

Case Study

Permanent Community-University Partnership with disadvantaged citizens

Activity

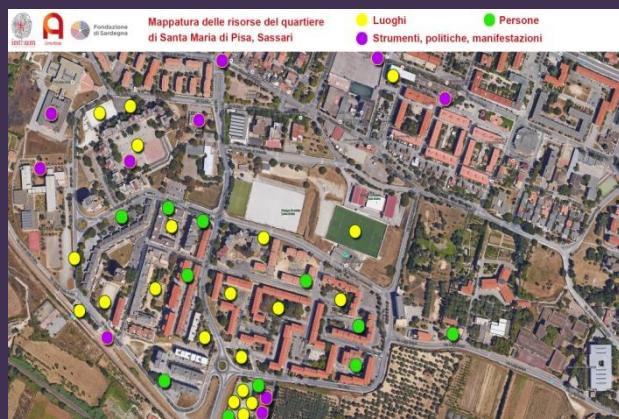
A MA student in Social Work and Social Policies at the University of Sassari (Italy) started a Science Shop project with municipal social services to develop effective ways to work with citizens from a disadvantaged neighborhood. The project involved some 15 people in need to elaborate collective solutions. Cooperation with a local CSO led to the uptaking of further activities that involved new community members and institutions. More MA students involved in a 6 ECTS Community Based Research learning module joined activities. Activities generated new community projects and led to the creation of a participated partnership platform which will lead to further co-operative work..



Conclusions

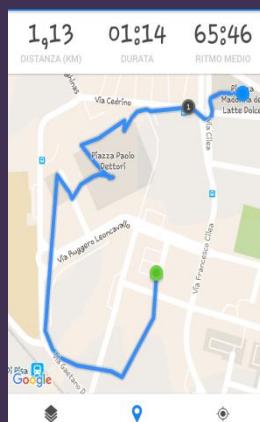
Relevant impacts of activities are to be observed upon community-university relationships. One major issue that any CBR or CBL project faces is bringing together all partners within shared time frames and planning horizons that shape the research agenda.

An overall and most significant outcome of the EnRRICH pilot activities is the development of a Participated Project Platform for Active Social Innovation and Inclusion (PISA) which actually sets the agenda for future participated CBR/CBL projects. The agenda is based on a shared vision of future community development scenarios and the platform calls for new potential partners to actively join projects and activities.



Methodology

Initial activities were based on a typical Science Shop approach, i.e. a MA student taking up a research demand coming from a societal partner. Eight more students from the EnRRICH pilot on Community Based Research were involved in a second phase using a Community Based Learning approach. Community needs and resources were assessed with students and citizens using community walks and community mapping. Further activities using European Awareness Scenario Workshop methodologies led to development of a shared development view and plan for positive social change.



Learning outcomes

According to questionnaires filled in at the end of pilot, students specifically appreciated their learning needs and capacities being taken into consideration and valued throughout class and field activities. They enjoyed community based learning, notably first hand collaboration with citizens and group work based on real-life situations.

Some of them affirm that the learning experience completely changed the way they see their future profession as well as their general approach to working collaboratively. As one student put it: "CBR was an interesting experience challenging my way of thinking, while notably improving my social awareness and ethical thinking."

Trainers' and Learners' profiles

Training stemmed from a collaboration between Sociology researchers and CSO trainers. Students were from MA in Social Work and Social Policies and MA in Foreign Languages and Cultural Mediation for the Valorisation of Territories.

Practitioners: social workers, educators, school teachers.

www.enrich.eu - @EnRRICH_EU



Foist Laboratory (UNISS)
foist@uniss.it

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 665759

