

REVES YEARBOOK

of excellences 2017

A decorative graphic consisting of three horizontal lines: a thin white line at the top, a medium-thick purple line in the middle, and a thin dark red line at the bottom.

The most interesting examples of partnerships between
public authorities and social and solidarity economy

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Introduction

By REVES Co-President Jan Olsson



At present EU cohesion policy is in danger of being dismantled after 2020. REVES must mobilise its members and allies to defend it. The promotion of solidarity and a fair distribution of resources between and within regions has always guided the actions of REVES.

The counterforces are strong. Member States want to spend less money

and even renationalize cohesion policy. Right-wing and eurosceptical political forces are winning ground because of changes in economic and social structures. There is a big risk that the achievements to which REVES contributed, such as the partnership principle and the priority to invest in social economy, will be lost in the future policy.

Very much will depend on the upcoming European elections in May 2019. We certainly miss our friend and MEP Jens Nilsson in this fight. He was a staunch supporter of cohesion policy and built a strong alliance with the EU Commission to push forward partnership and social economy.

The Member States must realize that they could get real support from the EU to fight the negative trends of globalization and extremism through cohesion policy. The EU in turn must be aware that it needs the social economy in this combat.

For us the major priority is to build local resilience. This means creating endogenous forces at the local level fostering local development in order to withstand globalization and economic inequalities. This also means to establish countervailing forces to right-wing extremism which is particularly strong in regions hit by economic restructuring, dismantled social services and depopulation. Therefore this fight has to be taken at local level mobilising the whole civil society.

In order to build local resilience there is a need to build and reinforce regional social economy clusters. The social economy, due to its values and governance, has a good record in maintaining jobs in the regions. Its local

roots, networks, support structures and financial institutions combined with the principles of democracy, empowerment and solidarity make the social economy a robust economic and social actor at regional level.

The partnership principle should be strengthened and continue to be an important tool of the EU to decentralise policies and involve local authorities, regions, the social economy and civil society at large in preparing and implementing the different programmes. It is important that this principle becomes really effective in the next period. In order for it to be so the local and regional actors must mobilise themselves and form alliances at local, regional, national and European level.

The applications to the REVES Excellence Award 2017, published in this Yearbook, clearly demonstrate the added value of partnerships around the social economy and co-construction of policies. Let's inspire ourselves!

Partnerships at local level

Welcommon

presented by Wind of Renewal / Anemos Ananeosis (GR)

Context

About 60.000 refugees are blocked in Greece. In most of the cases infrastructures do not cover their basic needs. There is an urgent need to provide shelter, support structures and use good practices for social inclusion. Policies for integration and social inclusion are missing at the moment. Welcommon is an innovative center for hosting refugees and promoting their social inclusion. It is located in the centre of Athens. In Welcommon the basic needs of up to 200 refugees can be covered in dignity and we also care for their education, training and integration into the labour market.

Description of the initiative

Welcommon's objective is the provision of shelter and the social integration of refugees, in close collaboration with the local community.

The initiative is implemented by the social enterprise Wind of Renewal ("Anemos Ananeosis") in cooperation with the Athens Development and Destination Management Agency (EATA), in the framework of the relocation program of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The building of WELCOMMON (a former clinic) is in the centre of Athens, accessible by urban transport. It meets all the appropriate standards for the safe accommodation of guests (fire extinguishing systems, safe balconies and staircase, accessibility for handicapped individuals, 24-hour entrance security etc.). Guests are selected by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in the framework of its relocation program and with priority given to vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women, families with children, the elderly, disabled persons etc.

Welcommon offers:

- Accommodation for 150-200 refugees, in 66 rooms, and additional facilities for gatherings, tutorials, artistic activities, library, cinema etc.
- Food, in line with the guests' nutritional requirements and habits.
- Psychosocial support, provided by 3 social workers and 1 psychologist.
- Primary health care by a nurse, with respect for the cultural and religious sensitivities of the refugees. We are in the process of hiring a midwife (because we are hosting many pregnant women and babies) and setting up a network of

Arabic-speaking volunteer doctors of various specializations in cooperation with the Syrian community in Athens.

- Social inclusion, through cooperation with organizations and services based in Greece and the relocation countries.

- Non-formal education/creative activities for adults and children: language (Arabic, English, German, Greek), science, mathematics, music and painting classes etc.

- We have created two kindergartens inside the hosting center and one library. Almost every week-end we organize visits to museums, galleries and parks of Athens.

- Two days per week we organize sports and football.

Added value

Welcommon is a cooperation between a social cooperative and the municipality of Athens and is supported by the UNHCR. It is designed not just for the refugees, but meant to function with the refugees, and with benefits accruing to the local community. It combines social innovation with experience gained from different models and good paradigms - particularly in the areas of local government, social entrepreneurship and civil society. The project organizes training for refugees, and facilitates their active participation and cooperation with the local population. Thanks to the voluntary work and the support of different communities and persons, the hard work was completed in less than 1,5 month at a cost of less than €50,000. We want to develop a network and permanent cooperation with similar initiatives and structures at regional, national and European level, thus building bridges between different cultures, societies and activities.

Partnership

Welcommon is implemented by the social enterprise 'Wind of Renewal' ("Anemos Ananeosis") in cooperation with the Athens Development and Destination Management Agency (EATA) and UNHCR. The final shape is the result of an initiative by Wind of Renewal with contributions by the communities of immigrants and refugees. Many of our employees, previously among the unemployed, have experience with refugee-related questions and they participated in the development of the project. Volunteers are supporting our daily work continuously and they have a say in the project through regular meetings. We have established a close cooperation with doctors hired by the Athens Development and Destination Management Agency, in the framework of its refugee program. In cooperation with the community

of Syrians living already in Greece, we are setting up a network of Arabic-speaking volunteer doctors of various specializations. We are also developing close ties with social clinics.

Results and perspectives

Welcommon, during the first 4 months of operation, has provided decent and safe accommodation, food and coverage of basic needs, psychosocial support, cultural training and social integration activities to more than 260 refugees. It created 30 new jobs and offered professional training and specialization to more than 50 people from several EU and non EU countries. It is estimated that 170 refugees per day will be hosted in Welcommon. All our guests undergo the Mantoux test (for tuberculosis) and we ensure that all children are vaccinated. We organize their medical records. Social workers and interpreters accompany our guests to doctors and hospitals. We provide support for the formal and non-formal education of the children at three levels: enrolment in the Greek formal education system, opportunities for non-formal education, training and empowerment with social skills, empowering parents (often single) to be fully able to take proper care of their children. This is obviously something that takes time and necessitates more human and financial resources which we are lacking at the moment. In the near future Welcommon aims to offer opportunities for employment, for both Greeks and asylum seekers in Greece.

Resources

We cover the basic needs (accommodation, food, social-psychological support, functioning of the centre) through funding by the Athens Development and Destination Management Agency (EATA), in the framework of the relocation program of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (EU resources). All the other needs are covered mainly by voluntary work. Costs for medicines and vaccinations are covered through donations. We are seeking donations and more resources (through crowd-funding, funding by institutions and individuals) in order to promote social inclusion, health services and materials, training, welcome classes and creative activities as well as environmental management & energy efficiency of the 3200 sq.m. building.

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INTEGRA - Entering the labour market through job coaching presented by Kokkotyö Foundation (FI)

Context

The unemployment rate among immigrants is high in our region. The methods used so far are traditional and have seldom led to employment. The objective of the project is to create a new method for coaching immigrants in the workshops of Kokkotyö Foundation which could also be used in workshops at national level. The method supports the integration process through work by linking intensive language training and work try-out in the workshops of Kokkotyö Foundation. The approach and the methods are innovative, based on the needs and experiences of the immigrants and developed in a process where they are included.

Description of the initiative

The objective of the project is to speed up and secure the integration process of immigrants and support access to the labour market through a long-term process including new learning methods and an inclusive and participative approach. The objective is also to enhance multicultural development and increase tolerance at workplaces. Cooperation between different actors shall be improved. The needs of immigrants will be better identified and addressed. In the INTEGRA project immigrants are prepared to enter the labour market with the help of a newly developed training in Kokkotyö Foundation. This training includes an intensive language course of two months, including an introduction to the Finnish work culture, to Finnish society, and participation in one's own community. The training of the Finnish language is based on functional methods, i.e. the practical use of everyday language is emphasized. There are no designated books. The training material is developed and produced by ourselves for the immediate use. After the intensive training period a trainee participates in a work try-out which takes place first in one of the workshops in Kokkotyö Foundation and then in a company. The immigrant and the employer are supported by the coaches and the cultural interpreter.

The project is placed among other services that offer language training for immigrants. Not all immigrants take part in these courses so Integra aims to catch these and dropouts in order to integrate them in our project. The extra support provided by Integra has found its place amongst the official

services and measures (e.g. language courses and career-counselling) offered to immigrants. Often, an immigrant is not able to start a long-term Finnish course arranged by the Employment Administration. It is here where Integra has been able to provide flexible help and prevent a possible regression of skills and competences.

When an unemployed person participates in an employment measure like career training or work try-out, he/she benefits from an allowance. The negotiations with Ostrobothnia Employment and Economic Development Office for a recognition of the intensive language course at Kokkotyö as equivalent to an employment measure – including the payment of an allowance to the trainees -were not successful.

But in the end and as a result of intensive lobbying there is a chance that the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment might accept the intensive language course as an equivalent to other employment measures. Then the Integra project has had a significant impact on national policy and creates a new employment measure for immigrants in Finland.

Added value

The Integra project supports the Employment and Economic Development Office and the municipalities in responding better to the needs of immigrants. For most of the immigrants the principal aim is to find their place in the Finnish society through language and work experience. With Integra they receive tailored training and coaching that better meet their needs. Training processes are inclusive and participative, which, in the Finnish context, is not very usual. The Employment and Economic Development Office clerks have appreciated our service and a genuine and ongoing dialogue as well as a stable partnership between them and Kokkotyö was developed. The Service Manager of the Employment and Economic Development Office of Kokkola is a member of the steering group of the project, which finally has become a new platform for actors involved in the integration of immigrants.

