



# SERN



# WHAT IS SERN?

SERN is the main transnational network in Europe fostering relations between Northern and Southern Europe and in particular between Sweden and Italy.

A non-profit transnational association, SERN has three characteristics that makes it unique:

- It is the only bilateral network in the European Union that brings together actors from the Northern and Southern states.
- It is a multilevel network where different levels of government interact and collaborate.
- It is open to civil society and to private actors.

## OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of the network is to promote and support its members in developing long-term relations and partnerships. The objectives of SERN are

- To create mutual knowledge and know how between Italy and Sweden
- To foster active citizenship and cultural enrichment and to achieve economic and social development.
- To increase the quality of life and the opportunities for the citizens.

## HISTORY

SERN is the result of a long-term process of cooperation and exchange between Italian and Swedish actors. The idea of strengthening the relations between the two areas was launched by AICCCE Emilia-Romagna and group of Italian municipalities in the summer of 2002. The constitutive phase of the SERN network ended in January 2005 with the formal beginning of the activities of the Network.

## AWARDS

In 2018 SERN has been invited by the Italian Erasmus+ national agency INDIRE to present the KA2 project EQUAP as an example of best practice during the project coordinators meeting.



In 2018 the project Bags4Youth has been selected as best practice in the field of support to youth employment by the European Commission and presented at the European week of cities and regions.

In 2013 The Executive Agency for Audiovisual Education and Culture of the European Union (EACEA) on the basis of the outstanding results obtained as project coordinator of the Comenius Network CREANET has invited SERN to address Comenius project coordinators on issues pertaining project management.



In 2012 the European Commission identified two projects MANTT and QLSE as two of the 25 cases of high quality projects implemented in the context of the Europe for Citizens Programme 2007-2013.

In 2010 the Swedish Embassy in Rome and the Italian Swedish Chamber of Commerce awarded the prize as Promoter of the year of Sweden in Italy to SERN as a result of the work carried out by the network in fostering the relations and links between the two countries.

In 2009 the European Commission identified SERN as best practice in the field of thematic networking and showcased at the General Assembly of CEMR.

## MISSION AND VALUES

Our long-term values are: cooperation, common belonging to the EU, democracy and equal opportunities, responsibility and trust. Within the framework of reference in which members, together with the Secretariat, define the activities to carry out in the context of the network, values are the basis on which to build up projects and partnerships, together with 6 main driving themes:

- learning and education
- energy and environment
- local and regional development
- capacity building
- health and welfare
- social inclusion and migration.

These themes are intended to implement at local level the Europe 2020 strategy areas such as employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy according to our values and mission.

## MEMBERSHIP

**SE:** Regions, county councils, municipalities, associations of local and regional authorities.

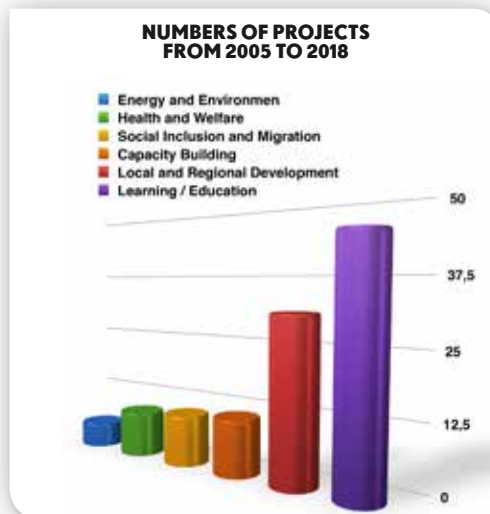
**IT:** The regional governments, the provinces, the municipalities, the local authorities in their associated forms in Emilia-Romagna, as well as the same institutions of other Italian regions.

**SE and IT:** Subjects from the civil society who agree to the aims and purpose of the Network, including educational institutions at all levels.



