

REthinking Collaborative Values for public services

RECOV

Action plan

Dates: 01/03/2018 - 29/02/2020

Europe for Citizens

Democratic engagement and civic participation

Action: Network of Towns



Lead partner:

- Municipality of Centar, Skopje – Macedonia

Associated partners:

- European association for local democracy ALDA – France
- Municipality of Santoroso – Italy
- Municipality Grosuple – Slovenia
- Clube Intercultural Europeu, Amadora – Portugal
- City of Uzice – Serbia
- Albanian association of Municipalities, Tirana – Albania
- Raunas Novada Dome, Rauna – Latvia
- Asociatia Nationala a Femeilor din Madiul Rural, Rucar – Romania
- Unione dei comuni Montiferru, Milis-Oristano – Italy

Description of the Project

The project was developed by 10 partners across Europe, recognizing the importance to jointly address recently emerging challenges and to take an advantage of opportunities arising out of this cooperation. It aims at creating a network of towns eager to work together on exchanging common problems, joint brainstorming and introducing concrete measures in regard to project specific objectives. First of all, the project deals with the problem of lacking communication and dialogue between governments and citizens fuelling mistrust and passiveness of civil society. To address this challenge, the project suggests the usage of recent ICT instruments to “opening” up the work of governments through participatory policy-making and evaluation of policies and programs, while enhancing transparency and accountability. Second, the project will foster discussion among local governments on existing financial instruments, EU policies and possible EU support to local problems as well as alternative fundraising. It takes thereby into consideration the often limited financing of local governments. Third, the project acknowledges the failure of unilateral approaches to problem solving. Therefore, the project suggests collaborative approaches that bring together local stakeholders from various fields of expertise and putting in synergy their knowledge and competences for public good. The final event will capitalize the results of local actions and international events focusing on the success of inclusion, participation and collaboration as ways to tackle a deficit of trust in institutions among citizens while fostering cooperation between local actors, thus contributing to the emergence of innovative solutions and strengthened sense of ownership.

General objective:

Creating local networks capable of working together on the improvement of local governance through dialogue and participation, contributing to more inclusive and democratic society.

Specific objectives:

- to foster the exchange of best practices of local cooperation as well as to share solutions contributing to the establishment of learning networks on European level.
- Capacity building activities, discussions on EU contribution to local policies and initiatives as well as ways and tools for their improvement contribute to fostering European citizenship and improving conditions and democratic participation at Union level.
- To launch platforms for local dialogue between LAs, citizens and stakeholder.
- To raise awareness on EU policies in relation to those societal challenges as well as on mechanisms for addressing them both at local and European level.
- To create opportunities for learning and sharing new solutions: particularly ICT technologies can be employed providing new tools for citizen participation and initiative.

Activity Plan

Preparation activities

1. Online preparation activities

Dates: march 2018

Venue: online

Discussion on the action plan and the technical/practical aspects of the project implementation. An online meeting will take place during the first two months, in order to plan the details of the implementation of the project. This will allow to build the project team (SG), to clarify the administrative and financial issues, to set a time-schedule, to present the topics of the events and of the local processed and clarify the tasks of each partner.

2. Local preparatory activities

Dates: March – May 2018

Venue: Partner countries

Until the 2 month a Local Participation Group (LPG) will be set up. The LPG has to involve actively associations, citizens, entrepreneurs, youngsters, CSOs. The main activities that each partners is expected to do are:

- a map of the local group of citizens that could be more interested of the items of the project;
- a local event for presenting the project's goals and the activities.

International events

1. 1st international event “Open-government: principles, methods and ICT open source tools” focused on ICT tools for open government

Dates: 21 -23 May 2018

Venue: Skopje, Macedonia

The event will be aimed at debating about the tools that allow municipalities to be more open, with a focus on the new technologies. The events will be divided in 4 parts during 2 days: a seminar, involving experts able to give a theoretical framework; a round table for showcasing successful example on ICT open source tools, and participative policy making; a training on open source ICT tools; a workshop for debating the items of the international event and discussing solutions and proposals.

