

Project draft proposal

Programme: Europe for citizens

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Measure: 2.2 Network of towns

RECOV: REthinking COLlaborative Values for public services

“Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come” Victor Hugo

The project RECOV (REthinking COLlaborative Values) aims to create a network focused to work on a new concept of public services.

EU is dealing now with the raise of a new economic and social phenomena: sharing economy is spreading quickly. Its success cannot be ignored by public authorities, but should instead be recognised as due to its responsiveness to new social demands. Globalization, new technologies, and ultimately financial crisis, have changed the way people interact, work, and what they expect from the public authorities.

Public entities manage scarcely to keep the pace with social innovations, still this delay may be seen as one of the causes of citizens' estrangement from politics and of Euroskepticism.

We are aware of local governments struggles to adapt to new after crisis rules on public spending, and this difficulties may unintentionally further fuel Euroskepticism.

We believe local government may and should have an important and positive impact on these feelings, by intercepting citizens needs and by responding to them with the conceiving of innovative and effective public services.

As well, we believe LAs, when effectively supported, to be able to turn the difficulties and constraints on public budget produced by the crisis into the right opportunity to change the way local public management is conducted, and with it, the way citizens see local and European institutions.

In order to do so, the project will:

- **create a network of towns** experienced on the creation of public services based and collaborative values, such as:

- the building and/or management of public co-working spaces and public co-housing;
- the share of public assets between citizens, entrepreneurs, youngsters, CSOs;
- multi-actor planning of public areas;
- innovative instruments of public finance and of the commons management (charity bonds, common trustees etc);
- open source platforms and programmes for open government, public services evaluation and accountability.

- **support and inspire local authorities**, through the exchange of good practices within the network, **to elaborate financially sustainable public services based on sharing, equal access and participation** (to drive employment, innovation, economic development and active citizenship).

-**contribute to reduce the waste of resources (land, materials, energy, finances)** by fostering the share of public assets while improving public services and allowing wider and equal access to new technologies and machineries;

- **improve citizens' understanding of the Union aims and policies**, in particular of those public spending rules and of other mechanisms created in response to the financial crisis (ESM etc), which are often the source of new waves of Euroskepticism, enlightening the benefits, functioning, and the chance for better public management they represent.

- **improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level**, by allowing citizens in networked towns to debate, and to benefit of new participative public services and spaces to share knowledge and debate either of new ICT tools to participate in open government initiatives.

- **promote volunteering and cooperation** as a main aspect of collaborative economy, since the sharing of knowledge and abilities is a natural feature of being involved in co-working spaces.

The network will work with the communities involved, connected through a website, and will serve for mutual advisory and help between the participants.

- **promote and debate solidarity** through the building of responsibility and reciprocity within communities and local authorities

- In line with the values of cooperation and for the improvement and exploitation of collective knowledge, the usage of open source programmes for the active participation of citizens in the drafting of local politics and services will be suggested (**open source government for cities, capable to boost participation, accountability and effective local policies**).

The activities of the project will consist in:

Month 1-2	1. Definition of the Steering Committee 2. Involvement of local CSOs and citizens
Month 3	3. 1 st International event on: “Open government: principles, methods and ICT open source tools” : - Training and best practices exchange on open government methods, participative policy making, evaluation and accountability - Training on open source ICT tools for open government - Open debate with local stakeholders
Month 4-7	5. Local implementation of the software and methods 6. Online support by the expert partner on ICT tools to the network 7. Local training to CSOs and citizens involved on open-government ICT tools implemented
Month 8	8. International event on “Collaborative public services” : - Training and exchange of best practices on: • the building and management of public co-working spaces and public co-housing; • the share of public assets between citizens, entrepreneurs, youngsters, CSOs; • multi-actor planning of public areas and services • equal access and innovation support - Open debate with local stakeholders
Month 9-14	9. Local debate on collaborative public services 10. Local co-planning of Pilot Projects for collaborative public services 11. Expert's online support of the network
Month 15	12. International event on “Innovative and sustainable financial instruments for local governments” : - Training and debate on EU rules and mechanism in response to the crisis - Best practices exchange and training on new sustainable financial instruments for PAs - Open debate with local stakeholders
Month 16-22	13. Pilot projects financing through innovative financial instruments 14. Online support of the expert partner on financial instruments 15. Local debate on EU values, policies, impacts and mechanisms in response to the crisis
Month 23	16. International Event on “Participation & Collaborative values as a way to innovation and local development”

	- Debate and training on collaborative values and rules to boost solidarity and innovation in local communities - Training on active citizenship: best practices, tools, methods and EU funds to sustain the participative process - Share of the results of local pilot projects
Months 1-24	Communication & Dissemination activities - Creation of the network website - After each event, reports and tutorial materials will be uploaded in the network website - At the end of the project, a methodological handbook will be drafted

Lead applicant: municipality of Santorso, Italy

Partners confirmed: ALDA