



e Learning

Project co-financed by the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture - "eLearning Programme"

e-LARA, e-LEARNING, ALPHABETIZATION OF RURAL AREAS

GEO-MORPHOLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INVOLVED TERRITORIES

The E-LARA project is setted in the territories of Italy, France and Portugal. Specifically the involved areas are:

- The province of Turin (Italy)
- The municipality of Borgiallo (Italy)
- The region of Penacova (Portugal)
- The municipality of Le Puy en Velay (France, Haute-Loire)

The province of Turin (Italy)

2.236.941 inhabitants (the most heavily-populated of the 8 provinces in Piedmont) of which

- men 1.083.388
- women 1.153.553

315 municipalities. More than 200 placed in mountain and grouped in 13 mountain communities (48 mountain communities in Piedmont):

- La Val Pellice
- Val Chisone e Germanasca
- Pinerolese e Pedemontano
- Val Sangone
- Bassa Val di Susa e Val Cenischia
- Alta Val di Susa
- Val Ceronda e Casternone
- Valli di Lanzo
- Alto Canavese
- Valle Orco e Soana
- Valle Sacra
- Val Chiusella
- Dora Baltea Canavesana

4 of the village municipalities (Valle Sacra, Bassa Val di Susa e Val Cenischia, Dora Baltea Canavesana, Valli di Lanzo) are involved in the E-LARA project.

6826 km2, with

- 45% lowlands
- 12% hills
- 43% mountains

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The municipality of Borgiallo –Mountain community Valle Sacra (Italy)

487 inhabitants
540 m altitude
700 km², with
-11,7% mountains
-30,7 % hills
-57,6 % lowlands

46 business activities:

- 6 textile and clothing industry
- Costruzioni 9
- 8 Commerce
- 3 Tourism
- 2 Enterprise services
- 0 Social Services
- 0 Hotels

Main economic activities in the Turin province and aspects about ICT technologies in Piedmont

Alongside the textile and clothing industry, in the 1900's the Turin area gained great importance in the metal-working, mechanical and car industries – with FIAT and Lancia, as well as component manufactures and famous designers, such as Bertone, Giugiaro, Pininfarina – as well as films, television and publishing.

Today the area is one of the most advanced and highly-specialised in Europe in: the motor and aerospace industries, call centers, information technology, design, logistic and research and development. An high quality agriculture in the fields of livestock, fruit and vegetables and wine-growing; and traditional wood, iron, copper, ceramics and stone fine arts and crafts. The recent locating in the area of leading companies in the world of the new economy testify to its favourable environment for industrial development

In particular the employment is growing up in the following sector:

- agriculture
- tourism and services
- information and new technologies
- third sector

In the rural areas the agriculture activities are strong and they are divided in:

TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE. The essential features are: productive tendency to milk and meat zootechnics and grains production

ABANDONED AGRICULTURE. In this case the competition for using the soil is aimed to alternative model more profitable. This means an high housing density and the prevalent presence of other economic activities.

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INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE WITH SHORT OR QUALIFIED FILIERA. The firms are aimed to a direct contact with the final consumer. So that there are high quality products.

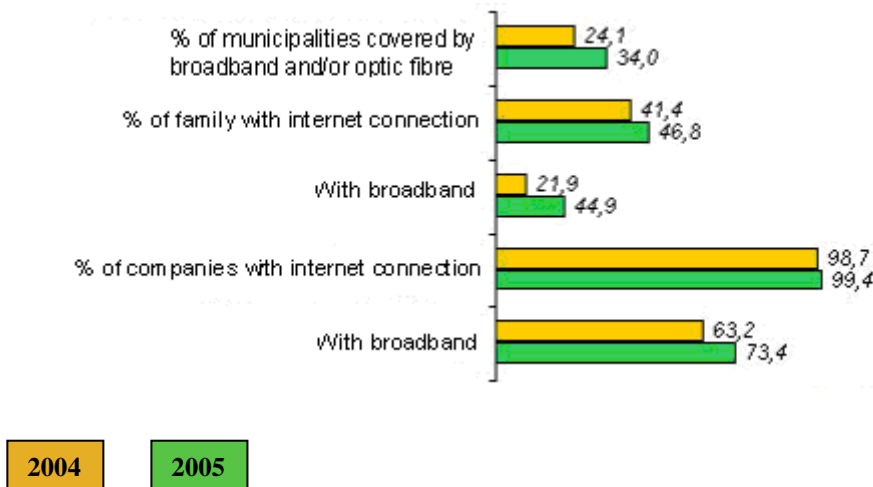
From a qualitative analysis on Turin province about the ICT use, it is detected some trends :

