



***“Local plan for employment adjusted  
to the needs of the labor market of Patras”***

**Networking – Transnational actions – ALDA transnational partner**

**[Guide on Social Cooperatives and Social Economy in Italy](#)**

**Guidelines and Case Study Experiences**



**Co-funded by Greece and the European Union**

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## What TOPSA PATRAS is.

The project entitled “Local plan for employment adjusted to the needs of the labor market of Patras” (MIS 383757) aims at the activation and mobilization of local bodies for ensuring the creation of job placements for unemployed engineers and social scientists (target group- 80 beneficiaries). This is the result of diagnosis of local needs and highlighting of growth potential in the city of Patras (capital of Western Greece), regarded as the intervention area.

Emphasis is put to strengthening the provision of social care services and to promoting innovation in entrepreneurship through incorporating new technologies (e-applications, web-design, energy efficiency).

The project action plan is implemented by a Development Partnership (DP) entitled «TOPSA PATRAS». "Patras Municipal Enterprise for Planning & Development-ADEP SA" is the Coordinator and partners are:

- Municipality of Patras
- Social Organisation of the Municipality of Patras - KODIP
- University of Patras
- “PRACTICA Western Greece” Vocational Training Centre
- “EUROTEAM” Vocational Training Centre
- Technical Chamber of Greece – Branch of Western Greece
- DATA RESEARCH & CONSULTING SA

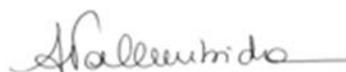
The project falls under Operational Plan of “Western Greece, Peloponnese – Ionian Islands”, Action 7: “Local plans for Employment adjusted to the needs local labor markets” / Intervention Category 1: “Active Employment Policies” Thematic Priority Axis 7: “Enhancing the Access to Employment” of the Operational Program “Human Resources Development” 2007-2013, actions funded by ESF (European Social Fund).

The action plan includes networking and transnational cooperation through the involvement of “ALDA: Association of Local Democracy Agencies” as transnational partner benefiting the conduction of tools, networking and multiple effects abroad.

This document is the Guide on social economy and social cooperatives based on the Italian experience, conducted by ALDA. It is submitted to ADEP SA (Coordinator of “TOPSA PATRAS” development scheme) as part of the deliverables in action “Networking / Action 2.5.: Transnational cooperation”.

Sincerely yours

**Antonella Valmorbida**, Secretary General of Alda



## Introduction to the guide.

Contrary to what one might expect, companies are not only forms of association created to generate a profit. Maybe in the past it could have been so, but now things seem to have changed. Today more than ever, a growing number of companies and organizations are engaged in activities which ensure the generation of a financial gain for the company, reason for being of the same, but also with important implications for social.

This booklet aims to give a general overview on the emerging social entrepreneurship and its possibilities as well as giving to the readers a practical example of its meaning throughout the showcasing of the initiatives implemented and supported by the TOPSA-PATRAS project and the analysis of the Italian case study.

The current state of Europe, deeply defined by the worst financial and economic crisis since many years, has recently brought The European Commission to recognize the importance of the theme "financing for social enterprises" and "funding for social innovation". The "Social Business Initiative"<sup>1</sup>, invitation of the Commission to realize social businesses initiatives, focuses on the different ways on how to improve the mechanisms of financing for social enterprises. With this document, the EC offers the following measures in order to improve the access to financing for social enterprises:

1. Develop a European framework on European funds for social entrepreneurship;
2. Encourage the development of micro-credit in Europe;
3. Create a European financial instrument of € 92.28 million to facilitate access to finance for social enterprises, whose operations are planned for 2014;
4. Introduce an investment priority for social enterprises in the regulations ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and ESF (European Social Fund).

To the traditional sources of public funding, within which it is possible to count the cash flows derived from the state rather than by supranational institutions (such as the European Union), various and innovative financing instruments of private nature have been recently developed.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/publications/docs/sbi-brochure/sbi-brochure-web\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/publications/docs/sbi-brochure/sbi-brochure-web_en.pdf)

The impact investing for instance represents a new type of investment activity which aims to guarantee not only an economic return for investors, but also (and especially) to have an impact at the level of the social environment (so-called blended value).

Despite these new forms of financing the majority of the Italian social enterprises resort to traditional sources of financing such as the cash flow (7 out of 10 firms) and loans from traditional lenders (2 of 10) because they do not have confidence in the new financial instruments that have been created for “for-profit” enterprises which have different structure, needs and sources.

