



Fondazione
AEM
Gruppo a2a

Po Valley Water Routes ERIH Energy Heritage for industrial tourism

Fabrizio Trisoglio
Ilaria Calamera

EOGAN Conference 2026, PPC Historic Steam Power Station of Neo Faliero, 15-16 June 2026

Fondazione AEM – Gruppo A2A

Fondazione AEM was established in 2007 in order to preserve the **historical heritage** of **AEM (Azienda Elettrica Municipale di Milano)**, one of the most important energy companies in Italy, now **Gruppo A2A**.

The main activities are 5:

EDUCATION



HERITAGE



HIGHER
EDUCATION



SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH



LIBERAL
DONATIONS



All projects are in line with the **UN 2023 Agenda - Sustainable Development Goals** that Fondazione AEM share with Gruppo A2A.



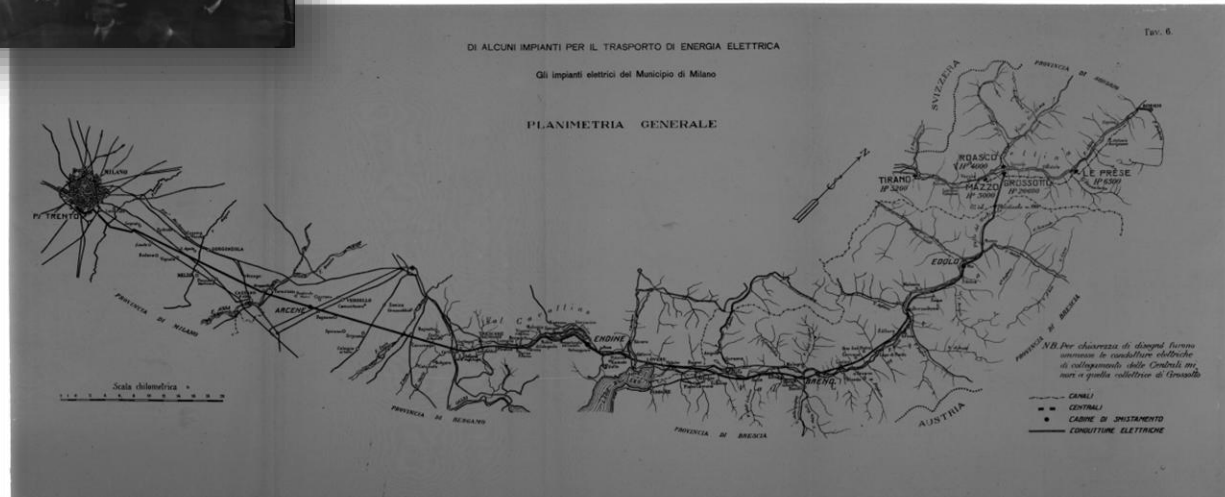
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«A public work is never finished»

Nelo Risi, *Un fiume di luce* («A river of light»), 1958

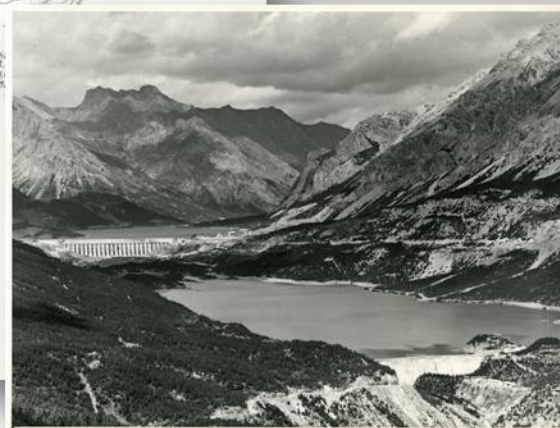
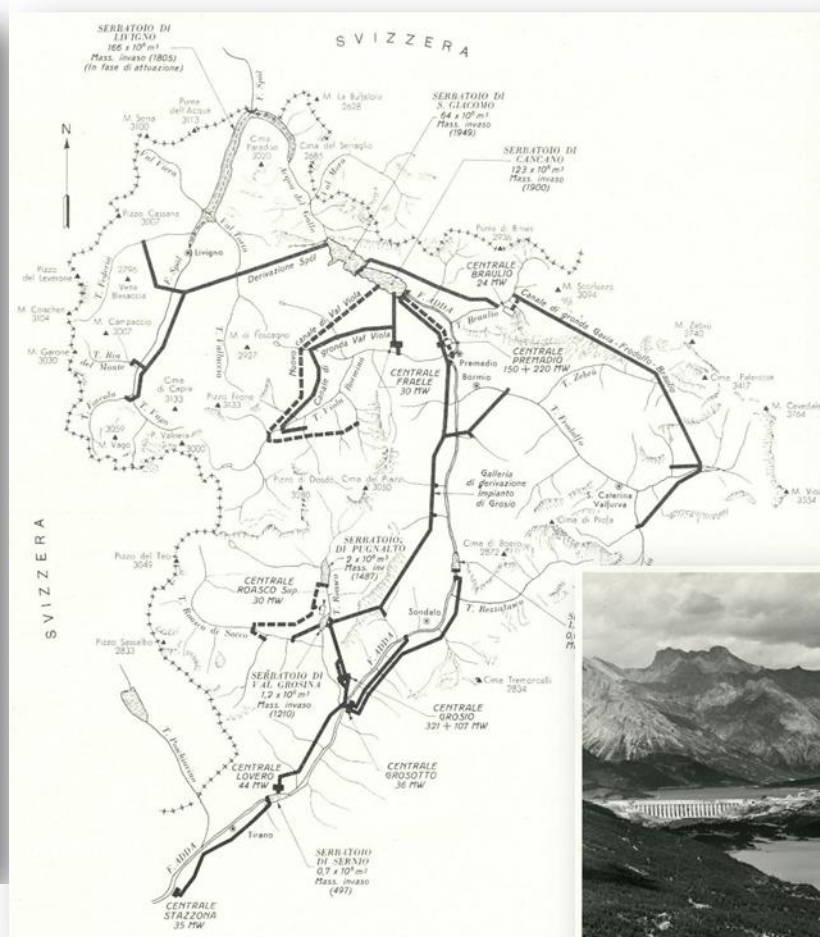
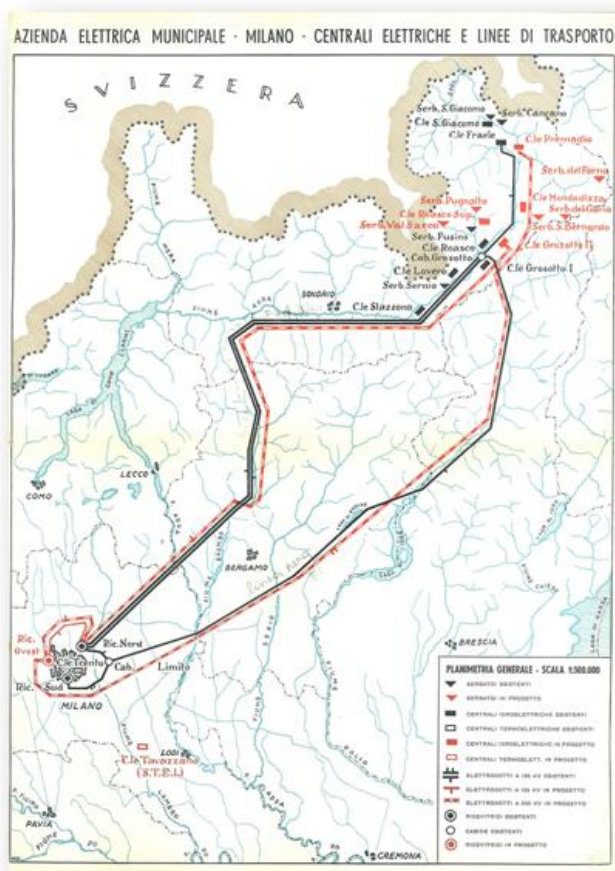


Established in 1910 after a public referendum by the Municipality of Milan, following the Giolitti law on the municipalisation of public services (1903), the **Electric Municipal Company of Milan** (AEM) accompanied the **economic and industrial growth of Milan** throughout the twentieth century, benefitting, since its foundation, from **innovative hydroelectric plants**, in a **fragile and symbiotic balance** between the city and the mountain area of Valtellina.