- 1) a precarious enterprises system ever changing
- 2) a youth and dynamic industrial system, with little dimension and with difficulty to get credits
- 3) a local market dimension that want to overcome the regional and national borders with difficulty
- 4) a special vocation relative to traditional manufactory sectors
- 5) the appearance of partnership and networking strategies

The following datum (by ISTAT) underline the characteristics of ICT on the piedmont territory:

- presence of ICT
- presence of the wideband
- internet connection
- reasons to the use of ICT

ICT facility (citizens, enterprises and public administration)





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Wideband presence

WIDEBAND	2004	2005
% of municipalities covered by broadband and/or optic fibre	24,01	34
% of population settled in a municipality covered by broadband and/or optic fibre	75,6	82,1
% of UL situate in a municipality covered by broadband and/or optic fibre	82,7	84,2

Presence of internet connection

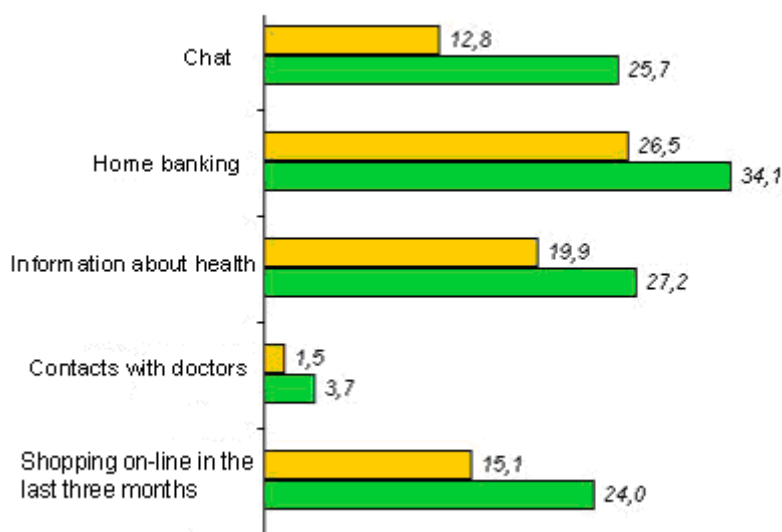
INTERNET CONNECTION	2004	2005
% of family with internet connection	41,4	46,8
With broadband	21,9	44,9
% of companies with internet connection	98,7	99,4
With broadband	63,2	73,4
% of municipalities with internet connection	99	99
broadband	11,6	18,2



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The following data are interesting because they RILEVANO the main reasons to the use of ICT of citizens and companies of the area.

% use of ICT (citizens and companies)



2004

2005

Main reasons to the use of internet by citizens (%)

MAIN REASONS TO THE USE OF INTERNET BY CITIZENS (%)	2004	2005
Chat	12,8	25,7
Home banking	26,5	34,1
Information about health	19,9	27,2
Contacts with doctors	1,5	3,7
Shopping on-line in the last three months	15,1	24,0