## Social economy: basics

The term *social economy* emerged at the beginning of the XIX century and during the following two centuries it has spread all over Europe. The expression refers to a specific segment of the economy mainly operated by a mosaic of entities committed in pursuing social objectives and offering a wide set of goods and services simultaneously, if not in concurrency, with private enterprises and public institution. These entities, are generally classified into four typology:

- Cooperative

Possibly defined as “an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise”<sup>2</sup>.

- Mutual aid society

Basically, we distinguish the *mutual insurance companies* and *mutual benefit societies*. On one hand, the mutual societies are insurance companies, voluntary run by their members for protecting them against property and life risks while on the other hand the mutual benefit societies deal mainly with social risks like illness, disability and old age.

- Association

An association is generally a group of individuals at the service of a common cause (cultural, social or economic) and structured in a membership reality. Differently to other social economy actors, association do not strictly pursue a general or mutual interest but a specific one. For this reason, it is possible to find a wide list of association types concerning the different objectives and working fields: non-profit organisation; non-governmental organisation; organisation for benefit exc.

- Foundation

Unlike Association or Cooperatives, Foundation are legal subjects created in order to pursue specific objectives throughout regular fund-rising and donations collection. Generally they are committed in supplying goods or services.

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[http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/attachments/ILO\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_cooperative\\_legislation\\_third\\_edition.pdf](http://ica.coop/sites/default/files/attachments/ILO_Guidelines_for_cooperative_legislation_third_edition.pdf)

## Social market economy

According to the European Union Institution's point of view, the social market economy is strictly linked with European internal market. This latter is based on a *highly competitive social market economy*, which reflects the trend towards inclusive, socially fairer and environmentally sustainable growth.

*"In a social market economy, a more unified European market in services means being able to ensure, with no race to the bottom, that businesses are able to provide their services more easily throughout the European Union (in particular by posting their workers on secondment), whilst at the same time providing more high quality jobs and a high level of protection for workers and their social rights."*<sup>3</sup>

Main intention in creating a European Exchange Frame like this one is to conciliate the principles of free market with the social security one by giving the State an active role in the promotion of both the free competition in the market and the social development. The importance and value of these principles is sanctioned in the Treaty of the European Union:

*"The Union shall establish an internal market. It shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. It shall promote scientific and technological advance"*<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social committee and the Committee of the Regions: "Working together to create new growth".

<sup>4</sup> Treaty of the European Union, Title I, art. 3, paragraph 3.

## Social enterprise

*“A social enterprise is an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or stakeholders. It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profit primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities.”*

(Social Business Activities, October 2011)

Since many years and most frequently we are witnessing the emerging of the Social Enterprise as a new economic actor among all the different enterprise's type playing on the global market scene. Flagship distinguishing feature of this new player is the fact that its principal aim is to provide good and services to the community in which it operates rather than a constant and pure research for profit to distribute among the investors. None of this means that the social enterprise does not aim for a profit. Indeed it represent a feature deeply embedded in the concept of enterprise. Nevertheless, in the case of the social enterprise, profit is not the only objective, or at least not the primary one. By operating in a social economy market, the social enterprise implements a series of policies and operational practices aiming to improve both the enterprise's competitiveness in the market and the economic and social conditions of the community in which the enterprise operates. Furthermore, in order to sincerely involve the community in the enterprise's life, a transparent and responsible management borne out as specific trait of this entity. Generally, we refers to this twofold result as the *blended value* of the social economies. It is so that on the one hand the services and goods provided by the social enterprises concern many field and activities while on the other hand they share a single beneficiary: the community. In fact, in many cases social enterprises offer services in many sectors (Health, Job placement, Education, Social protection exc.) but, unlike association and traditional charitable organisation however committed in these fields, they do not depend on donations. In fact, having their own incomes, the social enterprises operating approach is closer to the traditional enterprise than to the not-for-profit entities, it being understood that they have a social dimension.

Practically we might identify this “social attitude” in the propensity to reinvest the most of the profits or use it to realize the social mission of the enterprise instead to distribute internally.

Moreover, in the last years has spread a new trend of investment known as *impact investing* and meaning a new tendency to place funds and capitals into social enterprises, social innovation or activities aiming to create jobs, reduce poverty or supply social services.

