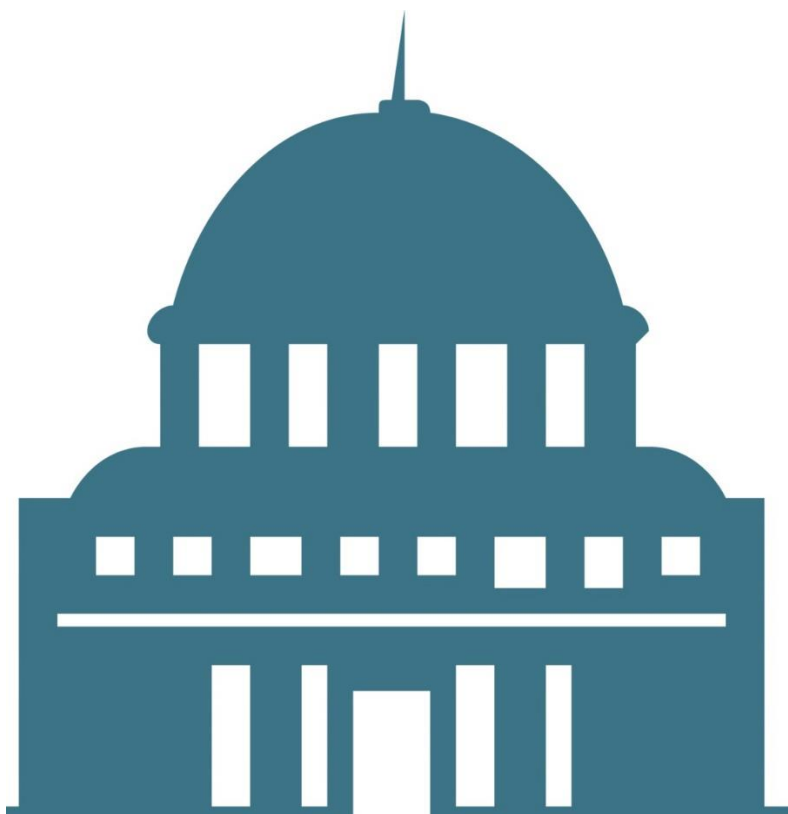

Second Best Practices Transferability Report

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Molise Region



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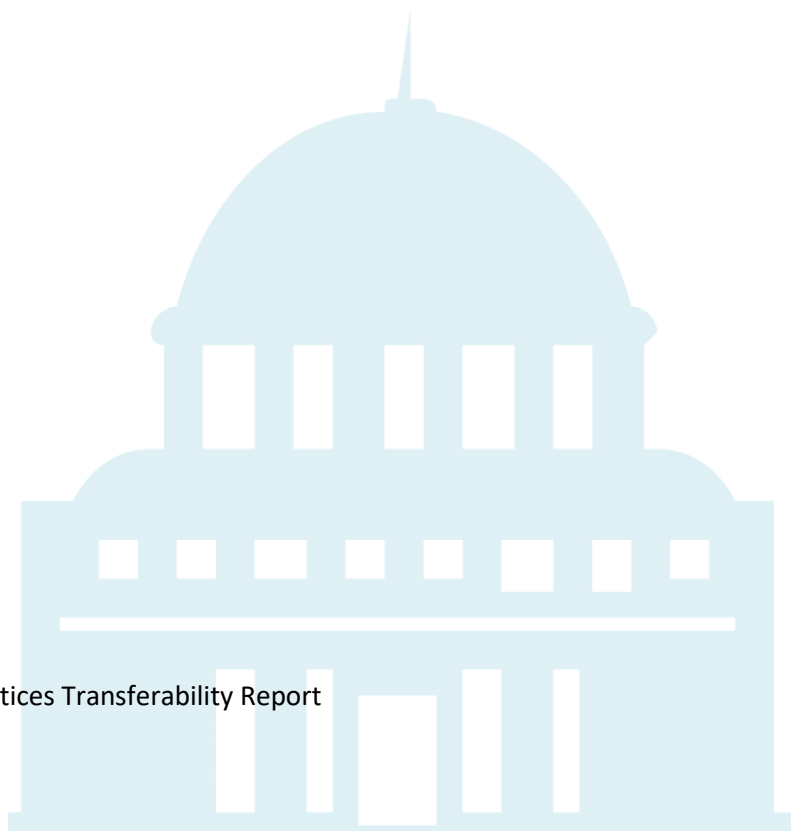
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INDEX