Partnership

Kokkotyö Foundation conducts and supports the project by offering premises and instruction through the workshop coaches on various vocational skills. The regional Ostrobothnia Employment and Economic Development Office is the main partner of the project. Their role is to interview and direct unemployed immigrants to the project.

The Municipality of Kokkola is funding 20% of the project and the Development Manager is member of the steering group.

The role of the Foreigners' Office of Kokkola, as well as the Multidisciplinary Joint Service Promoting Employment for the long-term unemployed (TYP) has been to identify the participants in the project. The coordinator of the Foreigners' Office and the leading social worker of TYP are members of our steering group.

Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius (University of Jyväskylä) is doing research on immigrants and our trainees have been interviewed about social inclusion and how they use different services.

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) has started a parallel project in which a job seeker is searching for jobs for the trainees of Integra.

Results and Perspectives

By now we have developed the intensive language training course such as described above. Right after participating in the language training three trainees have got a work try-out place outside Kokkotyö Foundation and four trainees have got a university place. One trainee has got a workplace.

We have produced various new teaching material for language training that, likewise the whole training model, is unique and transferable to other work orientation centres in Finland.

The cultural interpreter (mediator) is a new method of working in Finland. His/her role is to identify the life situation of the trainee and help solving problems as well as supporting the coaches in tackling matters related to cultural differences. Assisting the trainees and supporting them when they start their work try-out in Kokkotyö Foundation, in companies, or if they start studies or work is an important task. The model is transferable to other companies and organisations.

If the request and proposal to the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment will be accepted, the the system of support in Finland will change. A new employment measure for immigrants is launched and will become a precedent for decisions made in the future.

Resources

INTEGRA project is financially supported by ESF and the city of Kokkola. There are three employees in the project: the project manager, developer/individual coach and a cultural interpreter. Most of the activities take place in the premises of Kokkotyö Foundation. Additionally, the aforementioned

parallel project of the ELY Centre provides economic support to companies employing an immigrant of the project, which is an important incitement for the employer.

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Ecosystem of cooperation Presented by the Municipality of Karditsa (GR)

Context

Karditsa has had a long tradition in cooperation and social economy but has also known bad examples of cooperatives that had failed in the past. The idea of collaboration was questioned and the crisis found the local population unprepared and without tools to cope with it. Karditsa prefecture counts 130.000 inhabitants, of which 9.000 are threatened by absolute poverty. "Development" or "growth" have capital as a prerequisite, but the latter is unavailable, due to the deep crisis. The only way to initiate a "development process" is thus the "collective gathering" of capital and the use of innovative organizational and financial tools.

Description of the initiative

The main objective of the initiative is to form a network including cooperatives, groups of citizens and stakeholders that could plan and develop supportive services in favour of their members towards innovative entrepreneurial activation. It works as an "ecosystem of cooperation" searching for solution to the common problems faced by the social economy sector and aiming to attract and encourage new collective initiatives to occur.

In 2010, after the crisis, a "new style" of cooperatives emerged locally, showing strong regional characteristics and an entrepreneurial orientation. These cooperatives have developed their activities in the food industry and energy sector (production and processing of stevia, superfoods, pulses, snails, wine and brandies, tomato, milk, cereals) and energy (use of biomass). The "new style" cooperatives were inspired by the existence and successful activities

of a Cooperative Bank established in 1994. Their emergence enriched the social economy sector which was made up, until then, by some viable - but “old-fashioned” cooperatives, networks of micro-enterprises, associations of professionals, NGOs etc.

Local authorities have traditionally encouraged the collective schemes that were established in the administrative area of Karditsa to cooperate with each other regardless of their turnover, know-how, age, size or the sector to which they belong. This has resulted in an excellent cooperation network including the collective schemes and the local authorities (municipality, chamber of commerce, Development Agency). So, the idea of the establishing an “ecosystem of cooperation”, including cooperatives and other bodies of the social economy as well as local authorities, emerged.

The members of this “ecosystem” develop common services for their current or future members. These services include education, joint promotion of products, innovative financial tools (microfinance, contractual agriculture, procurement contracts, investment facilities etc.) and technical support. Finally, they host and develop services for new citizen initiatives that find themselves in incubation or in the startup phase. Today, already 15 cooperatives and other social economy organizations have been set-up and many other collective schemes are under establishment.

Services are decided or suggested by the General Assembly and organized by specialized bodies as follows:

1. Support services to and hosting of start-ups (incubator) are coordinated and managed by the development agency.
2. Financial tools are organized by the cooperative bank.
3. Investments support services are coordinated and implemented by the Development Agency in cooperation with the Cooperative Bank.
4. The social cooperative “Ilakati”, which is member of the “ecosystem”, is leading activities around the joint promotion of products etc.
5. The employment center.

Added value

The strengths of the approach are:

1. Technical support and mainly the hosting of any collective initiative encourages citizens to participate, eliminates the start-up costs and increases trust in the “collective” search for solutions to common problems.
2. Social Economy is the only way to motivate local capital when the private sector is too weak to undertake investment activities, the banking sector does not have the liquidity to offer loans (even in risk-free interventions), the

state lacks capital to finance public investments and foreign investors do not have the will to invest in an unstable economic environment.

The initiative “Ecosystem of cooperation” is a real local partnership that includes all the local authorities and the collective schemes which take joint decisions through their (unofficial yet) assembly. Moreover, local authorities and the Cooperative Bank (the older members of the “ecosystem”) jointly take part in decision-making on strategic plans and visions through their participation in the General Assembly of the Development Agency.

Partnership

The partners of the initiative are local authorities (municipalities, their regional union and the regional authority), the Chamber of Commerce and the already established and experienced cooperatives, such as the Cooperative Bank with 7500 members. They altogether participate in the Development Agency (Anaptixiaki Karditsas, AN.KA SA), established in 1989. During the last decade the municipality of Karditsa became the main shareholder of AN.KA, holding 26% of the shares, and the mayor of Karditsa is elected, usually, as the president of its Governing Board. His role is to coordinate the local partnership from a political and strategic point of view. The role of AN.KA is to promote the development of knowledge and innovation in the local productive system and to support or/and undertake, in cooperation with the local authorities, local collective initiatives. It also plays the role of an “incubator” in every new venture. Finally, it hosts the activities of the “Ecosystem of Cooperation” offering also technical support. It is the “entrepreneurial part” of the local partnership.

Results and Perspectives

The existence and the effective functioning of the “ecosystem of cooperation” facilitates the creation of new cooperatives and other collective schemes accelerating local development, participation and the empowerment of citizens. As a “system introducing and managing innovation” and as an organized system of social economy in general it has also become the subject of studies. Several productive units that were built during the crisis are considered to be a result of its influence. Some of these units are unique in the country (superfoods, energy cooperative) or even in Europe (stevia extraction unit) and they were supported by the LEADER program.

Moreover, the services that are developed in favor of the “ecosystem” by the Development Agency - such as education, technical assistance, the hosting of collective start-ups, hosting and support of local initiatives (e.g. “Karditsa

restart”, a contact group of young people, a Roma association etc.) - have an innovative character.

Finally, some services and financial tools developed by the Cooperative Bank, which is an active member of the “ecosystem”, were developed and applied for the first time in the country: Examples are microfinance (in cooperation with EIF), the establishment of a fund for social economy etc.

The dissemination of this model of cooperation all over the country, through the CLLD/LEADER programme, is a priority of local authorities.

Resources

The initiative is the result of a long-lasting strategy and was implemented mainly based on volunteer work. Occasionally, different kind of additional resources were used, such as:

1. LEADER (CLLD) to finance the investments of cooperatives;
2. EaSI and EIF guarantees to support the microfinance programme of the Cooperative Bank;
3. Erasmus+ to cover some of the training needs of the cooperatives;
4. H2020 to participate in research related to the (development) plans of the cooperatives themselves or the “ecosystem” as a whole;
5. Own contribution by the members of the cooperatives to the investment plans (mobilisation of local capital);
6. ESF programs to support networking and visibility of the social economy sector.

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Elf Around!Group (EVS project)
Presented by Nuorisokeskus Villa Elba (FI)

Context

Youth Centre Villa Elba has created an exciting and different annual volunteering project for young people in which also young people with fewer opportunities can participate despite low language skills or social, economic or educational problems. In this project, strong cooperation with the public authorities (Finnish National Agency for Education, schools and

kindergartens), third sector actors (service home for elderly persons, Red Cross) and the local community is important for volunteers in order to perform a meaningful work that impact on the local community. We also want to share our cultural habits, and what would be more Finnish than elves?

Description of the initiative

The Elf path and Elf School create natural contacts and interaction between people from different cultures. The aim is to empower young people and help them to acquire skills that enable them to find new paths, to bring internationality into the everyday life of locals and to give children exciting experiences in the nature nearby with elves.

Encouraging the mobility of young people has been a cornerstone in Villa Elba’s activities from the very beginning. Our international activities are based on communality, solidarity, equity, equality, multiculturalism, internationalism, healthy lifestyle and respect for the environment and life. Our role as a development center for international youth work is to support actors in the youth field to gain international experiences.

Elf around is a concept aiming both to empower young people with fewer opportunities and to create a safe space for intercultural exchange. In the framework of the project, volunteers plan and implement an Elf path for kids at kindergarten age, Elf schools for pupils in local schools and visits in homes for the elderly with Christmas carols and handmade Christmas cards.

During the project, we are building on a multifaceted cooperation with the city of Kokkola. To give just one example: The department of education helps with marketing the project to schools and kindergartens, the environmental office offers material for decoration from forests owned by the city. We also cooperate with the Kokkotyö foundation: They manufacture elf hats that we give to the children as a welcoming gift. Through cooperation with elderly services and third sector actors working voluntarily with elderly people we get in contact with persons who would like to receive visits from the volunteers.

Volunteers develop their own ability to organize and use their creativity and sense of initiative and other strengths in the planning and preparation of Elf path and Elf school programmes. They also gain experience when acting as elves and interacting with children.

