



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2018 has been another year of growth for the network from several points of view. SERN has in fact enlarged in terms of members and increased the number of projects under implementation.

Membership-wise the network has welcomed 6 new members while 3 have left by the end of year. The increase in the number of members has contributed to a stronger development and a more widespread participation of the members in projects. Most of the new members are not local authorities and this is an element upon which the Board has started a reflection in 2018. This pertains the need, in perspective, of striking a sustainable balance in SERN between the various types of member organisations while valorising the added value that such diversity brings.

With regard to project activities, the 18 projects implemented in the network during 2018 indicate a clear increase in comparison to 2017. While the themes addressed by the projects ranged from social inclusion and elderly care to school and pre-school education, the programmes on which the attention has focused have been as in the past years Erasmus+ and Europe for Citizens.

This achievement is based on two main elements. The introduction of procedures for the collection of proposals within the network has eased both the work of the Secretariat (in the collection of proposals) and that of the members (in the submission of proposals) compared to the previous years.

Despite the need of some improvements, in particular in terms of access to some information, the process has been working well and it will be mainstreamed further in 2019.

The second element has been a more effective and direct support of the Secretariat to the members in the different

phases of the project cycle. In particular, the training activities organised during the year aimed at sharing a common project methodology within the network about project design have contributed to raise the quality of the proposals.

At the same time, the direct participation of SERN as a partner in a number of projects has contributed to make some of the members more comfortable with the idea of promoting and leading a transnational process of cooperation.

A stronger presence of SERN in the projects has produced an increased availability of resources which has led to initiate a process pertaining the strengthening of the human resources of the Secretariat. This process started in late 2018 will continue between 2019 and 2020 as a result of the HR planning approved by the Board.

The positive results achieved by the network have also created new challenges pertaining the need of stepping-up further the skills among the staff of the member organisations in relation to project management and planning in order to extend and reinforce further the potential of network when it comes to the number of projects generated (and funded) at EU level.

In 2018, in fact out of 17 new project ideas circulated 11 have been turned into project proposals. Approximately 80% of these proposals were granted funding. One of the main challenges emerged in the planning phase, that has slowed considerably or in several cases stopped the process, has been related to the difficulties pertaining the division of tasks and roles in the future project. This is element on which the Secretariat has been increasingly putting attention on, and will continue to do so in the future, with the aim of increasing the amount of project ideas turning into proposals submitted for funding at EU level.

ACTIVITIES

The total number of projects under implementation during the year 2018 was 18, every one of them has been co-financed either by two different European Programmes: Europe for Citizens and Erasmus+. SERN has participated as applicant or partner in 11 of them.

SERN members involved in projects were 29: the municipalities of Linköping, Cervia, Norrköping, Casalgrande, Scandiano, Carpi, Cavriago, Motala, Vänersborg, Bertinoro, Ravenna, Parma, Imola, Collecchio, Trollhattan, Molndal, Forlì, Orust, Östergötland region, Hushållningssällskapet Väst, Unione Terre d'Argine, Comunità Comprensoriale Bassa Atesina, ASP Azienda Sociale Sud-Est Langhirano, ASP Ad Personam Azienda di Servizi alla Persona del Comune di Parma and Unione Pedemontana Parmense, Liceo Scientifico Moro, Consorzio Fantasia, Unione Val d'Enza, with 16 European countries involved in the project partnerships (excluding Italy and Sweden).

PROJECTS ENDED IN 2018



WHAT'S UP IN EDUCATION

Recent changes in the European society have resulted in a number of challenges for ECEC services. In particular, ECEC services need to be adapted to a greater number of families, with more diversified needs. This means that they should be more inclusive and holistic. The main objectives of the project were:

- To identify organizational solutions that improve ECEC services and contribute to increase access;
- To improve families and community participation in the life of preschools services.