This activity declines mainly into two types:

- Debt, investments as loans, in which a quantity of money is provided on the condition that it is paid down usually with interest;
- Equity, such as financial products and investment vehicles.

This new type of social investment, mainly carried out by actors with a notable financial capacity like Foundation or Pension Fund, of course bring the question to a high finance level. The latter, maybe known more for the speculative attitude shown in the last years rather than for a potential social commitment, might represent the next level toward the social can expand.

Moreover, there are also the social venture capital, as venture capital funds for organizations that explicitly pursue social objectives, and actions of venture philanthropy whose main objective is to offer the finding, the provision of financial resources and of management investments aimed at helping the organisation to define its strategic plan and to achieve it through the strengthening of the entire organizational structure in terms of quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

Innovative financing instruments are then represented by microcredit, microfinance and crowdfunding which is a form of financing that involves a large number of people who provide financial support to a specific project / activity / enterprise in a specified period of time, often through the usage of web platforms.

## Case study 1

### Social Enterprises in Italy

The social enterprise is characterized by a broad structure, variable and dynamic. It establishes itself more and more as a key interlocutor for all those public and private actors working to promote a model of development based on the principles of sustainability, sharing and responsibility. A tool that involves citizens directly and stimulates the local, national and international search for new forms of governance, including regulation, in response to the change of needs and problems. This form of enterprise developed on the basis of the "società di mutuo soccorso" (mutual benefit societies) which date back the 1886. By that time, the geographical fragmentation of the country, as well as the economic and social ones, lead to the establishment of a decentralized social services providers system. In fact, even though the national welfare state provided most of the services, the Catholic Church and the Municipalities played an important role in making available social services. Although the nature of this kind of societies is the one of not-for-profit entity aiming to bring to fruition activities able to respond to the members needs in many sectors as health care and culture, only in the 70s the management of many fundamental sectors was hand over centralised institutions as in the case of the health care sector.

The social enterprise has begun to spread in Italy in the early 80s by presenting itself as a more evolved form of non-profit organization aimed at the production of social services. In the next few years it was developed a broader reflection on social enterprises which has lead up to a more precise definition of them both in Italy and in Europe. The social enterprise in Italy today is configured as a set of established and emerging experiences that are related to the community and integrated into an institutional production system.

Social enterprises in Italy are around 12,577. Of these, about 365 have taken the title of "social enterprise", in accordance to the recent legislation; there are 404 organizations which are formally considered as "social enterprises ", but are not yet listed in the section and about 11 808 are social cooperatives (Unioncamere - Infocamere 2011).

Plus, we must also consider 110 913 organizations that make up the "potential of social entrepreneurship": 22 468 non-profit organizations of productive nature (other than social cooperatives and social enterprises) and 88 445 for-profit enterprises that operate in the fields identified by the law as the sectors in which it is possible to produce and exchange goods and services of " social utility " in order to reach objectives of "general interest".

Most of those social enterprises have a community structure, consisting of groups of people who shares common ideals, while slightly less than 20 % of the social enterprise organisations are managed by individual entrepreneurs.

These are companies specialized in the field of social assistance, health care and education that invest in resources and generate a specific know-how. The data also show that if to one side about half of social enterprises identifies a public administrative actor as the primary paying customer, to the other a substantial part of them (less than 40%) have as their main customer individuals and families, those are companies that exchange goods and services of "social utility".

Regarding the tendency to the innovation and to the most common ways to finance the investments, the survey shows that the investment in innovation more widespread concerns the organizational and management system of the company (less than 20%) rather than products (10%). Furthermore, social enterprises usually resort to traditional methods of financing: self-financing (declared by the 70% of the investing companies) and loans from traditional lenders.

## Legal Framework

In Italy social enterprises are identified not only with social enterprises *strictu sensu*, but also with all other subjects of productive nature that, despite not having the legal status of social enterprise according to the Legislative Decree 155/06, can be considered *de facto* social enterprises. The Act no. 118 of 2005 and the implementing decrees (primarily the legislative decree n. 155 of 2006) constitute the normative framework of reference for social enterprises which has different legal forms: associations, foundations, cooperatives and enterprises for profit.

They are considered as legal subjects whose activities are focused on: the production or exchange of services in the field of social and health care services, education and training, environmental protection, social tourism, cultural services, insertion in the labour market of disadvantaged people.