Added value

This concept has been developed drawing on years of experimentation with European partners. It offers volunteering opportunities for youngsters for whom it is almost impossible to find volunteering placements. The target group for this project are thus young people with fewer opportunities. We want to support unemployed young people, persons with social, economic and educational difficulties or low language skills to gain new experiences and skills that empower them and help them to move forward in their life.

We have built up well-working and trustable networks with actors who work with young people with fewer opportunities. The networks are well set up with annual meetings and common strategies. We have worked several years on creating support measures for young people with fewer opportunities. We all share the values of the Council of Europe and work for equal rights for each and every one.

Partnership

This project is realized with our partners from ENYC (European Network for Youth Centres), Platform (network for European youth activities) and Rückenwind (network specialized in young people with fewer opportunities). The partners have selected volunteers that benefit the most from participation and support them during the preparation stage. In some cases they send a support person along with the volunteer to ensure a good start in the foreign country. They keep contacts with their volunteer during the volunteering period and after her/his return they organize evaluation meetings to plan and support future steps.

Results and Perspectives

During the project, 180 children from local kindergartens visited our centre and took part in the Elf path. 60 pupils took part in the Elf school. We also organized a family evening and 250 persons took part in this activity.

The feedback from visitors was very positive: the children liked the programme, became curious about other cultures and learned new games, songs and expressions from the volunteers. Feedback from the volunteers indicated that they acquired new skills, developed their cultural and social competences, improved their language skills.

Villa Elba got positive visibility in the local community through the newspaper articles, television news and in social media and this meant that we could result in that we could bring forward our mission, values and services for

different groups. The project helped in internationalization at home, as local people got possibilities to interact with people from other cultures.

Resources

For the mobility costs we apply for funding from the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme - the Finnish National Agency for Education administrates this programme in Finland. Villa Elba takes in charge administration costs and staff working on planning and implementing the project.

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COOPINTE - Cooperación-integración-intercooperación empresarial (ES)

Context

COOPINTE is a heterogeneous second-degree cooperative constituted in 2000 as a consequence of the strong economic crisis in the 80's. At that time, the local administration encouraged the creation of cooperatives and other social economy enterprises in order to strengthen the local economy through the existing endogenous resources, thus by using social economy entrepreneurship formulas and the integration of the latter into a new entity. The ratio behind this approach consists in the conviction that cooperation is the right formula to face new challenges and overcome difficulties, e.g. both the high unemployment rate and the lack of entrepreneurial initiatives.

Description of the initiative

COOPINTE has the objective to promote cooperation and integration among enterprises - "inter-cooperation"- in order to show how working together is the best way to promote the interests of everyone and achieve a win-win situation. The initiative takes advantage of the economic and human dimension of the group of cooperative companies and partner institutions of COOPINTE, whilst providing them and their associates with a wide variety of services under preferential conditions.

It is important to COOPINTE to demonstrate that this model is viable and works, and that the motto "another way of doing business is possible" is true:

COOPINTE is an example of it.

COOPINTE has been a pioneer in Andalusia in bringing together diverse economic sectors and the public administration. This public-private collaboration had the aim to achieve common and beneficial objectives for all.

At present, Juan Antonio García García is the President of the cooperative - he is also the Mayor of the municipality of Bonares and the President of the Community for the Development of Huelva County. He is firmly convinced of the strength of entrepreneurial inter-cooperation, especially when the entrepreneurial formula is based on social economy.

COOPINTE activities are primarily based on the creation and application of economies of scale and entrepreneurial synergies that have been developed by the co-operative for more than 16 years. Providing of more and better services (insurance, prevention of occupational risks, technical equipment etc.) for its associates and partners and using and further developing the market power that its cooperative dimension offers are the most significant activities of COOPINTE.

The cooperative has signed various agreements with entities and professionals in sectors such as financial services, insurance, labor mutualism, telephony, optics, pharmacy, law, fire extinguishing systems, crime prevention, etc. This was done in order to facilitate the access to such services, under preferential conditions, to the members of the cooperative, receiving advantages that would be impossible to obtain individually.

Concerning the promotion of professional training for the workers of the affiliated entities, as well as for the general public, a number of initiatives are organized, at different levels, for beginners and independent users (such as courses for enterprises processing food on occupational risk prevention, professional driving courses, informatics).

The dissemination of relevant information for the sectors, partners and groups with which the cooperative works, as well as the promotion of cooperativism and of social economy in general is an additional pillar of activity of COOPINTE. Here, COOPINTE counts on the support and collaboration of the Local Development Agency, located in the same headquarters as COOPINTE, the Cade (Center for the Support to Business Development) and of the Entrepreneurial Orientation services of the Community for the Development of Huelva and Adercon Counties.

Added value

For COOPINTE, not only the economic aspect, but also the social one is

important. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is currently a matter of utmost importance for all members of the company, in order to favor the general interest.

In the framework of the CSR activities of the enterprise, there is an agreement with a legal firm that has led, among other advantages, to a free advice service and primary legal consultation. Moreover, an additional discount on fees for services of judicial or extrajudicial nature, to be applied following the guiding scales set by the Huelva Bar Association, has also been achieved. Even topics as technical as evictions or specific clauses in mortgages are matters of interest for COOPINTE, which acts in this way as a citizen-oriented information office.

Another important point to highlight is the membership in COOPINTE of the local administration (currently holding the presidency), which implies a fruitful closeness when it comes to solving a number of questions that may arise to member enterprises.

Partnership

Members of the COOPINTE are:

- S. Coop. And. Hortofrutícola de Bonares: horticultural sector,
- S. Coop. And. Industrial “ San Cristóbal”: transport sector,
- S. Coop. And. San Francisco de Borja: consumption sector,
- S. Coop. And. Autoescuela Rábida: driving school sector,
- Mediadores de Seguros y Cooperación Solidaria , S. Coop. And.: insurance sector,
- Mancomunidad de Desarrollo del Condado de Huelva: supramunicipal entity,
- Ayuntamiento de Bonares: local administration.

All the partners contribute to keep the inter-cooperation alive and count on COOPINTE. A number of services for enterprises are jointly managed.

S. Coop. And. Hortofrutícola de Bonares and S. Coop. And. Industrial “San Cristóbal”, to provide an example, form their employees in the headquarters of COOPINTE and at the same time ask for qualified personnel through the Local Development Agency of the City of Bonares or the business orientation service of the Mancomunidad de Municipios (supramunicipal entity).

Through the partner Mediadores de Seguros y Cooperación Solidaria, S. Coop. (insurance sector) all COOPINTE members manage their insurance policies, therewith obtaining enormous economic advantages they could not achieve individually.

Results and Perspectives

More than 16 years of activity as well as the increasing interest that our model of joint work is receiving, especially in these times of crisis, endorse our initiative. More and more companies are interested in the advantages of belonging to our unique enterprise group.

To mention some figures: COOPINTE holds agreements with financial instruments for about € 35.000.000 and an insurance agreement of about € 80.000. The savings that COOPINTE associates have with each agreement are considerable. The greater the volume of requested services, the greater are the advantages the cooperative receives in supplies.

Service providers contact us, too, because they are interested in signing collaboration agreements.

In addition, we have made available to new companies some premises within our headquarters in order to facilitate their integration into our cooperative. COOPINTE is thus acting as an “entrepreneurial incubator”.

Since we have achieved a great degree of economic development and social welfare thanks to the inter-cooperation developed via COOPINTE, which is based on the union of cooperativism, social economy and public administration, the objective is to continue to welcome enterprises willing to become more competitive, whilst at the same time addressing the general interest.

Resources

The cooperative received, at its inception, an initial compulsory contribution of each of its partners to the social capital. It also benefited from specific external financing based on a collaboration agreement with a financial entity. Additional support came from the local administration as well as from the PRODER EU project, without which it would have not been possible to set up and make COOPINTE real. The objective is to continue to count on external support in order to be able to grow and extend this model of inter-cooperation also outside our borders thanks to cooperative exchanges.

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Nya Rågsveds Folkets Hus/Community House of Rågsved (SE)

Context

Rågsved is a Stockholm suburb of the 50's. A modern working class area when it was built, but which successively receded into a derelict area where low income, high unemployment and a low education level prevail. The city counts 12 000 inhabitants, of which a very high share are of foreign origin (68 per cent).

Nya Rågsveds Folkets Hus (NRFH)/Community House of Rågsved was created in 1997, as one of the responses to this situation, to involve citizens and the local civil society.

Description of the initiative

The objective of NRFH is to organize, within a broad public/private/social partnership, a democratic infrastructure for bottom-up participation and social cohesion by giving disadvantaged citizens access to facilities promoting employment, education and culture through their associations and cooperation between the latter.

NRFH is a local support structure for community initiatives. Moreover, it provides legal and other services to the citizens in the area. It is very broad in its approach covering all population groups of Rågsved promoting a large number of their initiatives (employment, social, culture, integration etc). NRFH employs nearly 100 persons, of which 30 are permanent employees in NRFH and its affiliated social enterprises and another 60 find themselves in employment and job-training activities financed by the public labour market authorities.

NRFH is a membership organization based on cooperative principles (e.g. one member-one vote). Members (around 35) are local voluntary associations and networks of other individual associations (organizing ethnical groups, youth, elderly, women etc.) as well as local political parties and trade unions. NRFH works closely with its different members to solve their needs. It is also active in setting up new voluntary associations by giving advice.

NRFH works in a close partnership with the decentralized local authority of the area.

It also cooperates with the local association of private business.

NRFH is the owner of two social enterprises (recycling and catering/events) which provide jobs to long-term unemployed in the area, with a total of 20 employees.

Other concrete activities in which NRFH and its partners participate include, for instance, the integration of newly arrived refugees and EU migrants, preventive actions for elderly people, the organization of summer jobs for youth, the provision and organization of meeting places for drug addicts, the defense of social and economic rights of the individual citizen towards the local and central public authorities, development of new green technology based on circular economy for underground cultivation, city gardening and greening open spaces, work on security in public spaces, work on and with street arts and graffiti, an Arts gallery (Swedish excellency award 2016), a social food shop (social enterprise for food distribution – lower prices, reducing waste), a boxing Club, or the organization of activities for children including homework help.