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AEM in Valtellina



AEM Heritage

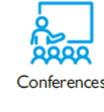
- ✓ **AEM Photographic Archive**
(c.180.000 photos)
- ✓ **AEM Historic Administration Archive**
(350 ml)
- ✓ **AEM Film Archive**
(500 movies)
- ✓ **AEM Oral History**
- ✓ **AEM Industrial Heritage**
- ✓ **AEM Art Collection**
- ✓ **AEM Gas Collection**
- ✓ **AEM Library**



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AEM Archivistic Soul





AEMuseum

STORIA x ENERGIA = FUTURO

A multifunctional space and dynamic open everyone, dedicated to the **heritage of AEM, culture and sustainability.**



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AEM HISTORY

Follow the history of AEM, the Azienda Elettrica (later Energetica) Municipale di Milano, thanks to illustrated timeline and historical memorabilia.



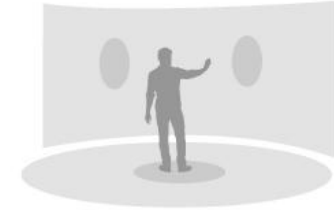
RATTIN

Move the *rattin* (little mouse) and discover videos of the AEM story

CINEMINO

Look at the testimonies, from historical archives, of the people who have made the history of AEM.

This area of the museum is dedicated to temporary exhibitions.



IMMERSIVE LED THEATER

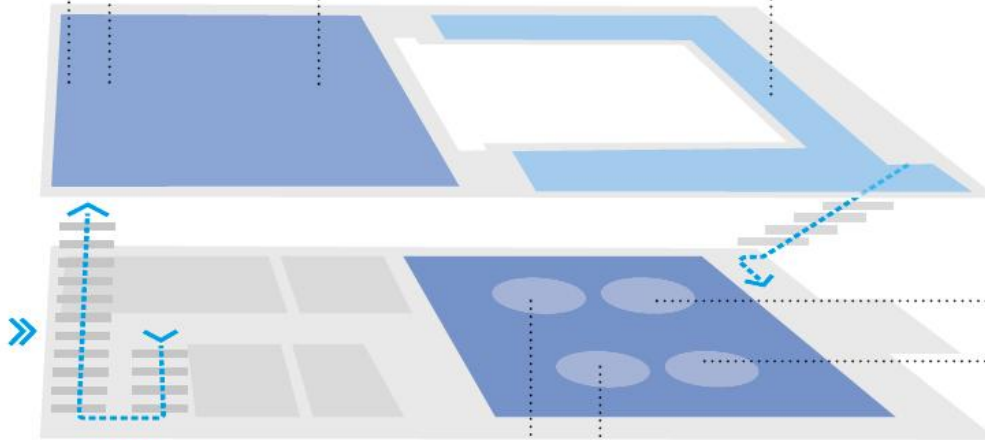
Position yourself on the blue dot in the center of the carpet. The video narration starts automatically as soon as the sensors detect your presence.

After each thematic block, a screen appears during which, by pointing with your arm, you can choose the topic you want to explore.



FIRST FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR



SUSTAINABLE HUB

Choose a *colored figure* and push it into the center of the light plane to activate the different narratives on sustainability. Discover all the themes by watching the videos on the side screens.



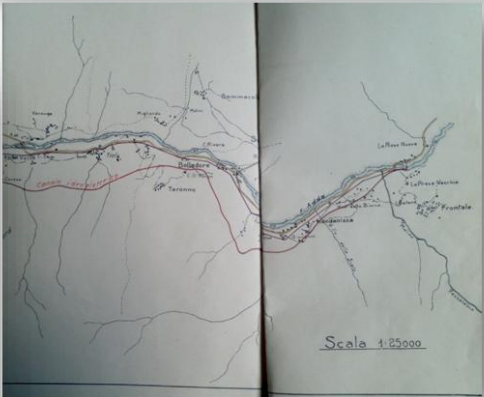
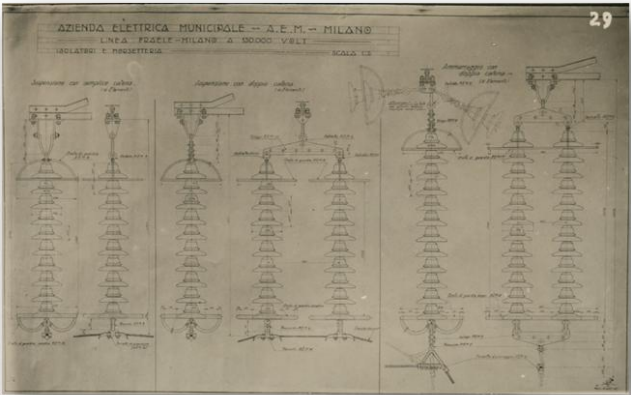
INTERACTIVE PERISCOPE

Use the side handles to move the horizon view on the screen 360°. Tap the screen to view insights.



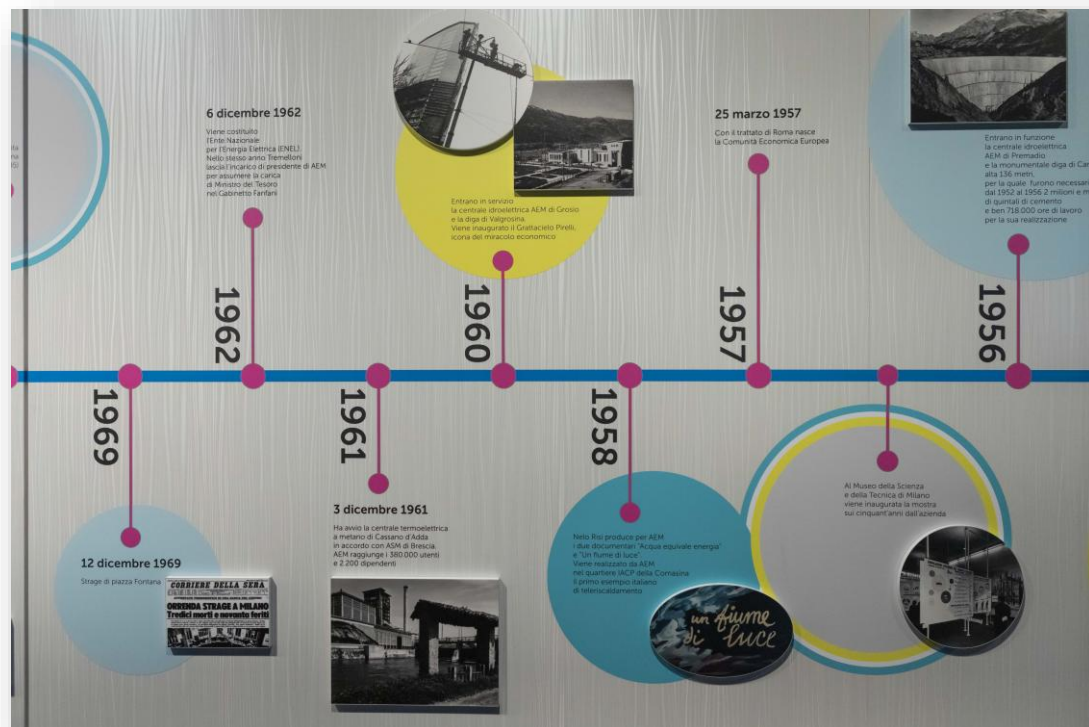
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Renewable energy for the development



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The Power of Water (1910-1963)



WATER ROUTES OF PO VALLEY



European
Route
of Industrial
Heritage

museo
dell'industria
e del lavoro
musil



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Fondazione ISEC
Istituto
per la storia
dell'età
contemporanea



LIUC **HERITAGE**
Università Cattaneo **HUB**

CRESPI D'ADDA
www.crespidadda.it

Why a Regional Water Route in Po Valley?

