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Innovative way to help people in rural or remote areas

Partners of the project “Entrepreneurship and Community cooperatives” (EntCom) are developing a special training programme that will educate the so-called “Community Cooperative Facilitators – CCFs”. CCFs will be able to support people in rural communities to self-organize, to form themselves into “cooperatives” with the aim of solving a practical local issue and providing local broadband when the service providers can’t manage these services.

The modules that make up the training course will include a variety of activities to realize and develop appropriate competencies to be a Community Cooperative Facilitator. CCF will be supported in learning, through formal and informal methods, how to help individuals and groups in: identifying their community project, using a cooperative model or a similar model, implementing the project, evaluating the state-of-art, developing communication and marketing techniques, and caring effective financial and human resources management.

The transnational training course for the first 70 CCFs – 10 from each partner’s country will take place in Italy, the first week of February 2016. Participants will give feedbacks, evaluations and recommendations, participating to the work for the EntCom final training course, the main output of EntCom Project. These first CCFs will be multipliers and, after training, will provide 10 possible participants for a national “pilot test” of part of the whole training. The final training course will be then available in the second half of the year 2016, also as an E-learning course.

Why Community Cooperative Facilitators?

“Often in small towns and rural areas some useful services for the community are not provided, because the resources of the government are not enough to ensure its management. Even private resources are scarce, and so often rural areas do not provide for example services for children or for the elderly. Often, due to lack of resources, common goods are not well managed, such as green spaces or old abandoned buildings.

Community Cooperatives are organizational and management models that encourage the participation of all citizens as “active members” of their community. Citizens can manage public spaces or community facilities putting together and organizing themselves. The model of cooperative community is providing answers to the needs of small rural areas in many parts of Europe.

The project intends to support EntCom training facilitators who can in turn support people and communities in the design and development of a common project community development,” explains Katia de Luca, the representative of Italian project partner.

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Background

The EntCom project lasts from September 2014 to August 2016 and there are 7 partners involved in this project: TOJAS INVESTIMENTOS, LDA (Portugal), Sarikamis Kaymakamligi (Turkey), Latconsul SIA (Latvia), KOMUNIKUJEME o.p.s. (Czech Republic), ENTER-EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR TRANSFER AND EXPLOITATION OF EUROPEAN PROJECT RESULTS (Austria), newly TFEI (UK) and it is coordinated by representative association of cooperatives of Apulia Region - Lega Regionale delle Cooperative e Mutue - LEGACOOOP (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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