Added Value

- The organization of a meeting place recognized and well known by everyone in the community.
- Easy access for everyone.
- Developing new initiatives such as, currently, circular economy and actions against hate crime.
- Support to voluntary associations.
- Support to the creation of new associations (examples: boxing Club, association for ex-convicts etc.).
- The very close cooperation with the decentralized services of the city of Stockholm, in particular with those focused on children, elderly and social services in general.
- Support by local political parties – some of them are members - in the process.
- Very close collaboration with local private business.

Partnership

Our public/social/private partnership consist of:

- The members – having their say in NRFH-related matters, submitting requests to NRFH to find solutions, organizing joint projects with NRFH;
- Public authorities (city and state authorities) – recognizing NRFH as a partner, finding joint solutions to problems of the local community;
- Local private businesses (with which NRFH has common projects

on employment, green technology and security).

Other non-member partners are using the facilities (e.g. the regional adult education association, the national trade union help center for undocumented workers). Finally it seems worth to mention that NRFH is a member of a nation-wide association of community houses where it is used as a pilot example.

Results and Perspectives

NRFH develops concrete responses to the needs of the citizens in Rågsved – a lot of activities and events are organized, jobs are created, job-training is promoted. Activities contribute to raise the education level of a number of persons. Concrete cultural projects (e.g. Arts Gallery) are implemented. An increasing number of citizens participate and the objective is to mobilise even more.

NRFH is recognised at the local and regional level (city of Stockholm) and at the national level (Sweden) – it receives study visits from other regions and even abroad, is quoted in the media etc.

Social innovations are inherent in the project as the NRFH has a holistic view involving many partners and being a catalyzer for ideas to create community welfare. Developing green technology is a recent social innovation.

The action will continue. An important goal is to spread the model to other communities.

Resources

At the start in 1997 a small subsidy from the local authority was not sufficient to run the project. Therefore NRFH was obliged to create market activities. Today its turnover from the activities amounts to around SEK 20 million (sales from social enterprises, events etc). A local authority subsidy of SEK 1,4 million is granted to the community house.

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UP Sceaux Presented by UP Campus (FR)

Context

In 2012, in the framework of a citizen consultation, the inhabitants of the French city of Sceaux attracted the attention of the city government and administration on their wish to have “places to meet, to get to know each other, to share experiences and know-how” and “projects serving the territory which contribute to local development and welfare of the inhabitants and in which inhabitants can engage, work, collaborate and cooperate”.

Against this background, the city of Sceaux got in touch with Groupe SOS and its social network UP Campus. This is how the first local branch of UP Campus was created: UP Sceaux. UP Campus is one of the projects of the UP Movement (UP Conf’, UP le Mag, UP Fest, UP Factory) which is led by Groupe SOS.

Description of the initiative

The social network UP Sceaux aims to facilitate the identification of general interest-related projects led by the inhabitants of the city of Sceaux. These projects will then be accompanied by the municipality and its different partners in order to facilitate their full implementation and to contribute therewith to the transition to a sustainable city with a reinforced citizen participation.

UP Sceaux is coordinated jointly by the teams of the UP Mouvement and the city of Sceaux.

This work consists mainly in the animation of the social network through which the different local actors (citizens, support structures, incubators, municipal services, associations, enterprises, public institutions, educational institutions etc.) share their ideas, projects, wishes and competences. This social network forms thus an ecosystem of players willing to engage in the co-construction of solutions to the needs and challenges of the territory.

Due to its local anchorage and network, the city of Sceaux acts as a “facilitator” of projects in as far as it can mobilise its network of institutions and their resources to make advance a project that responds to a specific local need. In this way, the city of Sceaux identifies through Up Sceaux wishes and needs, but also initiatives led by different local players. This has transformed the

way public policies are conceived towards an emphasis on co-construction processes.

In order to encourage the inhabitants of the city of Sceaux to get involved in the matters of their city, UP Campus mobilises on a regular basis the resources of the UP Mouvement for the organisation of encounters and exchange between different local players. These physical meetings are fundamental, as it is, actually, impossible to bring together and engage citizens in the long term on the basis of a digital tool only. Therefore, UP Sceaux organises conferences on various type of topics to which all inhabitants are invited. This generates encounters, new initiatives, opportunities.

To give just one example: A couple had opened, in Paris, a temporary 100% vegetal restaurant using local organic and seasonal products. Numerous interactions and contacts they had through the social network and conferences encouraged them to open their restaurant full time in Sceaux. For this to happen, citizens, a municipal service and start-up support structures accompanied them with their specific competences.

Added value

UP Sceaux is an instrument conceived for the inhabitants of the city of Sceaux after a citizen consultation. The latter was the motivation and legitimisation for the decision to have UP Campus in Sceaux.

The teams of the city of Sceaux are particularly engaged in the realisation of this project, as they consider it as a means to make political practices and relations between the different players evolve in a territory evaluate: A strong political backing is fundamental for this kind of initiative.

The social network is put at disposal by the Mouvement UP which develops it at local level in a partnership perspective. The Mouvement UP shares thus with UP Sceaux its resources (which is basically its network) in order to make this partnership the most complete and mutually advantageous as possible.

Partnership

The two main partners of the project are Mouvement UP and the city of Sceaux.

The Mouvement UP ensures the technical management of UP Sceaux and its coherence with the rest of UP Campus. The city of Sceaux is in charge of making UP Sceaux known on its territory. It also animates the social network. The aim of this project is to bring people and organisations in contact with each other and to promote encounters, the creation of synergies and co-construction.

Every partner mobilises his/her respective networks in order for UP Sceaux to be a dynamic platform where those visiting it find what they are looking for (advice, competences, projects, information).

Mouvement UP, for example, will mobilise its VIP network for interventions during conferences. Among those VIP figure, for example, Edgar Morin, Pierre Rabhi, Muhammad Yunus, etc.

The city of Sceaux will mobilise different local players that could help projects to advance: a support network, a finance structure, an association, etc.

Results and Perspectives

A number of projects that emerged in Sceaux passed through UP Sceaux. This is a proof of the potential this platform has to bring together different players, resources and ideas that all benefit from their cooperation. Beside the case of the 100% vegetal restaurant, we could also mention, as examples, the establishment of a co-working and telework space, the creation of a MOOC on the social and solidarity economy (in cooperation with the University of Sceaux), the set-up of a network of volunteers visiting isolated elderly people, etc...

Resources

The majority of resources is provided by Mouvement UP and Groupe SOS. The city of Sceaux finances the local version of UP Campus (5000€) as well as maintenance and management fees of UP Sceaux (1000€ a year).

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Univerbal
Presented by Le Monde des Possibles (BE)

Context

The right to understand and receive appropriate communication support for newcomers is a civil right and fundamental to an inclusive and democratic society that seeks to ensure that it provides for the needs of all its citizens.

The impact of recent migration flows into Europe has been felt and it shows the necessity to develop energies and to try to find a solution for the access of migrant women to the labour market. We planned to found and implement an interpreting service as a part of the solution and to develop best practices for this.

The main motivations of the current Univerbal interpreting service are a) to promote the sharing of resources among a wide range of municipality services to migrants and community-based organizations and b) to empower refugees and immigrant women through training of interpreting service skills. Since 2001, we are witnessing shortcomings regarding the gender equality dimension and a lack of consideration of migrant women in the Belgian labour market. 'Deskilling' is often reported by our training participants as the only way to find a job, often only a part-time one. The different levels of state in Belgium, with their different conceptions of migration policies in different regions, fail to recognise the rights and needs of migrant women. So we have created our own multilayer migrant-led initiative.

Description of the initiative

Le Monde des Possibles (MDP) was founded in 2001 to promote services and integration for all immigrants and their families regardless of their immigration status in the East of Belgium, mainly in the city of Liege. It actively promotes access to literacy, ICT and programs for French as second language, social & legal services, civic engagement, legalisation, freedom of movement in the EU, and family reunification. MDP works to achieve this mission of promotion of immigrant rights through intercultural popular education building grassroots leadership, providing assistance with free immigration legal services, promoting community education and training in French as second language and carrying out different initiatives to empower immigrants.

Each week, MDP works with 205 trainees (69 nationalities – 410 languages) :

- it aims to support the fundamental rights of migrants in the East of Belgium (in Liege province) with literacy in French as second language and digital programs. MDP believes that empowered relationships may emerge between people by crossing public and individual claims. It implements various local initiatives and also considers unemployed, seniors, women and youth (transversal approaches).

- MDP is dedicated to European projects inspired by what they experience on the front line in a multiplier approach.

The main objectives of the MDP non-profit organisation are:

- To identify the needs and concerns of immigrants;
- To provide French as a second language course and ICT literacy programs from Monday until Friday 9 AM to 4 PM;
- To propose, contribute and respond efficiently in order to inform and develop relevant city policies and practices among all stakeholders;
- To increase civic and social participation of disenfranchised immigrant communities in diverse projects;
- To strengthen accountability of local governments to their immigrant constituents;
- To recognise the diverse contributions of Liège immigrants and support solidarity actions;
- To support cross-cultural understanding and inclusion.

Added value

The partnership for translation and interpretation services that was established citywide in Liège tends to arrive on the “public support” agenda (we plan to introduce a project for the ERDF call 2 “Urban innovative action” together). The Univerbal interpreting services are considered of central importance in facilitating access to mainstream services for ethnic minorities and migrant groups for whom French is not the first language. In recent months, this has included the need to provide interpreting assistance to frontline municipality service staff who are dealing with an increasing number of Eastern European languages, as well as languages spoken by asylum seekers and refugees (Syrian, Kurd from Irak, Dari, Urdu (Pakistan), Yoruba (Benin), Nepalese, Berber, Arabic, Pashtun (Afghanistan), Peul / Pulaar, Lingala (RDC), Kicongo, Bangu, Dioula, Fulfulde, Tshiluba, Lari, Chechene, Serbian, Albanian, Mbochi, Mbembe, Baham, Romanis, Nalu (Niger), Baga, Chinese, Malenké, Loma...).

