



COLTIVIAMO L'INTEGRAZIONE

CATALOG OF EU GOOD PRACTICES OF
INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE





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ColtiviAmo l'Integrazione

Catalog of EU good practices of inclusive agriculture

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FOREWORD

Agriculture, the practice of cultivating the land, producing crops and breeding animals, is one of the key developments associated and interrelated with human history and the evolution of human civilization. Modern agronomy today offers many opportunities including civic engagement, youth work and integration practices. To this end, along with the launch of the “Action Plan on the integration of Third-Country Nationals”, which presents structured actions and concrete initiatives to support Member States in the integration process of the 20 million documented non-EU nationals residing in the EU, the European Commission has realized the importance of sustainable agriculture and rural development and therefore through this particular policy supports:

- “the promotion of agricultural practices and technologies that are environmentally sustainable and raise rural incomes, such as integrated pest management, soil and water conservation methods, agro-ecological approaches and agro-forestry;
- improvement of access to productive assets such as land and capital and measures to ensure better delivery of essential services;
- initiatives improving income and reducing vulnerability for producers through capacity building and a comprehensive value chain approach” (European Commission, 2019).

Taking into consideration the importance of such initiatives and most importantly through the consortium’s knowhow and expertise, the ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione has collected a selection of such “good practices” taking place in the EU and presents them in this catalogue. This catalogue, features a collection of case studies relevant to agricultural practices and seeks to become an essential tool for improving organizations’, researchers’ and stakeholders’ capacity in developing similar practices in the fields of agriculture as a means of integration.

We are confident that this catalogue will become an informative and useful resource for stakeholders and practitioners across the EU (as well as countries outside the EU) supporting them in their work and activities as well as be a tool that will help further the effectiveness of existing and future efforts to address integration practices in the field of agriculture.

The ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione Team



Table of contents

Introduction

Make your own garden at the University Farm

Vegetable gardening Action - From seed to plate

Les jardins de la montagne verte, Strasbourg (The gardens of the green mountain, Strasbourg)

Foundation of therapeutic community Agia Skepi - Bio products

Social and Intercultural Dialogue through Governance for local development: MEDiterranean urban and peri-urban agriculture

Agri-urba

Christakis Tsolakis' Rose Factory

Cyprus Department of Agriculture - Viticulture / Oenology

CIM's Programme to Promote the Development Activities of Migrant Organisations

Migration et Developpement

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - empowering women and youth in agriculture and food systems

MADRE Metropolitan Agriculture for developing an innovative sustainable and responsible economy

Jardin des Aures - The garden of Aures

UNDP's TOKTEN

Philip Morris International Agricultural Labor Practices (ALP) program

Municipality of Alexandroupolis Biofarm

Instituti i Nxënësve që nuk Dëgjojnë - Education to gardening for deaf children

Agriculture

Bee my job

Semina Mondo
Entro Terra

Agrosvoltare

Barikamà Social Cooperative

Semino - Kilowatt Social Cooperative

SfruttaZero (Zero Exploitation)

SOS Rosarno

INTRODUCTION

This catalogue encompasses a selection of good practices developed by stakeholders across the EU. The “ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione” is a comprehensive project (PROG 1979 - CUP E79F18000530007), with the support of the FAMI (Fondo Asilo Migrazione e Integrazione) of the Italian Ministry of Interior and European Union. The project is implemented and lead by TAMAT (<https://www.tamat.org/>) in collaboration with ISMU Foundation (<http://old.ismu.org/en/>) and the International Research Centre CARDET (www.cardet.org).

ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione activate a process of sharing between the partnership and local stakeholders, in order to encourage the development of collaborations between public and private actors to support effective integration paths and contribute to strengthening the territorial system of economic, social and cultural inclusion. ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione sought and achieved to create a transnational network that involves local stakeholders and sector operators as main actors for a positive management of integration processes.

The good practices and models featured in this catalogue, focus on Italian and European experiences of inclusive agriculture on the themes of civic participation, community engagement and migrants’ integration. They represent a collection of such practices identified, documented and published in the context of the programme with the aim to support all those involved in migration, integration and asylum by making available and presenting to them, in a concise manner, successful and innovative approaches from across the EU.

To achieve that, the ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione partners have made a broad research and have collected inspirational projects and best practices that will

deem helpful, influential and informative or better yet whose scope, actions and outputs could be transferable. Though we do recognise that, especially in the fields of agriculture, no size fits all we do hope that our multidisciplinary approach will make this catalogue unique and useful to many.

Starting from this catalogue, ColtiviAmo l’integrazione has developed, tested and validated inclusive models of agriculture in three different contexts (Perugia, Milan and Ragusa).

Please note that this catalogue merely includes a small collection of the rich and heterogeneous good practices and materials developed at national and European level. These material along additional information and learning resources on the field of agriculture are available on the official website of the ColtiviAmo l’Integrazione at www.coltivismolintegrazione.it



MAKE YOUR OWN GARDEN AT THE UNIVERSITY FARM



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

Key Stakeholders /Target group

Local community, faculty staff, university students

Priority theme

Civic engagement, community participation

Geographical Coverage

Thessaloniki, Greece

General concept

In April 2012 the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) embarked on an ecological strategic plan to become the first green University. The idea was also to open the university to the public, to make better use of its facilities and to address the lack of open space to grow vegetables in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The University Farm is where students of the Faculty of Agriculture are provided with laboratory workshops to reinforce lecture material, as well as where almost all experimental projects are conducted by undergraduate and postgraduate students, where research is carried out by faculty members, and where internship takes place. Since it was founded in 1936, several thousand students of the Faculty of Agriculture have been trained in its facilities.

The Farm covers an area of about 180 hectares. It consists of experimental fields, livestock, as well as model agricultural and husbandry units. There are also 21 buildings, including sports facilities used throughout the academic year for events held by the Faculty of Agriculture, such

as seminars, workshops and conferences. Moreover, there are various types of machinery and equipment, as well as livestock farming facilities, and facilities for processing plants and animal products.

It should be noted that part of this area has been landscaped into organic kitchen gardens to be rented by citizens of Thessaloniki. The organic kitchen gardens are within a total area of 6 hectares, 100m² land plots which are allocated annually through open calls to city dwellers, for a maximum duration of 3 years.

Objectives

The University Farm sought to bridge the gap between University and society, raising awareness on environmental issues and organic farming among the population, re-connecting people with the land and the cycles of nature, help university students to get some field experience, set up the AUTH ecological strategic plan to become the first green University while preserving land integrity.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Today, more than 500 plots of land are being cultivated by almost 2,000 city dwellers. There is no criteria for plot allotment but gardeners must comply with the principles of organic farming and attend a series of seminars on sustainable and environmental friendly practices. Students, the agronomist and the 2 farm assistants provide daily advice and support to gardeners. The latter have to bring their own tools but seeds and seedlings can be provided by the University Farm at a very low price. The seeds and seedlings include commercial varieties, hybrids and some Greek local varieties and landraces. Humus and manure are used for plant fertilisation.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The main obstacle faced by the initiative is the lack of knowledge and collaboration of some gardeners. The seminars conducted on site are intended to educate them to organic farming practices and provide them with hands on experience.

Sustainability

The next step is to increase the number of plots to make the best use of the available area. AUTH will also keep disseminating its knowledge and communicating with citizens about environmental-friendly land management to fight against land pollution.

Transferability

This good practice demonstrates an excellent case study for the use of land in making a green space. This is a great initiative in engaging scientists along with the locals in creating sustainable and environmental friendly practices.

Conclusions

The initiative is great success with city dwellers, despite the hardly accessible location. The number of applications reached 450 once. For some candidates, it is all about the pleasure of gardening. For others, it is a way to have access to fresh and organic vegetables. A few ones also see it as a professional perspective. The benefits are two sided as it is also a great opportunity for students to practice by assisting gardeners in growing their own vegetables.

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VEGETABLE GARDENING ACTION - FROM SEED TO PLATE



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Kindergartens, kindergartens' children, educators

Priority theme

Preschool programme

Geographical Coverage

Nicosia, Cyprus

General concept

The Felicita kindergarten pays particular attention to the preschool gardening as a means to engage children by providing them with an interactive environment of observe, discover, experiment, nurture and learn. In this regard, Felicita kindergarten has created a living laboratory where interdisciplinary lessons are drawn from real life experiences, encouraging children to become active participants in the learning process.

Felicita kindergarten is the first Private Ecological in Cyprus. It has been in Ecology schools since 2002. Felicita kindergarten aims at creating environmental awareness and developing respect and sensitivity to the natural, human-social and cultural environment. Every year an environmental education program is carried out according to CYMEPA, which is also the National Coordinator, for the protection of the environment and cypriot cultural heritage.

Objectives

The objectives of the vegetable gardening action vary. On the one hand, the school through this action promotes the learning activities which include interactive

sessions on learning what a plant is, the plant lifecycle, plants' needs, exploring the seeds, learning about the garden friends (insects) and harvesting. On the other hand, since the school includes in children's' daily dietary the grown vegetables of the garden, children learn about healthy eating and the importance of a balance diet.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Felicita kindergarten has managed to cultivate to preschool children the sense of learning through activities that enhance classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture and nutrition. In addition, teachers who participate in this programme claim that children's consumption of fruits and vegetables has increased, while their enthusiasm about the school has grown. What is more, children demonstrate better teamwork skills and self-understanding.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The target group of this initiative are children aged 3 - 7. Preschool children have certain intellectually, socially, and spiritually characteristics that pay particular importance for the successfully growing a garden. Felicita kindergarten along with the enthusiasm of its educators help in promoting this initiative to children and getting the maximum result.

Sustainability

The aim of Felicita kindergarten is to continue the tradition of growing the school's organic vegetables and using them as the main ingredients to children's daily meals and dietary.

Transferability

Felicita kindergarten has managed to create an innovative practice by creating a sense of early care and education setting. Beside preschool programs, this initiative can be applied in primary education, secondary education and tertiary or higher education.

Conclusions

Establishing and maintaining a garden in the child care setting provides a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning. Gardening encourages development of fine and gross motor skills and provides learning opportunities for math, science, language, and literacy skills. When child care centers establish a garden, they are capturing the children's interest, giving them a sense of pride in their accomplishments, and introducing the children to healthy foods. By planting seeds, nurturing the plants, and harvesting the produce, children can learn that with hard work and determination the benefits of a garden can be great.

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LES JARDINS DE LA MONTAGNE VERTE, STRASBOURG (THE GARDENS OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN, STRASBOURG)



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Third Country Nationals, migrants, low skills, people with fewer job opportunities
Priority theme
Migrants' integration, social inclusion, skills development

Geographical Coverage

Strasbourg, France

General concept

The Gardens of Green Mountain is a non-profit organization under the 2001 law aimed at professional reintegration through organic farming. The association acts as an urban agricultural company that uses various activities and resources to achieve its integration objectives.

It offers work for people who are far from employment in several sectors such as vegetable farming, canning and processing, aromatic and medicinal plants, carpentry, e-Logistics.

Most of the association's employees are gardeners, carpenters and production agents in fixed-term employment contracts, find through their workstations a pace, a salary and a social recognition, which acts as the starting point of their approach of inclusion.

Besides gardening and harvesting, the association offers to its employees' carpentry workshops that allows them the skills enhancement and therefore, the possibility to seek job positions in relevant fields.

Finally, the carpentry workshops work thanks to the circular economy that recycles

wood and satisfies consumer expectations in decorative objects and furniture. It also makes it possible to meet specific needs, custom work and tenders.

Objectives

The Gardens of the Green Mountain have a triple mission:

- Allow the return to employment of a public in difficulty, away from the world of work,
- Enhance the Urban Natural Park of the city of Strasbourg by ensuring a market gardening activity meeting the certification criteria of Organic Farming,
- Satisfy the needs of consumers in Strasbourg agricultural products and groceries Biological through its own production and distribution network solidarity and local.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

The pleasures and benefits of gardening are multiple and represent great interests in a process of integration.

