



PERARES
Public Engagement with Research and Research Engagement with Society

Work Package 4

UNISS – FOIST Laboratory (sept.-oct. 2011)
Activities report

The activities of Work Package No. 4 continued after the PERARES Brussels' meeting with a series of local meetings that saw the active participation of the civil society organizations that have collaborated with FOIST Lab since the beginning of the project. In order to ensure equal participation in the co-designing and managing of initiatives under WP4, work phases and actions have been identified with partner CSOs. Partners agreed upon the idea of working adopting the methodology of Scenario Workshops.

Our scenario workshop has been articulated in three stages:

- 1) Development of common scenario, in order to build a shared vision on long and medium term objectives. It was a creative moment in order to develop imaginative visions and then being able to bring the different views within a common sheared scenario for programming and action.
- 2) Scenarios were then confronted with actual possibilities of implementation and sustainability by means of a SWOT analysis to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats inherent in the scenario.
- 3) Finally, it was possible to outline a plan of activities and possible timetable for action. Also, in that stage responsibilities and tasks were defined in a precise and shared way.

Due to busy agendas of partners but also to ensure a mutual understanding, to foster trust and deep mutual understanding, as well as a method of work, the scenario workshop activities – which are usually run within a one-two day time delay – were carried on within several meetings. Main meetings are schematized in the following table:

14 February 2011: first level SWOT Analysis (5 h)
26 April 2011: Scenario Workshop (6 h)
16 May 2011: Scenario Workshop (6 h)
20 June 2011: Scenario Workshop + second level SWOT Analysis (6 h)
18 July 2011: second level SWOT Analysis and first hypothesis on legal statute (5 h)
30 August 2011: Legal statute options analysis and name (5 h)
28 September 2011: Discussion of draft statute (5 h)

Further meetings and joint work have been carried on with partners in order to co-organise the Conference on “The University for territory and development”, which took place in Sassari on May 3rd and 4th 2011 (internet site: <http://universitaterrioriosviluppo.wordpress.com/>). Collaboration

activities also concerned the co-writing of the draft text of the “Chart of Sassari for a Community-University alliance” which was officially endorsed by the University of Sassari’s Rector during the Conference (also available on-line at <http://universitaterrioriosviluppo.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/chart-of-sassari.pdf>).

An international co-operation project in Palestinian Territories was elaborated with one of the partners, ARCI- It is a local development project based on valorisation of traditional art crafts and agriculture in the Beit Doqqu village, situated in the Palestinian Occupied Territories in the Jerusalem District. The Project obtained funding by the Sardinian Regional Authorities and will be run in 2012.

During the activities of the Scenario Workshop partners worked to build a shared vision. It was a creative moment building on the main idea that was agreed upon basing on previous work with partners: i.e. “creating a continuous and sustainable collaboration among partners”.

Discussion then followed about the creation of an entity able to act in the following sectors and activity areas: community based research; social intervention, notably aimed at favoring social insertion of disadvantaged groups and people; incubation and promotion of third sector organizations; education and professional formation; international cooperation; collaboration, evaluation, supervision, planning and consulting for CSOs and public entities; development and sharing of best practices for the not for profit sector; fund raising. Sustainability of the initiative was also discussed.

The Scenario Workshop highlighted the potentials of a project that could bring together CSOs and University for community engagement activities implying mutual benefits to partners and the community.

The creation of an entity has been considered confronting different scenarios. Also on the bases of further discussions, partners agreed upon the idea of creating an association (legal not for profit entity) comprising all partners following a two steps path: immediately creating an association of persons (step 1) which will pave the road to the creation of a second level organization (umbrella organization) which will be made of the partner CSOs and University (step 2).

That idea was developed on the bases of SWOT Analysis. One of the main Strengths has been identified in the strong long lasting relationships between partners and FOIST Laboratory, as well in the high level of mutual trust developed through common PERARES activities. One of the main Threats was identified in the present state of uncertainty which characterizes University as a whole, because of profound structural reorganization following recent reforms of the Italian Higher Education System. One other main point that was discussed following SWOT Analysis was the need not to overlap with the mission and activities of partner organizations, but rather promote interaction and collaboration.

