

Annual Report

2010



Sweden Emilia Romagna Network



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The SERN Members in 2010

Aiccre Emilia-Romagna	Mjölby Municipality
Ass. of Municipalities Norrbotten	Mölnådal City
Ale Municipality	Norrköping Municipality
Arvidsjaur Municipality	Norrbotten County Council
Bertinoro Municipality	Parma Municipality
Boden Municipality	Parma Province
Borgo Val di Taro Municipality	Piteå Municipality
Brisighella Municipality	Proges Cooperative
Canossa Municipality	Ravenna Municipality
Cervia Municipality	Reggio Emilia Province
Collecchio Municipality	Regional Development Norra Bohuslän (5 Mun.)
Com. Montana Valli del Taro e del Ceno (16 Mun.)	Regional Development Council Östergötland (Östsam)
Coompanion Kooperativ Utveckling Skaraborg	Rimini Municipality
Falköping Municipality	Russi Municipality
Felino Municipality	Sala Baganza Municipality
Forlì Municipality	Scandiano Municipality
Imola Municipality	Smedjebacken Municipality
Intur Fipe Scarl Rimini	Skövde Municipality
Linköping Municipality	Söderköping Municipality
Jokkmokk Municipality	Traversetolo Municipality
Kalix Municipality	Trollhättan Municipality
Matproducenterna i Norr	Uddevalla Municipality
Meldola Municipality	Vänersborg Municipality
Montecchio Emilia Municipality	Västra Götaland Region
Montechiarugolo Municipality	Unione "Terre Verdiane" (10 Mun.)
Motala Municipality	Älvsbyn Municipality
	Östgöta Coop Center



Dear members,

This report proves that our networks is producing results and delivering quality projects. In the 2010 report you can read about 15 main projects which were started or progressed in their implementation.

The number of the activities that have been unfolding in SERN are the most evident proof that our network can be an effective tool of transnational cooperation. We shall therefore exploit it as much as possible in order to make it possible for our communities to benefit and valorise the products and results of our exchange.

We therefore shall look at the future with a renewed enthusiasm and at the same time we shall look back being proud of what we have been able to achieve and build together in these past few years.



Roberta Mori

Chairperson of the
SERN Executive Board



Introduction

The annual report 2010 shows how the network has been achieving important results in terms of dynamics of cooperation. On the one hand the enlarging network of contacts established throughout Europe has led to creation of strategic projects like CREANET. On the other hand, the creation of thematic networks has led to a strengthening of our development strategy. In particular the plans set out in 2008 and 2009 aimed at creating platforms of cooperation through thematic networking in the context of the EFC programme has been fully put into action.

At the end of 2010 SERN counted seven ongoing network projects and four under evaluation. Such projects will constitute a large platform for the construction of long-term partnerships in several policy areas which will create the conditions for further development of transnational projects among the members.

As pointed out in the context of the 2010 Assembly the main challenge in the implementation of our plans stands in the delivery of quality results in the context of the existing thematic networks projects. If the networks deliver what they have promised in the formulation phase then we will have built a solid ground on which deepening our cooperation.

In order to facilitate the achievement of this goal the Secretariat has developed first the NTT+ project which was implemented in 2010 and aimed at improve the skills of the civil servants in terms of planning of thematic networks projects. More recently the MaNNT project has been launched with the objective of supporting the existing project partnerships in facing more effectively the challenges derived from the implementation.

The start of the Comenius Network on Creativity in pre-school education represents also an important boost in terms of quality of the process developed by the network but it reflects the enlargement of the network of contacts at European level. Thanks to the project partnerships established in 2010 the networks has been establishing contacts with local and regional authorities in Germany, France, Poland, Finland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Latvia, United Kingdom, Lithuania as well as Croatia. Indeed, such contacts constitute and added value for the activities of the network and for its future ambitions in terms of partnership and development of EU funded projects.

The Piteå General Assembly saw the approval of the SERN strategy 2010-2012. The strategy, together with its guidelines for implementation and more recently the Communication strategy constitute an key set of documents that shall guide the members in their activity in the context of the network. It is in fact mainly a responsibility of the members to reflect upon the two driving themes of the network (“sustainable local/regional growth and competitiveness” and “social inclusion”) and to turn these keywords into project ideas. Keeping in mind that projects is not the end but the mean through which delivering sustainable results and practices that be employed and bring benefit for the citizens of the member communities.



As shown below, the indicators concerning the EU grants received by the Network as a whole (members and SERN as an organisation) demonstrate a greater focus and efforts put on the development of EU projects. The total grants obtained in 2010 equals 1,4 Mill. €. This has been in quantitative terms the best result since the creation of SERN and it is a clear indication of an active and growing network.

As pointed out above by the Chair of the Board, it is therefore crucial that we are able to take advantage, exploit and valorise the results and products developed by others in the Network. As shown by the activities below the process, the tools and the methodologies that were developed with hard work by the partners of the projects can provide an opportunity for reflection and change in the way services and policies are designed or implemented locally. Ranging from the organisation of pre-school services to the measurement tools of quality in elderly care structures to strategies for improving organic food in schools, the opportunity for transferring innovation should be seized by the other members which were/are not directly engaged in the projects.

