A heritage to be preserved: toponymy and microtoponymy in Tuscany
The Microtoponymy In Tuscany Project

Tuscany area: 23,000 km² (8,880 sm)

Hill 66,5%
Mountain 25,1%
Plain 8,4%

Large part of Tuscany is hilly

Traditionally, tuscan landscape is indeed related to hills, and the society based on sharecropping was here rooted
Official topographic map
Istituto Geografico Militare
(more than 200,000 name places are here included)

scale 1:25,000
Cadastre maps
(over 102,000 name-places are here recorded)

scale 1:2,000

CTR Tuscany
(over 105,000 name-places)

scale 1:10,000 and 1:2,000
Historical sources

Three historic sources:

1817-1869

12,000 cadaster maps

100,000 circa name-places are here recorded

scale 1:2,500
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old name</th>
<th>Present-day name</th>
<th>Dynamic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PODERI BASSI</td>
<td>PODERI BASSI</td>
<td>The name was and still is found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paganella</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>The name was and is no more found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Villa Azzurra</td>
<td>The name was not and is found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POGGIO AL BÀCIO</td>
<td>Mazzetta</td>
<td>The name was and is found but is different</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources integration in a brand-new cartography

The analysis applied to the Orciatico area (near Volterra, Pisa)

- **DARK RED, CAPITAL LETTERS**
  - the name was and still is found

- **Brilliant Red And Serif Letters**
  - the name was and is no more found

- **GREY CAPITAL LETTERS**
  - the name was not and is found

- **Red and dark-red lines**
  - evidence the toponymy change between the hystorical sources and the present-day maps
Toponymy Density in Tuscany

place-names density in historical cadastre (MAX 20/km²)

place-names density in the present-day (MAX 13/km²)

Pescia (Pistoia)

Braccagni (Grosseto)
Variance between the historical and the present-day Tuscany cartography

Variance of Toponymy density

Lower

Higher

Pescia (Pistoia)

Braccagni (Grosseto)
Toponymy and landscape in Tuscany
Toponymy and landscape in Tuscany

1829  Braccagni  2010
• Preserving toponymy means preserving the identity of a territory, its memories, its character, its history

• Observing place-names changes that occurred in Tuscany between the first half of the Nineteenth century and the present day, it is possible to understand how the society has changed meanwhile