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT	4
2. METHODOLOGY	5
2.1. APPROACH USED	5
3. EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD. SELECTED PROJECTS AS BEST PRACTICES.....	6
3.1. THE REGIONS FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES INTEGRATION - REGIN PROJECT	7
3.1.1 PROJECT SUMMARY.....	7
3.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMPLE OF THE BEST PRACTICE.....	7
3.2. MIGRANTI E COMUNITÀ INCLUSIVE: DIRITTI, PRATICHE DI CITTADINANZA	
E PREVENZIONE DEI RISCHI- MIGRANTS AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES: RIGHTS,	
CITIZENSHIP PRACTICES AND RISK PREVENTION (MeCi).....	10
3.2.1 PROJECT SUMMARY.....	10
3.2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE	10
4. CONCLUSIONS.....	14
5. ANNEX.....	14



1. INTRODUCTION

The MED Programme integrates in its architecture, in complement to its 3 thematic priorities (innovation, energy and environment), a cross-sector axis: the axis 4 Enhancing Mediterranean Governance specifically tackling the capacity of national and regional authorities to contribute to governance processes in the Mediterranean Region. This will be pursued through a top-down evidence based platform of national and regional authorities, the PANORAMED project. The overall goal of PANORAMED is to establish an innovative permanent dialogue and decision making process among national and regional public authorities and stakeholders to contribute to informed policy and decision making processes at national and transnational level on common challenges and opportunities in the Mediterranean Region. Specifically, the initiative will support the definition of transnational governance joint frameworks for the identification and implementation of shared approaches, policies and strategic projects. PANORAMED has identified thematic sectors: costal and maritime tourism and maritime surveillance and Innovation. In addition there are three tasks that are tackled as cross-cutting thematic activities that aim to offer a huge added value: liaising, mainstreaming and migration. Migration is certainly one of the most complex themes, defining itself in different territorial, social and political dimensions.

1.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT

The Second Best Practices Transferability Report complements the first report with examples coming from other Programmes different from the already investigated Interreg world. The report aims to:

- collect the best practices about innovation and migration;
- share and exchange ideas and information on existing approaches, initiatives and activities which have been realised in the field of migration and innovation;
- represent a source of inspiration and examples for the implementation of other projects in the field of migration and social innovation that can be improved in the Mediterranean region.

The field of the present research concerns the issues related to migration in relation to the theme of social innovation.

The Report is a dynamic tool that can be updated during the project life according to the needs of the project itself.

In the annex, the practices of the first report are reported.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. APPROACH USED

The research was carried out following the guidelines contained in the “Methodology to tackle migration”¹. This document was used with flexibility and the approach was adapted to the necessities of the research.

The first thing done was to identify and to map innovation projects related to migration in the Mediterranean region with this approach:

- identification of innovation policies and practices for the social inclusion of migrants focused on social entrepreneurship;
- identification of innovation policies and practices for the labour market integration;
- identification of innovation policies and practices to generate economic and social opportunities in the territories affected by migration.

The work done had foreseen the exploring of the projects that have a direct focus on migration different from Interreg Programmes investigated in the first report. The research was integrated with projects and strategies coming from other Programmes and Initiatives and examples coming not only from the Mediterranean region but still can be applied in the Mediterranean area.

The analysis of the projects was realized in two steps:

1. first phase: identification of projects.

This phase foresees a desk analysis, done via keep.eu website and via website of Programmes of interest. The Field of the analysis is social innovation and migration;

2. second phase: interviews to projects selected via online questionnaire². It was structured as follow:

- a section for investigating the key elements of the practice;
- a section to explore if elements related to labour inclusion and social entrepreneurship (in particular in new business models);
- a specific section was introduced to explore the connection of the practice with the south side of the Mediterranean;
- the last section was introduced afterwards the covid emergency in order to investigate the impact on the implementation of projects.

To have a complete view of the research done, the best practices identified in the first report are included in the Annex to this report.

¹ This document was provided by ERVET ER (now ART – ER) in the framework of WP4 – Methodology and Evaluation.

² The questionnaire is based on questions contained in the methodology to tackle migration, provided by ERVET ER (now ART – ER) and given online.