Partnership

For now, the following six local and regional partners work together in Univerbal: Citadel Hospital, the Intercultural mediation service, the Regional Centre for the Integration of foreigners, the Public Social Support Centre, the Red Cross branch of Liège Province and the Regional centre of French literacy. This wide partnership coordinates and does much more than just delivering interpreting services in a broad range of languages through a joint approach taking into account also the needs of providers of municipality services. All

these institutions are open to support our trainees (by 48 hours of internship) and take the following legislative and policy challenges into account: to emphasise community empowerment, to put equality as a fundament of policies, to fight against racism, to define the right and entitlements to the assistance of an interpreter, to contribute to the development of the social interpreter function framework with Mons University.

Results and Perspectives

The actions we proposed were dedicated to work on the essential role migrant women play in the labour market. It is not a secret that they are segregated compared to non-foreign-born women. The interpreting service we have implemented with migrant women tries to fight against a traditional view of the role of women (e.g. as domestic workers and as care workers, “ethnostratification” of the labour market) that limits the personal rights and potential of these women and makes them become dependent on their husband. Our training program tried to take into account access to the workplace (or to create this access) and professional recognition in interpreting skills.

Still in progress, we are working with Liège municipality and regional migration services with the objective to:

1. clarify the social interpreter job functions to create a professional framework which would ensure that appropriate quality assurance processes are checked. In this context we are developing a certificate that testifies a qualified staff is trained to standards,
2. enhance the capacity and quality of interpretation of meetings on specific semantic issues (FGM, debts, housing, asylum procedure...) to cope with the vocabulary of municipality specialists through quality training and simulation,
3. carry out a constant evaluation of interpreting assignments to verify that the individual needs are being met,
4. ensure that interpreters receive appropriate payment for their job – contracts between skilled migrants and public bodies following a tendering process,
5. give interpreters the knowledge concerning the environment and operating processes of different departments of the municipality.

The results of our initiative visible are published on the project blog “Projet Univerbal” (<https://projetuniverbal.wordpress.com>). The Univerbal group of interpreting women produced the professional code of ethics (<https://projetuniverbal.wordpress.com/2016/11/22/notre-code-deontologie/>),

they translated the project presentation on the MDP website (<http://www.possibles.org/univerbal-version-arabe/>), they translated communication flyers for non-profit organisations in Liège (<https://projetuniverbal.wordpress.com/2016/12/13/traduction-arabe-les-parents-et-lecole-maternelle/>). In 2015-2016, the interpreting service of Le Monde des Possibles received more than 15 translation requests and 45 interpreting requests. The interpreting women were paid for all these requests. We plan to further promote the self-management of this interpreting service that already started thanks to cooperation with an interpreting woman who was involved in the Univerbal Project in 2016.

Resources

Supported by the European Social Fund/AMIF in 2016, we think such an interpreting service could inspire changes in current legislation and be a good practice to improve labour market participation of migrant women. We are convinced that this kind of initiative could be developed more widely all over Europe. The model of our multilayer project is now introduced in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine EMR33 InterReg call, another configuration of this concept is prepared for a European cooperative model in Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership/Social Dialogue in DG Employment.

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Le Mat Jonsereds fabriker (SE)

Context

The initiative started 4 years ago with the aim to help unemployed and excluded people to set up a social economy enterprise. The group of trainees were selected through open information meetings about the opportunity of social economy and, at the end, interested people had to apply. 22 people were admitted to participate in the project. Most of them have a migration background, some are Roma and some people with different disabilities. The entrepreneurial idea the group worked on was the touristic development

of the Partille rural area near Gothenburg where people once worked in the big industry. The project work of the group was focused on searching opportunities in the whole area. After 2 years of mapping and researching they concentrated on the opportunity to open a Hotel and a restaurant in an old huge textile factory, which is now part of a very interesting regeneration project.

Description of the initiative

The main objective of the initiative is to set-up a sustainable social economy enterprise able to create jobs and to help people to become active citizens and social entrepreneurs. In addition, it appeared important to work on a strong regeneration process because after the past strong focus on industry now it is time to involve the community in a new development process.

The initiative is quite complex and brought together, over a duration of 4 years, the municipality, the local labour office, a social economy development agency, the European Le Mat network, the private property of the factory area, the local community, civil servants, social workers and the unemployed marginalized people, their families and friends and obviously the 16 main actors setting up the social cooperative and the support people working together with them. The process started involving the whole community through workshops and information moments around what the social economy is and can do. The next step was to select a group of people who really wanted to participate from the beginning in a planning and start-up process. The entrepreneurial training program started in January 2016 with general information and examples of what a social economy enterprise can/could in this area. People participated in mapping community resources, landscape, strengths and highlights of the area and in the meantime started to put together some idea of what they would like to do. Le Mat activities in Sweden, Italy and other countries were important examples to analyze and to use for a possible transfer of experience. From the very beginning the Jonsereds fabriker - a space with a possibility to open a hotel - was a clear target of the group but it was not so easy to come in contact with the private owner. In April 2016 negotiations started and in July an agreement was found to rent a complete floor with around 700 m² to be restored and used as a hotel. Moreover, the initiative was given the opportunity to manage the restaurant which could welcome all the new users of the fabriker area. Since the agreement the training program became a real business planning program which is still going on. The Hotel will open in July 2017, the restaurant already in May 2017 and the Café in March 2017.

Added Value

We are convinced that the main strength is the bottom-up approach: The process involves the whole community – public and private parts. Marginalized people are the driving actors, those that guide a complete regeneration process. From exclusion towards social entrepreneurship! In addition, people with migration background can really discover their talents and values in the hotel and restaurant business. They are used to diversity and like to welcome people from abroad. The choice of the location in the former Jonsereds fabriker is a very good one, as 70 new small firms are located there, which may guarantee from the very beginning clients not only for the restaurant but also for the hotel. The partnership involves the local community but also many private companies.

Partnership

The first important partner was the local municipality and labour office who wanted to foster the development of social economy as a way to work on inclusion and job creation. The second important partner was a development agency agreeing to participate in this process. The development agency asked to a person specialized in social economy and empowering processes to coordinate the process and to follow the project. This person involved a lot of partners and activated resources, including a European network such as Le Mat. But the main actors are the unemployed people who asked to participate. They are following a difficult training program since more than 1 year. The mentors and facilitators following this process are also very important. And last but not least one should not forget the private owner of Jonsereds fabriker.

Results and Perspectives

Up to date the most important results are:

- the constitution of a group of people who really want to take the responsibility to act as social entrepreneurs managing the hotel and the restaurant ;
- a signed contract with the private owner for the management of the hotel and the restaurant;
- a business plan established in a collective process where the main actors were fully involved;
- the constitution of a social cooperative in June 2017 to manage all this.

As we already said the Hotel will open in July 2017 and the restaurant already in May. However, until the opening of the restaurant and in order to exercise and start marketing, the cooperative will manage a coffee shop in the fabriker

area. A huge adventure, but as the group is strong and speaks many languages we are sure they will succeed.

Resources

A group of persons involved in the initiative had been working with Le Mat since many years.

A pre-study was funded by the European Social Fund. The municipality of Partille was one of the development partners. Training was funded by the European Social Fund together with the City of Partille. The start-up of the social co-operative is financed through a mix of funding provided by Mikrofonden Väst, the Swedbank and Almi (a governmental fund for enterprises). Obviously, the income from the commercial activities will have to ensure the viability and sustainability of the cooperative.

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Partnerships at Intermunicipal/ Regional level

Ateneus Cooperative Network
Presented by Regional Catalan Government. Department of
Employment, Social Affairs and Family

Context

Catalan social economy is both relevant and multisectoral. It employs over 10% of the working population, accounts for 8% of the country's GDP, and provides a home to some 60,000 organizations that bring together and serve some five million people. Every day, new and innovative social economic initiatives appear, outlining a new labour and economic paradigm that is principled, inclusive, sustainable and rooted in its territory. Despite this, some needs have been clearly identified: Presence is lacking in business education and in opinion shaping among its professional agents. This is why the governmental bodies and institutions must be involved, to ensure the continued momentum and resources needed for social economy enterprises to grow and strengthen their foundations.

Description of the initiative

Catalonia's firm commitment to the social economy and cooperativism as an entrepreneurial model to generate stable high-quality employment has led to the creation of the Ateneus Cooperative Network, a group of ten cooperatives, third sector and local authorities alliances representing a total of 112 local and private entities spread throughout the territory. The Ateneus Cooperative Network pursues the following goals:

- to create forums to strengthen the social and cooperative economy in the region in order to collectively advance towards a just and cohesive society;
- to foment the creation of social and cooperative economy enterprises in order to create more and higher-quality jobs.

The creation of the Ateneus Cooperatius Network is supported by the structural and economic impetus of the Government of Catalonia, including involvement of representative bodies in the social and cooperative economy and direct involvement in the territory.

In the creation and execution of activities, the collaboration between public and private entities in the local social economy is considered indispensable.

They have to work together to provide a meeting place for coordination, learning and discussion, cooperation and social transformation with certain shared principles such as social justice, direct, deliberative and participatory democracy, degrowth and sustainability, as well as equity and solidarity.

In addition to the specific actions planned in each territory, the action plans of each association which is part of the Ateneus Cooperatius Network include shared resources and support services aimed at creating and maintaining cooperatives and enterprises that help job seekers finding employment in enterprises in the social and cooperative economy. At the same time they are promoting the cooperative system and labour associations in general and they support workers in companies near closure and workers approaching retirement. Actions that target students and teachers in vocational training, as well as tools and resources for experts are also planned.

In addition to carrying out the planned actions, each associations has a dual mission:

- to promote the visibility and involvement of the association as part of a regional network that coordinates actions, shares experiences, transfers knowledge and takes part in the network's larger projects.
- to increase the number of participating entities in the territory of each cultural association.