These goals have been pursued through the involvement of teachers, school managers and coordinators in job shadowing experiences enabling them to exchange best practices and test them in their own countries. In 2018, the partners concluded the project with local seminars addressed at pre-school services teachers and ECEC stakeholders and by producing a poster-toolkit, containing good practices and suggestions for concrete actions, and a video clip with insights from the teachers and coordinators involved in the project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.whatsupineducation.eu

APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Asilo Arcobaleno – Unione Terre d'Argine

PARTNERS Öjebyn preschool (SE), Vrtec Jelka (SI)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



LET THE CHILDREN CHANGE THE WORLD

This project, launched in 2015, aimed at decreasing discrimination in society working on education in preschools. The project was mainly teachers-oriented and focused on the objective of creating educational environments that promote every individual's human rights, by increasing children's tolerance for diversity and by providing teachers with tools, skills and improved knowledge and confidence about the theme of the project. The objective was achieved through the exchange of good practices and the mutual evaluation of activities by the partner, complemented by the essential involvement of parents in the project. In September 2018 the partners published a method guide for developing and designing educational environments and best practices. The guide, available on the project website, can be used by preschool staff from all over Europe (and beyond) to stimulate changes in their local context, with the ultimate effect of producing a much wider impact on society.



FURTHER INFORMATION www.childrenchangetheworld.eu

APPLICANT ORGANISATION Bosgårdens pedagogiska enhet (Mölndal Municipality)

PARTNERS Zespół Szkół w Staninie - Przedszkole (PL), Gråtass Barnehage as (NO), Comune di Imola (IT), Tallin Meelespea Kindergarden (EE)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



#BAGS4YOUTH

BAGS 4 YOUTH

Building actions of guidance services for youth employment network

This project started off from the need of examining the best practices across Europe on how to foster youth employment or self-employment also with an eye of those at risk of marginalisation such as migrants or disadvantaged. To foster young people's employability is one of the priorities of recent years, at local, national and European level, given that labour facilitates social inclusion for a wide range of "disadvantaged" citizens. The project aims to exchange experiences at European level on how to foster active participation of young people, with a focus on disadvantaged ones, and to improve dialogue between these young people and institutions for the development of local policies related to job-guidance services. In 2018 the partners organized six local events in which they presented the project to citizens and shared with them the exchanged practices.



FURTHER INFORMATION www.bags4youth.eu

LEAD PARTNER Linköping Municipality

PARTNERS IMPEFE - Ciudad Real Municipality (ES), Forlì municipality (IT), Masku municipality (FI), Zagreb Municipality (HR), SERN

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Europe for Citizens



INTED

Integration through education and information

The project, Integration through Education and Information (INTED), aimed at improving the work amongst refugees/immigrants in the different partnership countries with the objective to create a more efficient integration process. The project has foreseen the realization of seven meetings, four of which have been characterized by learning and training activities for staff, including mainly, teachers, social workers, , instructors and specialists in the field of immigration. Thanks to the training events and the exchange of practices, participants could improve their intercultural and crossroad competences dealing with the education of migrants. In the long run, this will create more favourable conditions for the inclusion of newly arrived citizens into the local community and on the other hand it will contribute to start building mutual trust with the locals.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.linkoping.se/forskola-och-utbildning/familjeprogram/project-erasmus

APPLICANT ORGANISATION Linköping Municipality

PARTNERS Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma, Zagreb (HR), Omega - Transcultural Centre for mental and physical health and integration, Graz (AT); Landratsamt Enzkreis, Pforzheim (DE), Val d'Enza Union (IT), Gårdshuset (SE)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+

PROJECTS STARTED IN 2018



DEMETER

Developing interdisciplinary methodologies in education through enhanced relationships between schools and farms

The project has been launched in order to improve the quality of primary school education by increasing the collaboration between schools and farms. The objectives of the project are to increase the integration of experience of farms into the school curriculum, in the framework of a wider path of education to food, respect for the environment and health; to improve the teaching skills among school teachers as well as educational farms operators by exchanging, consolidating and developing methodologies appropriate to a farm experience; and to create synergies among education, institutions, business and research for the improvement of education.

The project will produce two intellectual outputs:

- An interdisciplinary teaching methodology in the form of a physical and virtual toolkit of practices. This will be available in English, Swedish, Italian and Portuguese, in order to allow its use by schools across Europe;
- A set of guidelines aimed at facilitating the use of the interdisciplinary methodology in other schools and countries.

The first transnational project meeting took place in the city of Vänersborg between 11-13 October.