As a matter of fact, the new Statute (and the related governing bodies and operational structures) of the University of Sassari will come into place starting from January 1st 2012, but the situation at present is extremely fluid with all known internal structures and balances destined to disappear or under profound revision. The need for being immediately operational, induced partners to create an Association of persons coming from the different partner organizations (step 1), living the creation of an umbrella organization to the moment when the University’s situation will be more stabilized (step 2).

Partners agree on the idea that step 2 shall take place within 2012. Meanwhile the name of the step 1 new entity has been identified as well as its Advisory board and provisional structure. A draft statute has been elaborated and discussed and is now ready for proceeding to legal registration. Partners are waiting from eventual indications that may come from the PERARES meeting in Dublin before proceeding in that direction. Specifications follow:

Legal nature of the organization:

Not for profit organization: Social Promotion Association (“Associazione di Promozione Sociale”, according with national law n. 383, Sept. 7th 2000, and with the civil codes norms for associations). Such a legal nature implies an official legal status and the descending inscription in a specific public registry. It enables a peculiar fiscal regime and permits access to specific forms of public financing. It also implies the obligation of certain statutory governing bodies (see below) and the adoption of democratic decisional mechanisms.

Name of the organization:

Int(H)um – Intercultural Laboratory for the Research on and the Promotion of Human Condition.

Aims:

To promote active citizenship through collaboration between scientific research and social intervention on the bases of community-university partnership. To cultivate community empowerment in response to community needs. To connect local development needs and resources to international contexts and actors. To promote the diffusion of civism and to support socially engaged activities and organizations.

Provisional organizational structure:

a) Management and communication; b) Fund raising; c) Research, training and international cooperation.

Advisory board:

Partner	Name	Tel.	e-mail
University of Sassari	Alberto Merler	+ 39 079 229661	merler@uniss.it
University of Sassari	Andrea Vargiu	+39 3280185649	larvanet@tin.it
COSPES Salesiani Sardegna	Gaetano Galia	+39 3286899490	ggalia@sardiniacos.it,
ARCI Regional Federation	Franco Uda	+39 3401143876	uda@arci.it
Nuovi Scenari	Pino d’Antonio	+39 3420946344	gius.danton@tiscali.it,
EISS – Italian Organisation for Social Work	Maria Sedda	+39 3282268837	eiss.ottana@tiscali.it

COSPES Salesiani Sardegna is an umbrella organization, as well as ARCI; whereas Nuovi Scenari is a social cooperative and EISS is a Social Promotion Association. ARCI and COSPES have regional, national and international projection, whereas EISS is mainly regional but with national perspective and Nuovi Scenari is regional. COSPES and ARCI representatives are based in Sassari (northern Sardinia), whereas Nuovi Scenari and EISS are based respectively in Nuoro and Ottana (central Sardinia). See below for more details on each partner organization.

Envisaged legal structure (governing bodies provided for in statute, in accordance with law n. 383, Sept. 7th 2000, and with the civil codes norms for associations):

Assembly of members;
 President (and Vice-president);
 Directive Council (7 members);
 Director of Research and International Cooperation;
 Guarantee Committee;
 Auditors Committee.

Synthetic presentation of partner CSOs

NUOVI SCENARI

“Nuovi Scenari” is a new social enterprise made up of professionals for a long time engaged in the areas of entrepreneurship, social inclusion policies and support of local development processes.

The team shares a vision that combines profitability and solidarity, promoting sustainable development as well as social, technological and environmental innovation.

“Nuovi Scenari” supports an idea of development that considers economic growth compatible with caring for community environment, culture and traditions on the bases of a stable and constructive dialogue between people, communities, employers, social cooperatives and local authorities.

Within this idea of development model third sector and social economy have an increasing role also providing employment to most vulnerable groups and people.

“Nuovi Scenari”, non-profit company, proposes and develops activities concerning: a) support for businesses and cooperatives, in particular during their start-up phase, oriented to innovation; b) advice to local authorities, in particular on issues of local development and social economy; c) research aimed at identifying the communities’ social problems, to monitor the policies as well as to design social, and cultural interventions and projects; d) entrepreneurship education and promotion of an economic culture that contributes to local development and social cohesion.

