

# OLD CHALLENGES NEW PATHWAYS: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES FOSTERING IMPROVEMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

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## EDITORIAL

This is the **fifth** newsletter of the project «Old Challenges New Pathways – Social enterprises fostering improvement and social innovation in social inclusion». The OCNP project is a 2 years European initiative (Sep. 2013 – Jul.2015) funded through the [Lifelong Learning Programme](#). Consisting in a series of exchange visits and networking among partners from 5 European countries, the project focuses on work integration social enterprises (WISEs) – organisations that provide goods and services through a commercial approach as a means to integrate disadvantaged people through work. This newsletter aims to share the visit and the debates that were held during the fourth project meeting in Bertinoro, Italy.

## PROJECT PARTNER

- [A3S Associação para o Empreendedorismo Social e a Sustentabilidade do Terceiro Sector](#) (PT)
- [Scuola Centrale Formazione](#) (IT)
- [Samenwerkingsverband Sociale Teverkstelling vzw](#) (BE)
- [Focus – Association for mental health Care](#) (CZ)
- [Centre d'Initiative et de Gestion Local Strassen a.s.b.l.](#) (LU)



Promote innovative experiences, allow our international partners to meet and understand in a more deepened and innovative way the Italian context, meet the local and international stakeholders and create new synergies for future collaboration... these are just some of the reasons that led *Scuola Centrale Formazione* and *EVT-Enteprise for Vocation and Transition* to organize an international seminar, entitled "Social Innovation: between policy and development – our amazing stories", that took place in Bertinoro, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2015.

This event was organised on the occasion of two steering committee of two European projects in the field of social enterprises: **Work&Train** and **Old Challenges, New Pathways**.

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ITALY

The term "social enterprise" was used for the first time in Italy in the late 80s of the last century to indicate private initiatives of new constitution, engaged in the production of social services and activities to promote the employment of disadvantaged persons. However, the legislative framework of that time did not provide for a specific legal status for this kind of innovative ventures, failing to acknowledge the strong social component of their identity. Therefore, this new type of entrepreneurship initially took the form of generic "cooperatives with a social purpose", and the law then followed, simply acknowledging the status of this new economic entity and defining them as "Social Cooperatives" (L. 381 of 1991).

The development of the social enterprise in Italy, across all different local socio-economic contexts, is a phenomenon that has known a notable and consistent spread (by number of companies, employees, recipients, turnover, etc.), and it has predominantly taken - though not exclusively - the cooperative form.

Cooperatives, born in the second half of the seventies in some areas of northern Italy, especially in Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna, have subsequently experienced a gradual spread throughout the country. The establishment of cooperatives form was originally related on the one hand to the need by public authorities to "outsource" services in an ever-expanding range of areas (social, health, education, etc.), while on the other to a strong orientation of civil society towards self-organization into associative forms. More and more often citizens, informal groups or associations promote the establishment of new cooperatives in order to address social needs and to integrate and innovate the public supply of welfare services.

### Rules and regulations

The spread of social enterprises in Italy, as well as in other countries, has been accompanied by the approval, since the 1990s, of a series of legislative measures, which have facilitated their institutionalization. Within this specific sector of the economy, such measures have contributed to the definition of an identity that is both homogeneous and diverse enough within itself to accommodate different areas of activity and organizational as well as legal forms.

A real legal recognition, and the related regulations of this socio-economic typology, was first established by the enabling law June 13, 2005 n. 118, whose dispositions were implemented by legislative decree 24 March 2006, n. 155 ("Rules of the social enterprise, according to the law 13 June 2005 n. 118"). To emphasize the strong link, created in Italy, between social enterprise and social cooperative, in the current reform of the Italian government on the recognition of the social enterprise as a legal entity, the status of social enterprise will be conferred automatically to cooperatives and their consortia.

## VISITED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Social cooperative **CILS**

[www.cilscsesena.org](http://www.cilscsesena.org)

Social cooperative **MAFALDA VILLAGE**

[www.paolobabini.it](http://www.paolobabini.it)

Social cooperative **APEBIANCA**

[www.lapebianca.it](http://www.lapebianca.it)



## HOSTING PARTNER

SCUOLA CENTRALE FORMAZIONE is a non-profit organisation joining together 45 organisations managing about 100 VET centres distributed in 10 regions in the North, Centre and South of Italy; SCF works primarily to offer a representative support and an effective coordinating action to all associates, with a specific interest on methodologies, evaluation, innovation and transfer of best practices.

SCF is recognized by the Ministry of Labour as a national training association, according to the Law n.40/87 and it is also registered to the National Register for Research Institutes (n. H18907U) and to Cliclavoro/Ministry of Labour as national intermediation agency.