The dimension of social inclusion will be the focus of investigation in the evaluation of “Migration” theme. It should pursue two working lines:

1. assessment on migratory aspects of thematic projects.
2. evaluation of specific dimensions of migration by analysing process dimensions in a social innovation perspective.

This means analysing two elements:

1. targeted elements: specific thematic issues and opportunities related to migration;
2. cross-cutting elements: horizontal dimensions that can be found in different domains but that can have an impact on policies and initiatives related to migration.

The elements taken into account for the analysis of the practices are:

- innovation;
- effectiveness and sustainability;
- transferability;
- governance;
- involvement of migrants as actors or beneficiaries;
- territorial level;
- organisations and actors involved.

3. EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD. SELECTED PROJECTS AS BEST PRACTICES

The Best Practices selected come from two different Funds and Programmes. The first is European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the second FISR (Fondo Integrativo Speciale per la Ricerca/National Special Fund for Research), an Italian National Fund.

The following Best Practices want to provide examples of innovative models of interventions in the field of integration, that can be transferred and can be replicated in other European contexts (and also in South side of Mediterranean) taking into account the territorial diversity and their different needs. The element of transferability is a key element for the individualization of the good practices. The second aspect concerns the value and the level of territorial networks and/or the partnerships. The positive impact of the interventions on the target groups in reference is another focal element considered, in particular the capacity of the project in the involvement of migrants as actors in the project, as well as the community and territory in which the activities of the projects are implemented. One of the elements that emerged in the analysis is the role and the importance given to the territories at the bottom level, in particular regional and local level and referred to the realities that operate within the communities.

The key element is again social innovation as a type of innovation that address social needs and that includes new solutions to address the migration issue with the use of innovative tools and solutions. Social innovation foresees new approach and solutions to tackle societal challenges. From this point of view, it includes new processes, new models, new ideas and services that have a high level of transferability and a broad impact.

The first project involves Local authorities and the second a University, and they are implemented in territories coming from southern areas (south Italy regions and Spain).

3.1. THE REGIONS FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES INTEGRATION - REGIN PROJECT

7

3.1.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

ACRONYM / TITLE	REGIN/The Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration
PROGRAMME	European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
PRIORITY	
DURATION (START-END)	February 2020 - January 2022
WEBSITE	https://reginproject.eu/
COUNTRIES INVOLVED	Sweden, Italy, Spain, Portugal
LEAD/PARTNER	REGIN is led by a consortium of 10 partners, coordinated by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions.
PARTNERS	Skåne (Sweden), Puglia (Italy), Campania (Italy), Catalonia (Spain) Murcia (Spain), Azores (Portugal)

3.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMPLE OF THE BEST PRACTICE

The following section will describe the project, containing the criteria used in the analysis³.

The REGIN/The Regions for Migrants & Refugees Integration pursue the following innovative objectives:

- establishing a network with regional authorities to cooperate on migrant integration by creating a forum to discuss, mutually learn and share integration policies and practices;
- giving a voice to regions and emphasising their crucial role in social inclusion, as well as in promoting interactions between newly arrived people and host societies;
- identifying integration indicators that will be used to enhance accuracy, liability, robustness and innovation of regional authorities' policies and outcomes, through evidence-based research and a comparative approach;

³ The information come from the questionnaire and the website of the Project.

- developing a set of tools that facilitates adaptability and sustainability of innovative integration actions through multi-lateral stakeholder engagement, capacity building, training and outreach.

The project areas of interventions of the project are: governance and networking. The problem and the opportunity that the project intends to address is to provide regional policy-makers to use evidence-based, feasibility tested cutting-edge research to underpin policy-making on integration. The target groups are:

8

- migrants and Refugees;
- european Regional and Local authorities;
- local and regional NGOs and associations.

In REGIN project, migrants are directly addressed and the practice involve migrants both as actors and as beneficiaries. The main output/deliverable related to the project activities is the development of tools to improve the designing, planning and monitoring of integration actions. The territorial level of the implementation of the project activities is regional with the involvement of regional authorities and territorial stakeholders and research-based organisations. The most innovative aspect of the project is the Focus on learning processes, developing standardised tools for comparative regional data, monitoring and evaluation at regional level. The innovative collaboration or partnership is present in the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop an innovative practice through co-design process. The main elements that can be replicated in different contexts or different territorial levels are the tools designed to be applicable to other regional authorities outside the project partnership: “MIPEX-R”⁴ regional indicators, capacity building and training guidelines, common evaluation framework, expansion of database of regional practices focusing on learning process). Moreover the REGIN Associated Partners participate in the dissemination and capitalisation of project results.