The association is particular active in the field of migrants inclusion by promoting activities through workshops (e.g. woodworking, sustainable beekeeping apiculture, agriculture) fostering professional and technical skills that will help migrants enter the labor market and facilitate social inclusion between participants. These are mainly manual workshops in small groups that facilitate communication and the provision of technical skills.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The association has managed to create collaborations with various stakeholders and organizations. In addition to this, they have an excellent communication and dissemination strategy that allows their association to grow and prosper.

L'associazione è riuscita a realizzare delle collaborazioni con vari stakeholder e organizzazioni. Inoltre, l'associazione si avvale di una strategia di comunicazione e disseminazione eccellente, che le consente di crescere e prosperare.

Sustainability

Working the land imposes a rhythm that of seasons and time, allows people who are under an integration process to find the basic benchmarks. According to the people, the activity carried out during their stay at the VMY can be a soothing activity and / or element of socialization, including contacts with other members of their team, on the field and outside activities.

The gardens of the green mountain are a logic of sustainable development and respect for nature and the environment. With regard to the specifications of Organic Farming, only natural methods are used such as composting, manual weeding, crop rotation, etc.

All the products produces are AB certified. The result of the work carried out during the seasons by all the people of the association is materialized by a valorising production of vegetables and plants which allows the people involved to go through all the agricultural stages, from sowing to harvesting.

The harvest resulting from the work of gardeners over the seasons is sold in the form of baskets, in the association's point of sale on the farm and in their markets.

Transferability

Gardening and harvesting is a practice that can be easily applied in different contexts. In this case, the innovation of the association lies to the fact that promote the employment of people who are either migrants or with lower job opportunities. The association has recruited people who are specialised in various sectors and

provides them with continues capacitation to further develop themselves as well as to better help with the association's activities.

Conclusions

The gardens of the green mountain in Strasburg promotes healthy wellbeing along is active in the integration of vulnerable groups by offering them job opportunities and skills enhancement. The team that constitute the organization follow the principles of solidarity of the local economy to meet the needs of consumers in Strasbourg.

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FOUNDATION OF THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY AGIA SKEPI - BIO PRODUCTS



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Adults addicted to substances

Priority theme

Social integration, rehabilitation, agriculture as a therapeutic initiative

Geographical Coverage

Nicosia, Cyprus

General concept

“Agia Skepi”, a long term Therapeutic Community for adults, is a private non for profit organization founded in 1999. It provides services to long term depended substance users and their families in an inpatient and outpatient setting. The main goal of the program is total abstinence from illicit drugs and alcohol. The facility is located in Politiko village in the outskirts of Nicosia, in a privately owned building within 50 acres of land that belongs to the Holy Abbey of ‘Machaira’.

The therapeutic community is perceived as the main therapeutic tool; it assists in promoting growth in an alternative house with an alternate family. Rehabilitation is achieved through the process of differentiation from the other members as well as from the team. The therapeutic community raises funds and provides its members with a valuable skill-set by farming and packaging organic products. Thus, today they have their own brand “Agia Skepi” bio, which produces organic

products and distributes them to large supermarkets and selected organic stores. The patients of the therapeutic community mention that the agriculture and farming help them to cope with the difficult struggle of rehabilitation. This initiative was born out of Agia Skepi’s mind-set for a “clean” and qualitative way of life. The community produces the following bio products: bread, fruits, vegetables, legumes, pasta, seeds, dried fruits, flower etc.

Objectives

The agricultural programme shares same values with the rehabilitation process. The program’s objectives are based on the bio-psychosocial model and cognitive behavioural theory.

More specifically the objectives of the programme are: respect towards nature, respect for other human beings, satisfaction through work, a lifestyle free from toxic substances. In a way the organic agriculture serves the treatment process. The daily living activities of members include: - Group therapy - Educational groups - Drama therapy - Ranching - Cooking - Gardening - Sports - Art - Entertainment. Finally, the program provides assistance for vocational rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

The Agia Skepi therapeutic community has found its professional orientation and produces a variety of organic products, such as dairy products, bread, eggs, fruits and vegetables. Agia Skepi has been active for the past 12 years helping more than 200 people. The members of Agia Skepi wanted to create real life job situations, something that they managed to establish through their agricultural and farming programme. The farmstead is a therapeutic tool for the community.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Since the rehabilitation programme is a complete programme of activities, there is no space for people not participating in it. Nevertheless, the heads of each farmstead are people who have successfully completed the programme, they understand the importance of agriculture as part of the rehabilitation programme, thus, they inspire the newcomers with their loves and passion in what they are doing.

Sustainability

Agia Skepi has a solid rehabilitation programme, in which members are called to participate in all the activities of the programme's lifecycle. The farming and agricultural programmes have managed to be consolidated to the Cypriot context, while the organic products produced through this programme are nationally well known. Agia Skepi constantly incorporates new products in order to meet its customers' needs and expectations and sells them in selected local supermarkets or in abroad. Throughout the years, the members of the community have built strong collaboration with other organic farmers something that adds further to their knowledge and know how.

Transferability

Agia Akepi agriculturals and farming programme is an excellent example for developing social inclusion programmes for vulnerable people. The members of the community have managed not only to develop their skills in agriculture and farming but to also gain marketing and business skills in order to sell and promote their organic products.

Conclusions

The use of agriculture and farming as a therapeutic tool is a great initiative that currently takes place within the Agia Skepi Therapeutic Community. Its members, are given the necessary skills to become farmers and organic products' producers something that is very important to their rehabilitation process. People who participate in this programmes, besides developing their skills in agriculture and

farming learn how to earn their money through hard work, how to collaborate with other members and to proudly promote their work and products.

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SOCIAL AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE THROUGH GOVERNANCE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: MEDITERRANEAN URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Local public authorities of the participating cities and territories; cooperative organizations and associations working in the field of UPA and social exclusion/poverty; communities at risk of social exclusion.

Priority theme

Promotion of social and intercultural dialogue, fight the urban social exclusion and poverty in city.

Geographical Coverage

Mediterranean Basin

General concept

The project aims at fighting social exclusion and poverty through improving the governance process for local development by promoting social and peri-urban areas in the participating countries: Al-Balqa (Jordan), Rome (Italy), Mahdia (Tunisia) and Barcelona (Spain). The project has implemented a governance system to create a dialogue through formal organizational structures set up between the public, NGO/Associations and private citizens in the realm of UPA. Social exclusion will find an answer in social and intercultural dialogue as an avenue towards the resolution of poverty's consequences. Groups at risk of social exclusion were provided with opportunities to render them self-sufficient, through UPA mechanisms adaptable for each local context.

Objectives

To promote social and intercultural dialogue through cross-border cooperation in the realm of local Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) related governance issues. Specific objective: Improve capabilities of Project Partner Cities and Public administration towards implementing governance policies and strategies on local "UPA". Such policies should be aimed at: - Promoting social and intercultural dialogue; - fighting social exclusion and poverty in cities

Results / Outputs / Impacts (500 words max)

- Four strategic UPA plans to fight urban exclusion and poverty planned and implemented
- Joint UPA governance committees created including local associations, cooperatives and local authorities taking care of and involving people at risk of social exclusion
- Increased involvement of marginal communities, cooperative organizations, associations and NGOs in the processes of governance
- 4 pilot projects implemented to test the governance model in the project partner cities/territories
- Increased capacity of cultural mediators in public administrations (Rome, Barcelona, Mahdia and Al-Balga) to promote social dialogue and support UPA governance processes
- Surface of urban and periurban agricultural areas of the four target areas protected and valorized through UPA increased
- Increased involvement of marginal community members in UPA fields in three areas (Al-Balga district, Mahdia and Rome).

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Behind every initiative, stands an enormous amount of effort, hard work and obstacles to overcome. It was no different for Sidigmed. On the one hand, urban and peri-urban agriculture is a concept that slowly gains worldwide recognition, hence, it can be beneficial for sustainable development in terms of social, ecological/ environmental and economic. On the other hand, promoting social inclusion and building synergies was a challenge for Sidigmed. Finally, the lack of sufficient and suitable land for agricultural activities in cities was also one of the major challenges the consortium had to overcome.

Sustainability

The recognition of urban agriculture's positive impact on communities constantly rises. It does not only help with imperfect food systems, but also affects areas such as health and social exclusion. To this date, this programme has managed to make a breakthrough in this field. The urban gardens created are still sustainable, while more and more people are now keen to grow this initiation.

Transferability

The concept of the incorporation of agriculture in urban or peri-urban locations as well as around building spaces promotes the sense of healthy well-being, healthy diet and a turn to healthy living. This project was be easily adapted and transferred in different contexts. Modern cities today suffocate from the lack of green spaces. This initiative not only promotes the creation of green spaces but also allows the active involvement of communities at risk of social exclusion.

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AGRI-URBA



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Practitioners, city managers, elected representatives and stakeholders from other public agencies, the private sector and civil society.

Priority theme

Integrated Urban Development; Policy recommendations on policy challenges related to sustainable urban development through to articles writing and events participation.

Geographical Coverage

Spain, Portugal, UK, Sweden, Latvia, Croatia, Italy, France and Spain

General concept

AGRI-URBAN is about rethinking Agri-food production in small and medium-sized cities that have a relative specialization in Agri-food production. Agri-food production is a mature industry that continues to play an important role in terms of GDP, employment and environmental sustainability. That is why new growth potentials must be activated by means of innovation, new business models and strategies. The vision of AGRI-URBAN as a network is to place small and medium-sized European cities at the core of a growing global movement of food systems based on economies of scale is causing economical, societal and environmental challenges to cities and rural areas. Closer links between medium-sized rural cities and nearby cities are not only societally

and environmentally beneficial, but also ensure regional economic development. AGRI-URBAN is an action planning network within the URBACT programme. The partnership consists of 11 European cities working towards sustainable food systems

Objectives

The URBACT programme is organised around four main objectives: 1) Capacity for Policy Delivery: to improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way; 2) Policy design: to improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities; 3) Policy implementation to improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities; 4) building and sharing knowledge: to ensure that practitioners and decision-makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Implementation of phase I and II, different AGRI-URBAN themes, study visits, AGRI-URBAN database of ideas, Urbact IAP self-assessment excel sheet. The added value of the transnational meetings went far beyond the work developed in the working sessions. For each meeting a set of visits, presentations from local experts and engagement with local stakeholders, were organized. Among the project outputs were the following: 1) Manifesto – policy declaration by all Mayors of the AGRI-URBAN network: “Local food policy and employment in small and medium sized European cities”;

2) AGRI-URBAN calendar with cities visions; 3) Publication of several articles; 4) Case studies; 5) Transnational meetings; 6) Videos.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

To reach the project's objectives, URBACT developed 3 types of interventions: transnational exchanges, capacity building and finally, capacitation and dissemination. Making sure that the outputs of AGRI-URBAN is actually being used and adding value was one of the main challenges of the consortium's work. It was particularly challenging when they developed them with the aim to be easily understood by small and medium-sized European cities that do not belong to AGRI-URBAN network. They treated their outputs as individual products that can be used by all. The added value and key findings can be measured by the quality of the AGRI-URBAN outputs

Sustainability

URBACT uses resources and know-how to strengthen the capacity of cities to deliver integrated urban strategy and actions on the thematic according to their challenges. It was clear from the onset of AGRI-URBAN that the project has not operated in isolation. Throughout the duration of the project, AGRI-URBAN has collaborated with a range of ongoing processes and projects within the cities. Each city partner developed an Integrated Action Plan. Since the beginning that the cities faced the IAP not has an administrative exercise but has a strategic tool that combines short term actions with long term visions in response to the themes of the network. Each IAP is unique, in terms of local context, theme and coverage.

Transferability

AGRI-URBAN is an Action Planning Network, so beyond AGRI-URBAN is the Implementation phase of the IAPs. Some key aspects for a successful implementation of AGRI-URBAN IAPs are the following:

- keep running the Local Group that

will be at the heart of the activities and keep the participatory process open to representatives of communities, residents, or other beneficiaries of the actions under implementation;

- update the structure of the LG for accordingly to the implementation needs;
- managing public procurement processes;
- checking on state aids and other sources of funding;
- strong management and monitoring system

Each of these aspects requires capacities in the teams that are leading the work within the city and in cooperation with local stakeholders.

