



SINDACO

Bergamo, April 10th, 2019

P.G. 10105488
11.1/F0010-18

Attention to:
Dr Franco Bernabè,
Presidente
Commissione Italiana UNESCO
Piazza Firenze 27,
00186 Roma

Cc: Dr Enrico Vicenti,
Segretario Generale

Dear Dr. Franco Bernabè,

In behalf of the City of Bergamo and its Council, which I am pleased and honoured to chair, I am writing to you to officially present the Candidature of our town to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Gastronomy cluster, for the 2019 Call.

Bergamo is a territory of history, art, music, culture, and nature: a creative heritage enhanced by the passion of those who work daily in our territory and proudly transmit to the next generation our sustainable models. Our candidature will focus on the traditions and creative knowledges about making artisanal cheeses in the Orobie Mountains (the mountains range encompassing the provinces of Bergamo, Lecco and Sondrio), the breeding techniques, the sustainable mountain grazing, the biodiversity, the people, the supply chain, and the vast range of outstanding gastronomy products we create.

The wisdom of the *Bergamini* – the knowledge keepers of the transhumance, since many centuries – has made them the Experts in the Art of high-quality milk production, of sustainably managing the mountain pastures and landscapes, and of creating a unique set of cheeses which, in terms of flavour and consistency, are unique in the world and of unsurpassed excellence.

The City of Bergamo wants to protect and promote all the unique values of the Orobie Mountains. It is our duty to undertake the best initiatives that can make the rest of the world aware of this excellence, and we have identified in the UNESCO Creative City Network program a way to present the valleys – the Cheese Valleys of the Orobie Mountains - in all their beauty and creative complexity, as a stable model of urban/non-urban development, within the guiding principles of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Just to mention few recent recognitions of our work, in 2017 we hosted the G7 Agriculture Meeting, as the highlight of the annual Agriculture and Right-to-Food Week event. We have created *FORME – Bergamo European Cheese Capital*, in 2015, as an international event to promote artisanal cheeses, which is this year in its fourth edition.

Finally, as a memento of our cultural heritage, in 2017, we obtained the multi-national UNESCO World Heritage recognition of the *Venetian Walls*.

The opportunity to become a UNESCO Creative City Network Candidate for 2019, and possibly become a new member of the UNESCO Creative City Network in 2019, is an extraordinary event which will make the creativity of our Valleys the centre of development of the local communities, as well as offer us an opportunity to collaborate at national and international level; a platform to integrate our cultural heritage into a UNESCO Creative City Network shared policies of sustainable urban/non-urban development.

For all of us *Bergamaschi*, the UNESCO Creative City Network is the most appropriate framework to properly link local heritage at international level; we believe our community will largely benefit from being included in this strategic UNESCO recognized “Family of Cities”, to which we are determined to contribute by offering our century-old traditions and our inspirational creative power.

We have been working on the master plan for the candidature since last year, and we have been able to reach a formal agreement with a wide range of local, national (see attached *Protocollo di Intesa*), and international partners that are supportive of our candidature and ready to interact with the creative people of the *Cheese Valleys*.

Let me express my wish that the *Commissione Italiana UNESCO* will consider our candidature appropriate to represent Italy in such an arduous competition and let me assure the full support of the City of Bergamo and that of the signatories of the “Protocollo di Intesa” above mentioned.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon and receiving a formal endorsement of the Candidature of the City of Bergamo from the *Commissione Italiana UNESCO*.

With kindest regards.

The Mayor, Giorgio Gori