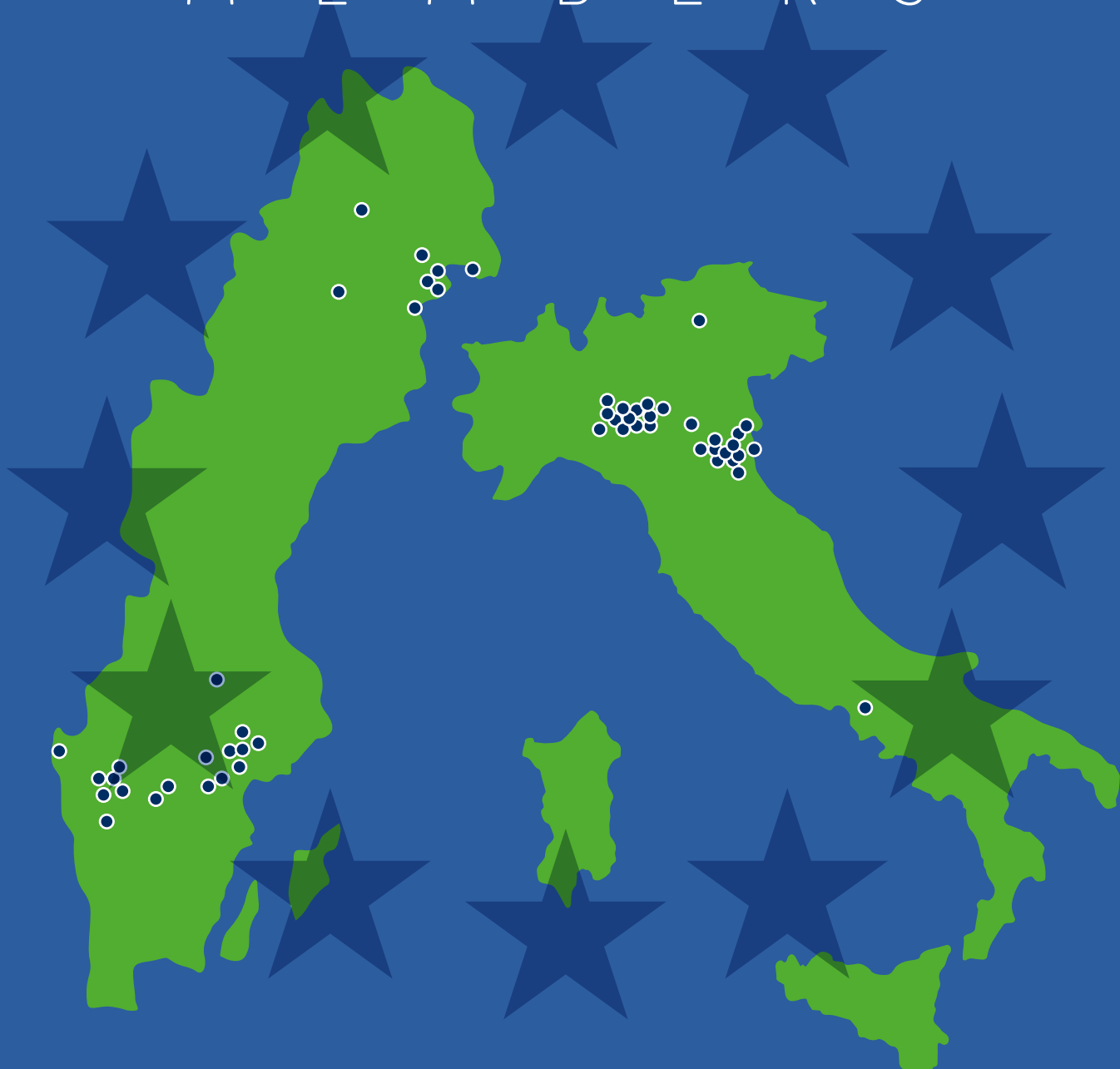
## PARTNERS

Organisations from other countries in the European Union which want to establish more structured relations with the network and its members can become PARTNERS of the Network.