The project implements several innovative actions, including:

- regional Indicators on integration. The Project represents an opportunity to adapt the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), previously produced by Barcelona Centre for International Affairs - CIDOB and Migration Policy Group - MPG, to the regional level as MIPEX-R – that stands for MIPEX-Regions – to measure the effectiveness of integration policies and outcomes at regional level;
- regional Toolkit. The Project will implement an innovative toolkit for regional governments, through capacity-building for key stakeholders in receiving communities and tailored training for regional staff to support them in strengthening integration services;
- integration Actions. Within the REGIN Project, innovative tailor-made integration actions will be introduced in each participating region, building on regional policy and

⁴ « The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) is a tool which measures policies to integrate migrants in countries across five continents, including all EU Member States (including the UK), other European countries (Albania, Iceland, North Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine), Asian countries (China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, and South Korea), North American countries (Canada, Mexico and US), South American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile), and Australia and New Zealand in Oceania”, <https://www.mipex.eu/what-is-mipex>

outcome indicators through results from MIPEX-R. An evaluation framework will be developed and tested on these targeted actions;

- case study on health and inclusion. As part of the REGIN Project, Partnership Skåne, which addresses integration challenges by providing holistic support for newly arrived people in Sweden, will conduct a test-bed on health equity and social inclusion, providing individually adapted support to prevent risks of marginalisation;
- integration Lab - Database and Interactive Map. The Project intends to build on and enhance an existing migration visual mapping tool, previously developed by the CPMR: it will build a database of innovative integration practices with a search tool and will be used for mutual learning between regions based on both successful and failed practices and for promoting regional integration actions, networking and identifying expertise in specific areas;
- building an external network. Through strong partnerships in participating regions and beyond, the Project facilitates transregional exchange between newer and more experienced regions to identify and disseminate lessons learnt amongst key stakeholders. Communications activities, dissemination events and promotion through other channels, such as the Cities and Regions for Integration initiative led by the European Committee of the Regions and the European Web Site on Integration (EWSI), are also foreseen in order to disseminate the project's findings to a wider audience.

Regarding the connection of the practice with the south side of Mediterranean, the tools developed in the project could easily be adapted to the subnational public authorities in the South Mediterranean. The practice has the potential to transfer the know-how in the South. Through associate partners MedCities and COPPEM (Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of Local and Regional Authorities) the project aims to ensure capitalisation and transfer of the REGIN tools and methods.



3.2.MIGRANTI E COMUNITÀ INCLUSIVE: DIRITTI, PRATICHE DI CITTADINANZA E PREVENZIONE DEI RISCHI- MIGRANTS AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES: RIGHTS, CITIZENSHIP PRACTICES AND RISK PREVENTION ⁵ (MeCi)

3.2.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

10

ACRONYM / TITLE	MIGRANTI E COMUNITÀ INCLUSIVE: DIRITTI, PRATICHE DI CITTADINANZA E PREVENZIONE DEI RISCHI (MeCi)- MIGRANTS AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES: RIGHTS, CITIZENSHIP PRACTICES AND RISK PREVENTION
PROGRAMME	FISR (Fondo Integrativo Speciale per la Ricerca/National Special Found for Research)
PRIORITY	Inclusion, migration, socio-economic and cultural integration
DURATION (START-END)	01/03/2018 – 29/02/2020 (extended to 29/09/2021)
WEBSITE	N/A
COUNTRIES INVOLVED	Italy
LEAD PARTNER	University of Molise
PROJECT PARTNERS	

3.2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE

The following section will describe the project⁶, containing the criteria used in the analysis.

The project deals with the rights of migrants and the needs of security and social and economic integration in the community where they arrive, in Europe and Italy. The starting point is the European principles about protection of human dignity, freedom, equality and security, together with the constitutional principles of horizontal subsidiarity (Articles 2,3, 117, 118 of the Constitution), social pluralism and protection of minorities and those concerning local, public and social services and several forms of public-private collaboration.