In particular the social cooperative well exemplifies the social enterprise model, in that it combines a business-like style of operation with a profound attachment to social goals. What distinguishes it from a standard cooperative is the aim and its multi stakeholder governance. In Italy, social cooperatives are defined according to law 318/91 as follows:

- The cooperative as a legal personality and a limited liability;
- The objective is the general benefit of the community and the social integration of citizens (type A social cooperatives provide health, social and educational services; type B social cooperatives integrate disadvantaged people into the labour market;
- Various categories of stakeholders can become members, including paid employees, beneficiaries, volunteer, financial investors and public institutions
- Voting is one person one vote;
- No more than 70% of profits may be distributed

This form of cooperative was pioneered in Italy and has grown in Italy and in other countries as in Spain.

### **The spatial distribution of Social Entrepreneurship**

According to the data of the regional Chambers of Commerce to 12 October 2011 there were 365 active social enterprises registered according to the Law 118/ 05. They are mainly concentrated in the southern regions (217 companies, nearly 60% of the total) and in particular in Campania (139, of which 110 only in the province of Naples). In the central regions there are 60, 55 in the north-western and 33 north-eastern.

The data clearly reveal that in the southern and island regions there is a higher incidence of smaller social enterprises (66.3%) versus 55.1 % in the Centre and 44.2 % of the North phenomenon that shows how the impact -in terms of product value- is significantly lower than that of firms located in the centre and north of Italy.

Looking at the data collected by business sector, social enterprises are mainly active in the field of education and services, except for health care and education, to record a greater number of small businesses that have a very low value of production; on the other hand companies operating in the health sector have a higher production value.

### **Sectors of Activities**

Concerning their distribution for sectors in Campania 132 (36.2% of total social enterprises in Italy) of the social enterprises work in the field of education and training services. The remaining social enterprises operate mainly in the field of human services, especially in health and social assistance and welfare services (96, 26,3% of the total), in the operational support services to firms and individuals (22), in advanced services of support and assistance to individuals and enterprises (21, computer science and research) and other personal services (16 sports and culture services).

### **Growth of social enterprises**

According to data provided by the Excelsior Information System and to the data gathered in the companies Register and in REA in 2008 it has registered a growth of social enterprises in Italy with a 53% increase compared to 2003. From spatial distribution point of view the highest growth registered is in the south (+ 66%), while a less significant increase has occurred on the north-west. Perhaps this increase is due to enrolment at the Register of Companies of social enterprises that already existed before, but were not registered.

In general in the next few years social enterprises have grown even though they still represent a small part of Italian industry.

### **Social Enterprises and employment**

The data provided by Excelsior emphasize that at the end of 2008, about 383 000 employees were employed by social enterprises with an increase of 4 500 units compared to 2003. Looking at the employment trend in the long term we can say that in social enterprises it has grown between 2003 and 2010 (70%) more than other Italian enterprises. The job growth is registered in particular in the areas of health services and care.

### **Methodology**

The empirical investigation combined with a good theoretical reflection can provide an overview of the organization of social enterprises in Italy in order to improve their operational capability. The investigation covers not only social enterprises formally constituted under the law, but also a large sample of non-profit organizations not legally registered produce goods of "social utility" by social services, tourism, production and cultural research. The data and information contained in the research report are taken from different registers and data collectors in order to give a complete view of the situation of social enterprises in Italy. The long-term presented trend refers to the particular distribution of social enterprises and to the most developed sectors according to the survey done by Iris Network (from 2003 and 2008).

More than hundred Italian social enterprises attended the Conference on Social Entrepreneurship held in Strasbourg the last 16 and 17 January. We met some of them, we have the list of all participants.

## **Case study 2:**

### **Leonardo, Consortium of Social Cooperatives in Pordenone (Italy)**

#### **What it is**

Consortium Leonardo was established in 1998 by seven cooperatives of the Province of Pordenone to create a place of sharing and representation, with the belief that working together we can achieve better results. It is itself a social cooperative and an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization of social utility).

#### **Where it is**

The headquarters of Consortium Leonardo is in viale Grigoletti 72/E – 33170 Pordenone (Italy); tel. +39 0434 378726; fax +39 0434 366949; email: [leonardo.pordenone@confcooperative.it](mailto:leonardo.pordenone@confcooperative.it)

#### **Where it works**

In the Province of Pordenone, in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, North East of Italy, at about 100 km from Venice and 100 km from Trieste as well.

