

AIMS AND ACTUAL OUTCOMES OF TUSCANY CASTORE PROJECT: A FINAL BALANCE

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The present paper aims at describing the promising applications of cartographic models in the study of the history of Tuscany (Regione Toscana, Italy) eight years after online publication of data processed through Web Geographical Information System technologies (WebGIS) within the CASTORE (CAstasti STOrici REgionali) research project. Thanks to direct funds by the Regione Toscana, the project envisaged scientific cooperation between regional Universities, and the results of systematic collection and study of nineteenth-century cartographic sources documenting the historical development of building framework, infrastructure asset, and agricultural landscape in the light of toponomastic changes revealed to be essential not only for academic scholars and historians, but also for many other professionals. In particular, a wide range of crucial informative levels emerged: on the one hand, the utilization of an impressively rich collection of geo-referred maps - actually amounting to more than 1,200 charts and covering an area of 22987,04 km² - provided remarkable practical tools for regional planning management and territory organisation strategies; on the other hand, research studies in the interpretation and description of territory assets on a regional scale could eventually rely on further precious data for the outlining of Tuscany transformation from the nineteenth century up to the present day.

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