Other complementary individual projects have also been launched. In 2017, enterprises in the social economy and the public sector executed 15 projects aimed at creating jobs and businesses in the social economy.

To ensure that the network of these associations functions correctly, the Aracoop advisory board was created. The board is comprised of representatives of the Government of Catalonia and entities representing the cooperative sector of the economy and the third sector.

Added Value

The Ateneus Cooperatius Network is a strategic project that empowers initiatives whilst allowing the local territories to play the leading role. Its key strengths include the following:

- a. For the first time the social and cooperative economy is being promoted locally, in the territories, through initiatives presented jointly by public and private entities.
- b. Initial goals were the establishment of cooperatives and the creation of jobs. However, also opportunities for the expansion of existing initiatives, capitalization and network reinforcement have been created.

c. The partnership between the government and bodies representing the social and cooperative economy is also documented in the final definition, activities, follow-up and evaluation of the project.

The network is guaranteed to continue to grow and expand in the long term with the involvement of all member entities and their participation in consolidating the network.

Partnership

The Ateneus Cooperatius Network was launched in 2016 through the establishment of a group of ten alliances representing 112 entities from the social and cooperative economy and local authorities spread throughout the territory of Catalonia. Each alliances, in accordance with the characteristics and specificities of each territory, is composed of public and private organizations, some of which are cooperatives and local organizations in the social economy.

These associations define and coordinate actions undertaken by their members according to their ability and experience. All of them are responsible for providing services, a shared meeting space and addressing the needs of individuals and organizations in the region. They must have personnel with sufficient training and experience to provide information, assessment and support for actions that promote the social economy.

The territories with associations that are part of the Ateneus Cooperatius Network are Tarragona, Girona, Barcelona, Terres de l'Ebre, Alt Pirineu i Aran, Baix Llobregat, Maresme, Catalunya Central, Vallès Occidental and Barcelonès Nord.

Results and Perspectives

The creation of the Ateneus Cooperatius Network has led to quantitative results that could be summarized as follows:

- One thousand people participate in and are served by each association, except in areas with a low population density where the number amounts to approximately five hundred people.
- At least 30 social economy enterprises have been created, with the exception of Alt Pirineu i Aran and Terres de l'Ebre where half of this figure could be reached.
- A minimum of 5% job placements in companies and cooperatives is guaranteed.

From a qualitative point of view, activities set out in the action plans that ensure quality should be pursued in coordination with the other associations

in the network.

Resources

Catalonia's budget of 14 million euros positions it as one of the territories that invest the most in the social and cooperative economy. To ensure the sustainability of the cooperative associations, other subsidies that contribute to the growth and consolidation of the social economy should be promoted through the Aracoop program, individual projects that generate employment, programs that facilitate access to credit and strengthen business capitalization, financial investment and working capital lines, financial assistance for integrating new members and support for representational organizations.

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City Plus

Presented by the Social Economy Institute (GR)

Context

The City PLUS project brings together the Cities of Delphi, Loutraki-Perachora-Hagioi Theodoroi and Servia-Velventos which form a coalition directed by the Social Economy Institute, the Wuppertal Institute, the GLS social bank and the energy cooperative Energiegewinner eG. The aim is to invest in the retrofitting of municipal buildings generating electricity via photo-voltaic panels, downsizing the operational costs and fees imposed to citizens, opening-up a new financing line for the city budget via NSRF and EFSI and engage in the establishment of the first citizens-contracting energy cooperatives in Greece.

Description of the initiative

Specific objectives of City PLUS are

- (a) to create a coalition of Greek cities that share efforts and resources for the first energy sustainability project through social innovation in Greece;
- (b) to leverage public, private, NSRF, EFSI and social finance for the retrofitting of public facilities aiming to reach sustainable power generation, through the

formation of citizens-led social cooperatives in Greece.

The Social Economy Institute is directing the creation and fine-tuning of the network. The three Greek cities provide municipal buildings for the initial pilot assessment and the actual retrofitting exercise. The Wuppertal Institute coordinates the technical studies. The energy cooperative Energiegewinner provides expertise for a replication path, especially regarding infrastructure and economic-technical operation. GLS intends to engage by issuing securitization, credit and social bond lines for the construction phase.

Key to the intervention model is the establishment of local social cooperatives set-up by citizens in the field of energy-production so as to open up citizens-contracting lines. The Social Economy Institute is working on the optimal juridical form for the local social cooperatives and the consortium as a whole, taking stock of the existing legislative context both in Greece and the EU.

Consistent effort is invested in finding ways to combine public budgets with private investment capital, subsidies and social finance by the NSRF, EFSI and social banks.

Added Value

The Greek crisis has led to a dramatic downsizing of municipal budgets to an unsustainable level. Actual operational costs related to energy consumption of public facilities are disproportional. Latent public, private and social banking capital is available for investments in energy sustainability. At the same time, citizens would be eager to participate in social cooperatives operating the energy-production installations. The City PLUS consortium builds critical mass, bringing together representative actors of the ecosystem so as to achieve this goal.

Partnership

The Social Economy Institute fine-tunes the consortium. The Greek Municipalities of Delphi, Loutraki-Perachora-Hagioi Theodoroi provide public facilities and buildings for the task of assessing, installing and operating photo-voltaics. The Wuppertal Institute and the Energiegewinner cooperative provide know-how. GLS is committed to finance the project in the deployment phase.

Results and perspectives

A consortium has already been set up by the three Greek Municipalities and the Social Economy Institute. The Social Economy Institute, the Wuppertal Institute and Energiegewinner are committing own funding for the project

which has an estimated budget of 1.1 million EUR for the assessment and capacity-building phase. Around 50% of own funding is foreseen. GLS has committed to issue financial instruments for the deployment phase. Actions are now under way to ensure funding from other public and private sources. A well-articulated action plan is already deployed for engaging citizens.

Resources

The consortium has filed a funding proposal to the Greek NSRF which could eventually contribute around 700.000 EUR. Another 450.000 EUR approx. will come from the Social Economy Institute, the Wuppertal Institute and Energiegewinner so as to conclude the capacity-building phase. The financing of the deployment phase will be ensured by GLS and other sources. All three Greek municipalities are already officially committing resources for the deployment of the City PLUS initiative in their region.

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Laboratorio TEU Frosinone (TEU.FR)
Presented by CESV – Centro Servizi per il Volontariato (IT)

Context

Frosinone is a rural province bordering in the metropolitan area on the Rome. It counts 495.000 inhabitants living in 91 municipalities of which only eight have more than 20.000 inhabitants and 67 less than 5.000 inhabitants. The structural crises which hit industrial areas and therewith also led to a crisis of identity of the small local communities has generated increasing poverty, a cut in public actions, the strong presence of a rather ageing population and a depopulation of the municipalities which was partially set off by the presence of migrants. New categories of persons living in poverty, which have difficulties in expressing their needs, force volunteer organisations to develop emergency interventions. In the Frosinone province approximately 500 associations are active in both volunteerism and advocacy.

Description of the initiative

The objectives of “Laboratory TEU Frosinone” are a) to overcome the fragmentation of the associations, b) to promote the construction of a social partnership based on a culture of giving and solidarity, c) to support the development, in social organisations, of the capacity to take part in collaborative and partnership-based governance models within their territories, d) to promote the use of the CLLD approach as model of local development steered and managed by the local community in order to transform the latter towards a more inclusive, solidarity-based and welcoming society – all this with interventions supported by ESIF funds.

TERRITORIO EUROPA is a project with which CESV promotes territorial laboratories of co-planning and aims to activate, in the Lazio region, strategic partnerships, territorial pacts and networks for local development. The laboratories are meeting places, places for co-planning, for the creation of links between people and organisations. They have the objective to help identifying needs, emerging dynamics within the territories and their specificities, project ideas and to build up interventions realised in networks. These networks develop innovative social services supporting the weak parts of society, active inclusion and work integration through the development of actions reinforcing the social economy, the development of social agriculture, actions to promote local development in urban and metropolitan areas. Laboratorio TEU.FR, founded in May 2015 in the Province of Frosinone by an associative network established as a laboratory of participatory planning, has reinterpreted the territory as a place of communities in which development can happen only through a consolidation of inclusive social relations. The development of a territory can be realised by a community which provides itself with territorial intelligence able to:

- identify available resources (competences, projects, relations, experiences, interests);
- integrate resources using a multi-dimensional approach (no sectoral, but inter-dependent projects);
- combining projects, participation and development, in the territories, of competences for cooperation.

The 23 associations that are part of Laboratorio TEU.FR are predominantly volunteer organisations, partially advocacy organisations. They are smaller and bigger associations with different missions acting on a broad spectrum of social problems. Their experiences reach from tackling older and newer forms of poverty and promoting social inclusion either through civic education or through the creation of employment/work integration. TEU.

FR has developed important relations with the local actions groups (LAGs) present on the territory. It also created a positive dialogue with representatives of industry and consolidated already existing relations with the local public administration (EE LL, ASL/FR – the health authority, schools and the University of Cassino). This system of relations, dialogue and project development led, in 2016, to the launch of two projects co-financed by the EU. Both projects are based on a social-public/private multi-stakeholder partnership.

Added value

The different organisations associated to Laboratorio TEU.FR share the idea that it is necessary, for the promotion of local development, to link, to economic and productive factors and interventions, the construction of solidarity-based, inclusive and welcoming communities. Associations, as part of the social economy, represent the paradigm of another economy based on solidarity, the value of human capital, relations, cooperation. Cooperation between associations that differ regarding their experience and dimensions, strengthened by a specific training on the development and management of communities, makes these principles become a fundament of all initiatives. The projects that have received EU-financing, but also other initiatives, proved that it is possible to a) involve organised citizens, also those belonging to weaker groups of society, and include them in the elaboration of proposals for different initiatives; b) develop the capacity to work on a concept of inclusion that brings together a culture of rights with a culture of giving in a perspective not only of assistance, but also of active participation; c) promote relations with public institutions, thereby reactivating their responsibilities and developing the culture of “taking in charge” understood as serving people, but also as a process of mobilisation and reinforcement of links within the community (see opinion of the EESC on CLLD, point 6.1).