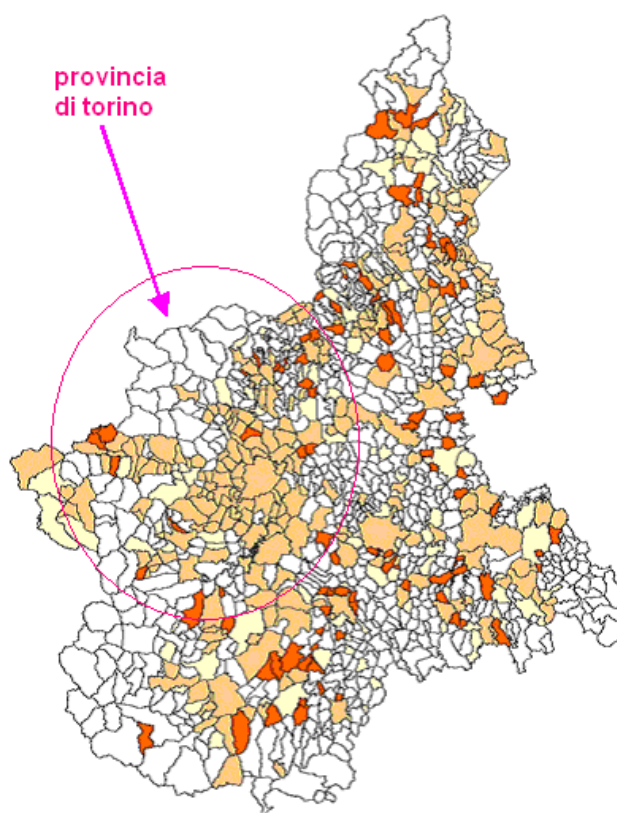
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Type of band cover in Piedmont region (2006)

ADSL - Partially covered

ADSL - Totally covered

HDSL



The overall interesting datum is the % difference, rising from 2004 to 2005. This difference, referred to the use and presence of ICT instruments, fluctuates in a positive way from a minimum of 2% score to a maximum of 23 score.

This datum point out that everything about interest, use, knowledge, possession, etc. of new information technologies is increasing continually and quickly.



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Main piedmont organisations of promotion, development, research about ICT

[CSI-Piemonte](#) consortium of informative systems, instrumental organisation of Piedmont region

[CSP Innovazione nelle ICT](#) research and development center about information and data transmission technologies

[IRES Piemonte](#) Institute for social economic researches, instrumental organisation of Piedmont region

[ISMB Istituto Superiore Mario Boella](#) research institute about ICT

[Politecnico di Torino](#) University for technical-scientific training and research

[CCIAA Torino - ICT](#) Chamber of Commerce of Turin, ICT sector

[CRC Regione Piemonte](#) e-government and information society institute

[Piemontech](#) financial Holding for the development of innovation in Piedmont

[Top-IX, Torino Piemonte Internet exchange](#) Consortium for exchange of internet traffic in the north-west area

[Torino Digital World](#) Financing Cooperation To Bridge the Digital Divide

[Torino Wireless](#) Foundation for promoting and growing of the ICT piedmont area

Region of Penacova (Portugal)

Penacova have 22242 hectares, is located at centre Portugal in Mondego river basin.

At administrative level is included in Baixo Mondego Region in Coimbra District, at his mountainous region.

Mortágua, Sta. Comba Dão, Tábua, Vila Nova de Poiares, Arganil, Coimbra e Mealhada share limits with Penacova.

Penacova have a good net of roads. Is crossed by IP3 (a main itinerary that links Viseu to Coimbra and Figueira da Foz) and IC 6.

Penacova is a region of steep slopes (about 62% of the area have slopes higher than 20%) and a great range of altitude (25meters at Mondego River and 550 at Aveleira mountain).

The territory is:

- 80% occupied with forest
- 13% agriculture
- il 4% water bodies
- il 3% social (construction) areas

In 2002 Penacova had 16670 inhabitants, about 75 inhabitants by square Kilometre and 52% are women. The neighbour region, Coimbra, have a population density of 445,8 inhabitants. This shows the interiority characteristics of Penacova.