Water is centrally placed within the landscape and culture of the hydrographic basin of the Po River, both being an element of life and a factor of production.

Climate change has drawn the public's attention on this asset, which for way too long has been considered as a sheer natural component and has unraveled its interdependence with natural and social factors.

The snow and ice deposits on the Alps, the great pre-Alpine lakes, the network constituted by the Po and its affluents are intertwined with a **secular effort of landscape-building by part of local communities**, landed property and rural workers.

What we are confronted with then, is a reality of extraordinary complexity, that has made Po Valley one of the major thinktanks of Hydraulic science and a testing ground for original forms of territorial governance, in what is **an authentic outdoor museum of the relationship between man and water**.

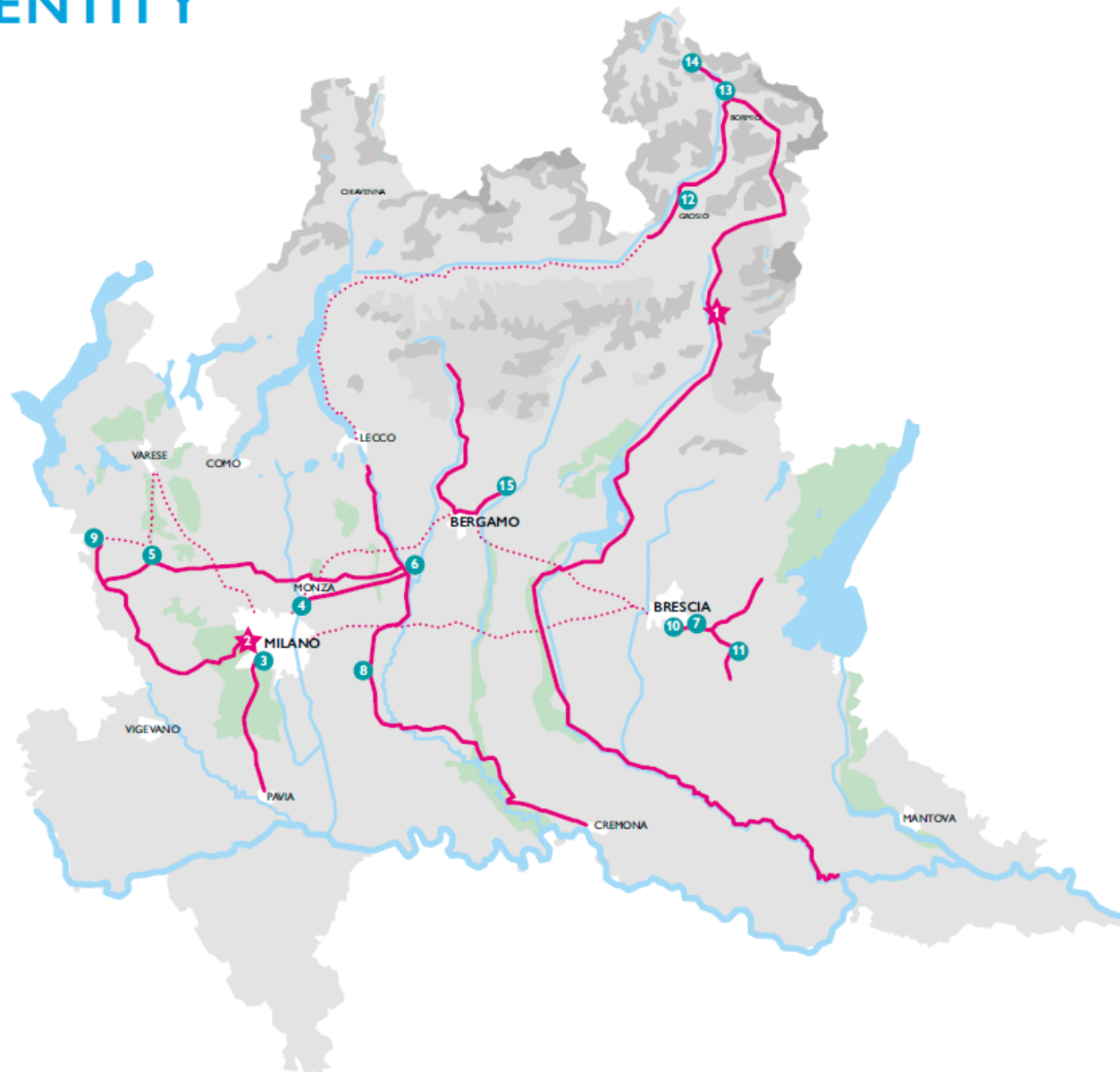


STRUCTURE AND IDENTITY OF THE ROUTE

We think that the Route could be **traveled across starting independently from two points:** on the one hand, from the **Museum of Hydroelectric Energy of Cedegolo** (Anchor Point ERIH and main gateway) and, on the one other, from the City of Milan through the headquarters of **Fondazione AEM** and **Fondazione ISEC** (ERIH Members).

The large - and already existing - **network of bicycle paths** - ideally connecting cities and mountains - allows to activate other important landmarks in the countryside and to form integrated touristic itineraries.

Public transport grants for a **capillary and eco-friendly network** that connects all landmarks.



PATHS

— CYCLE PATH

.... RAILWAY

MAIN GATEWAY

★ musil - MUSEUM OF HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY OF CEDEGOLO IN VALCAMONICA

★ FONDAZIONE AEM

WATER ROUTE SITES

- 3 HISTORICAL ARCHIVES FONDAZIONE AEM
- 4 FONDAZIONE ISEC
- 5 CANTONI COTTON MILL LIUC UNIVERSITY
- 6 CRESPI D'ADDA UNESCO SITE
- 7 musil - THE IRON MUSEUM

LANDMARK WATER ROUTE

- 8 HYDRAULIC STRUCTURES OF THE MUZZA CANAL CASA DELL'ACQUA OF PAULLO
- 9 DAM AND WATER INTAKE OF PANPERDUTO AND MUSEUM OF SWISS-ITALIAN WATERS
- 10 FONTANILE FONTANONE AND THE VIA DEI FONTANILI
- 11 THE HYDRAULIC STRUCTURES AND MILL OF GAVARDO
- 12 AEM HYDROELECTRIC HERITAGE, GROSIO, GROSOTTO
- 13 AEM HYDROELECTRIC HERITAGE, POWERPLANT OF FRAELE
- 14 AEM HYDROELECTRIC HERITAGE, DAMS OF CANCANO
- 15 ROGGA SERIO

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF SITES

Below the criteria that backed the choice of sites:



SITES IN PO VALLEY

connected to the history of water as a means of production (agriculture, industry and energy), that is with strong bonds with regional industrial history



AUTHENTIC SITES

preserved and promoted for historic and touristic reasons



SITES ACCESSIBLE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

both physically and digitally



TOURISTIC LANDMARKS

with a bond with the history of Lombardy and with the history of industry



HERITAGE UNESCO SITES

sites already part of the UNESCO heritage or future UNESCO candidates



ACTIVE AND OPERATIVE SITES

directly managed by the institutions promoting the initiative

PROMOTION: STRATEGY AND GOALS

ENHANCE

**the touristic potential
of the multitude of landmarks
on regional territory**

and of those that are yet to be included
according to a network perspective
and through coordinated communication
strategies

*(guided tours, bicycle tours,
coordinated participation to national events
of cultural and environmental interest etc.)*

PROMOTE

**knowledge of the historical
and environmental heritage**

that links to the management
and usage of water

(manufacts, drawings, documents, books)

PROMOTE

**environmental awareness
and collective awareness**

on the protection of
natural and historical landscapes
for the development of sustainability
and renewable energy.