#### **Members**

Twelve social cooperatives (including 4 of type "b" for the employment of disadvantaged people) of various sizes for number of members and for turnover.

#### **What it does**

- Coordination
- Advice and secretarial services
- European planning
- Mutualistic integration
- Editing of social budgets
- Management of the national Civil Service for young people

It also performs a function of awareness of the territory on the issues of welfare, of cooperative values, of networking, of cross-sectorial, of fair trade, of the community social capital and of European issues.

It also offered an advisory service for the training of trainers in European countries.

### **Who it is for**

The recipients are citizens and, in particular, disadvantaged people (children, youth, elderly persons, disabled or suffering mental persons, invalids, former prisoners, former alcoholics, former drug addicts, immigrants, women who have suffered violence).

### **Stakeholders**

It collaborates with public authorities (municipalities, Province, Region, company health services, schools and universities), private social institutions (voluntary associations, social promotion associations, foundations, committees, parishes) and profit companies.

### **Law of reference**

- nationally: Law n° 381 of 1991 "Discipline of the social cooperatives"
- regionally: Regional Law of Friuli Venezia Giulia n°20 of 2006 "Rules on social cooperation"

### **Innovation**

Consortium Leonardo studies, plans and tests innovative welfare tools and services.

The main innovation concerns the social farming projects, with employment of disadvantaged people, sweet mobility paths with donkeys, food services and social tourism, development cooperation initiatives, activities of social housing.

Those innovative experiences have been collected in the publication "Good innovative practices in social cooperatives of Consortium Leonardo in Pordenone" ("Buone prassi innovative nelle cooperative sociali del Consorzio Leonardo di Pordenone").

### **How it is financed**

With a membership fee, with the management of services, with the general contracting of the activated services, with contributions from banks and foundations, with national and European projects.

### It is member of

- Confcooperative
- National consortium "Idee in rete"
- ALDA (Association for Local Democracy)
- LDA in Brtonigla/Verteneglio (Croatia)
- SERN (Sweden Emilia Romagna Network)

### The European level

In the last eighteen years Leonardo has participated in several European projects (Equal Nexus, Equal Forces, Equal Fles, Silavoro) with Slovenian, Croatian, Dutch, French and Belgian partners.

Currently driving as lead partner **WOSOCOOP Project** (Work on social cooperation) funded by Agenzia Nazionale Giovani (National Youth Agency); it is part of Erasmus + on Learning Mobility of individuals involving forty youth workers from 15 countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Georgia, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine.

Website: [www.wosocoop.eu](http://www.wosocoop.eu). Project in partnership with ALDA.

### Communication

The communication is via email ([leonardo.pordenone@confcooperative.it](mailto:leonardo.pordenone@confcooperative.it)) and via its website ([www.consorzioleonardo.pn.it](http://www.consorzioleonardo.pn.it)).

In these eighteen years Leonardo has edited numerous publications, including:

- "Pagine gialle della solidarietà: cooperative sociali per la comunità locale", 2009 ("Yellow pages of solidarity: social cooperatives for the local community")
- "Fles (Formazione e lavoro per l'economia sociale)", 2009 ("Fles -Training and work for social economy")
- "Immigracoop: storie di integrazione possibile", 2009 ("Immigracoop: stories of possible integration")
- "Progetto Cooperdonne per la conciliazione tra lavoro e famiglia", 2011 ("Project Cooperdonne for reconciliation between work and family")

- “Pratiche di agricoltura sociale nelle cooperative sociali del Consorzio Leonardo”, 2011 ("Practices of social farming in Consortium Leonardo social cooperatives ")
- “Il Servizio civile di giovani volontari nelle cooperative sociali del Consorzio Leonardo”, 2013 ("The Civil Service of young volunteers in Consortium Leonardo social cooperatives ")
- “Buone prassi innovative nelle cooperative sociali del Consorzio Leonardo”, 2014 ("Good innovative practices in Consortium Leonardo social cooperatives")

### **Strenghts**

- flexibility and dynamic management
- passion
- research of creativity and innovation
- a broad network, collaborations and strategic alliances
- the availability in the start-up of new cooperatives
- being “third element” and impartial

### **Weaknesses.**

- the reduction of public and private economic contributions
- the limited capitalization equity
- Regional and National policies –and the related financing- less and less in favour of social cooperation
- relations with profit companies

March 2015

<b>Contacts of the cooperatives that have collaborated with us answering to our questionnaire:</b>
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**Cosmo, social cooperative**

Via dell'Oreficeria,30/p

36100 Vicenza - Italy

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

Contacts:

Tel : +39 0444 1788017 / +39 0444 1832514

Email : [cosmo@cosmosociale.it](mailto:cosmo@cosmosociale.it)

Cooperativa Sociale Cosmo collects the extensive experience of Job Mosaico, Il Posto and La linea dell'Arco.