[www.scformazione.org](http://www.scformazione.org)

With the collaboration of the Association EVT-Enterprise for Vocation and Transition, SCF operates in a peculiar "sector" where the INNOVATIVE NO-PROFIT ENTERPRISE promotes VOCATIONAL TRAINING, COMPETENCES and the TRANSITION TO WORK, in particular following the Belgian model of "*Entreprises de Formation par le Travail*" and the French model of "*Entreprises de Transition*".

[www.evtnetwork.it](http://www.evtnetwork.it)

## VISIT TO SOCIAL COOPERATIVE CILS



CILS non-profit organization is a social cooperative founded on 7 June 1974, by the associations Anffas, Enaip and ANMIC, to promote the integration of people with disabilities in a stable and remunerated job. Despite being a cooperative of type A + B, it stands out as a social enterprise for the prevalence of the productive sectors in which people with disabilities are employed for the production of goods and services in the free market. Thanks to the experience gained over time and the quality of services, CILS has established significant partnerships with several clients in the area (individuals, companies, public entities), being appreciated for its professionalism and seriousness.

### Sectors **cooperative A**

- "Calicantus". Socio-working centre
- "La Barca". Socio-working centre
- Community Fabio Abbondanza
- Residential centre Renzo Navacchia

### Sectors **cooperative B**

- Services to Enterprises
- Front office and welcome services
- Lithograph
- Industrial and institutional cleaning
- Cleaning and surveillance of nursery and primary schools
- Environmental services
- Cemetery services
- Sale plants and flowers

The Cooperative is governed and regulated according to the principle of mutuality without purposes of private speculation and it has the aim to pursue the general interest of the community to promote human and social integration of citizens, associated and non-associated, with particular reference to the socially disadvantaged group, through the rational use of human and material resources available. It works to achieve the objectives set out in the law n.381/91, art. 1, letter. "a" and "b", inspired by the principles of solidarity and mutuality, and it works with the form of enterprise of social and health services and work integration.

## VISIT TO SOCIAL COOPERATIVE PAOLO BABINI - MAFALDA VILLAGE

The Mafalda Village is the result of years of experience, work and volunteering with children and families. It is a place of meetings and life stories, where find an answer the needs of infants, children, adolescents and mothers in difficulty with their children. Since it was born, in 2006, it has already helped more than 100 children and teenagers who were accompanied to a family serenity regained, a new family or to autonomy.



Mafalda Village is made with those citizens who have chosen to be protagonists of their community life, and who feel the necessity to intervene when there is a child in need. Today it is inhabited and lived every day for more than 50 people, and it continues the daily work in the territory to promote a culture of solidarity.

The Cooperative is divided into four areas: Care, Education, Work, Land and Family.

Area Care | Those centres are created to answer the residential or semi-residential need of children, adolescents and young adults, who are in particular social distress.

Area Education | This area includes those services aimed at children and teenagers, who are not in a situation of serious social difficulties, offering the opportunity to live educational experiences particularly significant.

Area Work | The Social cooperative Paolo Babini, founded as a social cooperative of type "A", in 2011 changed its statute and it became a social cooperative type "A/B", opening to the possibility of working placement for disadvantaged people.

a. The Centralized Service of Kitchen is a chance to workout at work for all those who, in situations of disadvantage for many reasons, are following an educational project, that includes the acquisition of new independent working and relational autonomies or a consolidation of those already held.

b. The Catering Solidarity Service Events and Ceremonies provides the overall organization of events. The social value of this initiative is that it represents a potential opportunity for job placement for people with social disadvantage, while ensuring the highest quality of service.

c. Piada52 is a bar/piadineria Snack bars in the green area of the area, which aims to create jobs for young people of the area and for disadvantaged children through the production and sale of piadine, crescioni, breakfasts, sandwiches, drinks.

#### Area Land and Family

Purpose of this intervention is to imagine and build a new culture of solidarity and social protection, starting from the assumption that a sustainable welfare system must involve the community. This objective is pursued through a working network that enhances the ability of local communities to take charge of the emerging social needs.

## **VISIT TO SOCIAL COOPERATIVE APEBIANCA**

The objective of the cooperative is the promotion of human and economic sustainable activities that have no profit in their main priority and reason for being.

Specific objectives:

- Spread the biological and re-use culture and in the territory
- Supporting the local economy
- Give job opportunities to disadvantaged people



#### **Sectors of activity:**

- Retail of biological and local food
- Retail of various good (cosmetics, clothing, furniture, toys) natural and ecological
- Services with high ethical and solidarity content (event, wellness, etc.)
- Management of eco-bio centre with restaurant, stores, wellness area, etc.)
- Working integration pathways for disadvantaged person

At ApeBianca, customers can buy food, cosmetics, clothing, household items, toys and childcare articles, books and stationery - all eco/bio sustainable.