⁵ (unofficial translation)

⁶ The informations come from the questionnaire

The scientific method chosen for the project aims to overcome the traditional dogmatic categories and to adopt an innovative perspective, suitable for linking integration in Inclusive Communities to the methods of managing common goods and services, involving migrants and their knowledge, thanks to the local community (i.e. the best practices such as Social housing, the social garden, the Citizen Panel).

In operational terms, the project refers to public-private collaboration agreements and agreements between public administrations, private entities, such as cooperatives, associations, other non-profit entities (Onlus), as well as institutions, companies and enterprises which are defined, according to the art. 113 bis of the Testo Unico degli Enti Locali⁷, as Inclusive Communities, in charge of an activity of general interest, under the banner of the principle of horizontal subsidiarity.

Finally, the very recent provision of participation and employment of asylum and protection seekers "on a voluntary basis, in activities of social utility for the local communities" (Article 22-bis of Legislative Decree No. 142 of 2015, introduced by Legislative Decree 13 of 2017, the so-called Minniti decree). In this way, migrants are integrated into local communities as the main factors of development and contribute to their progress also by fulfilling duties of solidarity and by participating in local procedural and administrative democracy.

The project areas of interventions are: Governance, Health care Socio-economic and cultural integration, Networking, Awareness and communication activities Local communities of Molise, an Italian Region, its municipalities, local institutions, administrations and authorities dealing with migrants (as "Offices for foreigners"), private entities, such as cooperatives, associations and other non-profit entities (Onlus) are partners and will benefit from the project's initiatives and activities. The general aim is to provide for more legal protection awareness and to improve the situation of migrants at regional and national level.

Migrants are included directly thanks to advanced training activities and in awareness raising initiatives related to the whole population and to different social groups. Migrants are actors and beneficiaries of the inclusive practice. In fact, the main objectives of the project are:

- start-up of interdisciplinary research activities in all thematic areas covered by the project;
- design and implementation of information and awareness raising activities on relevant issues, dissemination and exploitation of results, proposals for reform and reorganization of the sectors affected by the project;
- design and implementation of training and advanced training activities of a multi and interdisciplinary nature. These activities are aimed at university students, young researchers, external professionals from the public and private sectors. Some of these activities will have the aim of training an intercultural operator and consultant for migrants and communities;
- transfer of knowledge and skills to local authorities, through targeted actions shared with local communities, relating to the creation of inclusive communities through the development of tools and practices of procedural democracy and local welfare such as the citizen panel, the social garden, social housing, deliberative arenas and procedures for representing interests, including minority ones, sessions of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, specific motor / sports activities;

⁷ Italian Rules that regulate the Local Authorities

- design and implementation of joint activities in synergy with local communities on the topics covered by the research;
- support and implementation of the University's R&D facilities and infrastructures that are involved in the project and in the creation of inclusive communities.

The main outputs and deliverables related to the project activities are:

- interdisciplinary research, study and scientific activities (conferences, seminars, workshops, roundtables etc.);
- publications, essays, books;
- research activity in the field of theory and practice of intercultural communication and intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

In connection with the previous point, a relevant part of the research must be dedicated to the linguistic dimension, with attention to issues relating to translation and cultural mediation, institutional communication and regulatory drafting.

- Evaluation of eating habits in the context of intercultural and inter-religious differences of migrants, with particular attention to an identification and stratification of different habits for the purpose of proper nutrition, prevention of diseases with a high social impact (e.g. vitamin D deficiency and diseases bone) and an improvement in the quality of life. In this regard, such assessments will be carried out by means of measures validated in the literature and recognized as reliable risk indices.
- Sharing the results of scientific research not only with the national and international academic community, through scientific publications, national and international conferences and workshops, but also with public institutions, local territorial bodies and associations, through the organization of events for the dissemination and enhancement of results research, also by promoting public-private partnerships, in order to create awareness and participation in the project. Particular attention is to be paid to the autonomous initiative of individuals and associates, in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity.
- Design and start-up of actions to prepare human capital to be used in linguistic, cultural, civic, practical-occupational training programs, as well as nutrition and health-sports education.
- Design and implementation of support and consultancy activities aimed at municipalities and social organizations active in the Molise region area.
- Interventions on the territory aimed at creating cohesive and genuinely inclusive communities, since immigration can no longer be classified as an emergency, presenting itself instead from the point of view of a structural fact. These interventions must be oriented above all to the insertion of migrants in the working economy of the host center, also rediscovering forgotten forms of craftsmanship, giving new life to ancient agricultural works and livestock, creating diversified tourist attractions (environmental and landscape, historical -artistic, gastronomic). This is susceptible to a double positive fallout: a dignified housing and employment location for foreigners; demographic increase and young workforce for the areas of inland areas increasingly subject to the rise in the average age of the inhabitants and, therefore, to the risk of depopulation.

