



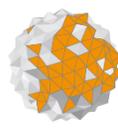
## International Conference

“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”

21<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, Lisbon, Portugal

## Conclusions and Recommendations



## Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| About the Project.....                        | 3 |
| About the Conference.....                     | 3 |
| <b>Project team meeting</b> .....             | 3 |
| <b>Public event presentation</b> .....        | 3 |
| Presentation of good practices.....           | 4 |
| <b>Open space methodology</b> .....           | 5 |
| <b>Study visit</b> .....                      | 5 |
| <b>Networking and follow-up meeting</b> ..... | 5 |
| Overall recommendations .....                 | 6 |

## About the Project

The project “RECOV: REthinking Collaborative Values for public services” was developed by 10 partners across Europe, recognising the importance to jointly address recently emerging challenges and to take advantage of opportunities arising out of this cooperation. The project aims at creating a network of towns eager to work together on common issues and finding solutions through joint brainstorming in order to introduce concrete measures for the improvement of local governance through dialogue and participation, contributing to a more inclusive and democratic society.

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 project “RECOV: REthinking Collaborative Values for public services” is founded by the European Union through the programme Europe for Citizens.

## About the Conference

The 3<sup>rd</sup> international event within the RECOV project took place in Lisbon, Portugal from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2019. The conference was entitled “Innovative and sustainable financial instruments for local governments” with a special focus on EU rules and mechanisms and on new sustainable financial instruments for PAs in response to the economic crisis.

The event 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 purpose of this transnational event was to bring together international participants working in the field of public financing in order to answer how the new sustainable financial instruments for PAs are responding to the economic crisis.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> international event was structured around a number of thematically-focused sessions during which participants present their work and had the possibility to learn more about the topic.

### Project team meeting

The 1<sup>st</sup> day was a possibility for the project team to meet and to discuss the implementation of the local activities and other project issues.

### Public event presentation

The public event of the 3<sup>rd</sup> transnational meeting of project RECOV took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October of 2019 in Casa dos Direitos Sociais managed by the Social Rights Department of the Lisbon City Hall and had the following topic: “Innovative and Sustainable Financial Instruments for local governments” with special focus on EU rules and mechanisms and new sustainable financial instruments for Public Administrations in response to the economic crisis.

international participants coming from the international participants of project members of RECOV (from 8 countries) and members of local development entities based in Lisbon as well as university students attended the event.

The event, taking place from 9h30 to 13h was divided into two main parts. The first was the presentation of two innovative and financial sustainable financial instruments coming from partners based in Lisbon (Lisbon's City Hall and Rede DLBC or CLLD Network Lisbon) and the second consisted of an open space methodology to promote interaction, exchange of best practices and experiences between the participants in smaller groups.

## **Presentation of good practices**

On behalf of Clube Intercultural Europeu – partner in project RECOV and the hosts of the 3rd transnational meeting -, Nuno Wemans started the public event thanking everyone involved in its preparation – with a special mention to the City Hall for the availability of the venue, which he explained to have been created for events and projects such as RECOV – and the participants.

Afterwards, Katica Janeva, representing ALDA, introduced project RECOV to the participants and elaborated on the transnational events that had already happened and the local action paths that each partner had underwent in their respective realities, always focusing on strategies to increase active participation and collaborative values between all stakeholders of a same territory for local development processes.

The following moment focused on the presentation of two innovative and sustainable financial instruments based in Lisbon. The first to be presented was the program BIP/ZIP (Priority Intervention Neighbourhoods or Areas) which is centred first and foremost on the identification of areas and neighbourhoods of Lisbon with low standards or indexes relating to socio-economic and/or socio-cultural criteria. Then, after there were 67 priority intervention neighbourhoods or areas identified by the City Hall of Lisbon, this same entity started to apply a financial instrument in 2011 with two main purposes: solve specific issues at the local level in each of these areas and create partnerships with entities and people in each of these local realities. It is a yearly program and has been ongoing each year since 2011 with maximum grants of 50'000€ per project and the obligation of applying for the grant as a partnership (grants cannot be given to only one entity without having partners). The program also implies having only one year financed but needing to maintain activities during two additional years with no further financing, forcing partners to find ways to make their projects sustainable and efficient.

The second presentation revolved around the Community Led Local Development Network of Lisbon (Rede DLBC Lisboa) which incorporates over 170 entities for local development in Lisbon and has the main goal of bridging the gap between associations at the local level and financing platforms, especially dedicated to training and making more accessible applications of their members to European funds. The speaker also mentioned that the CLLD network in Lisbon incorporates a bigger strategy for local development which also includes the BIP/ZIP program – to fund initiatives at the local level and create/empower partnerships between local entities – and GABIP – a support group created in specific territories within the city of Lisbon and that includes the City Hall and all the relevant stakeholders of the same territory with the goal to plan and implement local development and urban planning strategies and/or initiatives.

## Open space methodology

The second part of the public event, which happened after a coffee break, consisted in an open space methodology where each international partner of project RECOV wrote one innovative and sustainable financial instrument that they are using or promoting in their own countries and each participant chose which one would they like to discuss. The idea of each group work was not only for each instrument to be present but to achieve a common reflexion on the improvements that specific instrument could benefit from and the adaptations necessary for this instrument to be applied by each respective association and in each of the participant's local contexts.

Each groups' reflexion led to a better knowledge of each participant's realities, especially in what concerns innovative and sustainable financial instruments and contributed to a shared collaborative mind set of furthering the partnership within project RECOV and elaborating on working together in future projects, actions and/or initiatives.

Although no group presented their reflections because of the tight schedule, this open space methodology was also the starting point for the reflection that happened on the partnership meeting that took place in the morning of the 23rd of October and expanded on the possibility of future project applications done from within RECOV's partners.

## Study visit

In the afternoon a tour was done by community members of the old shanty Ville of Curraleira "As Costas da Cidade" in order to present the challenges of co-governance processes and the relationship between stakeholders.

## Networking and follow-up meeting

In the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> October a networking and follow up meeting took place. The project partners had the opportunity to contribute to the future development of the project. They have discussed theoretical and methodological perspectives of networking and they have identified several topics of cooperation such as: gender issues, youth employment, social inclusion and local development.

This two days' event was organised by the Clube intercultural Europeu.

## Overall recommendations

The Innovative and sustainable financial instruments for local governments are one of the key factors for the sustainable development of the local communities.

Currently, most of the communities are facing insufficient of public funds. In order to respond to the economic crises, public authorities would have to look beyond the conventional mechanism of funding and develop new approach of financial aid with regard to generate additional local development funds.

In this particular context, socially responsible investment can make public financing more efficient. The local governments would need to increase the capacity of local authorities and make determined efforts to deal with local development challenges.

Many international and EU programs are offering access to sustainable sources of funding. They are providing favourable financial conditions and broad range of innovative financial instruments for development assistance.