Currently it manages residential therapeutic modules for addictions, prevention services to use of drugs and high-risk behavior.

Cosmo coordinates animation, training and planning services, branches of social secretariat and services informagiovani (information for young people). It is formed by 31 members who work with the aim of promoting the human being in all its forms. It collaborates with public and private institutions, in particular with Ser.T., the Veneto Region, municipalities, schools and associations.

**Margherita, social cooperative**

via San gaetano 14

36066 Sandrigo VI - Italy

<http://www.cooperativamargherita.org/>

Contacts:

Tel: +39 0444 750606

Email: [info@cooperativamargherita.org](mailto:info@cooperativamargherita.org)

Margherita is focused on the Person. Their philosophy is to help people to be the protagonist of their own history and of the territory in which they live.

They offer day services and home care for people with disabilities, the elderly and children

### **Consorzio Sol.Co. Verona**

via Albere 80/d,

37138 Verona - Italy

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

Contacts:

Tel: +39 045 8104025

Email: [solcovr@solcoverona.it](mailto:solcovr@solcoverona.it)

Sol.Co. is a consortium of social cooperatives. It provides services to members: training, planning services, quality, contracts management, civil service, labor policies. Its mission is:

- The promotion and support of cooperatives in processes of growth and development;
- The development of new cooperation initiatives and social solidarity, including the creation of new social cooperatives;
- Enabling improvement processes through:
  - The promotion of methods of “network” work;
  - The planning of interventions of research and innovation;
  - The activation of training courses;
  - The creation and strengthening of relations and cooperation with local institutions and with public and private;
  - The ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of their actions;
  - The strengthening of the capacity to look to the future;
- The presence on the territory and in the community, through the activity of constant monitoring to detect the emergence of new needs;
- Being an important partner for governments, public and private institutions, associations etc. in the fields of social issues, social welfare, education and sustainable development;
- The promotion of the concept of social responsibility at all levels of society;
- The promotion of the culture of cooperation through advocacy and information on the ground;

- The promotion of awareness to the community with respect to the needs and new social issues to build a sense of shared responsibility;
- The promotion of culture and the value of volunteering.

### **Associazione le fate onlus**

via del Risorgimento 3,

37126 Verona - Italy

[www.lefate-onlus.org](http://www.lefate-onlus.org)

Contacts:

Tel: +39 045 2222324

Email: [info@lefate-onlus.org](mailto:info@lefate-onlus.org)

The Association Le Fate Onlus was born in 1999 in Verona by a group of women who had the objective of improving the social environment in which children and their families live, through the creation of stable relations between the different socio-educational realities of the territory.

In recent years they have focused their work on projects related to the prevention of child distress, to the support of parents, to social integration and intercultural education, by the means of a day center that prevents social unrest for children from 6 to 16 years, by projects aimed at immigrant women for social inclusion and employment, etc.

### **Monteverde Coop. Sociale di Solidarietà- onlus**

via Conca delle Perle 1,

37030 Badia Calavena (VR) –Italy

<http://www.monteverdeonlus.it/>

Contacts:

Tel: +39 0457 808562

Email: [info@monteverdeonlus.it](mailto:info@monteverdeonlus.it)

In Cooperativa Monteverde merged the efforts of conscientious objectors, workers and all those who believed in equal dignity and equal rights of every person. Giuseppe Dal Zovo and the charismatic Don Luigi Adami created the group of the first 18 founding members with

the aim of preparing young people with disabilities in the Val d'Ilasi in entering the world of work through training. The ambitious goal was, as users of welfare services were often seen as mere consumers of resources, to let this people become workers and active participants in society.

It offers day centers for adults with intellectual disabilities, open centers for child / elder care, etc.