Conclusions

Besides the implementation at local level, the AGRIURBAN network intends to actively take part in transnational exchange and learning activities within the network but also with other small and medium size European cities.

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CHRISTAKIS TSOLAKIS' ROSE FACTORY



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Local community

Priority theme

Exploitation of organic rose bushes organic rose bushes

Geographical Coverage

Agros village, Limassol, Cyprus

General concept

In 1917 a teacher appointed in his native village of Agros, was behind the idea of expanding the cultivation of rose bush with the aim of producing rose water. This would contribute to a substantial improvement of the standard living for the local community. He therefore founded the "Pupils Association for the Dissemination of the Rose Bush", aiming at expanding the cultivation of the plant. The members of the Association were obliged to plant and look after fifty rose bushes every year. Those who planted more than fifty rose bushes received a financial reward. In 1948, Nicodemos I. Tsolakis, member of the Association cultivated his own rose plantations and began producing his own rose water. Until today, the family run the business with even greater enthusiasm, building new, modern installations and improving the cultivation and method of gathering roses.

Objectives

Down the decades, roses have become

big business in Agros, an industry that was acknowledged this week when Agros' traditional rose preserve was added to the list of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) by the European Commission. The objectives of the operation of the factory is the production of organic non-toxic products, the engagement of the Agros community to the plantation, caring and gathering of the roses, the dissemination of their love for roses, the spread of knowledge for roses benefits.

Results / Outputs / Impacts (500 words max)

Today the famous organic rose bushes of the Tsolakis family produce the following exquisite products, known all over the world, such as Rose Liqueur, Rose Aperitif, Rose Wine, Rose Aromatic oil (Rose Essential oil), Aromatic candles, Rose Oil burners, Rose Water, Rose Tea, Rose Soap, Rose Vinegar, and Rose Jam. The factory today is a landmark for the village as it attracts locals and tourists, something that gave life to this little village. Every May, the factory welcomes volunteers for the gathering of the roses. This allows people who participate in the procedure to learn and be part of this initiative.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

For the past 70 years the Tsolakis' family has been expanding their business in exploiting rose bushes. This is something that was cherished by the fellow villagers who helped and encourage the flourish of the business. One of the main challenges of this initiative is the actual cultivation of the rose bushes. For the factory to run smoothly they need to plant a lot of bushes and to care about them.

Sustainability

Today the Agros rose factory has grown and is a dominant figure to the village's life. Several businesses were also created or developed thanks to the operation of the factory. The goals of the Tsolakis' family is to continue the exploitation of rose bushes with the same stamina and passion while introducing new products to correspond to the market's needs.



Transferability

The rose industry has certainly put Agros on the tourist map. Every year, more than 70,000 tourists visit the village to sample and buy the products. This initiative is a great case study for small communities that cultivate certain products. The overall procedure engages many different people as besides the business operation, the whole village has set a business plan that actively engages them to the plantation and exploitation of the rose bushes.



Conclusions

Helping to keep alive the culture of roses is a rose festival that takes place in Agros every May in an effort to engage the local communities and tourists to the gathering of the roses needed not only for the factory but also for other smaller businesses that were established under the idea of exploiting rose bushes in Agros village.



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Key Stakeholders /Target group

Produttori vinicoli, comunità locali

Priority theme

Youth work

Geographical Coverage

Cyprus

General concept

The aim of the Viticulture sector is to contribute to the professional development of the vine growers as well as to the technological improvement of their ventures through education, transfer of know-how and expertise. The main responsibility of the Viticulture sector is therefore to contribute to the extension of the vine nurseries in order to provide the market with healthy and qualitative propagation material. In parallel, special emphasis is given to the technical development of the vine growers via taught courses and on-site consulting. Moreover, the Viticulture sector systematically takes part to the elaboration of a number of support measures that are comprised in the Cyprus Rural Development Plan and it also administers the Register of Table Grapes Varieties.

Objectives

The establishment of “parent pant”, the provision of technical support, being in line with the agri-environmental measures of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Program and technical support in viticulture.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Strengthen the capacitation building of vine growers, promote viticulture to professionals active in this field and

Enabling Factors and Constraints

One of the main constrains in viticulture and oenology is the lack of skills and technical expertise. As it is observed there are many people who are keen to become involved in this sector yet, they either to not have the basic skills and knowledge or the financial capacity.

Sustainability

The Department of Agriculture in Cyprus promotes the viticulture and oenology sector thus every year realises competitions for Cypriot vine growers. It is proven that more and more people are motivated to become vine growers and take into advantage the skills, expertise and financial help provided by the Cyprus department of Agriculture.

Transferability

This initiative was developed under the auspice of the Cyprus Department of Agriculture is an excellent example of engaging the local community in an agricultural activity. The particular example corresponds to locals who are either willing to become engaged in this field or they are already engaged but do not have the professional capacity to cope with.

Conclusions

Providing the necessaries tools and know how to people to become engaged or to be empowered in the Viniculture sector has been a great initiative for the Cypriot context. Besides the improvement of the quality of the products (fruits, wine etc), vine growers became keener to expand their knowledge and become more engaged in this sector.

Contact details

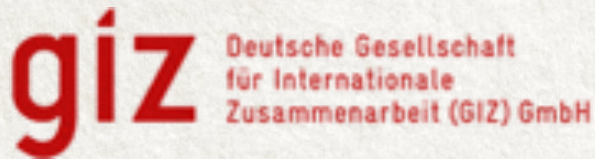
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CIM'S PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF MIGRANT ORGANISATIONS



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Migrants, refugees

Priority theme

Displacement and migration

Geographical Coverage

Germany and countries of origin of migrants in Germany

General concept

The Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) is the human resources placement organisation of the German Development Cooperation. In recent years, CIM designed a range of tailor-made solutions for the various stages of migration, in order to maximise the potential of migrants for development. In the recently established Migration for Development Programme, several components cover the various needs of migrants willing to apply their know-how to development in their countries of origin. It is aimed at individuals wishing to return and work in positions promoting the development of their countries of origin, those interested in returning to start their own business and migrants residing in Germany and supporting the development of their countries of origin from abroad.

This is the context within which the Programme to Promote the Development Activities of Migrant Organisations (PMO)

operates and co-finances the development activities of German migrant organisations in their countries of origin. It was originally developed and tested as a pilot project by the GIZ's "Migration and Development" sector programme. Since 2011, it has been steadily improved and is regularly run by CIM.

Objectives

To support sustainable development projects abroad, to enhance the visibility of migrant organisation activities in Germany and in their countries of origin

Results / Outputs / Impacts (500 words max)

The programme is building on the experience and results of previous projects. Since the start of the returning experts programme, numerous employers have benefited from the expertise of more than 15,000 returning experts. Diaspora experts have also helped to promote development in their countries of origin: since 2016, PMD has supported 135 short-term assignments, during which the experts have made the expertise they have acquired abroad available to an institution in their country of origin. Since 2011, over 120 diaspora organisations have received support and sustainably improved the lives of people in partner countries through their projects. Migrants are now engaged to a greater extent in the private sector in selected countries of origin: more than 80 businesses have been launched since 2009, which in turn has created many jobs and opportunities at the local level. In selected countries, the programme has helped to shape needs-oriented migration policy. Since 2017, more than 46,000 advisory sessions have been held in the advice centres for jobs, migration and reintegration, and around 30,000 people

have taken part in job application training courses offered by the centres.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

CIM helps to compensate for the lack of funding opportunities for migrant organisations. Through PMO, governmental organisations address the needs of migrant organisations by supporting their efforts. The intercultural and local competencies of development orientated migrant organisations and their knowledge of local needs enable innovative and sustainable projects to emerge, benefiting both the countries concerned and German Development Cooperation as a whole.

Sustainability

The successful pilot phase led to the establishment of the diaspora engagement programme first as a part of the sector programme "Migration and Development" and since 2011 as a separate programme integrated in CIM. However, experts have not yet observed any spillover effects into regular development cooperation policies and programmes. Additionally, since the programme's integration into CIM, PMO is strongly linked to the other CIM programmes (e.g. Returning Experts Programme). As diaspora engagement should not be linked in any way to permanent return programmes, this new development of PMO is very critical.

Transferability

This is a great example that demonstrates the fact that when giving the relevant skills to people in a particular sector then they can flourish and become financially sustainable.

Conclusions

As part of this component, the programme provides support in selected countries of origin to local and international civil society organisations, whose projects create additional new prospects for returnees.

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MIGRATION ET DEVELOPPEMENT



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Local community

Priority theme

Participatory approach, principle of solidarity and partnership with the local authorities.

Geographical Coverage

France and Morocco

General concept

The Migration et Développement organisation was founded in 1986 by Moroccan migrants working in France, aimed at undertaking development action in their country of origin. Migration et Développement aimed at improving the village infrastructure in Morocco. Projects in the field, focusing on electricity, water, health, school and roads, agricultural productivity and rural tourism were developed together with villagers.

Objectives

Development of economic and income-generating activities, involvement of all local actors in the region.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

In practical terms, several projects have been implemented in different fields: electrification, drinking water supply, school building, agricultural and artisan cooperatives, rural tourism and training centres for local politicians, local civil servants and project participants. The success of the initiative is also demonstrated by the fact that Moroccan authorities consulted the organisation in regard to rural infrastructure planning.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Considering many long-lasting experiences and their successful development over time, Migration et Développement developed a strategy for avoiding common problems in the field of migration and development (e.g., ownership, equal participation, commitment and patronisation). Consequently, the villagers creating associations as a condition of Migration et Développement and the migrant actors define priorities, with both of them financing a portion of the initiative themselves.

Sustainability

As the organisation has been active in France and Morocco for 25 years, there are several impacts of their projects. Because of the organisation's principles and the multistakeholder approach, there is a prerequisite of sustainability. All activities carried out are discussed and coordinated with the villagers and local authorities. As a result, infrastructure is maintained after being set up. Furthermore, established associations in Morocco have been sustained after the initial support of Migration et Développement. In addition, the organisation itself has become a key player in the international arena, and even in governmental institutions, because of their long-standing experience.

Transferability

The participatory approach applied by Migration et Développement with regard to the implementation of projects ensures engagement and ownership of all involved actors. This good practice is an excellent example for promoting the collaboration of different stakeholders towards building a participatory approach.

Conclusions

Based on the fact that this example is the only one in this study where migrants are the exclusive drivers of change, it is of high relevance. This example reveals how diaspora organisations can professionalise and how cooperation with un-patronising authorities can enable a self-determined and successful development process. As a pioneering diaspora organisation with many years of experience, the staff is able to propose constructive solutions and to mediate among different stakeholders.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) - EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Key Stakeholders /Target group

Migrant women and youth

Priority theme

Empowering women and youth in agriculture and food systems.

Geographical Coverage

Italy, Afghanistan, Africa, Philippines, Fiji

General concept

The drivers and impacts of migration are intimately linked to FAO's global goals of fighting hunger and achieving food security, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. FAO has a unique role to play in reducing rural migration, in view of its experience in supporting the creation of better conditions and resilient livelihoods in rural areas. FOW developed a strong enabling environment for gender equality and women's empowerment through awareness-raising, policy assistance and technical assistance. As a result, FAO supports women and youth empowerment in agriculture due to the following reasons: Universality is at the core of the UN mandate (no one should be left behind principle); Women play a key role in rural economies where the fight against poverty is most pressing; Women are central to family food security and nutrition being responsible for food selection and preparation and care and health of children

and family members; Women are often the custodians of biodiversity; Youth are the potential farmers of tomorrow; Women and youth's empowerment in agriculture and food systems has a huge potential to end poverty and hunger; Mainstreaming gender equality and targeting youth is a must in order to unlock agriculture full productive potential and contribute to rural development.

Objectives

Better understand the root causes of migration in rural areas and prevent distress migration; pilot innovative mechanisms for rural employment (including seasonal employment and value chains) and enhance the productive use of remittances; inform policy to better integrate migration in agriculture and rural development.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

FAO has created knowledge and awareness at the global but also at the country level; advocacy and support to policy making with technical line ministries and other stakeholders; strengthening capacities (individual, group and institutional) on different issues including SDD; implementing projects programs that support equal access to resources, services, voice and representation.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Common challenges: Limited access to productive resources (land, water, inputs, technology) and information; Limited access to extension services and credit; Participation in rural institutions and decision-making, lack of voice; Limited access to decent rural employment opportunities.