FURTHER INFORMATION

www.demeterproject.eu

www.facebook.com/Demeter-Project-265233971047873

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Vänersborg Kommun (SE)

PARTNERS The Soil Association Limited (UK), Hushållningsällskapet Väst (SE), Whashinborough Academy (UK), Colégio do Sardão (PT), Comune di Bertinoro (IT), Istituto Comprensivo "P. Amaducci" di Bertinoro (IT), Università degli Studi Milano-Bicocca (IT) SERN

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



DEHORS

Developing innovative learning contexts in pre-schools' outdoor spaces

Dehors is an Erasmus+ funded project launched in Motala on the 26-27 September 2018. The project, which will last three years, stems from the need to rethink and redesign school outdoor spaces in order to enhance the quality of education and create a more stimulating learning environment for pupils. The redesign of physical spaces is complemented by the creation of tools allowing teachers to develop their skills and strategies about outdoor activities. The project envisions two first seminars, dedicated to the illustration of the practices, skills and approaches pertaining outdoor learning identified by the partners at the local level. External experts will be invited to present their contributions to the topic. There will then be a third seminar, in which two models of outdoor learning spaces will be drafted, which will then be tested by the partners at the local level. The results of the testing phase will provide the basis for the creation of the first intellectual output: two innovative models of outdoor learning space, applicable not only at the local level but in all the countries involved in the project. A second output will be produced in the following phase in the form of a handbook containing guidelines for ECEC teachers who would like to apply the models elaborated by the partners. Finally, the partners will produce an online training module on outdoor activities for the teachers, based on the content of the handbook.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/dehorsproject

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Motala Municipality Department of Education (SE)

PARTNERS SERN (IT), Municipality of Scandiano (IT), Municipality of Casalgrande (IT), University of Linköping (SE), Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology - Cardet (CY), Daugavpils Preschool Institution nr. 27 "Mana Marite" (LV).

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



PEDAGOGICAL DOCUMENTATION IN TRANSITIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

of the education system and student outcomes by deepening knowledge in pedagogical documentation as a means in transitions within and between preschool and school with the overall long-term objective of increasing the school results in Norrköping. The objective will be achieved by allowing 36 school staff members to have job shadowing experiences in four educational institutions in Italy.

The project was launched by the Municipality of Norrköping for its schools and preschools.

In particular, it aims at increasing the quality

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/pedagogical-documentation-in-transitions-within-and-between-early-childhood-education-and-primary-education

APPLICANT ORGANISATION The Department of Education of the Municipality of Norrköping

PARTNERS "Cremaschi" and "Farri" preschools in Casalgrande, "I Gelsi" preschool and "L. Bassi" primary school in Scandiano, "Pettirosso" and "Pollicino" preschools in Carpi, and "Le Betulle" preschool in Cavriago.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



MORE

MORE

Motala and Reggio Emilia

The project MORE – Motala and Reggio Emilia – involves two upper secondary schools from Sweden and Italy providing general education. Both schools are currently seeking to renovate and rethink their teaching practice of scientific subjects in order to better meet the educational and cultural challenges of today's world and to make the use of digital media a permanent feature of teaching and learning. The project objectives are:

1. To provide students with transnational learning experiences that will improve their skills and competences in key subjects for their cultural and professional growth: experimental sciences (physics, chemistry, biology), English language, digital literacy.
2. To promote the students' ability to teamwork transnationally, with the specific aim to widen their cultural horizon by forming meaningful relationships and work collaborations with peers from another European country, thus building up European citizenship.
3. To enable teachers from two different educational backgrounds to compare and enrich their teaching practices in the scientific area, to improve their language skills in CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) teaching, to consolidate and widen their digital literacy.