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Age class	Men and women (%)	Men(%)	Women (%)
0-14	13	13	13
15-24	13	14	12
25-64	53	55	52
65 and +	21	18	24
75 and +	10	8	11

The active population, between 25 and 64 years are the most representative with about 50%. 21% of men and women have more than 65 years.

The index of aging in 2002 was 156%, what means that exist 156 aged persons for 100 young.

Agricultural population represents about 16% of all, rising to 40% in the most interior areas of Penacova.

Main economic activities and aspects about ICT technologies in the Penacova region (Portugal)

In 2004, Penacova had 409 enterprises of which:

- 6% primary sector
- 35% secondary sector
- 60% terciary sector
- 8% agricultural, silvicultural and fisheries sector

Only 0,5% of inhabitants work on that enterprises. This shows that this enterprises have few employees, most of them with familiar conections to owner.

Penacova is a typical rural area of northern-centre Portugal with interiority characteristics about ICT.

Those aspects together with the small level of literacy and impoverishment of the population and progressive abandonment of land justify the need of new skills in ICT technologies and a new approach to agriculture and forest framed in the latest tendencies.

The new opportunities given to rural population trough ICT in the field of agriculture can drive a change in future of agricultural exploitation in Penacova, specially in marginal areas like forest sub-products, biological agriculture and environmental certification.



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All these areas unknown or badly known by the rural population can be exploited through internet.

In the centre region of Portugal about 40% of houses have a computer and 26% have internet connection. 35% of the population use the computer and 28% use the internet. These values are a little lower than the general perspective of Portugal.

Specifically in the Penacova region these values decrease as we walk through the interior.

Some initiatives like the public internet spaces have reduced the asymmetries that existed between rural and urban areas, however among the rural population still exist a small knowledge and access to ICT.

Le Puy en Velay (France)

The Velay area is situated on the south east of the Auvergne region, south east of the Massif Central. It is a rural area with difficult communication because of geographical constraints (mountainous cut by the valleys of the Loire and the Allier rivers – the average altitude is higher than 800 meters) because of the climate (snow in winter and an average temperature of 9,1°C) and because of a lack of public transports. It is difficult for many inhabitants to participate to training actions that take place mainly in the main city center (Le Puy-en-Velay) or even in the administrative regional capital of Clermont-Ferrand.





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The density of population is low: 43 inhabitants/km2 compared to the 98 of France.

	Haute-Loire	Auvergne
Population (inhabitants)	213 993	1 314 476
Surface (km2)	4 977	26 013
Density (inhabitants/km2)	43	51

Source : INSEE - Estimation from 01.01.2003

The average annual wage of 15 531 euros is lower than Auvergne (16 693 euros) and France 18 900 euros.

The structure of the unemployed population is the following with quite a high level of long term unemployed living in rural isolated places with little access to communication means (and little employment opportunities). The percentage of women unemployed is also a little higher than on other territories.

Unemployed by age on 31.03.04:

	Haute-Loire
Total	6 789
Women	3 553
Less than 25	1 648
Between 25 and 49	4 347
More than 50	794
More than 1 year unemployment	1 795

Source ANPE

From the 260 municipalities, 249 are classified in mountain area. The rural space is composed of municipalities that are not included in urban areas. It represents 70% of the total surface and two thirds of the municipalities.

	Haute-Loire		Auvergne	
	Number	%	Number	%
Municipalities belonging to areas mainly urban	48	18,5	418	31,9
Municipalities belonging to areas mainly rural	212	81,5	892	68,1
Total	260	100,0	1 310	100,0
Urban population	84 397	40,4	845	64,6
Rural population	124	59,6	106	35,4
Total	716	100,0	463	100,0
	209		772	
	113		1 308	
			878	

Source : INSEE - Census of population 1999



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After le Puy-en-Velay, the administrative capital of the department, the 10 most populated municipalities have a low population.