ORGANIZE

**a huge agenda
of cultural initiatives**

both addressed
to the wider public
and to a public of experts

*(research, exhibitions, presentations, educational
activities, survey campaigns, photographic contests,
restoration workshops etc.)*

SPREAD

**new environmental awareness
centered on sustainability
and renewable energy**

issues with reference to the transition
to clean energy and the Green Deal

Po Valley Water Routes ERIH website



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World Water Day



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VISEC
Fondazione VISEC
Villaggio Industriale
Crespi d'Adda



LIUC CIVIS



CRESPI D'ADDA



World Water Day 22 marzo 2026

GIORNATA MONDIALE DELL'ACQUA

DOMENICA 22 MARZO 2026
Crespi d'Adda - Sito Unesco
 Corso Manzoni 18, Crespi d'Adda - ore 16.00
Tour guidata al villaggio operaio di Crespi d'Adda per scoprire l'acqua come elemento fondamentale nella fabbrica, nelle abitazioni e nelle strutture pubbliche. Prenotazione online (costo visita 8 €, gratuito per bambini fino a 6 anni e persone diversamente abili)
 Per prenotazioni: shoptesserestoria.it

19 E 24 MARZO 2026
Debate: il potere dell'acqua
 Fondazione AEM - Piazza Po 3, Milano
 dalle ore 9.30 alle ore 12.30
Nell'ambito delle collaborazioni annuali con Fondazione ISEC e della Po Valley Water Routes, Fondazione AEM propone un progetto educativo in cui due classi si confronteranno su due posizioni diverse legate all'utilizzo della risorsa idrica.
 Per informazioni: fondazioneaem.it

LUNEDÌ 23 MARZO 2026
Vie d'acqua, vie d'industria
 LIUC - Università Cattaneo
Esperienza formativa rivolta alle scuole, basata su un format che integra momenti introduttivi in aula e attività sul campo. Alla scoperta di luoghi e tracce dell'industrializzazione locale, mettendo in evidenza il ruolo dell'acqua.
 Per informazioni: liuc.it

VENERDÌ 20 MARZO 2026
Ghiacciai e cambiamento climatico
 MUSIL - Museo dell'Industria e del Lavoro
 ore 9.00 - 12.00
Visita guidata e laboratori sul tema, a cura di Acqua Bresciana.
 Per informazioni: musilbrescia.it



PO VALLEY WATER ROUTES



European Route of Industrial Heritage



Water Routes Po Valley

**22 MARCH
WORLD
WATER
DAY**

**Fondazione
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«School goes to the Mountains»



Debate on Hydroelectric Power



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AEM Fraele Power Plant



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Venerdì 25 aprile
visita nel pomeriggio alle ore 16:30
Lunedì 2 giugno
visita nel pomeriggio alle ore 16:30
Giovedì 3-10-17-24-31 luglio
visite settimanali nel pomeriggio alle ore 16:30
Giovedì 7-14-21-28 agosto
visite settimanali nel pomeriggio alle ore 16:30
Martedì 5-12-19-26 agosto
visite settimanali nel pomeriggio alle ore 16:30

Visite per bambini (6-11 anni, accompagnati da adulti)
Giovedì 31 luglio - ore 15:00
Giovedì 21 agosto - ore 15:00

da aprile ad agosto
2025

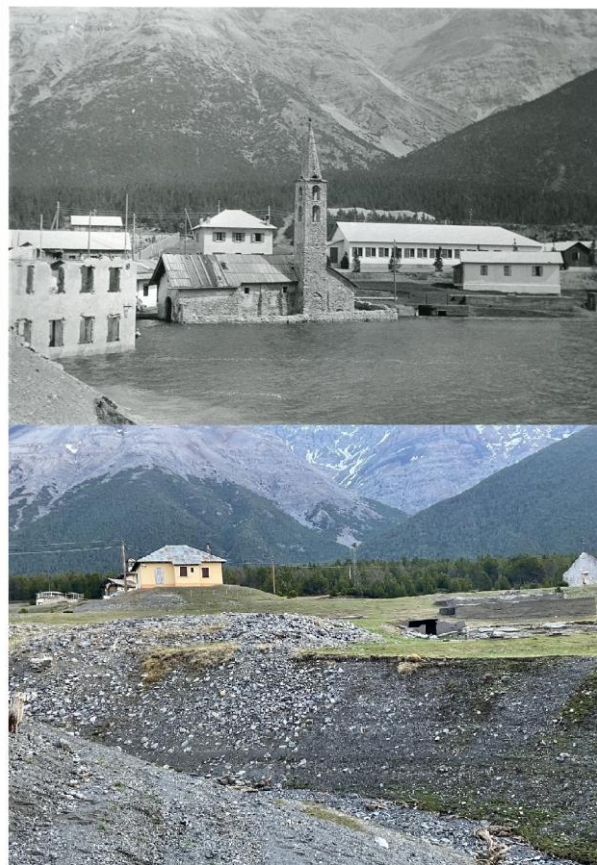
Ex Centrale idroelettrica AEM di Fraele

Visite su
prenotazione



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An integrated system for enhancing the valley's Heritage



MESE POWER PLANT CENTENARY 1927-2027



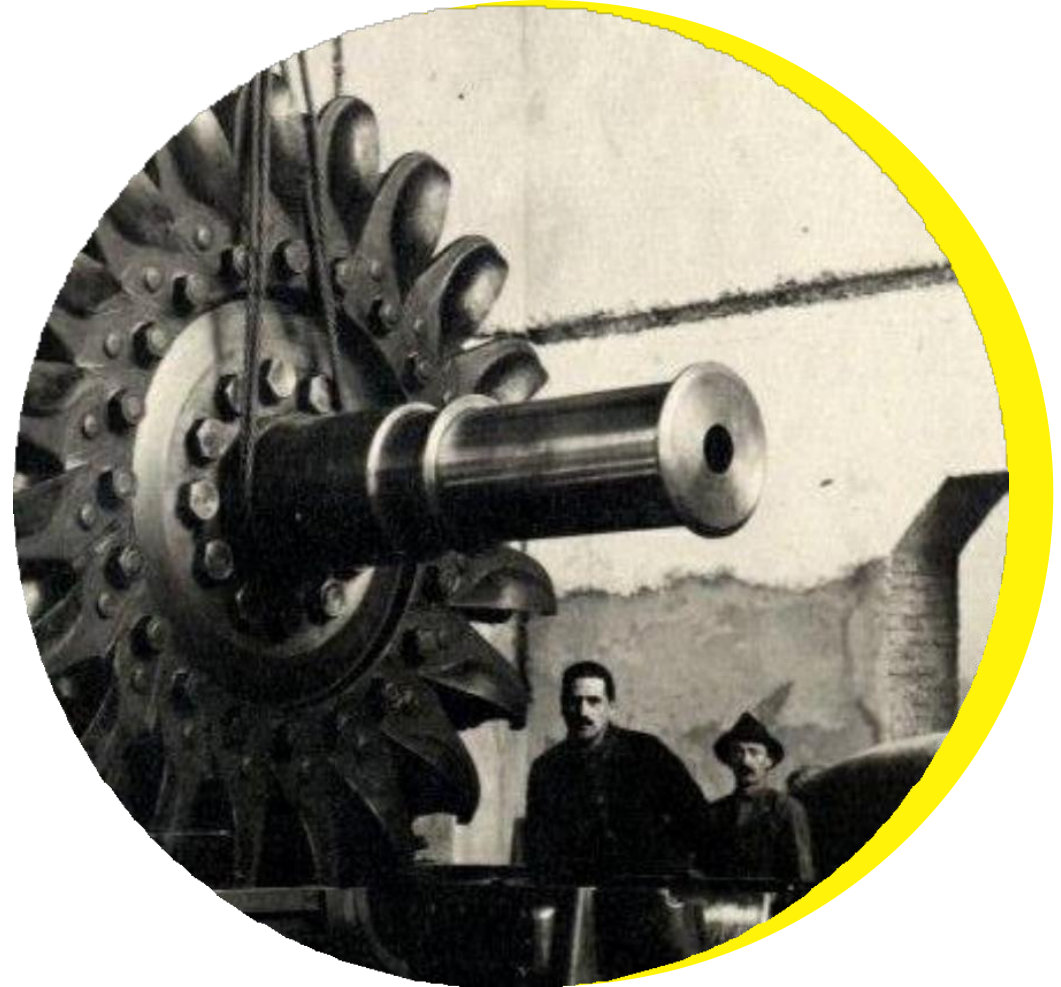
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MESE: an History of Innovation

Inaugurated on **June 8 1927**, the **Mese Power Plant**, with its **hydroelectric plants** designed for the integrated use of the waters of the Mera and Liro valleys, was at the time among **the most innovative and powerful achievements in the world**.