Partnership

The following organisations belong to the TEU.FR partnership:

- in Frosinone: Cesv, ACLI, ANOLF, Città Futura, Ass. Nuovi Cittadini Ciociari, Oltre l’Occidente;
- in Ceccano: Ass. Altrementi, Famiglia Futura;
- in Cassino: Ass. Genitori Pio Di Meo, Centro dei diritti e della solidarietà, Giovani professionisti, Ass. Pier Paolo Pasolini;
- in Pontecorvo: Ass. Per Noi Donne;
- in Sora: Ass. Il faro Onlus; Ass. Genitori dei disabili, SOS Donna,

ACAT Ciociaria;

- in Anagni: Ass. Diritto alla Salute;
- in Roccasecca: Ass. Parkinson Ciociaria, Ass. FAND, Ass. Amici per Caprile;
- in Arce: La Lanterna.

All of them agree on the necessity to connect competences, solutions, capacities in order to respond, through projects and agreements to the social needs of the territory. Dozens and dozens of volunteers and professionals willing to work together, took this commitment in order to direct our communities towards a transition based on a solidarity and a welcoming culture.

Results and Perspectives

Selection of the DJAMBO project: Empowerment of the pathways that encourage migrants to fully assume responsibilities towards the territory they live in and that consider migrants as the main protagonists of social inclusion processes for a solidarity-based community. In this context, the project also promotes the creation of migrant associations.

Selection of the project COSTRUIRE MEMORIA (Build Memory): Reading/story-telling as an opportunity to intercept persons and needs. Meetings are moments to encourage joint project development that would promote the transformation of simple beneficiaries/service users to active citizens engaged in the development of their local communities (Regional Law of 21 October 2008, n. 16, "Regional initiatives and interventions for the promotion of the book, of reading and of small and medium publishing companies").

Stable cooperation with the University of Cassino: TEU.FR partners 'teach' in the course "Methods and Technics of the Advanced Social Service": from theory to practice, pathways for the set-up of networks and co-planning of social services.

TEU.FR presented 5 projects in applications for EU-financing – still under evaluation (see <http://www.territorioeuropa.it>) – on the fight against poverty, the fight against early school leaving, on active and solidarity-based citizenship. It also contributed with project ideas to the local strategic partnership plan of two local action groups. In the short and medium term the partnership plans to work on increasing the recognition of the Laboratorio and its relations with particularly two type of players: administrations and citizens.

Resources

TEU.FR is promoted and supported by private financing provided by CESV which has also coordinated training, local animation activities, moderation

of co-planning groups and project development in general. CESV has taken the strategic decision to also raise funds by responding to public calls for proposals in order to (further) develop actions that have already been launched by individual associations. This should contribute to amplify the area of intervention, to transfer competences to the partnership, to attract external players adhering to the guiding principles of TEU.FR - therewith enlarging the composition of the latter and increasing its potential, whilst also multiplying opportunities of financing through project applications.

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COOPCITY (BE)

Context

The COOPCITY initiative is being carried out in the framework of the ERDF 2014-2020 Operational Programme of the Brussels-Capital region and, more specifically, under the objective «Investment for Growth and Employment». The needs to which COOPCITY responds are multi-faceted: Social (economy) enterprises and cooperatives need to be reinforced and activities which have the potential to generate employment in a sector which is still not very much developed in the Brussels-Capital region have to be stimulated. Moreover, it appears fundamental to build an ecosystem in order to promote social (economy) enterprises within the economy and encourage social innovation.

Description of the initiative

COOPCITY follows mainly three objectives:

- Develop and support: Through four support programmes (SEEDS, BLOSSOM, Catalyzer, Innovate), COOPCITY helps those wishing to start an entrepreneurial project to develop their project idea. At the same time, it supports existing social enterprises.
- Inspire and raise awareness: COOPCITY aims to inform, raise the awareness of and inspire future entrepreneurs with regard to the existing ecosystem for social entrepreneurship in the Brussels-Capital region.

- Cooperate and collaborate: Throughout its programme, COOPCITY promotes an environment that stimulates multi-actor cooperation in the Brussels-Capital region.

COOPCITY pursues different activities.

The first programme, SEEDS, targets social entrepreneurs that wish to pass from the desire to the idea and from the idea to the action through the creation of an initiative that would a) respond to a social need in the Brussels-Capital region; b) be economically viable and c) be democratically governed (principles of the EMES network).

For 2016-2017, 14 projects have been selected to be accompanied during eight months. These projects include the following topics: housing (creation of cooperatives, clustered habitat), sustainable food (cooperative brewery, transformation of brewer grains into cereal bars, production of organic and local baby food, aquaponic systems), an awareness-raising tour on social entrepreneurship throughout Belgium, culture (culture baskets, creation of a neighbourhood cinema, theatre), but also mobility-related activities. The eight months of accompaniment are composed of moments animated by advisors specialised in the development of social and cooperative enterprises, but also of work within each project team after the training modules as well as of moments of cooperation between different project teams.

The SEEDS programme started with a launch weekend, the COOPCITY TRIP.

The programme BLOSSOM, in turn, targets already existing social enterprises which have to manage an increasing volume of activities and/or would like to explore new markets for their products and services. For 2016-2017, four enterprises have been selected: a cooperative focusing on the creation of websites, a structure managing an intergenerational creative space, a cooperative producing drinks with organic and local ingredients and an association providing home care services. The support programme, developed in cooperation with COOPCITY partner Solvay, contains 12 training modules, cooperative workshops and individual assistance.

Two other programmes will soon be launched in COOPCITY: The programme «Social Innovation» which is aligned with the PRI (Regional Plan for Innovation) and the programme «Catalyseur» (Catalyzer) which targets existing structures planning to develop, jointly, strategic activities with a strong social impact for a given territory or sector in the Brussels-Capital Region.

COOPCITY also aims to contribute to awareness-raising around social (economy) entrepreneurship in order to promote viable and meaningful

economic alternatives. In this context, a specific animation programme has been co-conceived together with the different partners. Starting from the challenges of different type of stakeholders it offers food for thought around topics linked to social (economy) entrepreneurship. These activities are organised in the coworking space where the selected project teams are hosted and which is the venue for a number of events.

Awareness-raising is also realised through the organisation of « business games » and «summer schools», in cooperation with the hautes écoles and universities of the Brussels-Capital region.

Added value

The added value of COOPCITY consists in its objective to create an environment which would be conducive to the cooperation between different players and this at different levels:

In the framework of the training programmes, « coop moments » encourage cooperation between different project groups and collective co-construction of solutions to shared needs/problems. This cooperation takes also place within the team of advisers accompanying the projects: Different type of actors come together (trainers, programme managers, tutors, experts) to cooperate and act in a complementary way in order to accompany the different projects and respond to the variety of their needs the best possible way. Finally, inter-cooperation happens within the partnership established by the private and public players that set up COOPCITY. They contribute to the initiative with different type of resources and expertise, convinced that this kind of mutualisation will be beneficial for the projects accompanied by COOPCITY and, in a cross-fertilising manner, allow each partner to progress in his/her specific field of expertise.

Partnership

The project COOPCITY is built on a strong partnership logic by seven partners which set themselves the joint objective to support and develop social (economy) entrepreneurship in the Brussels-Capital region: SAW-B (the French-speaking social economy federation and development agency), Febecoop (federation of cooperatives and development agency), Impulse (the Brussels Agency for Entrepreneurship), Solvay (the centre for entrepreneurship of ULB, the French-speaking University of Brussels), Ichech (SME Management School linked to the Haute-Ecole ICHEC), Job Yourself (coopérative d'activités) and Innoviris (institute for the promotion of scientific research and innovation of the Brussels-Capital Region).

The role of these partners is to develop different methods for accompanying the projects, thereby using their specific expertise and network in order to make the projects benefit from the best support to launch and develop their activities, responding at the same time to regional social and economic challenges. The initiative to bring together social economy and structures accompanying the creation of 'mainstream' enterprises is unique in Brussels. This way, different support methodologies can be crossed, synergies and networks are multiplied and spill-over effects from the social economy to other parts of the regional economic fabric can be reached.

Results and Perspectives

After a year of existence, COOPCITY can already show promising numbers and is highly visible:

In the framework of the programme SEEDS, five information sessions were organised and brought together 200 persons.

In total, 45 applications were received, 23 projects were pre-selected and 14 projects were retained. Also, COOPCITY contributed to several events (info sessions on cooperatives, an event on the upscaling of social enterprises organised in cooperation with Solvay Entreprendre, diverse matching events...). The programme Blossom involves currently four enterprises, but seeks to welcome, in the following years, up to eight enterprises a year. Moreover, the programme of activities of the COOPCITY community aims to reach at least 600 persons – a target which has already been attained in less than a year.

With regard to communication, our website www.coopcitey.be counted 870 views only in January 2017 and our Facebook page has already 916 likes. The activity programme of COOPCITY will also include actions to present other initiatives linked to social (economy) entrepreneurship and make local initiatives that are active in this field meet and build strong relationships with the Brussels ecosystem.

Within only some months, COOPCITY registered an important press coverage (La Première, Trends, La Libre, Econosoc...) which shows that topics around social (economy) entrepreneurship are given particular attention by both the wider public and professionals.

Resources

The project COOPCITY is for the moment financed to a large extent by the ERDF (2015-2020). All partners, in the context also of the regional policy on the support of social entrepreneurship, are already analysing possibilities

to sustain the initiative beyond the end of the programming period. Our deep conviction regarding the importance of COOPCITY as an ecosystem promoting the creation of sustainable jobs is based on the first results after a year of existence and will be further articulated in the evaluation phase of the programme.

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Young Entrepreneur School: Mini School Companies (Y.E.S.!)
Presented by Confcooperative Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT)

Context

The Italian Law 107/2015, reform of the national education and training system, includes the collaboration between secondary high schools and employers in the framework of education into work paths. Confcooperative FVG, has more than a decade of experience in entrepreneurial education and training addressed to students of secondary high schools (16-18 years), teachers, cooperative enterprises and the local economic system (specific target groups) in general. It supports the start-up of co-operatives according to their objectives, perceived needs and constraints, enhancing social participation and social inclusion, youth employment, spreading of social values and economic democracy.

