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EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS & INCLUSION



The Project



The WIT project aims to expand and strengthen skills and knowledge of social care professionals, through an open and dynamic way to share experiences and exchange information and views on a national and international level.



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Project overview

WIT - White Task Force on the development of skills of the social welfare professionals intends to improve the quality of services provided to citizens through the creation of a European network for social innovation.



Its overall objective is to analyze the evolution of the system of social and health services in Europe, so as to provide new and effective guidelines to support innovation in the organizational models and the definition of vocational training courses for operators in the sector.

Specifically, the project goals are:



- coordinate the analysis and scenario building on emerging trends in order to facilitate the matching between demand and supply of new skills in the social work;
- analyze the impact of social innovation on the skills and competencies of social workers, creating a European Atlas of innovation in social care professions;
- capitalize and disseminate best practices on developing new skills and competencies for the White Jobs.



WIT project involves public and development bodies next to research, university and training prominent institutions on the topic of social innovation, from 4 Member Countries (Italy, Bulgaria, Germany and Lithuania). The Province of Milan, leads the partnership composed of the National Development Agency (Bulgaria), Alice Salomon - University of Applied Sciences in Berlin (Germany) and Vilnius university, Faculty of Philosophy (Lithuania).

Partners



Provincia
di Milano

Province of Milan, "Training for welfare and third sector professions" Area is committed to promoting the continuous training of workers in the social welfare and health services, by networking experiences and models of innovative interventions in this context.



НАЦИОНАЛНА
АГЕНЦИЯ
ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ

National Development Agency (NDA - Bulgaria), actively contributes to the progress of the Bulgarian society and to the development of a knowledge-based society, by supporting the improvement of the quality and effectiveness of education and training, the development and improved governance in the public sector.



Alice Salomon University (ASH - Germany), by deeply focusing on teaching theory, practice and research, the University aims to high-level education and training as a key factor for its students success, according to an interdisciplinary, international based approach.



Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy (Lithuania), dynamic participant in international scientific and academic activities, the Faculty of Philosophy is a wide-spectrum humanistic and social education and science institution.



WIT FIRST SEMINAR: an opportunity to deepen emerging societal challenges as far as Social Services management

On February 6th 2014 the Province of Milan organized the **WIT** launching Conference in Milan (Italy), which represented the official start of this action funded by the *EU PROGRESS Programme*. As Leader of the transnational partnership, the Province managed the organisation of the first seminar on “**Facing with societal challenges as far as social services management**”, with more than 100 people attending among institutional representatives and health and social care professionals, beyond the 6 international partners' delegates.



The first seminar dealt with several social issues related to the project core themes: bigger metropolitan areas as drivers for integrating welfare, education, training, employment and inclusion policies; EU and regional programming for a renewed subsidiarity framework, in the policies for inclusion and for supporting families; urban quality models for local social services; opportunity to identify adequate skills for a new welfare.



Just click [here](#) to know more.



After the welcoming of the Province of Milan - Council member responsible for social policies, Susanna Galli, as project coordinator, briefly introduced the WIT main objectives and the key challenges the Province intends to tackle within the project activities, as far as fostering a new concept of *welfare community*, based on a reinforced social network of complementary and virtuous responsibilities between public and private actors.

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The presence of different *governance* levels representatives (regional, province, municipal) allowed to in-depth analyse the various and cross-cutting dimensions of the integrated offer of social & health care services in the Lombardia Region, considered among the most advanced European areas from a socio-economic point of view. The seminar underlined the necessity of rethinking the services in a more innovative perspective that can face the new map of current social needs, emerging trends and socio-demographic dynamics.



A specific focus has been addressed to the major role assumed by the bank foundations as observatories for social experimentations and drivers for social innovation, exploring in particular the case of the *CARIPLO Foundation*.



Furthermore, the *Alice Salomon Hochschule* representative, Professor Heinz Stapf-Finé, brought to the attention of all participants the relevant experiences of the University and some interesting examples of well-assessed and consolidated practices within the German context, to enhance the exchange and mutual understanding as far as social services management.





WIT First Round-table



WIT FIRST ROUND-TABLE feeds debate on the application of the Social Innovation to social services.