The innovations in teaching method, the improvement of English language competence and the increase of digital literacy of the teachers involved will benefit the school long-term, as future students will enjoy the enhanced teaching skills of these teachers. But the impact of the project on these teachers will spill over the whole schools, as training sessions will be organized within the schools to spread and share the results of the project, thus meeting with a serious need for innovation in the teaching of scientific subjects through the implementation of new laboratory techniques, the promotion of collaborative learning and use of digital media.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/more-motala-and-reggio-emilia

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Liceo Scientifico "Aldo Moro" in Reggio Emilia

PARTNERS Platengymnasiet in Motala

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+

DEKOLLA

DEKOLLA

Developing migrants' knowledge about local labour market

The project aims at developing migrants' knowledge about local labour. To become integrated in a new society is a process that can be very long if the receiving country doesn't have a good structure to meet the needs of the newly arrived. Many immigrants, for different reasons, find it difficult to integrate in the labor market and/or in the society and the current refugee situation make that challenge even bigger. Sustainable structures in different integration actions (as education and training) have to be set up in order to identify and reduce the barriers for participation. This can be possible through the structuring of informal channels that can lead newly arrived people to learn more about the local labour market and the local business environment.

The project main focus will be on providing the informal educators new skills and competences to develop more effective ways through which engaging both the migrants and the local business community. An easier and more accessible learning process is supposed to lead to a faster inclusion in the local economic context.

The main objective of the project is to develop innovative strategies to involve the business community in the inclusion of migrants in local society. In particular, the specific objectives are:

1. To create networks between migrants and businesses;
2. To increase the recruitment base for local companies;
3. To increase knowledge and awareness about the dynamics of the local business environment and labor market.

These objectives will be pursued through the involvement of informal trainers for newly arrived people with different ethnical background, asylum seekers and refugees; civil servants in local authorities, business community representatives and refugees and asylum seekers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/dekollaproject

APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Trollhättans Kommun

PARTNERS SERN, Consorzio Fantasia Soc. Coop. Soc. ONLUS, Landratsamt Enzkreis, Comunità Comprensoriale Oltradige Bassa Atesina.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



DEMETRA

Previous studies suggest that positive psychology training aimed at improving the psychological

well-being and emotional skills of caregivers can have beneficial effects for their relationship with elderly people and people affected by dementia. It has been found that formal care givers working in dementia care lack training on communication with people with dementia, stress relief and development of emotional and relational competences as regards elderly people and their decline. Against this background, the Demetra project aims at enhancing formal caregivers ability in emotional regulation through positive psychology and mindfulness-based training. The project will be carried out through the organization of transnational training seminars for trainers and local training seminars for formal care givers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/demetra

APPLICANT ORGANISATION

Ad Personam, Azienda di Servizi alla Persona del Comune di Parma (IT)

PARTNERS Expertisecentrum Dementie Vlaanderen (BE), Emmaus vzw (BE), Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Dolnośląskiego (PL), Landratsamt Enzkreis (DE), SZL Seniorenzentren Linz GmbH (AT), Università degli Studi di Parma (IT), SERN.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



TAKE CARE LEARNING

TAKE CARE LEARNING is a mobility project aimed at offering training opportunities in Sweden for Italian social workers interested in strengthening their professional profile as occupational therapists.

In particular, the project will enhance informal care givers' skills as regards training patients' families. The specific objectives of the project are:

1. To increase the participants' knowledge of occupational therapy in order to strengthen their role as "family trainers";
2. To increase families' knowledge about the specific competences and the role of the occupational therapist;
3. To improve communication between families and occupational therapists through networking activities;
4. To develop innovative practices for the transferal of transversal competences to the patients' families.

The activities planned by the partners include job shadowing experiences in the Swedish cities of Luleå, Vänersborg and Linköping, and intensive training courses in Finland, provided by the Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/take-care-learning

APPLICANT ORGANISATION SERN

PARTNERS ASP Azienda Sociale Sud-Est Langhirano (IT), Ad Personam Azienda di Servizi alla Persona - Comune di Parma (IT), Comunità Comprensoriale Oltradige Bassa Atesina (IT), ASP Carlo Sartori (IT), Comune di Forlì (IT), Vänersborg Municipality (SE), Linköping Municipality (SE), Luleå Municipality (SE).

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



Place branding is a key element for the future of medium/small municipalities. The main challenges for these towns is not only promoting themselves as a place to visit (tourism and events) but also as a place where to move and work, study, invest, a place linked to talent, knowledge, creativity, innovation and economic activity. Designing and developing the right brand vision and strategy can play a fundamental role in fostering local development which in turn might lead to the creation of new work places and opportunities for the local population to thrive.