- Elaboration of policy and regulatory planning models starting from the results of the various research activities, which take into account, among other factors, the direct involvement of migrant and non-migrant beneficiaries, as not only recipients of services, but an active part of the participatory and decision-making process in complex local contexts and with a multicultural composition.
- Monitoring of the administrative application of measures aimed at integration, which are the responsibility of local authorities and relating to registration as a condition of access to social services and benefits, to the municipal territory, with particular reference to services to the person and the community, and to organization of local welfare
- Downsizing of negative prejudice towards immigrants, perceived socially and institutionally as at constant risk of deviance and crime. In a context of progressive disinvestment in social policies and strong investment in criminal policies, there is in fact a full coincidence between the public level of perception and construction of deviance and institutional strategies. In this regard, it must be said that only an effective inclusion of foreigners can, on the one hand, restore social alarm and the widespread sense of fear and insecurity to the right dimensions; on the other hand, realistically removing immigrants from the danger of becoming easy prey to criminal associations or even exposing them to episodic and unorganized criminal behaviour.
- Establishment, with a view to implementing the quality of life of migrants, of equipped spaces within the reception facilities, dedicated to carrying out motor / sports activities in an optimal manner.
- Development of the app MeCi Larino⁸ for mobile devices.

The territorial level is at National (Italy) and Regional (the Molise region), with particular attention to its Internal Areas, also in a comparative perspective and attentive to the experiences of similar areas on the national and international territory. The encountered difficulties were caused by the narrow following of different regimes adopted by the Executives in three years and several legislative decrees. Further several local authorities and administration were slow in reacting to the input by the Project Team (answering to mails and so on) and cooperating in the Project activities. The most innovative aspect of the project refers to its interdisciplinary nature and the practical impact of the results or output of the research ('ricercazione'⁹). The medium-long term impact of the project refers to the involvement of the local communities. The innovative collaboration refers to all the stakeholders involved in the project which reflect their actions on the local communities. All the project outputs can be replicated in different context. The project has horizontal and vertical involvement capacity as it affects all the local involved communities at every level. The project is involved in local and national integration and migration policy development.

Regarding the aspect related to the development or adoption of any services and solutions for migrants' labour inclusion, the most important project deliverable refers to the development of a mobile app aiming to offer services for migrants, including legal information, orientation through administrative offices and job offers. The main used tools for the promotion of social entrepreneurship are workshop, seminars and networks between public authorities and private

⁸ Larino is a municipality located in Molise Region (Italy)

⁹ It means Research plus Action

entities. The practice has the potential of being transferred in every part of Europe as it is interdisciplinary and multisectorial, it could have an impact in the South as it pays attention to the local communities and it could be transfer in the South as it could be considered as a pilot for every area of Europe.

The project was delayed in its activities due to Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, in order to allow the successfully carrying out of all the foreseen activities, its lasting has been extended. The Covid-19 pandemic surely has had effects on beneficiaries of the project as the activities (seminars and interviews of migrants) have been delayed or postponed. The solution found was to postpone the end of the Project to September 2021.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This collection of good practice examples demonstrates that various actions are being implemented at regional level and are funded by different Programmes. These actions are innovative and have great potential to inspire other projects and beyond. This guide can be useful to many types of cities, regions and other local authorities.

We hope that the exchange of good practices through this Report will further improve positive actions in other regions and countries. We also hope that this Report can be used as a basis for recognizing the benefits of interregional cooperation in policy and planning.

The practices constitute examples of how successful integration of migrants into their host society is essential to increase the opportunities provided by migration and to realise the potential that immigration has for the local development. Migration, addressed in a positive way, can give to the territories involved tools for a social and economic growth and migrants actively contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of European societies.

