengthen relationships and friendships between peoples