The general objective of the project is to raise the attractiveness of European cities through the exchange of best practices on place branding strategies designed and implemented by Municipalities, in order to create more favourable condition for local development. To achieve the general objective above the project will aim at:

1. Developing high quality place branding skills in the staff of municipalities and, through indirect involvement, local stakeholders;
2. Increasing the effectiveness of networking and place branding strategies of municipalities;
3. Creating more on-the-job VET provision for civil servants at local and transnational level.

The project will involve civil servants, political representatives, business actors and associations dealing with the promotion of the territory.

On the basis of a collection and exchange of best practices, study visits and training activities, the partners will develop a new place-branding strategy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/brand-eu

APPLICANT ORGANISATION Comune di Imola (IT)

PARTNERS Trollhättan Municipality (SE), Orust Kommun Vuxenutbildningen (SE), Comune di Forlì (IT), Instituto Municipal de Promoción Económica, Formación y Empleo (ES), Public Benefit Organisation of Municipality of Rethymno (GR), City of Dubrovnik Development Agency DURA Ltd. (HR), SERN.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+

PRO WELLBEING

PRO WELLBEING

The PRO WELLBEING project arises from the need to affirm more among children and their families the awareness that healthy

lifestyles lead to a lasting and authentic well-being; in our hectic life it is often forgotten that the attention to a diversified and healthy diet, a daily and balanced movement, a constant hygiene, a care for the environment in which we live (internal or external) and a correct relational approach, are the bases for living well and staying in psycho-physical health.

The project aims to develop a line of action on preschools which aims to promote the psychological and physical well-being of children in relation to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, through synergistic actions between school, family and professionals that deal with the well-being and health of the child from 0 to 6.

On one hand, children who acquire new social skills and correct lifestyles will more likely become adult citizens who have an heritage linked to overall well-being that will not be dispersed

On the other hand, good practices experimented by families immediately affect the social context and, thanks to the contribution of both families and the stakeholders involved, they can be spread quickly, affecting of the entire community. The impact should be also visible on presumable new choices taken by local administrations (feeding in school canteens, promotion of physical activity for all ages, attention to hygiene, training on relationships, respect for the environment, parks, circulation, etc.).

The project is mainly based on visit and exchange of experiences, comparison, experimentation and subsequent evaluation of new practices related to nutrition, exercise, relationships, personal hygiene and environmental friendliness.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/pro-wellbeing-promoting-wellbeing-in-pre-school-through-healthier-lifestyles

APPLICANT ORGANISATION: Istituto Comprensivo "Ettore Guatelli", Collecchio (IT).

PARTNERS: 2nd Experimental Kindergarten School AUTH Thessaloniki (GR), Colégio do Sardão Oliveira do Douro (P), Armbandet och Kättsätters förskola Norrköping (SE).

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME: Erasmus+

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS



WIR

Welcome and integration of refugees in Europe



The project covers one of the most challenging themes of our time: the migration phenomenon and the welcoming and integration of refugees. The project aims at fighting stereotypes and misguided narratives about refugees, while favouring migrants integration in Europe. This will be achieved by increasing knowledge about the EU strategy and approach

towards refugees and asylum seekers based on the European Agenda for Migration; and about the processes of welcoming and integrating refugees in the partnering countries; By exchanging best practices and comparing European experiences on relevant focus themes, including education and schooling, getting ready to work, cooperation with civil society and unaccompanied minors; by transferring or adapting new models for welcoming and integrating refugees; and by creating a tool illustrating citizens the different approaches at work in EU countries. The year 2018 was dedicated to the organization by the partners of conferences and meetings with local stakeholders (politicians, NGOs, citizens) in their respective countries.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sern.eu/project/wir-welcome-and-integration-for-refugees-europe

APPLICANT ORGANISATION: Vänersborg Municipality

PARTNERS: SERN (IT) Unione Pedemontana Parmense (IT) Ravenna Municipality (IT) University of Alicante (ES) Offenbach Province (Landkreis) (DE) Kassel Province (Landkreis) (DE) Daugavpils City Council (LV) South Ostrobothnia Youth Association (FI) Verein für Sozialprävention und Gemeinwesenarbeit (AT)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME: Europe for Citizens



SIDEIS

Developing strategies for innovative learning contexts fostering integration in schools

The project, launched in 2017, responds to the need to adapt the school system to the increasing presence of pupils with different cultural

backgrounds and levels of linguistic knowledge. SIDEIS has three specific objectives:

1. To exchange good practices on the school organizational settings in order to facilitate transition across different educational levels, especially for those with a foreign background;
2. To reflect upon and adapt solutions which can lead to learning spaces producing a faster integration without jeopardizing the outcomes of the whole class;
3. To identify teachers' training needs as regards learning spaces and the peculiarities of multicultural classes by defining training paths.