Description of the initiative

The objective of Y.E.S.! is to improve knowledge of the cooperative formula, to reinforce relationships between young people and cooperatives, so that the former can see cooperatives as an opportunity for their future; promote entrepreneurship among young people; encourage a cooperative approach to problem solving; stimulate the intergenerational exchange in order to encourage innovative processes; encourage entrepreneurship education and its inclusion into educational institutions.

The initiative leads to the set-up of mini school cooperatives. Students have to: 1) find a product/service to satisfy a perceived need in their school/territory; 2) organize the work to implement the product/service identified;

3) organize the group, elect the persons occupying different positions within the enterprise, choose the name of their enterprise, sign a Statute, fill in the business plan that may eventually be proposed and drawn up together with an existing local cooperative; 4) meet real cooperative entrepreneurs to understand the reasons that made them choose the entrepreneurial way and the form of the cooperative, to discuss the difficulties they face day by day, but also the satisfaction in seeing their goals achieved; 5) start up and run their own business.

Some of the students will then have the opportunity to realise an internship in a cooperative of their region.

School cooperatives, as mini companies, give young people the chance to test their ideas, attitudes and skills in a safe and motivating learning environment, where participants are encouraged to fully participate, improving attitudes towards entrepreneurship, self-confidence and a proactive attitude not only at work, but in everyday life. Furthermore, they are introduced to the cooperative formula, which has proved to be a very concrete and valid option for young people to create their own enterprise.

Actors involved: students of secondary high schools (16-18 years), teachers, cooperative enterprises, the local economic system, consultants of Confcooperative, regional institutions (Central directorate of labours, education, equal opportunities, youth policy, research and universities, Friuli Venezia Giulia region, regional board of education, Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture).

Added value

For the effectiveness and strength of our approach, it is necessary to balance theory and practice by promoting an active role of young people in the learning process. Therefore:

1) Teaching methods and tools geared towards active participation are preferred. Examples include interactive lectures, metacognitive approaches, brainstorming and discussions, peer education, school mini companies and tools related to them. This way, the capacity to act and be proactive as well as to seek creative and innovative solutions is developed. Teachers and trainers acts only as a facilitator of dialogue and discussions. 2) All the actors involved take part in the training. This approach creates a real connection between schools, the work system, institutions and community. The partnership is based on the signature of agreements with Schools, Friuli Venezia Giulia region and the Regional board education, Chamber of Commerce.

Partnership

Confcooperative FVG coordinates the projects and supports the start-up of the mini school cooperatives through its trainers and consultants. Trainers help pupils to identify, develop and implement their project idea, organize the group in a cooperative form, put in contact schools and local cooperatives.

Cooperative enterprises host students in the framework of internships and intervene as trainers or speakers.

High schools support the projects with teachers acting as tutors.

Friuli Venezia Giulia region finances activities on the basis of a call for proposals.

Results and Perspectives

Starting from the scholastic year 2004-2005, up to 2015-2016:

- 54 mini school cooperatives have been set up,
- 10 schools, 6 specific school courses, 2431 students have been involved.

Teachers involved in the projects for mini school cooperatives have the opportunity to acquire new educational tools, easy to be reproduced on their own.

The action may lead in the next years to the implementation of a system that, through an interactive and didactic workshop, can spread entrepreneurial culture among students and in the end create a real connection between school and territory.

Resources

Projects around mini school cooperatives are supported by funds of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, vocational training funds, school funds and the mutualistic fund of Confcooperative FVG.

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Partnerships at national level

Support to and protection of exiled journalists Presented by La Maison des Journalistes (FR)

Context

La Maison des Journalistes (MDJ) has been welcoming exiled journalists for 15 years. Demand is steadily increasing, even though the MDJ cannot address the totality of needs. Indeed, in 2015, and since the crisis in Syria, the situation of asylum seekers in France worsened. In parallel, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the number of journalists forced into exile hardly diminished. In this context, the MDJ has to reinforce its activity.

Description of the initiative

The objective of the initiative is twofold. It aims first of all to deepen support to exiled journalists, in particular through a stronger provision of housing solutions, protection and other type of support. Moreover, MDJ seeks to record and spread testimonies of these journalists, addressing mainly younger generations.

To reach its objectives, the MDJ uses different kinds of instruments. Persons accompanied by MDJ benefit from:

- accommodation in individual rooms and financial support to respond to physical and material needs;
- administrative and legal support (acquisition of political refugee status);
- social assistance and support to facilitate their access to care services, psychological support (access to a psychologist and possibility to testify if they wish so);
- a registered address and support without accommodation (for those that are not accommodated within the structure but whose situation necessitates a specific accompaniment)
- professional support, equipment and support to facilitate the continuation of journalistic activities and to constitute a new professional network in France (participation in meetings, conferences, testimonies, press interviews, website publishing articles of residents « l'œil de l'exilé »);
- instruments to facilitate professional integration (French lessons, job search workshops...).

The MDJ board is composed of 12 member organisations. Permanent staff

counts 5 employees (the director, a person in charge of social assistance and accommodation, two project officers, a guardian). Moreover, the MDJ is supported by approximately ten volunteers.

Partnership

In its initial phase the MDJ was financed by partner media. Despite their decreasing financial commitment, media remain the main partner for the association, as they represent the network necessary for the professional integration of the exiled journalists. Already at the very beginning, organisations such as Reporters Sans Frontières, Freedom House, CPJ, People In Need, Civil Rights Defenders and others are fundamental intermediaries for journalists finding themselves in difficulties (orientation of these journalists towards the MDJ).

Other important partners are the City of Paris (providing premises, partnership during larger events such as exhibitions or conference debates), certain French and foreign media, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Freedom House, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the AMIF (EU).

It is thanks to these financial partners that the MDJ is able to respond to the increasing needs of asylum seekers. Indeed, the City of Paris plays a central role as it puts offices at the disposal of the MDJ. Moreover, the MDJ has numerous partnerships with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, but also with CLEMI out of which the project « Renvoyé Spécial » with the support of Presstalis was born.

Results and Perspectives

For 15 years the Maison des Journalistes has been welcoming more than 370 exiled journalists of 60 nationalities. In 2015, the MDJ accommodated 37 journalists (of which 20 came from the Middle East). 31 have obtained the refugee status and are thus protected by the Geneva Convention. Approximately ten were able to take up their studies again, seven others found employment.

Moreover, 23 former residents have got housing (through specific structures for accommodation, on the private housing market or through accommodation with relatives).

Since 2015 the MDJ is able to propose a domiciliation service. This way it could help approximately ten journalists a year. The refugee status could be obtained by seven of them, four other journalists could be accommodated thanks to the network of the organisation.

Resources

Financial report 2015: Revenue amounted to 357.041 €, of which 52% constitute financing by sponsoring media, 7% AMIF financing, 10 % subsidies from the City of Paris, 9% financing provided by Ministries. Financing provided by the other partners represents 18% of the revenue. Expenses amounted to 325.505 € of which 48% were dedicated to accommodation and 20% to educational, journalistic and cultural projects. The remaining part of expenses are linked to the administrative management of the association (administration and communication).

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Annex: Table summarizing presented experiences

Country	Title	Key words	Type of partnership
Partnerships at local level			
GR	Welcommon	Accommodation and services for refugees/ Social and Labour Market Integration	SE-PA-IO
FI	INTEGRA - entering the labor market through job coaching	Social and labour market integration of migrants	SE-PA-PE-U
GR	Ecosystem of Cooperation	Promoting Co-operation between (social economy) enterprises/Creation of new social economy enterprises and citizen initiatives/Developing local welfare	SE-PA-PE-B
FI	Elf Around!Group	Shaping of new policies of empowerment and participation with and for youth	SE-PA-EU
ES	COOPINTE - Cooperación-integración-intercooperación empresarial	Promoting Co-operation between (social economy) enterprises/Developing local welfare	SE-PA
SE	Nya Rågsveds Folkets Hus/Community House of Rågsved	Promoting community welfare/Creation of new social economy enterprises and citizen initiatives	SE-PA-CU-PE
FR	UP Sceaux	Promoting community welfare/Promoting social economy/responsible entrepreneurship and citizen initiatives	SE-PA-C
BE	Univerbal	Defending fundamental rights of migrants (in particular women)/ Training/Labour market integration of migrants	SE-PA-U
SE	Le Mat Jonsereds Fabriker	Employment creation/ Work integration/Social franchising	PA-SE-EU

Country	Title	Key words	Type of partnership
ES	Ateneus Cooperative Network	Promoting visibility of, education on and the development of the social and solidarity economy and local welfare/ Promoting cooperation between different territories	PA - SE
GR	City PLUS	Promoting (socially) sustainable energy production/Creation and promotion of citizen-led energy production	PA-SE-U-B
IT	Laboratorio TEU Frosinone (TEU.FR)	Stimulate multi-actor cooperation/CLLD/ Capacity-building	SE-PA-CS
BE	Coopcity	Promotion of social (economy) entrepreneurship responding to local needs/ Employment creation/ Stimulating multi-actor cooperation/Shaping an appropriate eco-system for social economy/citizen initiatives to thrive	SE-PA-U-PE-EU
IT	Young Entrepreneur School (Y.E.S.): Mini school Companies	Education of children and youth/Promotion of social economy in schools/ Enterprise creation among youngsters/Cooperation between schools and enterprises	SE-PA-U-PE
FR	Support to and protection of exiled journalists (La Maison des Journalistes)	Support to refugees/ Defense of human rights/Information and awareness-raising	SE-PA-M-IO-EU



B=Banks
 C=Citizens
 CS=Civil Society

CU=Cultural organisations/Artists
 PA=Public authority
 PE=Private Enterprise (not belonging to the social economy)
 SE=Social and Solidarity Economy

TU=Trade Union
 U=University and other educational establishments