# M E M B E R S



## THE ORGANIZATION

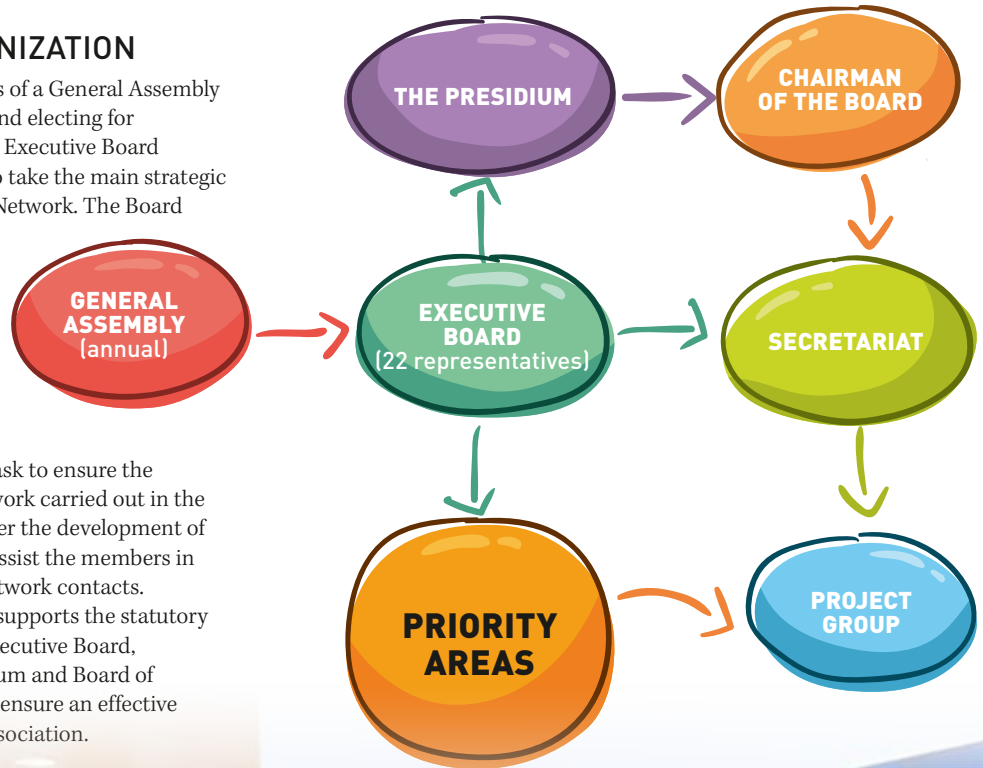
The network consists of a General Assembly meeting every year and electing for a two-year-period an Executive Board which has the task to take the main strategic decisions about the Network. The Board elects a Chair and Vice Chair.

The Board appoints the Network Coordinator who is also the Director of the Secretariat.

The SERN

Secretariat has the task to ensure the effectiveness of the work carried out in the priority areas, to foster the development of the network and to assist the members in establishing intra-network contacts.

The Secretariat also supports the statutory bodies (Assembly, Executive Board, Chairperson, Presidium and Board of Auditors) in order to ensure an effective functioning of the association.



## WORKING METHOD

The collaboration processes within the network can be of different types: Exchanges of information, experience, knowledge, best practices, staff exchanges, learning partnerships.

Development of projects financed by its members;  
Development of projects financed by external funds such as national and/or EU.

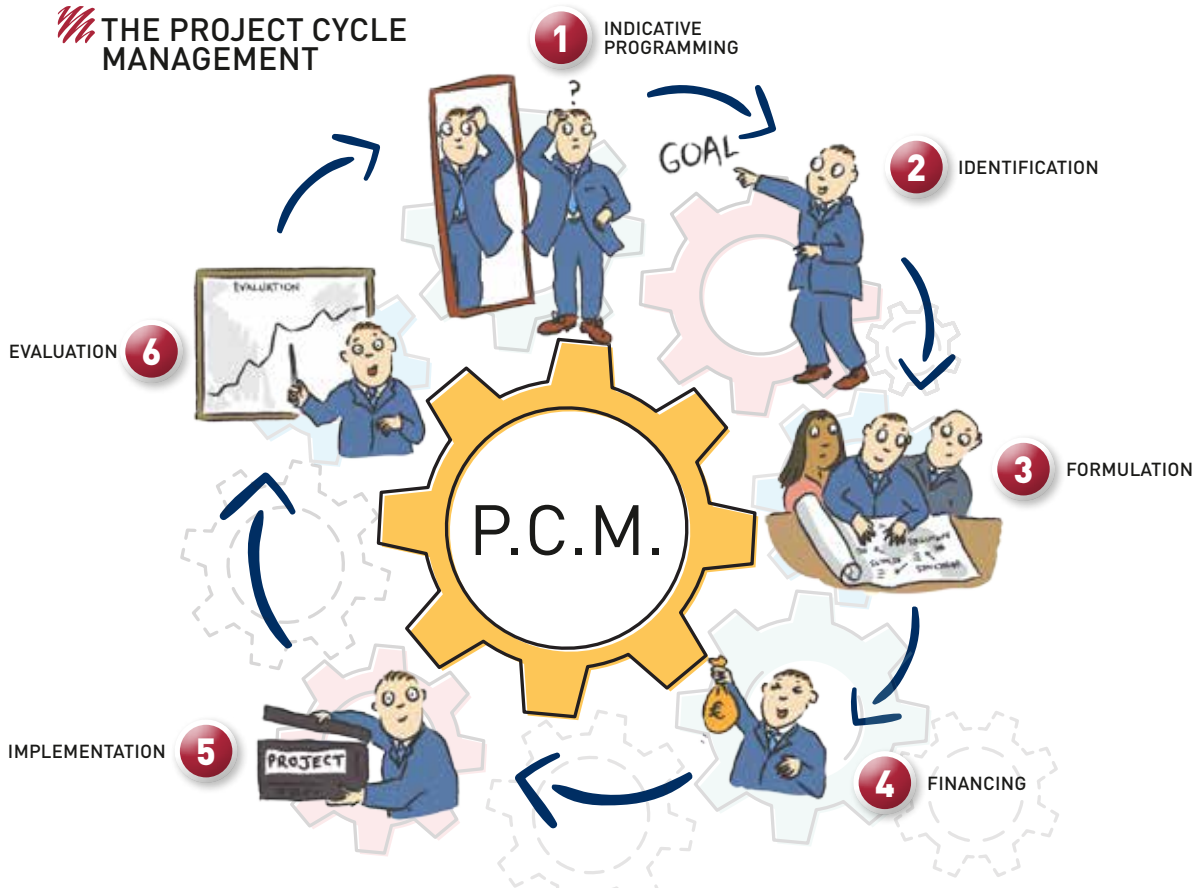
The development of new projects within the network is a strategic a process of collaboration between a number of members on a specific theme. The project cycle management model (P.C.M.) consists of several phases in a specific order.