### **Beta Società Cooperativa Sociale**

via Vassanelli 11,

37012 Bussolengo (Vr) –Italy

<http://www.allcoop.it/index.asp>

Contacts:

Tel: +39 045 7156901

Email: [beta@allcoop.it](mailto:beta@allcoop.it)

Beta is a Cooperative Society established in 1994.

Based on the principles of social solidarity, Beta deals with job placement of disadvantaged people.

Working Well Together and turn the disadvantage into an asset are the founding principles of our mission. This means respecting people, paying attention to the territory, enhancement of individual skills and continuous training of members, participatory management, and transparency.

### **Spazio Aperto Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus**

via Pietro Vassanelli 11,

Bussolengo (VR) - Italy

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

Contacts:

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Spazio Aperto aims to develop skills that allow to activate new economic resources, professional skills, resources, public, private, businesses, individual citizens etc., to be placed on the territory. This allowed the cooperative, over the years, to develop innovative projects for the realization of social and health services and educational services for children, for the elderly persons and disabled persons, in collaboration with local health authorities, public bodies and the Veneto Region.

Spazio Aperto is a social enterprise of passionate people that produce something more than mere capital. Its link with the territory allows the recreation of a community where the institutions are cleaved (family, etc.) with the will to combine capitalism and persons to become a social enterprise that can be institutional, dynamic, and imbued with strong values.

### **Cooperativa sociale San Marco servizi-agire**

via Mantova 95/a,

37019 Peschiera del Garda (VR) – Italy

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

Tel: +39 045 6400836

Email: [info@sanmarcoagirecoop.it](mailto:info@sanmarcoagirecoop.it)

The Cooperative has at its centre the human and professional enhancement of its working members. The well-being of the social worker is the key to the delivery of services aimed at improving the quality of life. The cooperative respects the skills, abilities and needs of every single working member.

The cooperative promotes the culture of quality: the quality approach envisaged by the ISO is intended as a tool to expose the distinctive values of social cooperation, to do a self-diagnosis in relation to the quality system of the consortium of reference, and to plan actions.

### **Il colore del grano- soc cooperativa sociale onlus**

Via Vittorio Veneto n° 43

33072 Casarsa della Delizia PN Italy

[http://www.ilnoce.it/PDF/depliant\\_Casa\\_MammaBambino\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.ilnoce.it/PDF/depliant_Casa_MammaBambino_pdf.pdf)

Tel: +39 3465913979

Email: [casamammabambino@ilcoloredelgrano.org](mailto:casamammabambino@ilcoloredelgrano.org)

Its main activity is the management of the residential structure "casa mamma bambino" ("home mom baby"). Furthermore, as ancillary services for fragile parents: observation and support of the parent-child relationship; groups of immigrant women. Key objectives are to help mothers and their children to live together in a peaceful environment and in a welcoming place to experiment and strengthen their relationship and, in parallel, to encourage those mothers to start work and social autonomy paths.

### **Società cooperativa sociale "il piccolo principe" onlus**

via San Francesco 9,

33072 Casarsa della Delizia PN Italy,

[www.ilpiccoloprincipe.pn.it](http://www.ilpiccoloprincipe.pn.it)

Tel: +39 0434 870949

Email: [segreteria@ilpiccoloprincipe.pn.it](mailto:segreteria@ilpiccoloprincipe.pn.it)

The cooperative provides: after-school care for children; youth projects and community centers; animation summer camps; workshops in schools; day center for disabled adults; social farm and social agriculture; assembly workshop and working courses for disadvantaged adults; fair-trade shop. Its reference values are: solidarity, territoriality, hospitality, promotion and enhancement of the person, justice, environmental protection, democracy, participation, sharing, sobriety, commitment to create and find new answers to the emerging needs, and search for utopia.

### **Cooperativa sociale Karpòs S.C. onlus**

Via Torricelli 14,

33080 Porcia PN - Italy

[www.karpos.pn.it](http://www.karpos.pn.it)

Tel: +39 0434 924012

Email: [info@karpos.pn.it](mailto:info@karpos.pn.it)

Karpòs provides cleaning services, used clothing collection service on behalf of Caritas, used cartridges collection service in public and private offices, waste paper collection service in schools on behalf of GEA (Pordenone) – and minor maintenance services (painting, park maintenance, etc.) porterage, evictions and removals – waste collection service in general.