5. ANNEX

ACRONYM / TITLE	Exploring social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals/Arrival Regions
PROGRAMME	2014 - 2020 INTERREG VB Central Europe
PRIORITY	Innovation and knowledge development
DURATION (START-END)	01-04-2019 31-03-2022

WEBSITE	www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/national/information/Arrival-Regions.html
COUNTRIES INVOLVED	Germany Poland Czech Republic Croatia Bosnia Herzegovina Italy
LEAD/PARTNER	Leibniz InstitutNe for Regional GeogRaphy
PARTNERS	Burgenland district Center Rotunda, Koper National Union of mountain municipalities and mountain communities – UNCEM Piemonte University of West Bohemia in Pilsen City of Osijek LAG Escartons and Waldensians Valleys Information legal centre Mountain Union of Mongia e Cevetta Valley Langa Cebana Alta Valle Bormida University of Szczecin Municipality of Postojna Lodzkie Region Westpomeranian Region

The Arrival Regions project will build the capacities of policymakers in nine rural areas that face population decline and ageing to improve the integration of young non-EU migrants into the communities' social life and employment to stabilise their demography. Partners will develop a toolbox of possible approaches and offer various trainings. Furthermore, the project also aims to change the foremost negative perception of non-EU migration. The main result of ARRIVAL REGIONS are enhanced skills and knowledge of social innovation approaches among stakeholders in the labour market and societal integration of non-EU nationals. The learning from transnational exchange and pilots of social innovation approaches and the creation of local stakeholder alliances for long-term concerted action in promoting the integration of non-EU nationals are other important results of the project. The project foresees the advancement of capacities among the 135 stakeholders from all partner territories. They will get directly involved in ARRIVAL REGIONS activities (including among others trainings, transnational peer review, local stakeholder alliances' activities). Furthermore, many more Central European actors from rural areas will have access to the tool-box outlining successfully piloted approaches and the complete documentation of realised transnational learning activities. The partners' experiences and good practices are added up to a Transnational Strategy showing how social innovation approaches are beneficial for the social and labour-market integration of non-EU nationals. Further to the advanced skills and knowledge among public authorities, NGO and business support organisations pulling forces for the integration of non-EU nationals, the project activities

are expected to directly improve the situation of more than 1,000 migrants addressed by the project's foreseen pilot activities. The specific objective is to improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in central European regions.

The project is improving activities that are testing social Innovation approaches to tackle local challenges regarding migration in depopulating rural areas, transnational cooperation and the involvement of several target groups in the project activities. The project is expecting that the activities of trainings, pilot initiatives and knowledge transfer will have a "lasting effect" and that the tool box will be used by the project partners and other rural stakeholders in Central Europe in the future to create local cultures of welcome and to make rural areas more attractive for non-EU nationals. The final output of the Project, the transnational tool-box, is expected to be replicable in different contexts. Some Project Partners plan Pilot initiatives that would test organisational changes in their regions. Migrants will be addressed directly in the upcoming pilot initiatives; they will also be involved in the assessment of the project as peer reviewers.

The Territorial level in Arrival Regions contemplates different levels in different countries (NUTS2, NUTS3, LAU1). 135 stakeholders from all partner territories will get directly involved in Arrival Regions activities (including among others trainings, transnational peer review and local stakeholder alliances' activities). The project foresees the involvement of many more Central European actors from rural areas. Local and regional administrations/governments, NGOs, research institutions. The projects has the horizontal and vertical involvement capacity (Mainstreaming effects). The project aims to create supportive environments in the partner regions, including a better cooperation of local governments, social and economic stakeholders and the migrants themselves. Some of the planned pilot initiatives will deal with the labour market inclusion of migrants.

ACRONYM / TITLE	PLURALPS - ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR A PLURALISTIC ALPINE SPACE
PROGRAMME	2014 - 2020 INTERREG VB Alpine Space
PRIORITY	Innovative Alpine Space
DURATION (START-END)	01-11-2016 31-10-2019
WEBSITE	www.alpine-space.eu/projects/pluralps/
COUNTRIES INVOLVED	Austria Italy Slovenia France
LEAD/PARTNER	Regional Development Vorarlberg eGen

PROJECT PARTNERS	Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia Auvergne Rhone-Alps Region Regional Development Agency Upper Styria East GmbH Community Network Alliance in the Alps CIPRA International Lab GmbH Franco Demarchi Foundation Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts European Academy of Bozen-Bolzano Piedmont Region
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PlurAlps project aims to increase the territorial attractiveness, social cohesion and social innovation capacity of mountainous and peripheral Alpine municipalities and regions. The project enhances the capacities for the delivery of services of general interest for migrants in municipalities. It will demonstrate examples of multilevel and cross-sectorial cooperation for welcoming services and will raise awareness of pluralism, welcoming culture and the integration in our Alpine societies of migrants. The project aims to improve the level of capacity of social organisations and public authorities to deliver innovation in the field of social services and services of general interest through transnational networking. The overall objective of the project is to Increase the capacities of local territories for the delivery of services of general interest in a changing society.