In 2018 the partners organized a series of training seminars in their countries involving school staff, civil servants and researchers. During the seminars, good practices employed in the different school systems of the partnering countries were presented and exchanged. At the end of the year, SERN also led dissemination activities in Italy and Sweden.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.facebook.com/sideisproject

APPLICANT ORGANISATION: SERN

PARTNERS: Linköping Municipality (SE); Norrköping Municipality (SE); San Biagio Comprehensive school (IT); Guatelli Comprehensive school (IT); Collecchio Municipality (IT); Ravenna Municipality (IT); Parma University (IT); County Administrative Board of Östergötland (SE); Confederacion Española Centros de Enseñanza (CECE) (ES)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME: Erasmus+



BACKPACK ID

Never leave your backpack behind

Backpack-ID is an innovative intervention for promoting the inclusion of refugee children at school in four European countries (Greece and Italy, Germany and Sweden) which are met with acute and very diverse challenges by the ongoing refugee crisis. The project sees the social inclusion of refugee children as a function of addressing the needs and perspectives of those children and their families, and local

communities and stakeholders, while affirming common European values. The main objectives of the project are: (a) to empower all pupils and make them see and experience aspects of "otherness" in themselves; (b) to advance refugee pupils' literacy development in the new language.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.backpackid.eu

APPLICANT ORGANISATION:

University of Crete

PARTNERS: SERN, Linköping Municipality (SE) 1st Gymnasio Avlona (GR), University of Athens (GR,) Cardet (CY), Ruprecht-Karl-Universitaet Hedelberg (DE), NOSTOS (GR).

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME: Erasmus+



LIFE

LIFE

Learning to innovate with families

The Learning to Innovate with Families (LIFE) project will seek to develop new skills, competencies, training products and methodologies to enable social workers and related professionals to innovate and adopt more effective interventions in working with families experiencing multiple and complex difficulties. The main objectives are to: to develop 'Knowledge Triangle' learning model which will use abductive learning to strengthen links between researchers, educators and practitioners working with vulnerable families and to develop a transferable Innovation Skills Development Programme together with a 'toolkit' of supporting learning materials.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.erasmuslifeproject.eu/partners/municipality-of-cervia

APPLICANT ORGANISATION Linköping R&D Center (SE)

PARTNERS Municipality of Cervia (IT), Associação de Paralisia Cerebral de Coimbra (PT), University of Ljubljana (SI), NTNU (NR)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME Erasmus+



FURTHER INFORMATION

www.sia-prod.com/

APPLICANT ORGANISATION: University of Crete

PARTNERS: SERN (IT), University of Thessaloniki (HE), University of Cyprus (CY), Greek-German institute (HE) Center for advancement of research and development in educational technology (CY), University of Bielefeld (DE)

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME: Erasmus+



SIA-PROD

Quality in ECEC is gaining an increasingly prominent position on the European and the national policy agendas. The SIA-ProD project aims at providing early childhood educators with the methodology and the instruments for self-evaluation and self-improvement in an effective, personalized, easy and low cost way. The tools are produced by applying an innovative technique named Discrete Choice Modeling (DCM) are the Teacher Self-Assessment Assistant (TSAA) and the Self-Improvement Educational Package (SIEP). During this year, the partners met twice, in Nicosia and Thessaloniki, where they finalized the TSSA and the SIEP.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

On September 17th-18th SERN held a training seminar on EU project management capacity building at the Liceo Aldo Moro of Reggio Emilia. The SERN training programme starts from two main needs detected among the member of the SERN network:

1. Equip the staff of the members organizations with planning skills allowing to meet effectively the challenges posed by the development and participation in EU funded programmes (particularly Erasmus+ and Europe for Citizens).
2. Provide an opportunity to deepen the project planning process within SERN by taking an active part in the planning of new project proposals acquire more confidence with the different steps of the process.