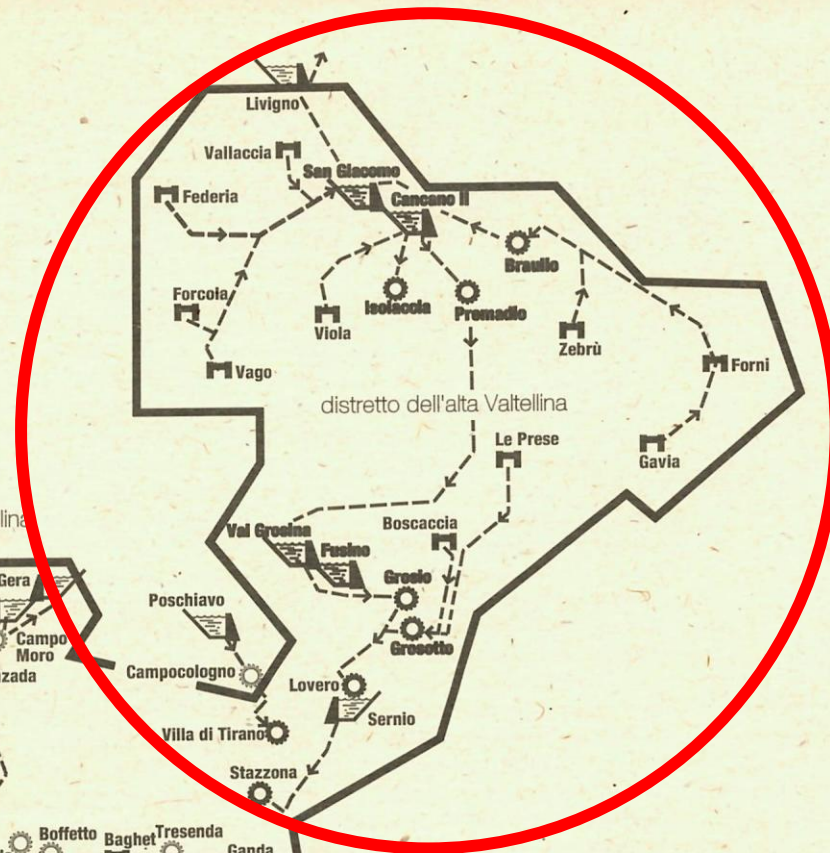
Today, the plant is part of the **Group A2A** and can **generate approximately 523 million kWh annually**.

To celebrate the **100th anniversary of its construction**, A2A Generation & Trading has entrusted **Fondazione AEM** with the task of designing and **coordinating specific heritage enhancement initiatives, highlighting this important landmark** and involving local stakeholders as well as the communities of Valchiavenna and Valtellina