The project reached three main outputs:

- 1) the municipalities are enabled to engage in social planning considering aspects of integration affecting the quality of life of all citizens ;
 - 2) the capabilities of municipalities, SMEs, and social organisations for cross-sectorial cooperation for welcoming services are strengthened ;
 - 3) knowledge and awareness regarding the integration of migrants in Alpine municipalities and regions is improved.
- The results contribute to improve conditions for social innovation in municipalities and SMEs.

The innovative aspect of the project consists in the implementation of nine pilot projects and one social planning instrument. The PlurAlps project partners describe the cooperation and communication with their local implementation partners as a positive experience that benefited both sides. What is important in this respect is to follow a participatory approach right from the beginning. The pilot activities need to be jointly defined with local stakeholders. Although it is a long process, it increases the impact of the activities and the long-term commitment of the local implementation partners. All PlurAlps partners see their pilot projects as sustainable measures for the integration of migrants. The main reason cited for the sustainability of the pilot projects is that they respond to the real needs on the local and regional level and those were co-designed and developed with local actors. In addition, the personal motivation of some of the local project partners is a key factor for the sustainability of the pilot projects. In addition, the broad involvement of stakeholders (local and regional public authorities, sectoral agencies, NGOs, higher education and research, etc.) is also crucial for the long-term sustainability of the actions.

The main elements of the pilot projects were summarized in a tool box. These elements can be replicated. The most suitable elements for such transfers are contained in the PlurAlps innovation toolbox. The objective of this instrument consists in sharing what has been learned, make processes transparent and inspire further ideas and projects in other regions. The pilot projects focus on new offers and services for the social and labour market inclusion of migrants. The new service developed and implemented by the partners included topics such as information delivery for newcomers (online platforms and welcome events) Intercultural Coaches / Mediator / Tutors (Job and Housing coaches employed by municipalities), organising volunteers to support the integration process, language competences (new language training formats for rural areas combining child care and language training for women, or teaching local dialects). These elements face challenges common to many territories (in particular the internal and rural areas) and represent a replicable and transferable approach to tackle the issue of migration and local development with innovative and participatory solutions. The territorial level is Local and regional.

The project PlurAlps shows that integration issues should be tackled at the lowest level of governance. At local level, the trust between the various actors is highest, so the problems related to the integration can be better solved. One of the main impacts of the pilot projects is that the stakeholders experience that migration does not need to be a source of fear and conflict.

Many of the pilot projects tried to support the development of a welcoming culture in municipalities, regions and organisations. The interventions created opportunities for meetings and direct exchange between local people and migrants, within contexts structured for this purpose.

The actors involved in the project are ten partner organisations from the Alpine Space. The PlurAlps partners launched pilot projects in the fields of social integration, labour market integration and environmental and landscape conservation. Local or regional implementation partnerships were formed to involve different actors such as municipalities, SMEs, NGOs and other stakeholders. In total, more than 80 organisations and institutions in the six participating Alpine countries were involved in the implementation of the pilot projects.

The pilot projects focus on new offers and services for the social and labour market inclusion of migrants. Examples come from two pilot projects. The project “Heimat Vinschgau”, implemented by the municipality of Mals/Malles (Italy) with Eurac Research, focused on different fields among which labour market inclusion. Through a job-coach, information on labour rights and obligations are provided to immigrants/asylum seekers, in order to enhance autonomy and enable free movement of newcomers within the labour market and related institutions. The second example coming from the pilot projects is called “L’Arbu” and implemented in Piedmont Region (Italy). It aims to train a migrant with the objective of building up a mountain farm in cultivation of typically local products. One of the migrants living in the valley attends a training course provided during which his personal and professional project is developed. He also worked for a local cooperative for one year. Attending this vocational training he improves his working skills.