Rural women's specific constraints include: Triple work burden in the productive, reproductive and social spheres and lack of recognition.

Youth's specific challenges include: Lack of incentives and interest in agriculture; limited skills and education to meet demand; social pressure to migrate for household income.

Sustainability

This initiative works on a circular model that combines design, learning, empowerment, market access and institutionalization. Further there is a presentation of the factors that enable the sustainability of this initiative.

Design: Developed an integrated learning methodology and collaboration with central and local authorities for adaptation of the curricula to local needs and contexts.

Learning: Enhanced agro-skills, analysis of agro-eco systems and promotion of good agricultural practices.

Empowerment: Development of life skills, participation in producers' organizations, promotion of rights (e.g child and labour; gender; land and property).

Market access: Promotion of entrepreneurship, business and marketing skills along with facilitation access to finance.

Institutionalization: Strengthening institutions' capacities, promoting national ownership and entrenching into national programmes.

Transferability

FAO realises that migration is often deliberate decision and an important component of household livelihood strategies. The root causes of people deciding to move out of rural areas are as follows: rural poverty and food insecurity, lack of employment and income generating opportunities; inequality; limited access to social protection; climate change and depletion of natural resources to environmental degradation and climate change. These cause can be observed in various different contexts and countries. Thus, FAO's approach is an excellent example to follow.

Conclusions

This practice gives the perspective of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on migration and outlines some entry points where FAO can support international efforts to address global movements of refugees and migrants. FAO has long-standing experience in building up the resilience of rural populations, supporting rural livelihoods, including those of displaced people and host communities, as well as addressing food insecurity, rural poverty and natural resource depletion, which are among the drivers of migration. Together with its partners, FAO is committed to further strengthening its efforts on migration within humanitarian and development contexts, building on its comparative advantage in agriculture and rural development issues.

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MADRE METROPOLITAN AGRICULTURE FOR DEVELOPING AN INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE ECONOMY



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Farmers and SMEs, public authorities, civil society, academia researchers

Priority theme

Geographical Coverage
Mediterranean area (France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Albania)

General concept

According to the FAO, a paradigm shift in both urban and agriculture development, planning and policy formulation is required in order to ensure access to urban food security, improved environmental management and enhanced rural-urban linkages. Although recognized as a major lever of eco-innovation for metropolis' sustainability and competitiveness, Metropolitan and Peri-urban Agriculture (MPA) still suffers from a "mainstreaming gap", remaining overlooked by policy makers, academic research and the general public. As a result, the environmental price of food is an invisible but nonetheless major burden for cities.

The MADRE project aims to meet this challenge: supply MPA with key players (from the quadruple helix) and create a transnational cooperation in the MED area. Aiming at fostering a change process in the metropolitan food supply model, the project will capitalize on the wide set of academic knowledge, pilot actions and policies, networks and transnational cooperation in order to allow MPA reaching a critical level in the MED area. In-depth

assessment of available material provides the baseline for an empowerment of MPA stakeholders and then to a formal commitment to initiate a transnational clustering process.

Such a capitalization process involve a multidisciplinary, pluralistic and multilevel partnership from 4 different MED countries (Spain, France, Italy, and Greece) and Albania (IPA), each partner representing a flagship metropolitan area.

Objectives

Capitalization on good practices implemented at local and transnational level on MPA; paving the way for a technical and political empowerment of local food production networks of the 5 countries involved within the project; establishment / dissemination of a consolidated set of knowledge (technical, organizational, institutional) on urban agriculture at Mediterranean level; development of a transnational cluster of metropolitan level; development of a transnational cluster of metropolitan agriculture stakeholders based on the quadruple helix model.

Results / Outputs / Impacts (500 words max)

Local workshops to identify hot topics and local challenges; Study visits and transnational thematic working groups; Best practices' catalogue; Thematic web platform; Joint policy recommendations.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Territorial challenges that had to be met for the implementation of the project were: to ensure a sustainable and efficient management of land and water able to guarantee sufficient crop yields for producers; to improve and promote local distribution and marketing areas by integrating short circuits in metropolitan planning; to create large-scale networks of local food system and insert the MPA and territorial eco-innovation as strategic priorities in public policies; to improve the rural-urban linkages and inclusion of vulnerable populations through agriculture; to enhance environmental management and ensuring food security for urban dwellers; to get back to the proximity between city and Nature, between city and agriculture, between city and food.

Sustainability

The project involves 6 flagship metropolitan areas. The sustainability of the project lies on the 6 thematic areas: Farmers' innovation (farming techniques, organization, marketing patterns); consumers' innovation (citizens' initiatives, pressure and interest groups); academic research (theoretical and applied research); territorial innovation (policies at local, metropolitan, regional and national level); social innovation (employment, social diversity, vulnerable populations); transnational innovation (networking).

Transferability

This project offers a new design of urban agriculture that allows synergies between stakeholders, new business model, job creation, social inclusion of large communities, environmental benefits, territorial integrity and land management, quality of local food chain and educational health and nutritional benefits.

Conclusions

MADRE is a capitalization project which showcases innovative practices and fosters the relations among actors dealing with

urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Mediterranean. Through the MADRE toolkit metropolitan agriculture becomes a strategic asset for public policies and the AGRIMADRE Platform.

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JARDIN DES AURES - THE GARDEN OF AURES



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Accueil & Rencontres association, which manages the collective garden, Protestant Parish of Marseille North, Network of Mediterranean Solidarity Gardens, Association for the Preservation of Peasant Agriculture (AMAP), Public authorities: City of Marseille, Aix Marseille Provence Metropole

Priority theme

Civic engagement, civic participation, cultural development

Geographical Coverage

France

General concept

This collective garden was initiated in 2000 by families of the neighbourhood who wanted to meet and garden together in the former wasteland of Terre Nouvelle, North of Marseille 15th District. It has a land of 2,000 m², of which 1,000 m² are cultivated, and is composed of 10 plots, including a collective one. The project received the support of the Protestant Parish of Marseille North and local association Accueil & Rencontres. Today, Jardin des Aures has developed as a more heterogeneous eco-site combining cultural, educational and gardening activities.

Objectives

Allowing populations with limited access to green spaces to garden and, above all, to

meet and consume their own production; Promoting social diversity in the Aures neighbourhood, one of the most vulnerable areas of Marseille; Educating people of all ages to healthy food, products' quality and seasonality through partnerships with schools, associations and social centres, creation of new job opportunities.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

The gardens are diverse and constantly evolving in order to adapt to the environment and to current issues of the society. In order to meet the needs of the community, the gardens are classified into the following categories: collective garden (collective public space), educational garden (the place favours education for the environment, nature and citizenship, open to both adults and children), insertion garden (promotes social integration for socially excluded people and economic capacity) and the garden with individual plot or family garden. The collective dynamic is at work along different axes: primarily food, with cooking and nutrition workshops animated by volunteers, then environmental education for children, through partnerships with social centres, schools and colleges of the district (400 children of all ages benefited from this service since 2006). Finally, composting awareness workshops are held once a month, free of charge and open to all. The garden also hosts training courses in organic gardening, in partnership with social centres and an AMAP, dedicated mainly to vulnerable populations from social housing nearby.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Today, Accueil & Rencontres is supporting 15 other local gardens operated by people who do not have a garden at home, often in financial difficulty. The replication of the project will depend on the availability and affordability of land in a context of decreasing public subsidies. Developing a more sustainable economic model on the long term will be a key success factor to allow the hiring of a full-time employee under a stable contract.

Sustainability

The Accueil & Rencontres association was created in 1987 by the Protestant Parish of Marseille North to manage social actions in Marseille's Northern district, including the green area where Jardin des Aures was developed. The land is used through a 90-year lease with the City of Marseille. The garden is supervised by the association volunteers' administration council and employs 2 paid staff (1.5 full time equivalent). Jardin des Aures is an «eco-site» in the middle of social housing blocks, in the Northern districts of Marseille. It is managed permanently by an association dedicated to social projects, ensuring its smooth running over the years. The garden offers inhabitants a social and environmental-friendly place of living. This unifying tool serves first of all to bring together people around a project and a common sense, with the support of local public and private actors.

Transferability

This good practice is an excellent example for the promotion of social diversity in marginalized areas. The exploitation of green spaces comes with many benefits for the end users since it cultivated the sense of healthy lifestyle as well as it promotes the community collaboration towards a common goal as well as it created new job opportunities for the community.

Conclusions

Jardin des Aures today is a pedagogical approach that promotes "eco-citizenship"

as means to raise awareness about urban ecology and sustainable development. This shared space is a place of conviviality, meetings, exchanges and sharing between neighbours, where age, culture, religious and social origins do not matter. People involved in the maintenance of the garden are keen towards improving their living environment. It is therefore a factor of vaporization, promotion and inclusion which makes it possible to fight against the exclusions.

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UNDP'S TOKTEN



Key Stakeholders /Target group

UNDP, UNV

Priority theme

Transfer of knowledge

Geographical Coverage

Global coverage

General concept

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the Transfer of Knowledge through expatriate nationals (TOKTEN) Programme in 1977, the Programme seeks to bring the knowledge, expertise and experience of expatriates back to their country of origin. The brain drain experienced by so many countries in the developing world thus benefits from a repatriation of knowledge and know-how. Participants share know-how gained abroad and engage with public and private institutions in a broad area of specialized technical fields such as banking, agriculture, engineering, science, economics, policy advice and health. The individual programmes are developed in cooperation with institutions in the South and migrants are also actively involved. Participating migrants benefit from the programme in the form of a stipend (although lower than that of the private market) as well as by knowledge sharing, cultural exchange, and by building ties with their country of origin.

Objectives

Merge the expatriates' acquired learning with their familiarity with local culture and language to process advanced information, knowledge and skills for use by their home country; Enhance national affinity across borders; Contribute to human resource development in good governance, public and private sector development, social and cultural sectors to achieve sustainable human development and build the national capacity of the PA civil servants and technocrats; build up knowledge networks locally and internationally across countries where TOKTEN consultants are currently residing and the occupied Palestinian territories; transfer advanced knowledge and skills in cost-effective ways through a practical, effective and demand-driven scheme; motivate the nature-endowed strong homing instinct in volunteers.

Results / Outputs / Impacts (500 words max)

Since its inception, the programme has added significance for the Palestinian people and was able to tap into the diverse and outstanding human resources of more than 10 million Palestinians residing abroad. Over 350 Palestinian women and men, from outside the West Bank and Gaza, and from many walks of life, have volunteered their services in a variety of disciplines to strengthen Palestinian institutions. They have ranged from civil aviation experts to strategic planners and education and public health experts to leaders in information technology.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

There are some problems in recruiting experts and in finding individuals willing to join the programme from destination countries.

Sustainability

The programme is financially effective. The consultation provided by TOKTEN volunteers is cheaper than hiring international experts from the private sector. In general, the programmes are designed to supplement local expertise and thereby enhance national capacity, which is intended to result in positive national development, if long-term structures can be established. Moreover, the programme draws upon the intercultural and linguistic competencies of volunteers to successfully transfer knowledge and skills to the country of origin. However, due to the diversity of national programmes and the demand-driven character of the programme in general, outcomes differ significantly.

Transferability

The TOKTEN programme was one of the first programmes to deal with migration and development and is still in existence. Thus, it relies on over 30 years of experience. It tackles the problem of brain drain and converts it into brain gain without linking it to permanent return. This was a new approach in the 1970s and is still relevant today. As the migration policies of Europe mainly target the immigration of highly skilled workers to fill labour shortages, the issue remains relevant to this day. As TOKTEN has been a momentous response to the development needs of the Palestinian people through providing Diaspora Palestinians who pass administrative, technical and scientific skills the opportunity to participate in the development of the occupied Palestinian territories, this project can greatly influence and be adapted in different contexts and backgrounds in order to help vulnerable groups to gain skills in particular sectors and helps towards the development of their surrounding environment.