Topics discussed included:

What Project cycle management is and why is it a key methodological tool for an effective project development and management;

- The involvement of stakeholders: how to approach their involvement in the process;
- The use of the logical framework as a planning tool for your project;
- The basic elements of formulation of Erasmus+ projects: how not to get scared in front of an empty application form.

The General Assembly took place in Linköping (Östergötland region) from 17th to 19th of May. The occasion was fruitful to meet also European partners participating in on going projects, namely from Finland and Germany.

Participants had the opportunity to follow three intense seminar sessions focused on:

- Migration and Inclusion with education as an essential tool to foster integration
- Promotion of cultural heritage and local development with digitalisation as one of the main drivers
- Challenges in the care sector, above all in the field of dementia care.
- Moreover, project representatives had the chance to introduce developments and results of on-going project within the Network.



Particular attention was paid to the presentation of project ideas thanks to the Networking café session with the participation of more than 50 people introducing 11 proposals. The General Assembly session was dedicated to the presentation of the projects developed within the Network and to the approval of the financial report with the document signed by the Board of Auditors. The members were asked to confirm the changes in the SERN Statute deriving from the change of the seat of the Secretariat (From Bologna to Parma). Finally, the GA approved the proposal of Unione Pedemontana Parmense to host the event in May 2019.

The members of the Executive Board met three times in 2018: twice in Italy, in Caldaro (Comunità Comprensoriale Oltradige Bassa Atesina) on the 24th February and in Carpi (Unione Terre d'Argine) on 24th November and one in Sweden during the General assembly on 18th May in Linköping.

Besides, the analysis and discussion of the financial documents and management of the Network, three main topics were discussed during the Board Sessions:

1. Rules and guidelines for the implementation of the peer review
2. Staff in the Secretariat
3. Revision of the SERN Strategy.



1. The members of the Board decided to focus the attention of the peer review pilot project on the theme of preschool education and outdoor education for children. SERN members that showed their interest for this activity are: Unione Val d'Enza, Forlì, Linköping and Motala.
2. Owing to the increased amount of project approved under the programme Erasmus+ and Europe for Citizens, the Board approved the hiring of a new part – time project officer. In 2018, the staff of the Secretariat is composed of: a network coordinator and three part time project officers.
3. The Strategy of the network has been revised on the part dedicated to the Network's values and the priority project areas with a further explanation of the participation of citizens and the digitalisation issue.



INCOME STATEMENT

The income statement of SERN for the year 2018 shows a total income of € 209.838,49. The total amount is higher than the estimate (€ 140.594,71) approved by the Board. The difference is due to a higher amount spent for EU projects (with a consequent higher income balancing the expense). The amount of incomes for the institutional activity of SERN amounts to € 136.908,37 showing a 52% increase in comparison to the ex-ante estimate.

After operations the income statement surplus equals for 2018 to € 5.431,31.

The incomes related to fees from new members have been higher than estimated (€ 7.301,50 instead of € 1.500,00). This is due to the fact that 6 new members have joined the network in 2018.

The main reason behind the surplus stands in the increase of the other incomes, which have totalled € 50.744,38 a figure that is almost five times higher than the amount originally estimated (€ 9.800,00). This item has contributed substantially to the final results from operations. In particular € 29.546,52 have resulted from services to the members against an initial estimate of € 8.000,00.

The incomes from EU grants in 2018 equalled € 72.930,12: € 19.016,79 for the project BAGS4YOUTH running until September 2018, € 6.776,16 for the SIA-PROD project (second year of implementation), € 12.724,17 for the SIDEIS Project (first year of implementation) and € 15.209,02 for the WIR project and € 8.841,84 for the BACKPACK ID project (second year of implementation). Additionally, the projects Dehors, Demeter, Demetra, Learning to take care, Dekolla and Brand EU have started their activities in September 2018.