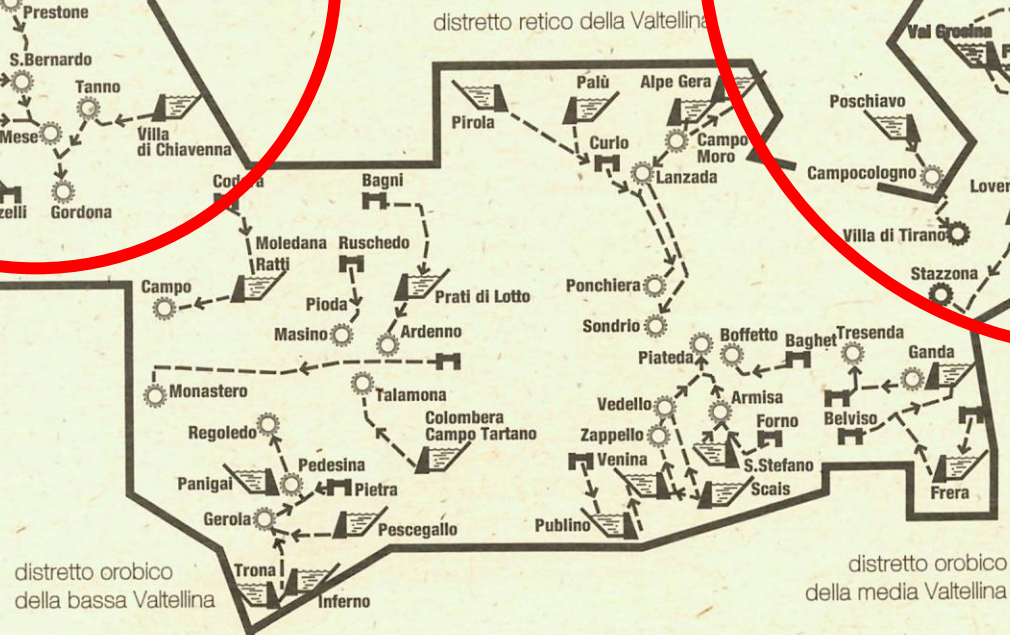


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Edison plants now A2A



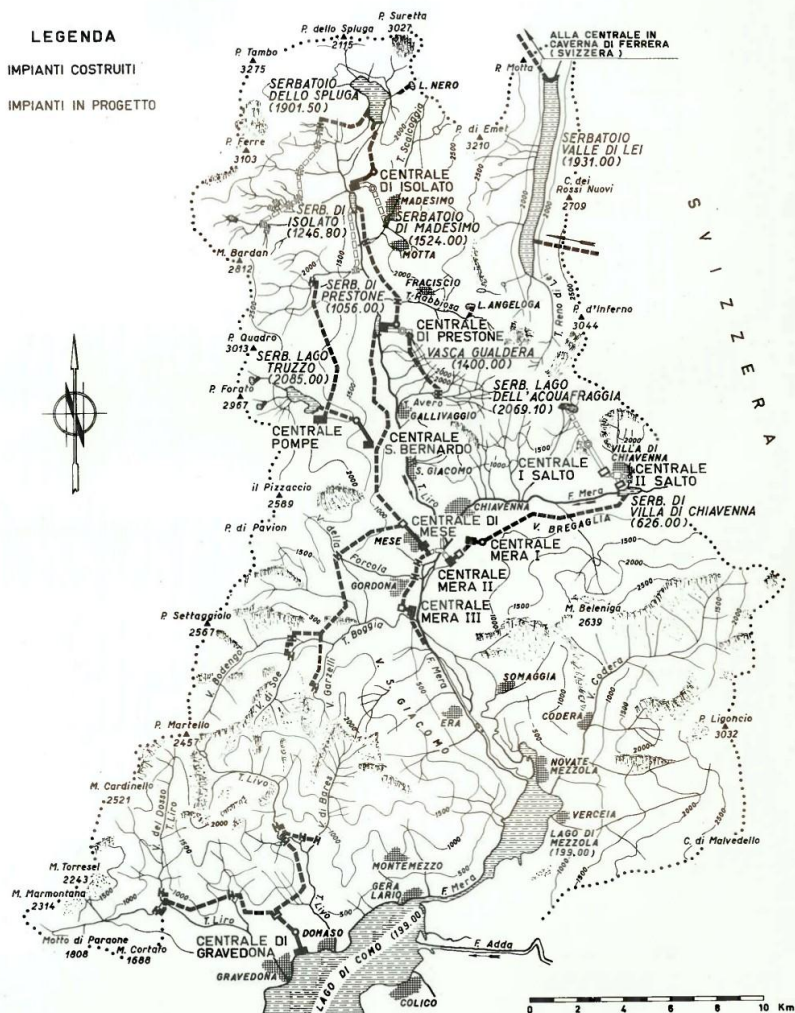
AEM plants now A2A



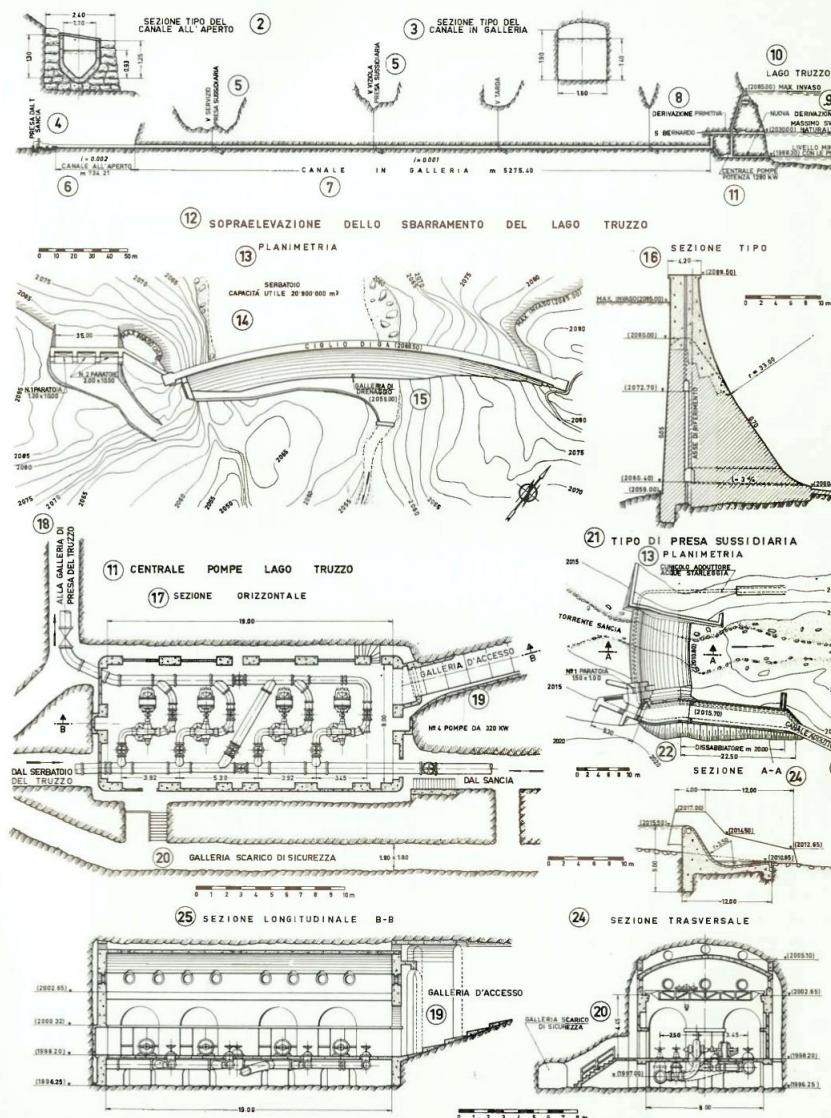
COROGRAFIA DEGLI IMPIANTI SUL FIUME MERA E SUI TORRENTI LIRO E LIRO-LIVO

LEGENDA

- IMPIANTI COSTRUITI
 □□□□ IMPIANTI IN PROGETTO



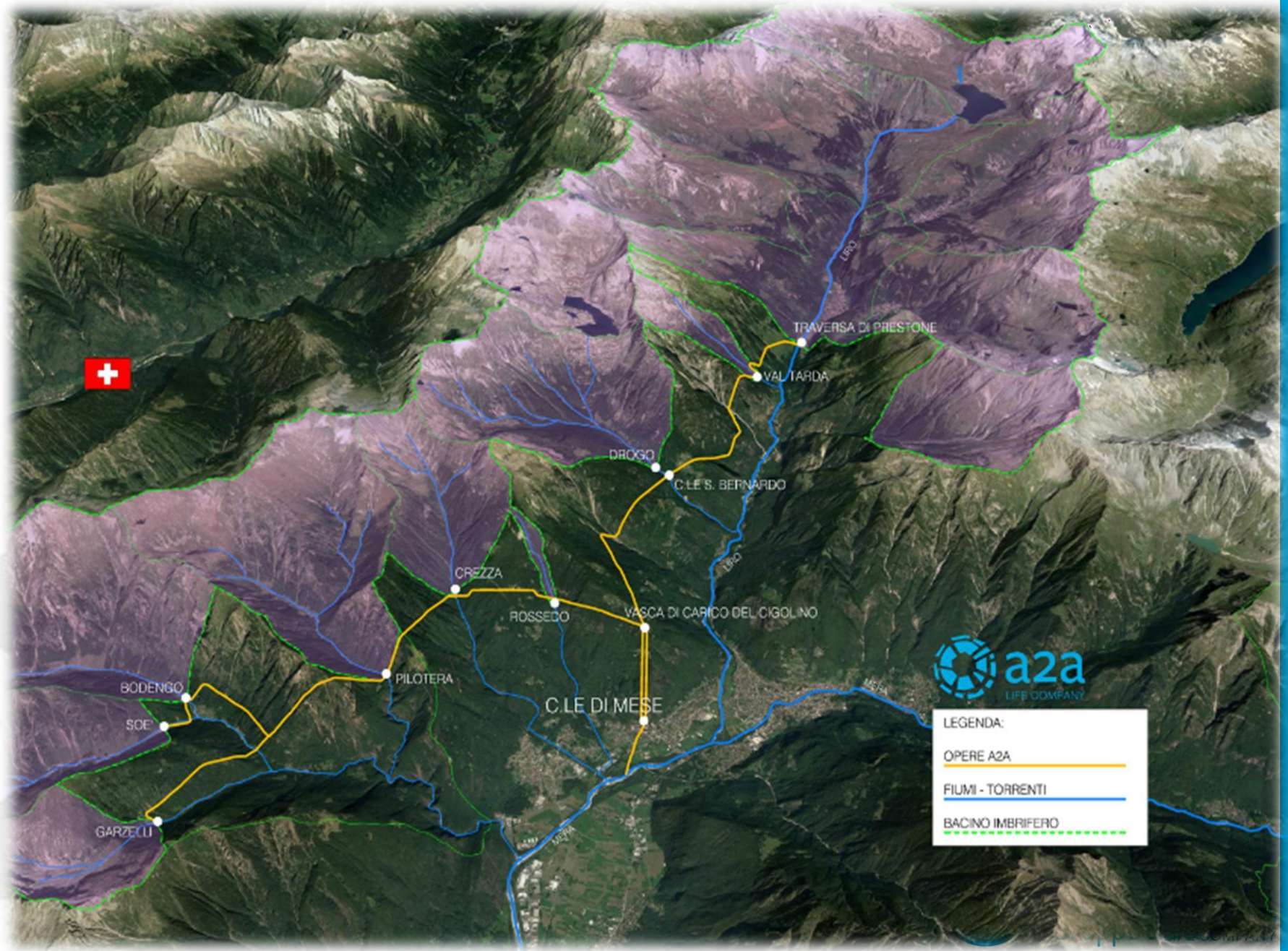
① IMPIANTI SUL TORRENTE LIRO - DAL TORR. SANCIA AL LAGO TRUZZO (AMPLIATO)



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Municipal Administrations:

- Madesimo
- Campodolcino
- San Giacomo Filippo
- Chiavenna
- Mese
- Gordona



Initiatives for the Centenary

Promoted by the **Heritage & Foundations function**, in collaboration with **Fondazione AEM** and **A2A Generation & Trading**:

- a **book dedicated to the centenary of the Mese power plant**, which will serve as the core around which multiple initiatives will be developed throughout 2027;
- the **enhancement of the plant** through concerts, conferences and exhibitions on the history and future of the Mese plants, to be held in Mese, Sondrio and in Milan at Fondazione AEM;
- **guided tours** at the Mese plant and other A2A/Fondazione AEM plants.



