

# RURAL METABOLISM

**Tammaro Rural Design Week  
Morcone (BN), Italia  
27 April – 3 May 2026**

Deadline  
28.02.26



Finanziato  
dall'Unione europea  
NextGenerationEU



MINISTERO  
DELLA  
CULTURA



Comune di  
Morcone



la cultura è un fiume



azione a cura di  
Ru.De.Ri



Tammaro  
RURAL  
DESIGN  
WEEK

Funded by the European Union – Next Generation EU, and managed by the Italian Ministry of Culture within the PNRR scheme (M1C3) - Measure 2 "Regeneration of Small Cultural Sites, Cultural, Religious and Rural Heritage" Investment - 2.1 "Attractiveness of Villages"

# 1. SUBJECT

**Rural Design Week** is an international event that embraces an **ecosystem-based approach** to design and is addressed to artists, designers, architects, researchers, and professionals. The initiative aims to raise awareness of the complex natural, social, and cultural balances that sustain networks of relationships and interdependencies within ecosystems, seeking to **overcome the extractivist logic** of linear models and to promote responsible, situated, and interconnected design practices.

Each edition of Rural Design Week serves as a platform for exchange, featuring a **distributed exhibition** and a **programme of side** events such as installations, public talks, screenings, workshops, and excursions throughout the area.

A highly biodiverse context such as the **Matese National Park**, an inland area of Campania region (Italy), has been chosen for several years as an **enabling infrastructure** to disseminate and enact these principles. Here, designers, researchers, artists, and artisans are brought into dialogue with residents, businesses, and local administrators to explore and share new ways of inhabiting, caring for, and working with the ecosystems of which we are part.

The **Tammaro Rural Design Week 2026** will take place in Morcone, in the province of Benevento, from **27 April to 3 May 2026**, and is dedicated to the theme of **rural metabolism**, understood both as an interpretative framework and a design orientation for regeneration processes within territorial ecosystems, aimed at maintaining and sustaining the life-supporting functions of rural and mountainous areas.

*Participants are invited to submit project proposals grounded in ecosystem-based principles and practices, capable of activating and sustaining generative and transformative processes, and of addressing socio-economic, demographic, and environmental imbalances affecting rural and mountainous territories.*

Projects and virtuous pathways that have already been implemented, as well as those yet to be developed, may be submitted. These may, for example, focus on the efficient management of resources, the regeneration of artefacts, the development of contemporary products and lifestyles, or the introduction of new technologies compatible with local systems and capable of responding to the needs of diverse populations—human and non-human—that inhabit them, while also attracting new stakeholders, both human and more-than-human, and generating shared benefits.

Applicants may engage with economic and technical-productive dimensions and extend their work to social, cultural, and environmental practices through concrete projects involving services, products, and materials, or by outlining scenarios and organizational, managerial, and communication processes. These are understood as an integral and fundamental part of a design action capable of intervening within broader contexts and perspectives. Such actions should prefigure relationships, modes of operation, and competencies to be integrated into a system, advancing concrete and immediately applicable proposals that are also able to co-evolve over time.

The 2026 edition of Rural Design Week is realized within the framework of the project **TAM - Culture Is a River**, a cultural, social, and economic regeneration initiative promoted by the Municipality of Morcone. The project was developed in response to the PNRR call “*Attractiveness of Historic Villages*” and builds upon ongoing territorial revitalization efforts for local development carried out by associations and third-sector organizations.

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## 2. PROCEDURES

When submitting their design proposals—inspired by the principles of circular economy and systemic design—applicants are also invited to engage critically with the territory of the Tammaro Valley and the Matese National Park, and therefore with the raw materials, waste flows, infrastructures, as well as the skills, lifestyles, and aesthetics that characterize them. Proposals must be submitted in one (or more) of the following three categories:

- **Category A — Products.**  
Rural design / systemic design products
- **Category B — Materials.**  
New natural-based materials
- **Category C — Processes.**  
Projects or practices inspired by the principles of the circular economy

All selected proposals will be exhibited or realized *in situ*, in agreement with the authors, in a distributed format from 27 April to 3 May 2026 in indoor and outdoor spaces of the Municipality of Morcone and in the surrounding areas.

The organizers of the Tammaro Rural Design Week offer the opportunity to carry out preliminary visits and site inspections in the territory. These can be booked by **30 January 2026** by sending an email to: [rdw26@ruder.org](mailto:rdw26@ruder.org)

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

The call is open to everyone—both individuals and groups—who are over 18 years of age, of any nationality. To participate, applicants must submit their application by **28 February 2026** by completing the required forms (Annex A, Annex B, and Privacy).

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# 4. HOW TO APPLY

Download, complete, and submit the forms available at <https://tam-morcone.it/RDWopencall> and <https://ruder.org/rdw26>

## - **Graphic dossier (Annex A)**

Complete the document and save it as a PDF, including a text that describes the concept of the proposal and specifies its technical aspects (dimensions, weight, materials used, methods of resource transformation, and process innovation). The text may be accompanied by up to **5 high-resolution digital images** (maximum total size **30 MB**) or by a **video** (maximum length **1 minute**, with a YouTube or Vimeo link if available). Each image must have a **300 dpi** resolution and include both **vertical and horizontal** formats.

## - **Application form and Release (Annex B and Privacy)**

Complete and sign all sections of the document, including the authors' personal details. The second part of the document requires a **short CV** for each participant or for each member of a group (a **photograph for each author** must be attached, **300 dpi resolution**).

The official languages for the documents are **Italian or English**

# 5. SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION

Documents must be sent by email to: [rdw26@ruder.org](mailto:rdw26@ruder.org).