On the expenses side, the total amount equals to € 204.407,18. Out of this amount the resources spent for institutional activities amounts to € 131.477,06. The main component pertains staff costs which equal € 73.021,31 (total staff costs € 143.054,26 including the costs reimbursed by EU projects). In 2018 the amount of human resources has been higher than the previous

year as a result of the hiring of an additional resource part time as from September 2018. The two other main items of expenditure have been Missions and General Expenses. General Expenses have been higher than the estimate (€ 12.955,63 against an estimate of € 8.500,00) as a result of the relocation expenses of the Secretariat to Parma. As for the missions the final amount spent has been € 14.408,85 against an estimate of € 15.000,00. A total of 8 missions for an amount of € 5.165,09 - the remaining amount pertains travel costs incurred in Italy. The number of missions does not include project meetings (17).

The total incomes and expenditures for EU funded projects equals € 73.870,12.

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet of SERN for 2018 shows total assets for € 316.829,20 - This amount is divided into Cash € 298.444,04 and Accounts Receivables i.e. Credits (€ 18.385,17). In absolute terms, the outstanding membership fees have decreased drastically from € 16.321,46 to € 6.615,31). This is due to the cancellation of uncollectable fees of some members that have ceased to exist, have been subject to expulsion or have left the network between 2013 and 2016 without settling the debts for the last year of their membership.

On the liabilities side, thanks to the 2018 surplus from operations, the Fund Balance at the beginning of 2019 equals € 70.792,32. As for the Accounts Payables pertaining members the amount of € 2.648,78 has been paid by some members in 2018 for the financial year 2019. Finally, the Accounts payables i.e. Debts equals € 243.388,11.

As far as liabilities are concerned, the main item pertains section C of the balance sheet i.e. Account payables. In this section of the balance sheet the largest amount refers Debts towards project partners, i.e. balance payments of the project grants and grants received from the EU (Learning to take care and SIDEIS) directly or from the coordinating organization for project activities taking place in 2019.

The guidelines approved by the SERN Executive Board included a process of reporting and follow-up to be established in the context of the Network. Such tools do constitute an important instrument to evaluate progress in the areas of cooperation covered by the Network since they will add a quantitative character to the evaluation of the outcomes of the different project groups. The guidelines include also some quantitative indicators concerning the activities carried out in 2017.

The projects submitted were 11.

This has shown an increase compared to the previous year (8). The amount of EU funding awarded to projects of the network has increased of approx. 60% compared to 2017. Most of the projects have been funded in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

INDICATORS

Number of EU projects submitted at EU level in 2018	11
Amount of EU grants requested	€ 1.750.659
EU grants for projects approved in 2018	9
Amount of EU grants awarded in 2018	€ 1.223.511



Aiccre Emilia-Romagna

Ale Municipality

Asp Parma Ad Personam

Asp Sud-Est

Bertinoro Municipality

Boden Municipality

Borgo Val di Taro Municipality

Casalgrande Municipality

Cavriago Municipality

Cervia Municipality

Parma Municipality

Comunità Comprensoriale
Bassa Atesina

Consorzio Fantasia

Consorzio Leonardo

Coompanion Fyrbodal

Coompanion Norrbotten

Coompanion Östergötaland

Coompanion Skaraborg

Falköping Municipality

Forlì Municipality

GAL Altra Romagna

Husällningsälskapet Väst

Icaro Cons Coop.

Imola Municipality

Jokkmokk Municipality

Kalix Municipality

Kara Bobowski Soc. Coop.

Lepida

Liceo Moro

Linköping Municipality

Luleå Municipality

Meldola Municipality

Mjölby Municipality

Molndal Municipality

Motala Municipality

Norrbotten Region

Norrbottens Kommuner

Norrköping Municipality

One Planet

Orust Municipality

Ostergötaland Region

Ozzano Emilia Municipality

Parchi Emilia Occidentale

Pellegrino Parmense Municipality

Piteå Municipality

Proges Cooperative

Province of Parma

Ravenna Municipality

Regional Development
Norra Bohuslän

Scandiano Municipality

Sinettica

Skövde Municipality

Smedjebacken Municipality

Trollhättant Municipality

Unione Comuni Val d'Enza

Unione Pedemontana Parmense

Unione Terre d'Argine

Uniser

Vänern Municipality

Västra Götaland Region



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