SERN members can act as Project Promoter or can participate in a process initiated by another member.

New proposals from project promoters in SERN will be collected ONLY in three specific moments during the year:

<b>FIRST SLOT</b>	15 January-15 February
<b>SECOND SLOT</b>	1 June-30 June
<b>THIRD SLOT</b>	15 October-15 November

## THE PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT



## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

SERN supports the development of relations among its members through the development of projects.

## DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATION

Projects under this category are addressed to the creation of one or more innovative products or methods through a research and development process of 2 or 3 years. Partnerships are composed by organisations from different countries, which collaborate by sharing their expertise, practices and competences. The activities include: participation to transnational meetings; study visits; training seminars; testing of the developed products and organisation of dissemination seminars.

**Field of application within SERN:** school education

**Some examples:** Creanet; Equap

## EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES

These kind of projects make it possible for organisations from different participating countries to work together and present, observe, share best practices. One of the objectives of these projects is to facilitate the transfer of practices and methodologies from one country to another. The activities usually foresee the participation to transnational thematic conferences, study visits and local networking.

**Field of application within SERN:** welfare services, social issues and integration.

**Some examples:** Evolaq; Bags4Youth; WIR

## CAPACITY BUILDING

Since 2006 SERN has been working to improve the capacity of its members to tackle effectively the challenges posed by the participation in transnational processes of cooperation in the context of the European Union. More specifically, We have successfully implemented training activities aimed at planning and managing European projects.

# HOW TO JOIN

1

### Application Form

Download and fill in the membership application form. The form has to be signed by the legal representative of the organization.

2

### Sending the form

Send the form together with a letter of presentation to the Chair of the Executive Board . An e-version of the application form and of the letter shall be also sent to the Secretariat to the attention of Network Coordinator.

3

### Executive Board Approval

The SERN executive Board normally meets three times a year, in January/February, April/May, and October/November. When in session the Board will discuss the membership application.

4

### Payment of the Annual Fee

Following the approval of the request, the process of the payment of the membership fee shall be carried out within 30 days. If submitted in the second half of the year, the first membership fees are paid for the number of months equivalent to the period between the application date and the end of the year.



**S**WEDEN  
**E**MILIA  
**R**OMAGNA  
**N**ETWORK

Viale Martiri della Libertà 15  
I-43123 Parma  
e-mail: [secretariat@sern.eu](mailto:secretariat@sern.eu)  
Phone: +39 0521 686023

**SERN**

[www.sern.eu](http://www.sern.eu)

 [www.facebook.com/sern2.0](http://www.facebook.com/sern2.0)

 [www.twitter.com/sern2\\_0](http://www.twitter.com/sern2_0)

 [www.youtube.com/channel/UC4oJCVYxVoi1a5jD4juvpCw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4oJCVYxVoi1a5jD4juvpCw)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/sern/about/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/sern/about/)

 [www.flickr.com/photos/88854524@N08/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/88854524@N08/)

 [www.slideshare.net/sern2\\_0](http://www.slideshare.net/sern2_0)