Conclusions

UNDP/PAPP is dedicated to the social and economic development of Palestine. Many donors use the TOKTEN volunteer Programme and its well-qualified and experienced planners, programmers, engineers, accountants, procurement experts and human development specialists to avoid establishing their own separate local delivery mechanisms. This range of in-house expertise enables UNDP/PAPP to implement multi-sectoral activities, from large scale infrastructure rehabilitation to democratic governance reform, social development, capacity building and training. Staff quality and experience, as well as focus on utilizing national resources, enables UNDP/PAPP to deliver donor contributions rapidly and efficiently, leading in the shortest time possible to improvements in the living conditions of the Palestinian people.

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PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR PRACTICES (ALP) PROGRAM



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Migrant workers

Priority theme

Migrants' labour rights, integration

Geographical Coverage

International

General concept

As the world's leading international tobacco company, Philip Morris International, Inc. (PMI) has an agricultural supply chain spanning nearly 30 countries. Global in scale, their day-to-day operations are more than just a commercial transaction between their affiliates or suppliers and the farmers they source from. They also embody their commitment to implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) that support farmers in improving the quality and productivity of their crops, respect for the environment, and in achieving safe and fair labour practices on their farms. The vast majority of contracted farms in PMI's supply chain are smallholder family farms that hire a very limited number of workers (both migrant and local workers), usually for short periods during the season. As with other agricultural sectors, migrant workers make up a large percentage of the workforce on tobacco farms. Work in tobacco requires experience and expertise (to get the best value out of the crop) and is typically better paid than in other

agriculture commodities.

Objectives

Provide technical assistance (agronomy support, finance, crop inputs, fertilizers, certified food crop seeds); train farmers on ALP Code requirements; monitor ALP implementation on farms; to promote the integration and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable migrants, the provision of emergency support to recently arrived migrants, and to strengthen registration processes to prevent trafficking.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Around 27,000 of the 450,000 farms in the PMI supply chain hire migrant workers at some stage during the crop cycle.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

One of the major challenges we face in all countries where we source tobacco is the lack of clarity and understanding amongst farmers, external commentators and observers about what work is, and is not, appropriate for minors to perform on a small family farm. This is not a tobacco-specific issue, but one that exists for most crops. The informal nature of labour arrangements on small family farms is also a barrier to progress in addressing labour abuses. These barriers cannot be overcome overnight or solely as a result of our actions, but we are committed to doing our part and pleased with the progress made in both areas.

Sustainability

PMI has developed and implemented a wide range of initiatives to improve the sustainable production of tobacco and to improve the livelihoods of tobacco-growing communities.

The areas of focus are sustainable tobacco production (farmer training, equipment kits etc) and contributions programs (vocational training, education and training for migrants, empowerment etc). This type of projects and investments are the driving force for the sustainability of the program.

Link/website

<https://www.pmi.com/>

Transferability

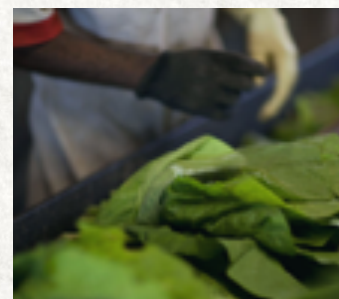
This good practice serves two purposes. On the one hand it promotes the inclusion of migrant people and their families through labour market. On the other hand it prevents the exploitation of vulnerable migrants. This is a great example for large firms that are active in agriculture to integrate into their work force activities that could allow the employment and skills enhancement of migrants.

Conclusions

Migrants on tobacco farms are particularly vulnerable. They can also fall victim to forced labour and human trafficking. This is the reason that PMI contributes around the world to prevent the exploitation of migrant workers and their families in tobacco farming and help them integrate into society. In addition to prioritizing specific interventions and the ongoing work under our Agricultural Labour Practices (ALP) Program, PMI is committed to understanding these risks and addressing the needs of migrant communities throughout our value chain. This is why they built partnerships with international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide assistance to the most vulnerable migrants and reduce exploitation and other forms of human-rights abuses.

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LA FATTORIA BIOLOGICA DEL COMUNE DI ALEXANDROUPOLIS



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Municipality of Alexandroupoli, Alexandroupoli's Social Grocery store, unemployed people and the elderlies (retired)

Priority theme

Youth unemployment, social inclusion, civic engagement

Geographical Coverage

Alexandroupoli, Greece

General concept

Alexandroupoli biofarm was created in early 2012. It consists of 270 pieces of 50-100 m², which are granted for two years to equal number of eligible citizens with social selection criteria. The products are for family and public consumption.

Objectives

Meeting the nutritional needs of citizens and trying to adopt a healthier dietary model; group participation of citizens in pruning, maintenance and harvesting of fruits; empowerment of social groups and the sense of social solidarity through cooperative culture.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

The products produced are intended to meet the needs of the recipients in food, while 10% of the production goes to strengthen the chambers of the municipality and the church, as well as

the social grocery store. The construction of perimeter fencing, drainage network, irrigation network, corridors, greenhouse, canteen, agronomic office, wc and warehouse are planned.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The main challenge for this good practice was to find the land for building the infrastructures for such an initiative.

Sustainability

The sustainability of this initiative lies to the fact that unemployed people and the elderlies are given the opportunity to enrich their knowledge and cultivate hectares of land, while the products produced are for personal use. Since the establishment of the biofarm, the number of farmers had a 34.37% increase, while the products given to the social grocery store were 65% more than the first year of implementation.

Transferability

The example of the Alexandroupoli biofarm can be easily adopted and transferred into any other context while the target groups, besides being unemployed people, or the elderlies, could be migrants and vulnerable groups.

Conclusions

This good practice had an enormous reciprocation by the local community. The modern infrastructures, along with the provision of experts and skills enhancement gave the motive to several people to become active in this field. In addition, some of the people who were given the opportunity to participate in this initiative made a career shift towards agriculture.

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INSTITUTI I NXËNËSVE QË NUK DËGJOJNË - EDUCATION TO GARDENING FOR DEAF CHILDREN



Key Stakeholders /Target group

3 teachers and 30 students (from 7 to 15 years old) of the Deaf Children Institute; Ministry of Education, on which the Institute depends

Priority theme

Skills enhancement, civic participation

Geographical Coverage

Tirana, Albania

General concept

Founded in 1963, the Deaf Children Institute is the only public institute for deaf and hard of-hearing students in Albania. It has about 100 students coming from all over the country and provides preschool and 9-year education. The Institute has pioneered research, education and therapeutic efforts to improve the lives of deaf children. Its programme is developed with appropriate equipment, tools and methods to facilitate learning. Educational activities outside the classroom are crucial for the acquisition of complex skills and knowledge. So, some teachers had the idea to involve students as cultivators in the Institute garden.

Objectives

Raising the awareness of students on farming and gardening, and empowering them to develop related activities; offering deaf and hard-of-hearing children an

alternative therapy and a relaxing activity; Facilitating their understanding of the links between natural systems, food production, diet and human health; developing a green area and producing fresh food within the Institute

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Inside the Institute courtyard is a garden of around 30 square meters, which was partly planted with flowers and partly unused. Three teachers decided to cultivate this garden with their students. Thirty deaf and hard-of-hearing children from the age of 7 to 15 are benefiting from this activity twice a week. They plant flowers, take care for pigeons in a dovecote and grow some vegetables. The small quantity produced is used in the Institute canteen

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The main obstacles for this initiative are the lack of agronomic knowledge of teachers and the lack of funds to buy seeds and other agricultural inputs. The financing of activities outside the curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education is a major problem. In the future, teachers are planning to seek support from international institutions such as GIZ, USAID, etc.

Sustainability

This initiative brings about educational and therapeutic innovation as it experiments farming and gardening as a new therapeutic tool for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. This activity could also be beneficial for children with autism or Down syndrome. The main goal behind it is to enable children with disability to gain confidence in their skills and capacity and to join mainstream education.

Transferability

This initiative is an excellent example for building activities for the promotion of the skills enhancement and build of confidence in specific target groups especially for youth.

Conclusions

Gardening can be a relaxing, educative and enjoyable activity when integrated in the school life. What is more, this initiative it shows that children through their involvement with gardening became more extroverted as well as more confident.

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AGRICULTURE



Key Stakeholders /Target group

- The very specific and circumscribed target group is represented by immigrants residing in the territory of Acquaviva delle Fonti. The Agriculture Social Farm is able to host 8 persons in residential form, while other 2 will be used exclusively in agricultural activities, packaging and distribution to the public.
- The involvement of the beneficiaries interested in this project takes place thanks to an agreement with the reception centers in the area and with the "Casa delle culture" (reception center for foreigners in difficulty in the Municipality of Bari).
- Partnership: Intercultural Center of the Municipality of Bari "Abusuan", Municipality of Acquaviva delle Fonti, Cooperativa CAPS, Cooperativa Artes e Association "Confini del Vento" Onlus

Priority theme

Re-qualification and re-use of a former rural school through experimental practices of self-construction for the residential, social, intercultural and working integration of migrants 8 immigrants residing in the territory of Acquaviva delle Fonti. It aims at a professionalizing path of self-employment in the field of social and biological agriculture.

Geographical Coverage

The project started with 2 hectares of land, and now there are 6, of which 3 were

confiscated from the mafia and the others were granted by private individuals. In addition there are 2 hectares of olive trees (confiscated from the mafia).

General concept

The project started in 2017 with the re-qualification of a former rural school owned by the Municipality of Acquaviva delle Fonti (Bari) in concession in the agro area to be used as a Social Farm where 8 young immigrants who have obtained international protection or reside in the territory can live and manage social farming activities and intercultural initiatives. In March 2018, the project moved on to working and cultivating the land. The agricultural project gave an effective response to the integration as it employed migrants from the beginning with cleaning and preparing the house, preparing the land and then starting agriculture and then selling organic products. Over time, through these activities, the project has overcome the initial resistance and opposition of the locals.

Objectives

The objective is to activate a pilot community experiment of self-construction, intercultural cohousing, social farming, packaging and distribution of fruit and vegetables grown on public land confiscated from the mafia.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

- At the moment, the project has resulted in the housing, economic and working inclusion of 8 migrants as well as the creation of an agricultural cooperative that takes the name of the project that will guarantee the continuation of the activities when the external financing ends.

- An unexpected aspect was the opposition to the project from some citizens, supported by a political alignment of the municipal council. When they heard about the project they opposed it so much as to arrive as a question to the Senate. Fortunately, the problem has been solved and the project has started. Over time, thanks to the interaction between migrants and citizens, and the sale of products, more and more people have come closer and now this is no longer a problem: many people buy their products.
- The creation of an active network around the AGRICULTURE Project is of fundamental importance not only to create a research, economic-productive and distribution network able to enhance the entrepreneurial experiences started within the Farm, but to perfect a coherent model of multidimensional approach to the integration theme to be shared with third sector operators, social and economic operators and local authorities interested on a metropolitan scale.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Among the factors that have enabled the project to start are: the personal visit of the project operators and the mayor of the Municipality of Acquaviva (Ba) to the surrounding farms, to present themselves and the project; the willingness of the partners involved to start it up by activating activities that were not initially envisaged such as an Italian course specific for agriculture and a training on the management of a cooperative.

Among the obstacles encountered there is the revolt of the citizens and the initial difficulty in finding the land. The project did not present any legal or economic problems, as well as being supported by the municipal administration, therefore,

even if with difficulty, it then started.

Sustainability

Economic sustainability through the direct sale of products and through the support of a project for km0 products of the National Confederation of Direct Cultivators. However, at the moment it is difficult because it takes 3 years to obtain the certification of organic products, so for now a great effort is made but the products cannot be sold with a price as for organic product.

Social sustainability is guaranteed thanks to the involvement of migrants and the interaction with the local population and the inclusion of new people when someone leaves.

Environmental sustainability is guaranteed by a careful and correct method of cultivating the land using the organic method

The agricultural cooperative is negotiating with an organic farm in the area that needs staff to start a collaboration.