2. 2nd international event “Collaborative public services” focuses in particular on the building and managing of public co-working spaces and co-housing

Dates: 24 -26 January 2019

Venue: Santoroso, Italy

The event will be aimed at debating about the tools that allow municipalities to be more open, with a focus on the tools for involving actively the local communities in collaborative activities. The events will be divided in 4 parts during 2 days:

- a seminar, involving experts able to give a theoretical framework;
- a round table for showcasing successful example;
- a training on open source participation techniques;
- a workshop for debating the items of the international event.

3. 3rd international event “Innovative and sustainable financial instruments for local governments” focuses on EU rules and mechanisms and on new sustainable financial instruments for PAs in response to the economic crisis

Dates: 17 – 19 July 2019

Venue: Amadora, Portugal

The event will be aimed at debating about the financial instruments that allow municipalities to be more inclusive, dealing with the economic crisis thanks to involvement of citizens and to collaborative actions. The events will be divided in 3 parts during 2 days:

- a seminar, involving experts able to give a theoretical framework on EU rules and mechanism in response to the crisis;
- a round table for showcasing best practices;
- a workshop for debating the items of the international event.

4. Final international event “Participation & Collaborative values as a way to innovation and local development” focuses on collaborative values and rules to boost solidarity and innovation in local communities and on active citizenship (best practices, tools, methods and EU funds to sustain the participative process).

Dates: 23 -25 January 2020

Venue: Bruxelles

The final event will host in Bruxelles for disseminating better the project results and the policy recommendations.

A public conference will be organize in order to:

- share the results;
- debate about the value of participation for the future of EU;
- debate on how European policies can match local collaborative activities.

After the conference, a public round table will be organize for training on active citizenship; the main items will be: best practices, tools and EU funds.

Local activities

1. 1st local path: “How ICT could enforce Open-government?”

Dates: 01/06/2018 – 01/01/2019

Venues: Partner countries

Each partner will involve the LPG on the item to:

- realize an inquiry about the weaknesses of the use ICT for Open government in the local dimension;

- realize a state of the art analysis;
- discuss through workshops and debates with the citizens and civil society organizations;

The results of the LPG activities will be the basis for realizing a pilot action using ICT in each Country. For realizing this action, partners will be supported by the expert partner on ICT tools to the network.

2. 2nd local path: “Collaborative public services: doing it together”;

Dates: 01/02/2019 - 30/06/2019

Venue: partner’s countries

Following the guidelines shared during the second international event, each partner will involve the LPG and design, in a participatory manner, their own local model for a pilot action on collaborative public services. The LPG will realize a state of the art analysis; local debates, in the form of seminar, round tables, workshops, will be organized. The results of the LPG activities will be the basis for realizing a pilot action on collaborative public services in each Country.

3. 3rd local path: “Local innovative financial instruments: doing it together”

Dates: 01/08/2019 - 01/01/2020

Venue: partner countries

Following the guidelines shared during the second international event, partners will involve the LPG and design, in a participatory manner, their own local model for an innovative financial instrument. The LPG will realize a state of the art analysis and discuss the EU values and policies. Local debates, in the form of seminar, round tables, workshops, will be organised. The results of the LPG activities will be the basis for realizing a pilot action on financial instruments in each Country.

Communication and dissemination strategy

Dates: 01/03/2018 - 29/02/2020

Venue: Online and in the partners' areas

ALDA will coordinate the communication activities involving all the partners for producing contents for the website. Each partner will use social medias for promoting the project activities. For the final online publication, each partner has to contribute. Social media and other traditional tools will be used such as:

- Creation of Website of the project
- Social media tools (Facebbok, Youtube, Instagram..)
- Digital and written press
- Final publication

Monitoring and evaluation

Dates: 01/03/2018 - 29/02/2020

Venue: Online and in the partners' areas

A list of indicators written and shared by all the participants will be prepared to monitor the proceeding of the projects activities. At the end of each event, questionnaires to evaluate the

implementation of the events will be delivered to all the participants. A final evaluation sheet will resume the overall opinions about the organization of the project. A final report of the project will give a summary of the activities and results of the project.