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Transnational Training for Community Cooperative Facilitators

Transnational Training for Community Cooperative Facilitators (CCFs), was held as part of the EntCom project (“Entrepreneurship and Community cooperatives”) in Selva di Fasano, Italy, February 1st to 5th, in a residential mode, involving 65 people from 7 different countries (Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, Latvia, U.K., Portugal, Turkey). Future CCFs should be able to support people in rural communities to form themselves into “cooperatives” with the aim of solving local issue in a practical and entrepreneurial way.

Project partners debated and finalized the last details and organizational arrangements of the Transnational Training Course Programme during the 3rd EntCom Project Transnational Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic from the 14th till the 15th of January 2016. The Transnational Training is a part of the creation process of the final Training course, one of the main project results.

Participants of the Transnational Training - potential future “facilitators”- were during those 5 days in Italy, confronted with some good practices of Apulia Community Cooperatives and also with a number of other organizations able to offer useful tools and methodologies to work with communities. Within diverse workgroups and case analysis, in order to stimulate interaction and participation, the participants mainly debated and worked on

- The cooperative values and principles, the democratic management in the practice of the community cooperative
- Tools, methodologies and practices for the needs analysis and the participatory planning
- Identification of the cooperative and the entrepreneurial project and working on its sustainability
- Involving stakeholders and activating the network
- Techniques of storytelling and work on collective meanings attributed to the places and the community resources
- And many other relevant topics

Katia de Luca, the representative of Italian project partner presents some concluding remarks from these sessions: *“It is usually not easy to support communities in becoming “entrepreneurial communities”, capable of identifying the common needs and of building possible solution in a sustainable way, it is a long and complex process. It needs to integrate different methodologies, to provide different knowledge, to activate processes that let citizens be protagonists from the beginning. We have imagined the “facilitators” as community members, who are active promoters, together with other people, of a self-organizing process within the community. “Facilitators” should be able to activate strategic processes to fund and develop the community cooperative, as the needs analysis, the economic and financial sustainability, the stakeholders involvement and so on. Also that is why the EntCom project partners are developing such a unique “self-directed” learning programme consisting of modules with such a wide variety of topics.”*



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After the Transnational training, some of the participants are cooperating on the national pilot testing and evaluation of the whole Training course and some of them have even activated very interesting processes in their own communities of origin. They are trying to work on their community cooperative models, collaborating with stakeholders and policy makers, to adapt them to various local contexts, and to innovate the models. They became spontaneous multipliers.

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Background

The EntCom project lasts from September 2014 to August 2016 and there are 7 partners involved with this project: TOJAS INVESTIMENTOS, LDA (Portugal), Sarikamis Kaymakamligi (Turkey), Latconsul SIA (Latvia), KOMUNIKUJEME o.p.s. (Czech Republic), E.N.T.E.R. (Austria), TFEI (UK) and it is coordinated by representative association of cooperatives of Apulia Region - Lega Regionale delle Cooperative e Mutue - LEGACCOOP (Italy).

The EntCom project generally aims at fostering active citizenship and entrepreneurship (considering social entrepreneurship) in small or remote areas.

The project has three clear activities:

1. The development and consolidation of entrepreneurial competences (knowledge, skills and attitude) in order to structure entrepreneurial initiatives under the specific framework of “community cooperatives”;
2. Foster learning mobilities at EU level to answer local needs;
3. Contribute to the recognition and validation of such entrepreneurial competences under the ECVET, ESCO and EUROPASS framework.

More information: www.entcom.eu, [FB](#), [LinkedIn](#)



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