Transferability

The project is transferable to places where agriculture is already practiced. Ideal is to have the possibility of using free camps (confiscated from the mafia or granted in usufruct), the support of the municipal administration and being able to come into contact with biological culture networks. Having a small and motivated group favors the success of the project. Furthermore, having the possibility of a building to be restored and in which practical lessons are to be held favors the full integration of the people involved.

Conclusions

Initially the resident population was against this project and did not support it.

With time and word of mouth more and more people have changed their minds and buy the products of the "agriculture" project even with a higher expense. We must not surrender before the first difficulties.

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BEE MY JOB



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international and humanitarian protection (men, women, minors), including vulnerable individuals.

From 2015 to 2017, the project involved beneficiaries welcomed on the territory of the Province of Alessandria.

In 2018, on an experimental basis, the project extended its actions to the territories of the Province of Bologna and Lamezia Terme.

Promotional actions, networking with category organizations, company scouting and the activation of internships have always been covered nationally.

From the start of the project to today, the main partners are: Unaapi, Conapi, Aspromiele, Coldiretti (category organizations).

In 2018: Cooperativa La Venenta, Associazione Comunità Progetto Sud (respectively reception organizations in Emilia-Romagna and Calabria), other reception centers and SPRAR reception organizations in the Province of Alessandria, Municipality of Alessandria, Piedmont Region

Priority theme

A project of urban and social beekeeping featuring refugees and asylum seekers welcomed in the city of Alessandria. It is based on the culture of respect for the human being and for nature, on a work ethic in stark contrast with exploitation.

Geographical Coverage

Since 2015, the association manages an urban apiary within the municipal park of Alessandria "Forte Acqui" which currently has 20 beehives, but will be expanded in 2019 with another 10 beehives for the production of pollen and royal jelly, and an urban garden in collaboration with the Diocesan Caritas, where a synergic vegetable garden also stands.

General concept

The Bee My Job project was born as a pilot experience of social beekeeping in order to create a connection between different issues such as integration and environment, work and dignity, commitment and opportunities.

Encourage the social and economic empowerment and integration of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international and humanitarian protection activating approaches to the labour market, while - at the same time - promoting a culture of respect for legality and labour rights.

The project is aimed at two economic sectors, the beekeeping one and the agricultural one, which are looking for labour, to favour the employment insertion of the beneficiaries. Services and economic contributions are offered to companies by networking the project resources with those already available in the territories.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Since 2015, Bee My Job has provided professional training in beekeeping and organic and synergistic agriculture to 140 asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, of which 90 reside in the Municipality of Alessandria.

From 2015 to 2018, more than 86 internships were activated in different areas of Italy.

The intensive theoretical-practical training in beekeeping has improved from edition to edition, including a focus on organic farming and complementary paths such as: an orientation to local official services, to the job market and to active citizenship, an intensive and specific course of Italian (with sectorial vocabulary), courses for safety at work. In 2018 a synergic agriculture course was also held in Alessandria for the most vulnerable subjects, and a course on the production of royal jelly, aimed at re-qualifying refugees already included in beekeeping companies. Therefore, for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, the training through Bee My Job represents an opportunity to access a professional qualification, an income and an autonomous life. On the other hand, the companies that have activated internships, in many cases transformed into actual working collaborations, have found a tangible support for strong youth, professionally trained and motivated.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The structure of the course, perfected over time and now recognized by UNCHR as a model, lends itself to being replicated in new sectors and territories and to involve new targets.

Bee My Job is accredited and enjoys good recognition in the beekeeping sector, above all thanks to the solid relationships built over time with the sectoral bodies, which favour the involvement of companies throughout the national territory.

The project has had good media visibility at national and international level. It found interest on several levels and was the subject of study by university students, photographers and documentary

filmmakers.

The number of recruitments is rather limited compared to the completed internships. This depends not only on the complexities linked to cultural differences, but also on the fact that many beneficiaries are asylum seekers and companies are not always inclined to hire people with whom, in the event of denial of protection, the employment relationship must be interrupted. Furthermore, some of the beneficiaries are involved for rehabilitation/therapeutic purposes, as they are vulnerable subjects.

In the new territories involved, the territorial networks are still weak and this makes it difficult for companies to get involved, especially in the agricultural sector.

In 2018, given the time constraints linked to funding, it was necessary to reduce the time taken to select the beneficiaries, negatively impacting the accuracy of this crucial phase. This has generated, especially in the new territories involved, some critical issues, which project operators are managing to ensure the success of the activities.

Sustainability

To ensure its economic sustainability there is the idea to put the project into the system as part of the SPRAR activities of the Municipality of Alessandria.

New coordination mechanisms are being studied to make the collaboration between Cambalache and the partners more effective on the new territories involved. In these areas, Cambalache intends to broaden the partnership, involving new reception organizations. Two female students of Tiresia Group - Research Center of the Politecnico di Milano are analyzing the possibility of implementing the Social Franchising model to guarantee the territorial extension of the project, respecting quality.

Transferability

In 2018, the model has been replicated in the welding sector.

In 2019 the model will be replicated in the sector of auto-mechanical repairs, bread making and snail farming and it will also be addressed to other population groups, with a special attention to the most vulnerable individuals, specifically to persons with disabilities and unemployed having 50.



Conclusions

Training not only in the strict field of employment (apiculture, in this case) is fundamental to the development and consolidation of the project. Good management and programming are essential, training in areas such as capacity building, sectoral Italian as second language classes, training for operators, network consolidation with sectoral bodies and promotion of the project in communication.

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SEMINA MONDO



Key Stakeholders /Target group

The engagement model started with the project “Costruiamo Saperi” and carried out by Semina Mondo, has had interesting repercussions on the territory, involving not only the neighbouring realities such as the Caritas Diocesana but also of other types of organizations such as Confcooperative, Architetti senza frontiere, Uniti senza frontiere, similar realities with which a collaboration was found like the social cooperative Terramatta, the social cooperative Villa Giuseppina. Trade unions such as CGIL, the Association of agronomists, and freelancers also showed interest in this model.

Through the socio-work placement experience, the beneficiary finds relational, psycho-physical, economic benefits for him/herself and other family members and the community. The participants continued to work in the same sector, within the cooperative or in other similar situations. Some have decided to start their own company, becoming entrepreneurs, as the media also has testified.

Priority theme

The methodology used is the “on the job” method suitable for the transfer of new knowledge and the acquisition of professional skills. The beneficiaries who undertake a training-on-the-job receive continuous specific training thanks to the daily support of experts and tutors working in a totally equal manner. The tutor works together with the beneficiary completely

destroying the distance between “teacher and learner”. Furthermore, the tutor is a peer or a person who has carried out the same migration experience and is perfectly integrated in the community context. This attitude leads to greater openness and the building of a trust bond. The basic preliminary training, commonly carried out in the classroom, is replaced in this practice with a direct knowledge in the fields and among the crops. This methodology is more stimulating and engaging.

After a very first phase of selection and of orientation to content and to teamwork, the work experience begins in the field. The preparatory contents are transmitted in a participatory manner, leaving ample room to first impressions, to previous experiences and to their instincts. In this way, it is possible to compare the techniques used in one’s own country of origin. Theoretical-practical training continues with the specific themes of the agricultural sector (construction of the planting layouts, rotary cultivation, irrigation techniques) and develops throughout the production cycle - from planting to harvesting and selling. Participating in all the steps allows you to acquire a total awareness of what the job is and how to open it and promote it to the other, outside.

Geographical Coverage

The Semina Mondo cooperative cultivates 3 hectares of open land, according to the natural method. In addition to typical vegetables such as cauliflower, fennel, courgette, tomato, aubergine, spinach, chard, onions, aubergines and peppers, niche products are grown such as Rosolini’s old cabbage and saffron, but also international crops such as habanero red chilli, the okra, coriander and others.

General concept

The people who undertake a socio-work path in this project have difficult situations behind them: people that had problems with alcohol or drugs, or with justice, migrants or people who live in a situation of economic poverty. Each of this experience, of their suffering has represented a challenge within the integration process. Within the work context, some profound weaknesses have re-emerged:

- Lack of respect for the other/non-acceptance of the other as of another gender/nationality;
- Lack of respect for the rules within a system whose purpose is to ensure the success of the work;
- Difficulty of working in teams and sharing a common goal.

Despite the challenges manifested in the first few weeks, perseverance and encouragement for teamwork with continuous stimulation of the group's good work made it possible to find a balance point, filled within 2/3 months.

The objective of the practice is the transmission of new knowledge that allows the beneficiary to acquire professional skills to spend in the world of work and be promoters of a way of doing participatory and genuine agriculture in which there is not one exploiter and one exploited, in the perspective of a cooperative learning.

The peer and field methodology adopted for training allows the creation of significant bonds of respect and understanding of the culture of the other. The opening to the outside of the products and of the people who work there through direct sales, in the markets, solid dinners, tastings are a way to create positive and inclusive synergies in the local area.

Objectives

The goals are the creation of an income for people in difficulty, social and labor

integration of migrants and other vulnerable people who are having problems in finding working opportunities and the rehabilitation process on the job.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

- 50% of the people included in the project continued to work in what later became a cooperative.
- 100% of the people included have acquired new skills, not only technical but also relational.
- 80% of the inserted people have continued the same path (social agriculture) in other companies of the territory.
- 100% of the beneficiaries have integrated into the community context, succeeding independently in looking for work, contacting the services and seeking elements of sustainability.
- Change in the point of view with respect to agricultural work as belonging to the male gender;
- Change in the point of view of employers who perceived migrant workers as persons to be exploited (in this territory there is the Caritas presidium against the exploitation of the agricultural worker);
- In a broader sense, the perception that the community has of the migrant not as a problem but as a resource.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

- Among the favorable conditions, the participation of people from different cultures led to the introduction of new crops (okra, coriander, habanero red) to the territory, which allowed us to open up to a niche market. to realize an exchange of practices and food products.

The support of the network (Caritas, Store Sale della Terra, cooperative Terra Matta) which has allowed to promote the products throughout the national territory and to realize an exchange of practices and food products.

- Among the unfavorable conditions, we report the difficulty to activate training internships (for problems related to regional laws).
- Among the innovations:
 - Home delivery service;
 - Direct sales;
 - Recovery of ancient Sicilian grains and slow food products (eg. black Leece of Leonforte, old cabbage of Rosolini).

Sustainability

- Environmental sustainability is given by totally natural cultivation techniques (use only of natural fertilizer, water and sun).
- Social sustainability occurs through the organization of events, in which workers explain the sowing and harvesting process, solidarity dinners represent a moment of exchange with the wider community to offer not only the tasting of products but also the culture of consumption.

Transferability

It is an example of involving the local community in an agricultural and social practice, an example of self-employment. The outward opening is a way to create positive and inclusive synergies in the territory and also allows the active involvement of the communities in the processes of social inclusion.

Conclusions

Semina mondo, change in the point of view with respect to agricultural work as belonging to the male gender. People who have participated in this programmes,

have acquired new skills, not only technical but also relational. Through the socio-work placement experience, the beneficiary finds relational, psycho-physical, economic benefits for him/herself and other family members as well as the community.

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ENTRO TERRA



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Asylum-seekers, disabled youth, product buyers, Cooperativa Entropia and its workers

The people involved in the project are beneficiaries who are hosted by projects of the Cooperativa Entropia as well as other receiving organizations. They are engaged through a training internship. To realize the activities and in order to organize public initiatives, the project started collaborations with local authorities, other agricultural and social cooperatives of the territory.

Priority theme

The purpose of the initiative is twofold, on the one hand to carry out agricultural experimentation, using natural methods of cultivation, and on the other to undertake work placements for disabled youth and asylum seekers. It used the regenerative agriculture approach.

Geographical Coverage

2 hectare and a half in the Municipality of Santorso (Vi)

General concept

The Project was born in 2018 from the Entropia Cooperative, which welcomes asylum seekers and people with disabilities. The communities of the cooperative are based in Torrebelficino, Santorso, Pievebelficino and Schio. The agricultural project is instead located in Santorso. It involves trainees that are asylum-seekers

and some disabled youth, who give their support to work in the fields, finding the opportunity to make themselves useful and to feel part of an inclusive production process, of which they learn about all phases.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

The social integration of the beneficiaries is very positive; It is very effective to work with asylum seekers as they have a practical way of learning and integrating themselves in a social and human context, which is very favorable in agriculture. Among the evident results of the project: the community lunch among the beneficiaries, relationships that go beyond working hours, asylum seekers have brought their knowledge and their techniques. Everyone is part of a production process and brings their own ideas.