In addition, the cooperative has extended the services offered even outside those specific sectors, has invested in the training of workers and has expanded the reach of the territory.

Since its inception the cooperative has always enhanced female work in both operational and managerial activities.

### **...and other important Italian Cooperatives:**

#### **Agorà d'Italia Società cooperativa consortile Onlus**

Via Don Luigi Sturzo, 148

52100 Arezzo (AR) – Italy

<http://www.cooperativagora.org/>

Tel: +39 0575 23819

Email: [direzione@cooperativagora.org](mailto:direzione@cooperativagora.org) ; [info@cooperativagora.org](mailto:info@cooperativagora.org)

Agorà d'Italia Società cooperativa consortile Onlus is a large consortium of social enterprises made of people who deal with people, especially with elderly persons but also children and chronic patients, the disabled, terminally ill patients, especially if they are no longer independent or affected by the typical diseases of old age.

Of these people Agora d'Italia has decided to deal with and to do its best to provide flexible and personalized services.

This commitment is becoming more prominent today in Italy, and Tuscany in particular, where the increase of the elderly population is among the highest in the world.

Agora d'Italia believes that doing "proximity Welfare" means first of all "to be close" to people and it believes that making social enterprise in compliance with these principles means making "public service".

To prove this commitment the consortium has adopted a system of social responsibility.

#### **Cooperativa sociale Elleuno**

Viale Ottavio Marchino, 10

15033 Casale Monferrato (AL) -Italy

<http://www.cooperativasocialeelleuno.it/>

Tel: +39 0142 452123

Email: [elleuno@elleuno.it](mailto:elleuno@elleuno.it)

Pioneer of the model of care for the benefit of non-self-sufficient people, Elleuno works in the healthcare field since 1989.

It works in the main Italian regions, providing services to people with severe and serious physical discomfort and psychological diseases, basing its work on the excellence of the management model and on the relationship with public authorities, families, local community, associations and volunteering network, suppliers and banks.

In 2013 it handled more than 80 services to 13,000 people with disabilities and non-self-sufficient people through a staff of 2,300 professionals.

### **Cooperativa Sociale Alchimia**

Registered office: via San Bernardino, 59

24122 Bergamo - Italy

Operational headquarter: via Boccaleone 17c

24125 Bergamo BG - Italy

<http://www.coopalchimia.it/>

Tel: +39 035 362960

Email: [segreteria@coopalchimia.it](mailto:segreteria@coopalchimia.it) – Certified email: [alchimiacoop@legalmail.it](mailto:alchimiacoop@legalmail.it)

Cooperativa Sociale Alchimia was born in Bergamo in 1986 and operates in the field of primary prevention aimed at preteens and teenagers. Over the years, thanks to the commitment, passion and professionalism of its members and employees, the cooperative has evolved, and it now provides new and concrete answers to community needs and emerging social issues.

From 2013, with the incorporation of the Cooperative LINUS, it has developed new areas of investment.

Alchimia deals with: disability, youth policies, child protection, early childhood, environmental sustainability, promotion of the culture of the game, training, entertainment and events, development of local communities.

Alchimia works in particular in the areas of Bergamo, Dalmine, Bergamo Island-Lower Val San Martino and Valle-Imagna Villa d'Alme. It counts 72 partners and over 200 employees.

## Common characteristics of Social Economy Enterprises

- The basis of such structures is membership and solidarity. Social economy enterprises are characterised by a strong personal involvement of its members.
- They contribute to a more efficient market competition and encourage solidarity and cohesion.
- Their primary purpose is not to obtain a return on capital. They are, by nature, part of a stakeholder economy, whose enterprises are created by and for those with common needs, and accountable to those they are meant to serve.
- They are run generally in accordance with the principle of solidarity and mutuality and managed by the members on the basis of the rule of "one man, one vote".
- They are flexible and innovative (they meet changing social and economic circumstances).
- They are based on active membership and commitment and very frequently on voluntary participation.

## Sources

- Union Camere: [http://www.tuttocamere.it/files/dirsoc/Impresa\\_Sociale.pdf](http://www.tuttocamere.it/files/dirsoc/Impresa_Sociale.pdf)
- Iris Network: <http://www.irisnetwork.it/>
- Euricse (European and Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises): <http://www.euricse.eu/>
- [http://excelsior.unioncamere.net/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=112](http://excelsior.unioncamere.net/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=112)