ARCI

ARCI, Italian Cultural Recreational Association, is a national association articulated into territorial and regional levels.

The Territorial Committee, usually acting at the provincial level, is the core structure of coordination and political synthesis as well as of the organization of the different associations in the area. It legally represents the association in relation to local authorities, institutions, social and political organizations. The Regional Committee coordinates the efforts of the Territorial Committees promoting the initiative within the region and developing relationships with regional authorities as well as with social organizations.

As per the national Statute ARCI is configured as an integrated network of people, places and values which promotes active citizenship through cultural, social and solidarity activities.

In Sardinia ARCI has three Territorial Committees (at provincial level) and a Regional Committee.

ARCI operates mainly through those cells that are local clubs. These clubs enjoy considerable autonomy and organizational freedom in accordance with the statutory value of supporting citizens to self-understanding as a “practice fundamental to democracy and concrete response to the needs of the community”.

The broad spectrum of policy areas concerns, among others, the growth of well-being, the promotion of volunteerism, the protection of workers’ rights, education for active citizenship and civil liability, the promotion and practice of forms of civic services, the protection of minors’ rights, the promotion of a culture of civil society, attention to the problems of the elderly, the prevention and fight against social exclusion, the commitment to a culture of peace, the promotion of ethic business, attention to environmental protection, etc.

COSPES

The Salesians COSPES Sardinia (the acronym stands for Center for educational, vocational and social guidance) is a non-profit organization (an association) with two offices located in Sassari and in Selargius (in the south of Sardinia).

The activities of COSPES Sardinia began since the early '70s and at the moment the association consists of 10 volunteer members and 4 employees (a psychologist, a director, an administrative manager, a trainer) as well as a wide range of external collaborators (primarily educators, psychologists and sociologists).

Currently the association is carrying out administrative procedures for the Register of Regional Associations of Social Promotion.

The association’s activities are inspired by the teachings of Don Bosco and the Salesian educational tradition, the principles of democracy, participation, solidarity, justice, peace and nonviolence.

The association's institutional purposes are related to "training, guidance, research, development, human development and social integration of people", paying special attention to people with problems of social maladjustment and/or living in uncomfortable situations.

More specifically, the association aims in particular to: a) promote educational, cultural, social, preventive dimensions as well as promote guidance and training policies in conjunction with the other agencies in the area; b) foster educational relationships among young people, families, schools and training institutions and workplaces; c) promote training, improvement and upgrading in the educational dimension of school, university, and vocational guidance through planning and implementation of training courses; d) carry out research and testing as well as study aids and appropriate methodologies in relation to problems and factors of guidance; e) promote awareness, training and upgrading courses for operators involved in educational processes; f) carry out selection, guidance and evaluation activities of education and training systems and processes.

EISS

The EISS (Social Work Italian Office) is a national association settled in Ottana (Nuoro), in the centre of Sardinia, since May 1968 thanks to an agreement with the National Fund for the South.

In that period the country was facing the impact of a process of industrial development that quickly and deeply changed the production cycle in a community economically marginalized as well as the social structure itself.

In this context the EISS, using new techniques and new tools of social work, was the only reference point not only for local people but also for all those who, for job reasons, lived nearby.

Over the next decade, based on the experience carried out on an experimental basis in the previous years and in light of new laws, Centre's activities was geared to overcoming the idea of welfarism through the elaboration of new theoretical models based on services' contents and methodologies and considering the same services as a response to the needs of individuals, families, groups and entire communities.

In those years, the administrative decentralization legitimated more than ever the territorial dimension of a social and integrated intervention and, therefore, the activities of the EISS were carried out by working in closer connection with local authorities.

The EISS Centre continued to be an operational reference point for the Ottana Municipality in relation to some services aimed to promote a balanced social development. For these reasons EISS operators work closely with Municipality's social workers, collaborating in planning, organization and implementation of services and interventions.