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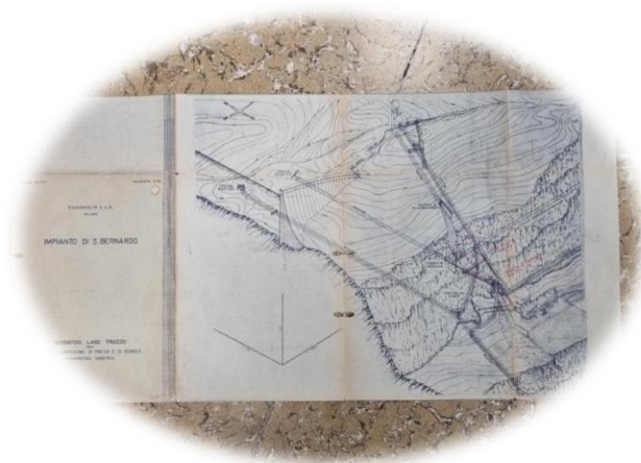
HERITAGE CULTURAL INITIATIVES

5



1. HISTORICAL AND ICONOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

March 2025 - June 2026



5. GUIDED TOURS OF THE PLANTS

2026 - 2027



2. RESTORATION AND DIGITIZATION OF FILM MATERIAL

October - December 2025



6. LOCAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

2027



3. CELEBRATORY CONCERTS

LE ALTRE NOTE

July - September 2025-2026



7. TRAVELING PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS

2027



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100 Years of Innovation: The Mese Power Plant

Curator

Fabrizio Trisoglio, Fondazione AEM

Book produced in collaboration with

Società Economica Valtellinese/Moebius

- Paper on energy sites at an international level;
- Paper on the Mese power plant and the social and economic evolution of the Valchiavenna area;
- Paper on the contribution of engineers to shaping the hydroelectric landscape in Valchiavenna;
- Paper on the architecture of the Mese power plant;
- Paper on Mese's archival heritage;
- Photographic project on the Mese plant and its related plants



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Research and Preservation Activities on Heritage

March 2025 – June 2026

- Bibliographic research

(monographs, technical journals, papers, etc.)

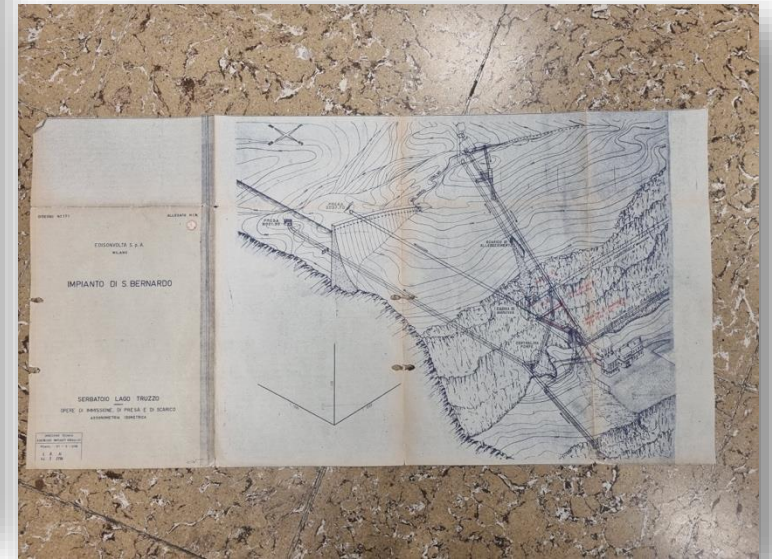
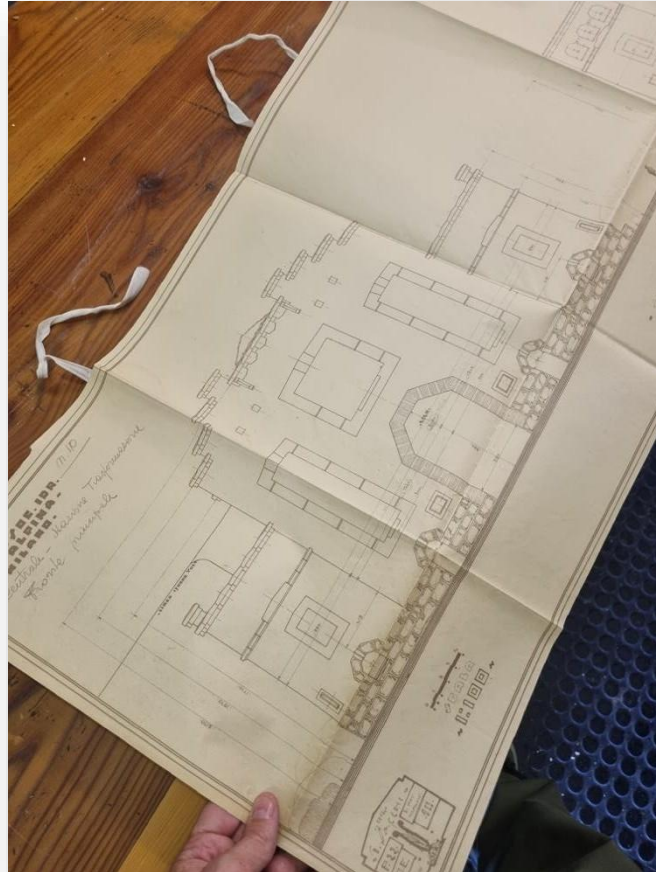
Over 50 sources, many of which unpublished

- Archival research

A2A Mese archives, ENEL Historical Archive, Noverino Faletti Collection, former Genio Civile di Sondrio Archive (now UTR Regione Lombardia), Istituto Luce, etc.

More than 1,000 photographs, 33 8mm films, and hundreds of design drawings on the history of the power plant have been identified (currently being digitized)

Preparation is underway for 10 interviews with former employees in early 2026, aimed at recovering **oral sources** related to the plant