If attachments exceed **20 MB**, they may be sent via WeTransfer or any other online file-sharing service, always to [rdw26@ruder.org](mailto:rdw26@ruder.org).

The deadline for submission is **28 February 2026**.

Authors will be notified of the selection of their works by **16 March 2026**, with an invitation to submit their contribution by **6 April 2026** in order to proceed with the exhibition setup. In case of withdrawal, participants must notify the organization by **27 March 2026**.

Requests for clarification regarding the call may be sent until **20 February 2026**.

For information:

<https://ruder.org/rdw26>

<https://tam-morcone.it/>

Contact email: [rdw26@ruder.org](mailto:rdw26@ruder.org)

## **PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING**

Please consult the **Privacy** documents and **Annex B**.

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# 6. JURY AND AWARDS

The jury that will evaluate and select the works to be hosted during Tammaro Rural Design Week will be composed of high-profile experts working in the various sectors and thematic areas covered by the call. All the works selected and displayed on site will also be included in the exhibition catalogue. The announcement of the winners and selected works will take place by **16 March 2026** and includes:

- **Three awards of €1,500** (net of tax deductions), one for each category (Products, Materials, Processes)
- **One special mention** to undertake a design residency in the Tammaro Valley (by the end of June 2026), including a **€1,000 award** (net of tax deductions), coverage of material costs, and the provision of accommodation and a production space for the duration of the residency

The winners will be invited to present their work to the public during the Tammaro Rural Design Week (board and lodging expenses covered by the organization, for one person in the case of group projects). All other noteworthy works selected by the jury will be included in the Tammaro Rural Design Week catalogue and exhibited in a diffused format across indoor and outdoor spaces in the Municipality of Morcone and surrounding areas from **27 April to 3 May 2026**, taking into due account the specific characteristics and requirements of each contribution.

# 7. ORGANIZING BODY

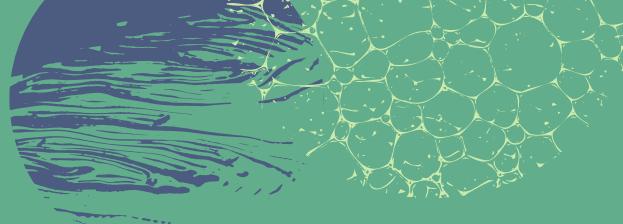
**Ru.De.Ri ETS** (Rural Design for Territorial Regeneration) in collaboration with the **Municipality of Morcone**, implementing body and holder of the funding



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# Vision



The **ecosystem-based approach** is the conceptual framework guiding Rural Design in the development of products, services, and strategies that establish a **dialogical relationship with the territory**, integrating environmental and social components within a collaborative rather than extractive logic, and responding to the needs of diverse populations—**human and non-human**—inhabiting rural areas.

Productive activities and transformative processes can generate **dissipative effects** when they result in the loss or depletion of resources, or **generative effects** when they reveal and nurture the intrinsic potential of territories, reintegrating into circulation not only energy and material by-products of production, but also intangible values and skills.

Increasing the awareness of the complex natural, social, and cultural equilibria that sustain the network of relationships within the ecosystems of inner areas, as well as their **metabolism**, offers an innovative key for rethinking the development of these territories and of the cities connected to them. It enables the envisioning of ways of living and producing grounded in **regeneration, cooperation, co-evolution**, and the **empowerment of territorial actors**.

**Systemic design** is a holistic approach to design that focuses on the **relationships** and **interconnections** between the parts of a system, rather than just on individual elements. If we place design action within territories, these must be conceived as a living ecosystem, in which resources, energy, materials, and knowledge circulate and transform, generating value and, ideally, without producing waste. Indeed, in a living ecosystem in dynamic equilibrium, waste becomes a resource for something else, production cycles are closed, and local communities—human and non-human—are strengthened, regenerated, and co-evolve.

From this perspective, the **territorial ecosystem** is the physical-biological and anthropic space within which the activities that maintain and sustain the vital functions of territories are located. According to the territorialist approach, it encompasses not only material elements, but also the **cultural, symbolic, and relational dimensions** produced over time by local communities, which thus re-emerge as fundamental subjects of ecological rebalancing. Territory is therefore understood as a dynamic space-time of continuous learning, which sees a succession of adjustments, negotiations, and practices, and in which **social capital, historical-geographical context, environmental resources**, and living species participate, through processes of co-evolution, in the construction and economic and cultural development of places.

From an **ecological design perspective**, the field of action is not mechanistically determined: the metabolism of territories depends not only on biological processes but also on the interpretations each community develops of the equilibria it intends to achieve and sustain in its relationship with its environment. The territorial ecosystem is the vibrant material from which to start, and developing (or recovering) the ability to read the network of relationships underlying its metabolism is the necessary effort to be undertaken in order to understand the limits in terms of the '**carrying capacity**' of material and energy flows and, therefore, of the transformations that are admissible.

The awareness of the complexity of these processes invites us to engage with both the **generosity and fragility of nature**. Within this framework, "**cultivating**"—understood as the stewardship of land as a common heritage and a primary activity for human subsistence—must be given renewed attention, through a critical reworking of concepts, beginning with that of **rurality**, and of relationships, such as those between city and countryside.



Photos and images from works  
selected for RDW2019:

*Materiali del Matese,*  
Sandy Heffernan (New Zealand)

*Campagna/Campana/Campo,*  
Audrey Snyder (USA)

*Roots. The plant-based textile of Matese*  
Marta Bovio & Marco Manfra (Italia)

*Refused Matter,*  
Katrín Krupka & Caterina Plenzick (Germany)

*Intelligent Guerrilla Beehive,*  
Anne Marie Maes (Belgium)