

**“UNITE – Undertaking intercultural exchange: joint and innovative actions for participatory integration”
 (Under: INTI – Preparatory actions 2006)**

Duration: 18 months (01.09.2007-28.02.2009)

Project leader: REVES (European Network of Cities and Regions for Social Economy)



Photo: AJS

Partners:

- City of Genova
- Federazione Regionale Solidarietà e Lavoro (IT)
- City of Messina (IT)
- Piattaforma per l'Economia Sociale dell'area dello stretto (IT)
- City of Rome (IT)
- Lavoro&Integrazione (IT)
- City of Dunkerque (FR)
- AJS Le bon emploi de la solidarité (FR)
- City of Grenoble (FR)
- CEPS (ES)
- Servicios de Conocimiento Asociado S.C.A. (ES)
- Fondo Andaluz de Municipios para la Solidaridad Internacional (FAMSI) (ES)
- Pfefferwerk, Berlin (D)
- Broadcainr Community Fund (GB)
- Concordia Jakobstad (FI)

The aim of the UNITE project was to pool the potential and resources of different local actors so as to set up coherent local strategies and a monitoring system for intercultural dialogue and participation. Local authorities and social economy enterprises, whose operations are based on the principle of participation and democracy, might act as a motor and generator of innovative methods of intercultural exchange and active citizenship.

Different channels, methods and places of participation, adapted to the needs of third country nationals and their local neighbours were exploited. They interlink different spheres of life and society such as leisure, employment or politics. Various instruments of participation were combined to encourage the involvement of third country nationals.

Concrete objectives of the project were thus to build and strengthen local partnership networks between SE and LA so as to:

- a) jointly create/elaborate innovative instruments for intercultural dialogue and participation (by mainstreaming cultural questions into different spheres of life),
- b) spread good practices at local and European level and
- c) draft local action plans for intercultural dialogue and integration linked to the newly developed instruments.

After an analysis of needs and realities on the partner territories against the background of relevant parts of the EU acquis, innovative instruments for intercultural dialogue and participatory integration were developed and tested. Moreover, the project included an autumn school aiming to train local authority representatives/public officials, social economy operators and immigrants in the application of the developed tools (providing knowledge and know-how).

Main project outputs are:

- Local action plans for the creation of innovative instruments for intercultural dialogue and participation based on local partnerships
- Feasibility studies *for* and/or the test *of* the above mentioned innovative instruments
- Training material for representatives of local authorities, social economy operators, immigrants, NGOs and other local stakeholders (CD-ROM)
- Recommendations to the national and European level

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