Among the unexpected positive aspects, thanks to the proximity of the camp to the town, there is the interaction between the beneficiaries, especially the asylum seekers, and the local population. In this way, the stereotype of the foreigner as unlucky, poor and welcomed by Italy has been knocked down, in favor of an idea of young people who want to work and contribute.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

The main favorable condition that has favored the success of the project is the financial capital that the Entropia cooperative has decided to invest in this project, together with 3 professional figures (agronomist, psychologist and educator) who work as a team with professional experience. In addition, the camp was given free of charge by a private person. Among the obstacles there is a slow and difficult start due to bureaucracy.

The idea is innovative as it uses the approach of regenerative agriculture (growing in Italy), uses self-produced fertilizers and uses traditional methods handed down for cultivation.

Furthermore, it is not only based on the sale of the products but also on the direct involvement of the buyers in order to support and be an integral part of the project.

Sustainability

Environmental sustainability: it is guaranteed by good agricultural practices.
Economic sustainability: they haven't arrived yet as they have just started. The cooperative has financed the launch of the project, and in 2019 it should be possible to support salaries and internships with its own activities.

Social sustainability: thanks to the involvement and interaction of the team, the guests of the cooperative, the locals and through the local network, direct sale and organized initiatives.

Furthermore, non-motor driven but human traction machines are used which have a better environmental impact and allow saving in gasoline and can be used by young people with psychiatric problems

Transferability

- Knowledge transfer
- Clear documentation of the activities and performance of the good practice.
- End users (beneficiaries)
- Context of implementation
- Relevant policies/ legislations/ strategies/ action plans/ guidelines.

Conclusions

Involving foreigners and people with other disabilities and sharing moments outside of work contribute to consolidating the group and making social integration effective.

Furthermore, choosing a particular type of agriculture (traditional) makes the project unique in itself.

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AGROSVOLTARE



Key Stakeholders /Target group

The beneficiaries are mainly asylum seekers accepted by the Svoltare cooperative but also include the insertion of people who are in general social disadvantage (eg ex-prisoners, disabled and people with psychiatric problems)

People are involved through agreements with other bodies or cooperatives.

The project collaborates with other cooperatives or organizations that deal with disadvantaged people, with public bodies at different levels and with the agriculture training organization in Parma (Agriform).

Priority theme

AGROSVOLTARE HUB promotes a model of social agriculture, sustainable for society, the economy and the environment, because it favours the employment of disadvantaged people by recovering the local agricultural culture.

In full respect of the dignity of people and the natural fertility of the Scodogna Forestry Nursery in Collecchio, fruit and vegetable and beekeeping products are born, fresh and processed, capable of recounting man and nature, both expressing a biodiversity to be defended and preserved.

AGROSVOLTARE HUB produces organic agriculture for direct sales and free supply to associations and social canteens, to enhance the local product and share solidarity models of production and consumption with the territory.

Geographical Coverage

The project includes 6 hectares of arable land and 300 native fruit trees, in Collecchio (Parma). The territory has been given free loan for use by the Western Emilia Parks and Biodiversity Management Authority.

Moreover the project has 2 greenhouses (not heated) in order to be able to cultivate 8 months out of 12. They would like to reach 6 greenhouses.

General concept

The beneficiaries involved are involved in the transplantation and direct sale of plants to reforest or for private individuals; they cultivate the land and the vegetable garden; follow the plant care process; dealing with beekeeping.

The land is bordering on the social gardens of the area, a factor that allows the relationship with the local people, especially the elderly.

The idea of agriculture was born after noting that many asylum seekers do not have the didactic tools to learn the language and do not have the qualifications to be employed in other types of work, or because they simply love being farmers as they did in their country of origin. An agricultural training activity was therefore started as the area requires labour in this sense and this is an opportunity for migrants to integrate.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

The nursery was abandoned, and there are no funds to fix it: thanks to the work of the people involved, an important place for the area has been redeveloped. The local community was very pleased to see many people working in this direction, and this helped the project succeed.

The project is a hub, a starting point where to receive training through classroom hours and an internship that can last from 3 to 12 months.

Those who have the capacity to support the project and carry it forward are hired. The project gives considerable importance to the agricultural training of the people involved, which means giving dignity and socially reactivating through disadvantage people through agriculture.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Favourable condition of the project is first of all having the possibility of a large land on loan for use with the infrastructures already present (warehouses where the part of the classroom and the well are built). Only the changing rooms were built. This has saved the initial investment.

A huge investment was made in e communication to promote the project and to break down stereotypes and prejudices through this and other professional training projects aimed at integration.

Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is guaranteed by a land already used for agriculture and for the good techniques used for agricultural work.

Social sustainability is guaranteed by partnerships with institutions that activate training internships, and thanks to the interaction with the inhabitants of the neighbouring village.

Economic sustainability is guaranteed by the sale and reservation of products. Although it is a cooperative, there is no profit but everything is reinvested.

Transferability

The project was also transferred to other professional fields such as bread-making and the production of prosciutto.

Conclusions

Starting from an abandoned reality, but significant for the population and for this reason important to reactivate, to involve

people with practical skills who do not have the possibility of entering into other working environments, proposing an innovative project that meets heterogeneous needs between foreigners and natives was the key to Agrosvoltare's success.

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BARIKAMÀ SOCIAL COOPERATIVE



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Beneficiaries, implementers, institutions, other partners: 7 members of Barikamà Social Cooperative; 1 employee with Asperger Syndrome.

Methods of engagement and participation, including any special contextual features: Barikamà is a self-employment project that started directly from the action of its beneficiaries. There is no recruitment.

Extent to which outcomes/results validated by stakeholders (i.e stakeholder perspectives and testimony): Improvement of living conditions and quality of work; Mutual benefit in including Italian people with disabilities.

Innovative partnerships: Barikamà is partner with Granma Bistrot and Casale di Martignano in managing "Caffè Nemorense".

Priority theme

Barikamà was established thanks to the idea of seven boys of African origin, who fled from Rosarno and Foggia to escape from working exploitation. Nowadays, it mainly deals with the production of vegetables and yoghurt, always paying attention to the environmental sustainability (organic farming) and always supporting projects coming from ailing conditions (i.e. The milk supplied to him comes from Casale dei Nibbi (Amatrice), located in an area hit by the 2016 earthquake).

Its products are mainly distributed in the Rome area.

Geographical Coverage

Production: Campagnano di Roma (RM)

Distribution: Rome (RM)

General concept

Barikamà founders started their activity in 2011, in informal way, inside Community Centre ExSnia in Rome, who welcomed them after the experience in Rosarno and Foggia.

In 2014, Barikamà got formalized in to a Social Cooperative, thanks to the cooperation of Casale di Martignano, that made available the use of some land (5ha) for the cultivation of vegetables and useful tools for processing milk.

The peculiarity of Barikamà is that it is a migrant self-employment project that mainly deals with the transformation of dairy products. Only recently, the production and delivery of vegetables began.

Moreover, thanks to the good economic results, Barikamà started a program for hosting paid internship for people affected by Asperger Syndrome. One of them, became full time member of the Cooperative. His job is to give informatic and graphic support.

From 24/09/2017, Barikamà also manages the Caffè Nemorense, located inside the Nemorense park in the II Municipality of Rome.

Objectives

The goals are the creation of micro-income for people in difficulty, social and labour integration of migrants and other people who are having problems in finding working opportunities.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

Quantitative: Since 2014, Barikamà produces about 150 litres of yogurt a week and cultivates, for the production of vegetables, about 5 ha.

His distribution covers 12 street markets, 6 shops and 10 Ethical Purchasing Group. Qualitative: Barikamà experience shows that microenterprise business is possible but only if it's possible to distribute the product outside the mainstream markets. Long-term results to which practice contributes: Barikamà appears to be an example for the formation of auto-entrepreneurial projects. Its expanding network could also be a driving force for raising awareness of social issues and building tolerance.

Different impacts on different key actors: Migrants and people affected by Asperger Syndrome: raising awareness on self-employment opportunities. Enhancing social and working conditions.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

- Enabling conditions that helped the practice to succeed: Among the conditions that contribute to the success of the Cooperative's activities, the collaboration of Casale di Martignano is essential, without which the production of yogurt and vegetables would be impossible. Moreover, the good relations that Barikamà has with 10 Ethical Purchasing Group and 12 street markets, made the distribution possible.
- Specific constraints that needed to overcome and how this was done: The biggest constraint is the possibility of making investments of a wider range, given that for the whole income is split between the members of the Cooperative.
- Innovations that the practice may have brought about, or new ideas/technologies: Barikamà shows how migrant self-employment projects are possible and sustainable over time. The attention of this project to other social issues (inclusion of people affected by Asperger's Syndrome and milk coming

from distressed territories) shows how an economy based on an ethical exchange can actually guarantee the possibility of job placement.

Sustainability

Elements that are in place for environmental, social and economic sustainability resilience: Environmental: Milk and vegetables are produced using organic cultivation method. Packaging is made with recycled glass. Deliveries are made using bikes. Economical: Barikamà is diversifying his activities (Caffè Nemorense)

Plans for extending the practice more widely or encouraging its adoption in other contexts: Barikamà is trying to expand his production and his network.

Transferability

Business model, distribution model, self-employment through the foundation of a Cooperative.

Conclusions

Barikamà shows how migrant self-employment projects are possible and sustainable over time.

The attention of this project to other social issues (inclusion of people affected by Asperger's Syndrome and milk coming from distressed territories) shows how an economy based on an ethical exchange can actually guarantee the possibility of job placement.

It is important to remember that this kind of project are possible just distributing the products outside the mainstream markets. It is also important to build a strong network for the distribution and the support for the project.

This kind of activity requires a good degree of resilience and the capability in programming the actions step by step.

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SEMINO - KILOWATT SOCIAL COOPERATIVE



Key Stakeholders /Target group

- Beneficiaries: Migrants
- Implementers: Kilowatt Social Cooperative; Pictor Social Cooperative; Farmers: "Azienda agricola Floema", "Holerilla"; Distribution: "Vetro" (restaurant managed by Kilowatt) and "Local to you" (e-commerce Platform).
- Institutions: ResCUE-AB: Faculty of Agriculture's Research Centre in University of Bologna (supervision of crop trends and drafting of specifications)
- Other Partners: Tamat NGO
- Methods of engagement and participation, including any special contextual features: Kilowatt, that is coordinating Semino's activity, favours the encounter between agricultural cooperatives that need manpower and social cooperatives that deal with migrant's working inclusion process.
- Extent to which outcomes/results validated by stakeholders (i.e stakeholder perspectives and testimony): At the moment, Semino network brought to the contractualization of 2 migrants in two different companies.
- Innovative partnerships: Semino unites, under the coordination of Kilowatt Cooperative, all kind of activities that can facilitate the process of migrant integration.

Priority theme

Semino is an informal network, created by Kilowatt Social Cooperative, and was created to bring ethical, sustainable and healthy agricultural products to the market, and to offer employment and inclusion opportunities for migrants, proposing a social approach to innovation, that is generating value for all the actors involved, from producers, to society as a whole.

Geographical Coverage

Bologna, Italy

General concept

The idea comes from the meeting between the chefs of the Bistrot Vetro and the community garden of the Serre dei Giardini Margherita, a regenerated space managed by Kilowatt. It all began when Farouk, a cook assistant from Bangladesh, asked to try to grow vegetables typical of his country of origin (Karela), hard to find in Italy. This is how the first seeds are planted, which sprout in the garden and grow in the ideas of those who lives in Le Serre, becoming a real business project.

Semino started its work in 2017.

Semino selects vegetables species present in migrants' diet and difficult to find in Italy and with its partners cultivate and sell them.

In order to do this, Semino created a network of social entrepreneurs, researchers, organic producers, distributors and restaurateurs.