Municipality	Population	Municipality	Population
Le Puy-en-Velay	20 490	Aurec-sur-Loire	4 895
Monistrol-sur-Loire	7 451	Brives-Charensac	4 356
Brioude	6 820	Langeac	4 070
Yssingeaux	6 492	Saint-Just-Malmont	3 951
Sainte-Sigolène	5 432	Espaly-Saint-Marcel	3 552

Source : INSEE - Census of population 1999

The E-Lara Center are located in Yssingeaux, le Monastier-sur-Gazeille, Dunières and Craponne-sur-Arzon. They almost all have negative naturel and migratory balances.

Municipality	Population	Unemployment rate
Yssingeaux	6 492	7,4%
le Monastier	1728	6,9%
Dunières	3002	6,9% (2004)
Craponne	2 651	12,6 %

Source INSEE, 1999 & 2004

Importance of agriculture in the area

Almost half of the surface is dedicated to agriculture, among them, two third in grass. It is a milk producer. A large part of the department is covered by forests.

Use of the soil:

in ha	Haute-Loire
Overall surface	500 190
Agriculture surface	233 982
<i>Including surface always with grass</i>	145 150
Woods	186 100
Agricultural surface not cultivated	41 812

Source : Ministry of Agriculture - Structures surveys 2003 and 2000

Size and number of farms in 2003:

	Haute-Loire	Auvergne
Number of farms	5 845	27 284
<i>Less than 20 hectares</i>	2 069	8 338
<i>20 to 50 hectares</i>	1 954	6 943
<i>50 to 100 hectares</i>	1 472	7 709
<i>over 100 hectares</i>	350	4 294
Average size	39 ha	55 ha
Evolution of the number since 2000	-9,3 %	-8,9 %

Source : Ministry of Agriculture - Structures surveys 2003 and 2000



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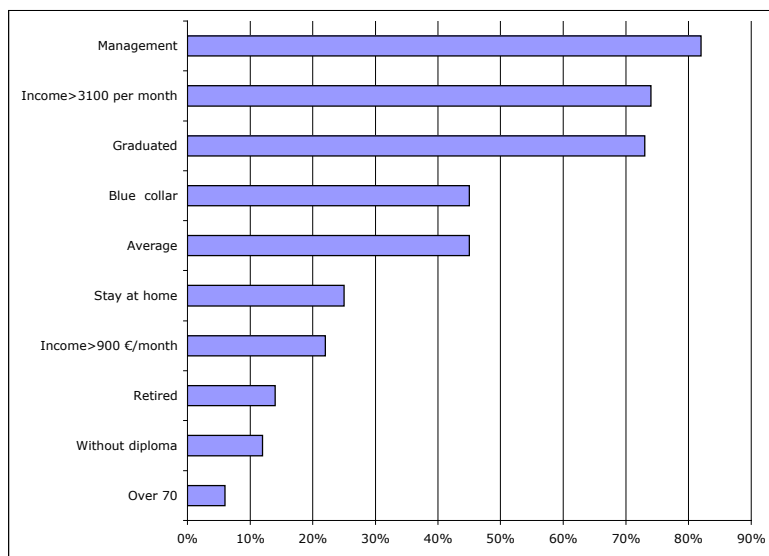
Main aspects of ICT in France and Haute-Loire

Differences among the categories of population

According to the last survey conducting by CREDOC, most of the differences between men and women are not significative. Still 37% of women have not access to a computer (either at work or at home) against 31% of the men. (Credoc 2006) Most differences are linked to other factors, mainly, the level of diploma, of income and the kind of job occupied, also the age. The unemployed persons for example, remain far from technologies: 65 % of the persons who do not have a professional activity do not have access to a computer.

We can take the example of internet access, to underline that there are still in 2006, large differences across the population.

Internet access at home (in %):



Source : CREDOC, Survey about life conditions and Aspirations of French », June 2006.

A same proportion of population use computer daily (43%). Frequent users are mainly the less than 40s (55-62%), families with three or more persons (49-55%), the graduated, the managing workers (81-86%), employees (53%), the persons living in a high income family and the inhabitants of Paris and its area (60%).

