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Marilena Labianca, researcher in Economic Geography, first at the University of Salento (Lecce, Italy), where she has been teaching for 10 years in the courses of Geography of Development, Economic Analysis of the Territory, and more recently, Organization and Planning of the Territory and Geographic Information Systems. She is currently a researcher at the University of Foggia (Foggia, Italy) for the creation of a "Dynamic geo-digital model for Apulian agri-food: territories, culture, agricultural landscapes and quality nutrition for integrated development". Coordinator and responsible for the Italian part of two projects of international importance promoted by the University of Granada (main international investigator) entitled: "Development programs and rural change. Their interrelations in NUTS II regions of the European Union Study areas: European Union NUTS II regions. Finland, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany and Spain" (2015-2018) and "RURALWIN - Éxitos y fracasos en la práctica del desarrollo rural neoendógeno en la Unión Europea" (1991-2013) (2019-2022) (Call for Excellence 2017).

Component of the local unit of Puglia (University of Salento, coordinated by Prof. S. De Rubertis), for the National Relevance Project (PRIN-MIUR 2015) entitled "Territorial Impact Assessment of the territorial cohesion of the Italian regions. Model, based on place evidence, for the evaluation of policies aimed at developing the green economy in internal areas and metropolitan suburbs" (SH - Social Sciences and Humanities), main National investigator: Prof. M. Prezioso (University of Rome Tor Vergata). She published articles on issues of rural development policies, planning and inter-municipal cooperation with special attention to the Puglia region.

