

## RARI NANTES FOOTBRIDGE IN PADUA

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### Summary

This project aims to connect both banks of Bacchiglione river in the City of Padua. In particular, it is part of the development of the cycle-pedestrian track realized by Municipality of Padua. In fact there are several cycle and pedestrian tracks scattered around the area. Olive Park, with a survival course that develops along the flood plain near to Via Goito, a track adjacent to Via Isonzo and along the Bacchiglione river and, last but not least, the lovely cycle pedestrian itinerary along the Battaglia Canal which begins in Via Vittorio Veneto and extends south for several kilometres.

The project area is at the southwest of Padua, next to the Bassanello junction. It used to be one of the few suburbs in Padua that had its own geographic and economic distinction, with rivers that were flanked with houses, boats, boathouses and important factories. The development of Bassanello as an important river and road access to Padua took place during the period of economic renewal of late medieval Italy, with deforestation and reclamation work carried out and impressive canal building which continued long after the local development was complete. Above all the waterways made Bassanello extremely important in economic, strategic and military terms, controlling the waters that supplied Padua and its factories.

**Keywords:** footbridge; deck; structural point of view; pedestrian track; beam; arch.

### 1. Historical Outlines

Bassanello underwent a great deal of enemy attacks who wanted to siege the area to control the waterways and force Padua to admit defeat. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century a similar threat led to the Venetians to strengthen the walled defences, changing the type and building the Alicorno bastion which faces south to defend Bassanello. As rail and then road traffic arrived, Bassanello lost its position as a river junction to gradually become the southern road junction in Padua. Besides conveying the traffic that comes from south and southwest into Padua, Bassanello is also the urban link between the various districts around it.

There are mobility problems for all the users due to the "Rari Nantes" sports facilities, which are situated on the flood plain next to Via Vittorio Veneto, because during the busiest hours this area becomes an important traffic junction considerably lower the safety level for the more vulnerable cyclists and pedestrians.

Consequently the aim of this project was to join the cycle-pedestrian tracks on Via Isonzo and Via Vittorio Veneto, crossing over the Bacchiglione in one of the most suitable strategic points for the main services, including the Rari Nantes sports facilities.

The project can also be considered as an urban improvement project, which, besides joining two important districts also plays an important role in the overall reorganisation of out-of-town mobility in favour of a much larger catchment basis, creating an important and symbolic entrance to the Isonzo Park that Padua council is currently building.