A lower access to IT in rural areas

The categories of population who have less access to internet and computers and who make less use of them are the categories that are also often more represented in rural areas: older, lower income, less diploma, less managing positions.

The three tables below show that the persons living in municipalities with less than 2000 inhabitants tend to use a computer and to access internet less than the others. If we take as an example of use, the buying of goods or services, it is the same. It is always in the Paris area that the figures are higher.



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To which frequency do you use a computer at home or at work ?

Scope : the global French population - in %

Municipalities size	Everyday	Once or twice /week	Less	Never	Total
Less than 2 000 inhabitants	35	16	6	43	100
From 2 000 to 20 000 inhabitants	40	9	(6)	44	100
From 20 000 to 100 000 inhabitants	38	10	(6)	45	100
More than 100 000 inhabitants	43	11	6	40	100
Paris and surroundings	60	(8)	(4)	28	100

Source : CREDOC, Survey about life conditions and Aspirations of French », June 2006.

How to read it: 60% of Parisians use a computer every day.

The figures in brackets are based on small numbers and need to be considered with care.

To which frequency do you connect to internet (in any place) ?

Scope : the global French population - in %

Municipality size	Everyday	Once or twice /week	Less	Never	Total
Less than 2 000 inhabitants	25	17	7	51	100
From 2 000 to 20 000 inhabitants	32	10	9	49	100
From 20 000 to 100 000 inhabitants	27	14	(5)	53	100
More than 100 000 inhabitants	36	11	9	44	100
Paris and surroundings	56	10	(5)	29	100

Source : CREDOC, Survey about life conditions and Aspirations of French », June 2006.

How to read it: 56% of the persons living in Paris connect every day

The figures in brackets are based on small numbers and need to be considered with care.

Proportion of persons having bought through internet during the last 12 months

Scope: the global population – in %

Municipality size	June 2005	June 2006	% of increase
Less than 2 000 inhabitants	19	20	+1
From 2 000 to 20 000 inhabitants	17	25	+8
From 20 000 to 100 000 inhabitants	18	25	+7
More than 100 000 inhabitants	23	27	+4
Paris and surroundings	29	41	+12

Source : CREDOC, Survey about life conditions and Aspirations of French », June 2006.

19 % of persons living in municipalities with less than 2000 inhabitants have bought services or goods through internet



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IT in Haute-Loire

Unfortunately there are no regional nor local survey available about the use of IT. In the Auvergne and in the department of Haute-Loire, the number of public internet access points is weak as shown in the table below. The only departement that has implemented a strong policy to develop their number is the Cantal. Even if Haute-Loire does better than Allier and Cantal, only 6 % of the municipalities could offer these services to their citizens in 2003.

Number of public internet access points for 10 000 inhabitants:

Departement	Numbers	Number for 10 000 inhabitants
Allier	15	0,44
Cantal	115	7,63
Haute-Loire	17	0,81
Puy-de-Dôme	29	0,48
Total Auvergne	176	1,34

Source : MAPI – february 2003

Number of municipalities with at least one public internet access point:

Departement	Numbers	% of municipalities
Allier	7	2%
Cantal	93	36%
Haute-Loire	15	6%
Puy-de-Dôme	10	2%
Total Auvergne	125	10%

Source : MAPI – february 2003

The Haute-Loire is now conscious that new technologies and high bandwidth represent a major challenge for the development of territories, maintaining employment and supporting company competitiveness. And in 2003 it has initiated the departmental broadband plan to cover with ASDL all municipalities with a secondary school when it was not planned by the telecom operators. 12 areas have been covered.

In 2004 it has signed with France Telecom the Charter "Innovative department". It has allowed 94% of the population to potentially access ASDL. This objective was reached in December 2006. In parallel, alternative technologies have been experimented. Eg. the combination of satellite and Wifi. To cover the areas not yet reached by ASDL, a agreement has been signed with the Region. The cost is of 4,4 millions euros for the Departement to take into account at least 59 municipalities by the end of 2008. Public-private partnerships will be implemented and any technologies will be used.