

A Decade of “Cammini LTER” - Transforming Ecological Research Communication Through Physical Journey

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We present here the results of the informal science-communication initiative known as Cammini (Trails in Italian) designed and organized by researchers of the Long Term Ecological Research LTER network dedicated to exploring biodiversity.

The Cammini LTER initiative addresses the growing need for innovative approaches in doing and communicating ecological research, in response to evolving environmental and societal changes, re-evaluating the roles and responsibilities of both researchers and citizens.

Within the Spoke 7 a special trail was organized along the main Italian river, the Po. The journey traversed diverse ecosystems from the mountains to the sea, using walking, cycling, and canoeing to explore the river-land-sea continuum. More than 20 LTER sites, located in the Po River basins were involved. This trail aims to highlight visible and hidden connections that link us all in the intricate web of life. The river served not only as a tangible entity but also as a powerful metaphor, inspiring reflections and guiding participants toward a new “era” of shared responsibility and ecological awareness.