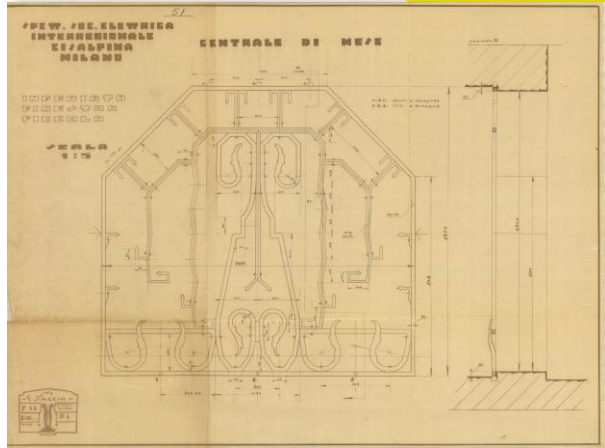


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ARCHIVE MAPPING

Fondazione AEM - Milan

- Noverino Faletti fond



Genio Civile Archive – Sondrio



- Valentini fond



ENEL Archive – Naples



- Photographic funds

A2A – Mese Archive



- Objects collection
- Photographic funds
- Film funds
- Paper funds

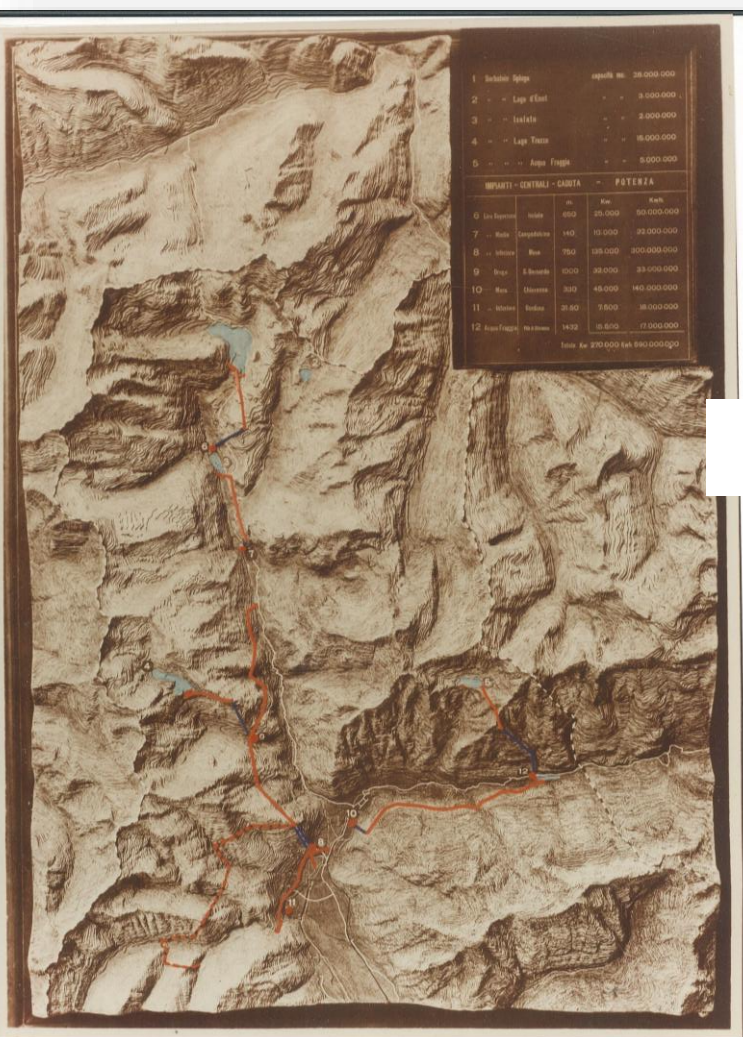
Istituto Luce - Roma



- Film funds



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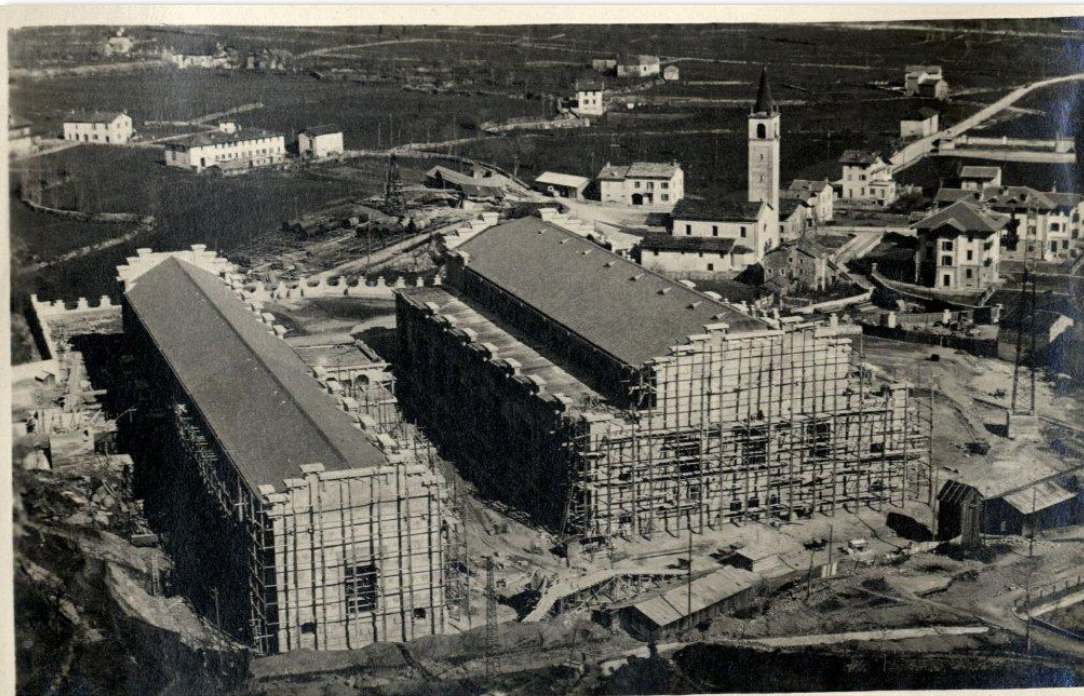
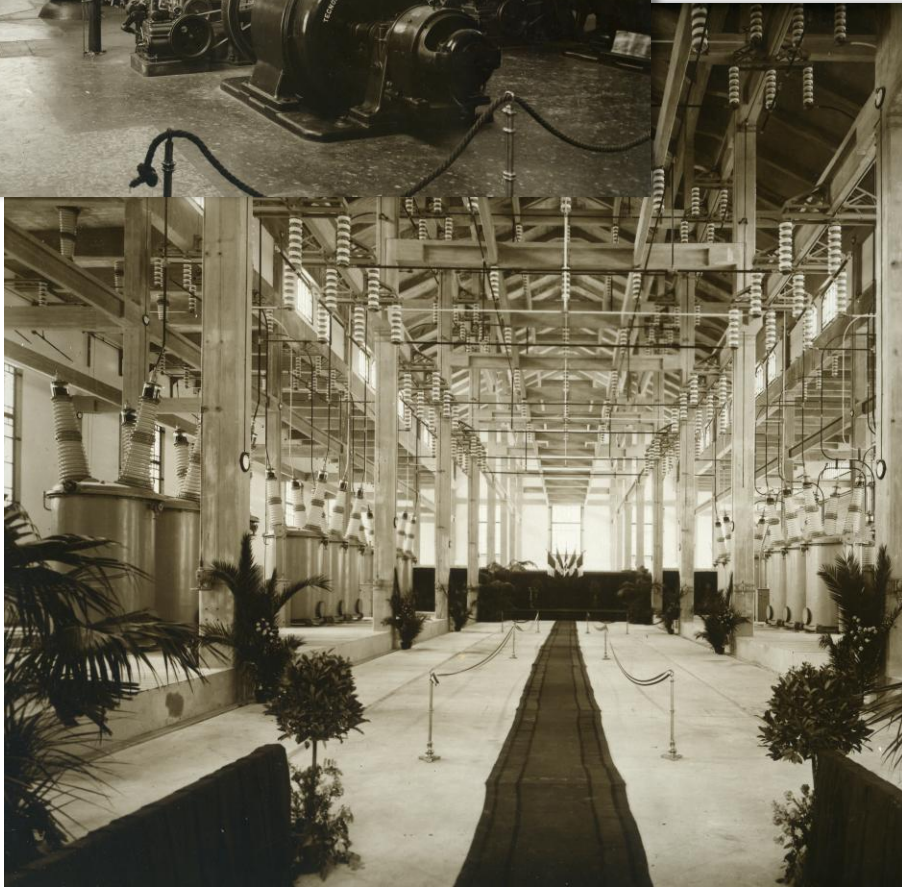
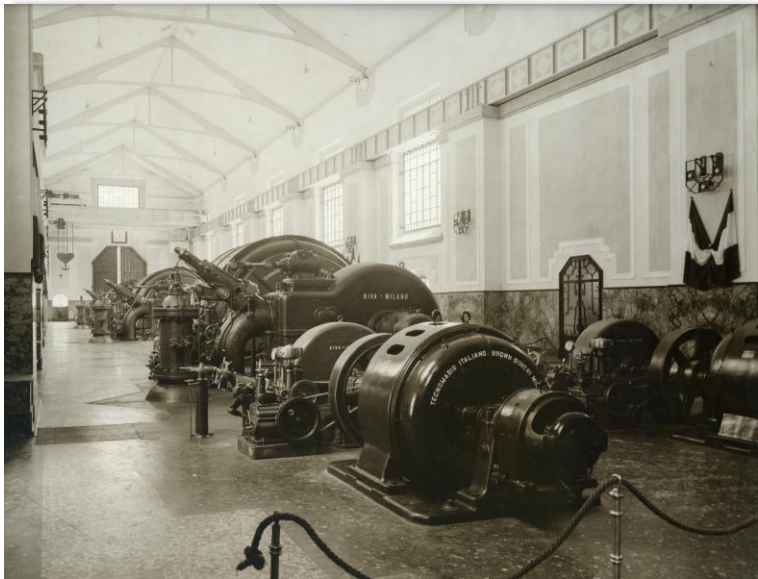
ARCHIVAL MATERIALS



Films

Slide

Corography of Mese Power Plant



Centrale di S. Francesco a Mese - (In costruzione) - Primavera 1927



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Interviews with former employees of the Mese Power Plant

January - February 2026



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Photographic project by Marco Garofalo

January - June 2026

Photographer **Marco Garofalo** will lead a contemporary photographic project on the Mese plant, emphasizing the **human element** while also highlighting the landscape and infrastructural aspects.



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Thanks for your attention!