With more than 60 people attending (among social workers, experts and practitioners) and 6 international partners' representatives, the first project round-table on the afternoon of February 6th was the occasion to deepen and exchange knowledge on innovating social services initiatives and projects under the central suggested theme of "**Social Innovation in Europe**", offering experiences derived from Italian, Bulgarian and Lithuanian valuable projects, initiatives and practices relevant to the field.



Significant national and international testimonials, belonging to the public, private and non-profit social sector have been invited to give their contribution. A focus has been devoted to explore the theme of "The family composition, the effects of labor relations and the difficulties of financing the transition in an era of budget constraints", in line with the EU initiative "**2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life**".



European and international level interventions came from Professor Violeta Gevorgianiene and Ieva Adomaityte Subaciene of the *Vilnius University, Faculty of Philosophy* and Lyubomir Grancharov, CEO of the *National Development Agency, Bulgaria*.



For further info click [here](#).

In particular, Patrizia Sgarzini, responsible of the Regional Health Agency Macerata, within the concept of social innovation proclaimed by Europe 2020, offered a detailed overview on new skills required for managing different forms of addictions dealt with

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by the National Department of Drug Control Policy, which supports the Italian government action on these issues.

Marzia Bianchi, president of the Association “Centro Aiuto alla Vita” has shown a successful case within the new frontiers of corporate welfare and social responsibility: *Lubiam*, awarded in 2009, within the first edition of the Family Work Award, organized by the Lombardia Region.



Antonella Razete, Director of the *Federico II Foundation*, reported the experience of the Foundation and its active involvement on the subject of facilitating services favoring the return to work after the maternity leave, with a particular attention to meet the challenges of the integrated Europe 2020 programming by exploiting synergies between structural funds and new European directly managed programs.



European and international level interventions came from professor Violeta Gevorgianiene and Ieva Adomaityte Subaciene of the *Vilnius University - Faculty of Philosophy*, an academic institution with a solid experience in organizing higher education and post graduate programs as well as *on the field* learning courses, in the context of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. A rich outline of projects and experiences on the Lithuanian territory was presented focusing on already successfully developed methods and skills (elaboration of quality standards in social services, training of specialists, participation and intervention in teams of interdisciplinary work, promotion of informal education methods encouraging tolerance and respect for human rights).



Lyubomir Grancharov finally introduced a number of fruitful experimental projects developed in recent years by the *Bulgarian National Development*, aimed at supporting long-term employment youth with disabilities, through the creation and enhancement of software facilitating vocal, auditory and visual skills.

Materials and all the presentations can be found [here](#).



WIT FIRST WORKSHOP inspires a more diffused and aware use of the crowd-funding tool applied to the social sector



On February 7th the Province of Milan organized the first WIT workshop in Milan on the subject of “*No money, more welfare. Financial sustainability of social works and funding opportunities for the Social Service Industries*”.



Introduced and moderated by Professor Germana Di Falco, independent researcher on *Innovative & Alternative Finance*, the working group was conducted according to an operational approach oriented to make participants exercise on practical cases. With more than 20 people attending and 6 international partners' representatives, the first workshop was focused on further analysing the multi-sources and combined forms of funding social services (local, national and EU funding opportunities), social bonds and micro-credit under the main recommended theme of “**Fostering entrepreneurship in the Social Services Industries and Innovative Forms of Financing Social Work**”.



The discussion has been moreover enriched by the high contribution of Anna Maria Siccardi, one of the founders of “Rete del dono” who enlarged the debate to the new frontiers of the crowd-funding tool, highlighting the effective system of this online personal fund-raising platform.



Are you interested to share your expertise and join a thematic workshop? **WIT thematic workshops** are open focus groups of experts, practitioners or simply very interested in the field people (researchers, advisors, people from the worlds of NGOs, public and private social sectors, to mention some) focusing on a specific subject, while sharing knowledge and experience. Each thematic

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workshop tries to feed practical innovative solutions to problems or opportunities in the field drawing on experience derived from tailored useful projects, initiatives and practices.

You can easily join the on line thematic workshop and download all useful background information, videos and materials via this [link](#).



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The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.