Objectives

Creating job opportunities for people coming from a migration path.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

In 2017, Semino cultivated, using Malabar spinach and Blue Star potato, around 3ha belonging to Pictor Social Cooperative.

In 2018, 2ha were used to produce Okra/Gombo and Cow peas. Moreover, Semino tried to plant curcuma and daikon.

During two years of experience, Semino network helped two migrants in finding a stable and regular work.

Creation of a supply chain of niche commercial products; raising awareness on the issue of the social and labour inclusion of migrants;

Implementation of a structured system that unites productive realities, job demand, distribution and marketing of agricultural products.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

Migrants were facilitated in cultivating this kind of vegetables, because they were already having all the information needed. One of the main problem is the distribution and commercialization of niche vegetables; Agriculture is a very fluctuating sector in term of production (total yield) and in term of prices, that is an obstacle to stabilize working relations.

The main innovation is the cultivation of vegetables coming from migrant's country of origin, instead of importing them.

Valorization of the migrant's skills acquired in the country of origin.

Sustainability

In order to contrast the obstacle to the stabilization of working relations, Semino is working on the formalization of a job sharing program, ensuring the possibility for migrant to work in more than one company.

The network is evaluating the possibility to support of migrants' self-entrepreneurship projects. At the moment Semeni is helping one person in developing the business

plan for his company.

Semino is even expanding his network, involving social and productive companies interested in his work methodology.

In the beginning of 2018, Tamat NGO, an NGO based in Perugia that started, in 2017, a project for producing and processing Okra/Gombo, joined the network.

Transferability

Network and skill building

Conclusions

Semino made clear that inclusion of migrants can come from their own skills, combined with the necessity of respecting the environment.

Moreover, with a proper coordination is possible to distribute the product outside the network (Local to you) and inside (VETRO Restaurant).

Semino won the UniCredit Carta tender, which provided a contribution of € 42,500 to carry out a project capable of combating youth unemployment.

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SFRUTTAZERO (ZERO EXPLOITATION)



Key Stakeholders /Target group

Beneficiaries: migrant and Italian citizens

Implementers: "Solidaria" and "Diritti a Sud" associates

Other partners: Masseria dei Monelli/

Ortocircuito: the place and the association that made available space and tools to process tomatoes.

FuoriMercato: solidarity network between companies. Trade Union

Methods of engagement and participation, including any special contextual features: Migrants and Italian citizens that are already involved in the activities of the two associations. Other adhesions came from the moment of collective information and fight against illegal hiring.

Extent to which outcomes/results validated by stakeholders (i.e stakeholder perspectives and testimony): Enhanced working and social conditions.

Priority theme

SfruttaZero is a joint project of the "Solidaria" Association, Bari (BA), and "Diritti a Sud", Nardò (LE), whose objective is the construction of an ethical tomato supply chain through which to provide regular contracts to victims of work exploitation. Agriculture, and in particular tomato processing, become the means for the emancipation of migrants and Italian citizens who are in precarious economic condition or under work exploitation.

Geographical Coverage

Production: Bari (BA), Nardò (LE)

Distribution: Italy

General concept

The area is characterized by tomato extensive cultivation that requires, during the harvest period, the employment of many seasonal workers. Given the presence of organized crime and the low prices that Mass Markets Retails imposes over the farmers, these workers find themselves without any contract that regulates their salary. Many of them are migrants who live in that area in precarious housing condition.

SfruttaZero started its work in 2014 in Bari and in 2015 in Nardò.

Objectives

Fighting the labour exploitation of Italian citizens and migrants. Create work and income.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

QUANTITATIVE: The production of the tomato sauce increased from the 1500 bottles in 2015 to 25000 in 2018

QUALITATIVE: SfruttaZero production, although increasing over the years, remains tied to a restricted market that does not affect the activity of the economy of the Mass Market Retails which see the essence of their profit in labour exploitation.

Longer-term results to which practice contributes: Creation of job opportunities for migrants and Italian citizens; Sensibilization in the matter of migrant inclusion, racism and working exploitation. Differential impacts on different key actors (gender/population/ social groups): Migrants: escape route from precarious living conditions.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

- Enabling conditions that helped the practice to succeed: Collaboration with Fuori dal Ghetto Association/ "Osservatorio Migranti Basilicata" (2015 and today interrupted) that supported the development of the project thanks to the know-how acquired during the development of similar initiatives.
- Specific constraints that needed to overcome and how this was done: Difficulties in financing the start-up (see below for the strategies)
- Innovations that the practice may have brought about, or new ideas/ technologies: Crowdfunding: Through "Produzioni dal Basso" crowdfunding platform (2015-2016); Preorder Campaign: Every year SfruttaZero launches a campaign for pre-ordering the tomato sauce. That grants to SfruttaZero money that they can use for paying salaries and for buying tools.

Sustainability

Elements that are in place for environmental, social and economic sustainability resilience

Environmental: Tomatoes used for the production of the sauce are coming from organic cultivation. Packaging is made with recycled glass.

Social: 2% of the total income is given to "Cassa del Mutuo Soccorso". This fund is used in campaign for promotion of the rights of migrants or in support to other social projects.

Economical: the project, after the first two years of seasonal programming and crowdfunding campaigns, has chosen to guarantee its economic sustainability through pre-ordering campaigns and direct sales of the product. Plans for extending the practice more widely or encouraging its adoption in other contexts. SfruttaZero is working to keep low prices and to expand its production through the

acquisition of new land and new ways to distribute the products.

Transferability

Special contributions coming from this practice are the way in which the financed the start-up process, using a crowdfunding campaign and the preordering campaign.

Conclusions

Mutualism generated from a common problem, enhanced the possibility of migrants and Italian citizens in overcome working exploitation. Moreover, as they say, "thanks to SfruttaZero, tomato turns from being a symbol of oppression into one of redemption and hope for a better future". Interesting feature of the project is the "Narrative Label" in which are written detailed information about the variety of tomatoes, about the place in which the tomato is harvested and processed and about all the costs that determine the price:

Work: 40%

Processing: 22%

Logistics: 15%

Administration and promotion: 12%

Training and social activities: 8%

Cassa di Mutuo Soccorso: 2%

Exploitation: 0%

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SOS ROSARNO



Key Stakeholders /Target group

- Beneficiaries: 20 farmers, members of "I Frutti del Sole", who benefit from the SOS Rosarno promotion campaign; The 10 members of Mani e Terra SCS ONLUS.
- Implementers: SOS Rosarno associates, including member of "I Frutti del Sole" and "Mani e Terra SCS ONLUS".
- Partners: FuoriMercato: solidarity network between companies. Trade Union.
- Methods of engagement: Engagement is usually based on previous connections.
- Extent to which outcomes/results validated by stakeholders (i.e stakeholder perspectives and testimony): Enhanced working and social conditions.
- Innovative partnership: SOS Rosarno, through "Mani e Terra SCS ONLUS" is partner in "Mestieri Legali" Project. This project is meant to include migrants in the management of the "Parco Fluviale della Biodiversità" in Rosarno. Partners of the project are: Consorzio Macramè, Fondazione con il Sud, Università degli Studi di Reggio Calabria, Landscape in Progress, Legambiente Reggio Calabria, Comune di Rosarno, Città Metropolitana di Reggio Calabria, Arci Reggio Calabria and Cooperativa Sociale Alba.

Priority theme

SOS Rosarno is an Association of farmers, activists and sustainable tourism operators,

based in Rosarno (RC). One of the main purposes of the Association is to support the working integration process of migrants who are victims of working exploitation or so-called "caporalato". In order to do that, SOS Rosarno coordinates and promotes the distribution of agricultural products and foods through Ethical Purchasing Group and FairTrade Shops all over Italy.

It also supported the birth of two Cooperatives: "I Frutti del Sole", who is managed by farmers associated with SOS Rosarno, and "Mani e Terra SCS ONLUS", an Agricultural Cooperative managed by SOS Rosarno activists (migrants and Italians).

Geographical Coverage

Production Area: Piana di Gioia Tauro (RC), Italy

Distribution Area: Italy

General concept

The area is characterized by citrus fruits' extensive cultivation that requires, during the harvest period, the employment of many seasonal workers. Given the presence of organized crime and the low prices that Mass Markets Retails imposes over the farmers, these workers find themselves without any contract that regulates their salary. Many of them are migrants. It is reported that around 3500 migrants moved to the Piana of Gioia Tauro area during the harvest of 2017/2018, living in poor living conditions.

SOS Rosarno is working in this context from 2012.

The main feature that make SOS Rosarno one on the best Italian practices in migrant inclusion is capability in coordinating and supporting the action of "Frutti della Sole"

and “Mani e Terra SCS ONLUS”, granting to the producers the possibility to sell their products at a “fair” price and to the workers the possibility to have contract and a fair salary, first mean of inclusion in any society.

Objectives

Creation of contractualised job opportunities; Fighting organized crime, Promotion of a society based on solidarity principles.

Results / Outputs / Impacts

QUANTITATIVE: During the 2017/2018 harvesting period, around 200 Tons of citrus fruit were delivered in Italy. That gave the possibility to the Cooperatives to hire around 10 seasonal workers, granting them the possibility to receive the unemployment benefit by the end of the season.

QUALITATIVE: even if SOS Rosarno is expanding its activities, still it remains a small reality, unable, on its own, to undermine the phenomenon of labour exploitation in the Piana of Gioia Tauro. However, SOS Rosarno is an example of an alternative way in that area and a good way to support the migrant integration process

Longer-term results to which practice contributes: Through its action, SOS Rosarno aspires to create a different way to develop both socially and economically. The association’s main purpose is to build a different culture in the Piana of Gioia Tauro.

Differential impacts on different key actors (gender/population/ social groups): Migrants involved: better life and working conditions

Population: sensibilization on working exploitation, migrant living and working condition.

Enabling Factors and Constraints

- Enabling conditions that helped the practice to succeed: The migrant seasonal workers’ revolt, during the 2010, can be identified as the beginning of the SOS Rosarno Campaign. From that moment on, it was clear that “solidarity and reporting were not enough. As we had been declaring for years, that farmers would have to see African workers as their natural allies, that a different policy of supporting sustainable agriculture was to get the first ones out of blackmail monopolistic of the mass market retailers, which chokes them by imposing very low prices at the source, and the second ones from the limbo of invisibility in which racist laws confine them and a wild labour market that wants them acquiescent and without rights”. That was the idea at the beginning, which is the main idea even today.
- Specific constraints that needed to overcome and how this was done: The main constraint, and it is even at the moment, are the prices that the Mass Market Retailers are imposing. The Ethical Purchasing Group and FairTrade Shops are absorbing now just the 30% of the production coming from “I Frutti del Sole”. Even if this percentage is increasing every year, the problem still remains.
- Innovations that the practice may have brought about, or new ideas/ technologies: The main innovation is the foundation of the two cooperatives, the way in which SOS Rosarno is able to mediate between the farmers’ and the workers’ needing.

Sustainability

Elements that are in place for environmental, social and economic sustainability resilience:

Environmental: All products that SOS Rosarno promotes are organic.

Social: 5% of the income coming from the production is given to the "Fondo di Solidarietà". Yearly, the full amount of this fund is donated to social projects (i.e. Hospitality School).

Economic: SOS Rosarno is trying to diversify its activities and to expand its network.

Plans for extending the practice more widely or encouraging its adoption in other contexts: SOS Rosarno supports every initiative based on this model, participating in meetings and encouraging migrants in starting their economic activity (i.e. Barikama).

Transferability

SOS Rosarno is promoting a kind of production strictly based on its own territory. The model is transferable in every place in which practicing agriculture is possible. As for SOS Rosarno, the project has to have a small number of beneficiaries. The model is transferable in every place in which practicing agriculture is possible.

Conclusions

SOS Rosarno is one of the best practices in supporting the social and working inclusion process for migrants: the association built a new kind of distribution method. Thanks to its actions, seasonal workers today have founded their own cooperative and producers have a "Fair" income. This project has to be based on strong territorial and cultural roots. Moreover, it has to be implemented, involving Ethical Purchasing Groups and Fair Trade Shops because they grant a better income to the farmers, cutting the distribution costs.

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