Activities

EDUCATION

Pre-School Staff Exchange Project (2008-2010)



The project includes exchanges and dissemination activities. The exchanges of pre-school staff will last for two weeks at each time where Italian participants come to a study visit in a Swedish pre-school and vice versa. During the two weeks the participants will follow a tutor from the hosting pre-school in her/his daily scheduled work with the aim of observing the various activities of the day both indoors and outdoors. Each exchange follows the line chosen by the coordination group after special meetings of discussion (in 2010 it took place in Rimini in summer). The year 2010 was the last year of the project which focuses on the exchange of staff practices among pre-schools. Two exchange sessions have taken place during the year. The first exchange took place in May-June as 12 teachers from 6 municipalities – Scandiano, Bertinoro, Meldola, Cervia and Parma in Italy and Ale, Vänersborg, Mölndal and Motala from Sweden – spent two weeks in another municipality of the other country. Also the autumn session of October/November saw the participation of 9 teachers and this time from the municipalities of Meldola, Casalgrande and Parma in Italy and Motala, Norrköping, Ale and Kalix in Sweden. The two exchange sessions have been centred on the main topics of the project: creativity and innovation; documentation and reflection; relation with the family; outdoor education and social inclusion.

The project is now going to an end with the final dissemination and evaluation conference that will take place in Scandiano and Reggio Emilia from the 8th to the 10th of June 2011.

Website: <http://pre-schools.sern.eu/>

Organic food Management in Public Schools (2010-2012)



The project concerning the use of organic food in public schools approved in December 2009 has taken its first steps. This project aims to identify problems and develop solutions through an exchange of best practices around the use of organic food in public schools. An essential feature is to analyze the impact of increased use of organic food in the social, economic and environmental areas. The target groups involved will not be only those working with the management of catering services in schools but also decision-makers, producers, and other target groups relevant for the theme.

The structure of the project foresees seven events with public conferences, workshops, working groups and a small pilot project. All activities, including the implementation of the pilot project, will take place during a period of 20 months, from 2010 to 2012. The project is built with common general sessions opened to a wider public and more focused sessions dedicated to organisation strategies such as procurement, economic-business and social effects of the introduction of organic food in schools and the environment impacts of this policy.

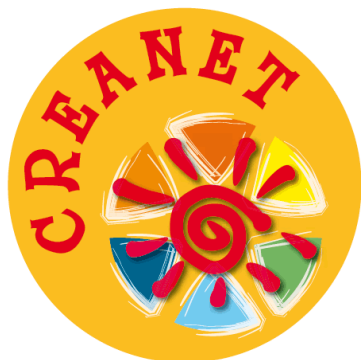
The leading partner is the municipality of Meldola (Italy) and the other partners participating in the project are the municipalities of Buje (Croatia), Verteneglio (Croatia), Wolfhagen (Germany) and Laives (Italy), the province of Reggio Emilia (Italy) and the city of Mölndal (Sweden).

The opening conference was held in Mölndal (Sweden) from the 21st to the 23rd of April. The event in Mölndal included various seminars, study visits and a coordination group meeting.

From the 22nd to the 25th of June 2010, in Meldola and Reggio Emilia took place the first seminar about the project. The event saw the participation of the representatives of the 8 partner municipalities. The meeting consisted of a set of presentations of public and private actors involved in the production of organic produces, procurement processes and meal preparation and distribution. In the meeting, the partner decided the themes to follow for the implementation of the project: creating an organic local food chain; finding a common methodology for cost analysis of key produces for school meals based on a shared definition of environmental impact; sensitizing students and parents about the topic.

Website: www.organicfoodinschools.eu

CREANET – Network on creativity in the pre-school context (2010-2013)



The project aims at developing a forum of discussion at European level on the theme of creativity in pre-school education.

The objectives of the network are:

- A. To identify, compare and exchange the methodologies, approaches and environments favouring the development of creativity among children and teachers in the countries involved;
- B. To increase the quality of the educational offer by promoting the competences/skills of the pre-school teaching staff on the issue of creativity;
- C. To provide a European forum for discussion for those interested in creativity in the pre-school context;
- D. To use creativity as a mean to favour educational and social inclusion of children and families belonging to minority and/or disadvantaged groups.

The project, coordinated by SERN, involves 12 partners: the municipalities of Scandiano (Italy), Norrköping (Sweden), Enzkreis (Germany), Verteneglio (Croatia); the universities of Reggio Emilia and Modena (Italy), Jyväskylä (Finland), Murcia (Spain), Klaipėda (Lithuania); the University College Lillebaelt of Odense (Denmark), the Escola Superior De Educação Politécnico De Beja (Portugal), the Liepāja pedagogical Academy (Latvia).

In addition, there are 41 associated partners, including the Province of Parma and the municipality of Forlì.

The first transnational workshop will be organized in Beja (Portugal) from the 5th to the 7th of May 2011.

COMENIUS REGIO - Growing up together (2010-2012)



Bilingualism in immigrant children is an issue of interest for all those institutions dealing with integration inside and outside school. Speaking the language of the hosting country represents a decisive asset for immigrants in order to reach a profitable social and cultural inclusion, even in the working context.

By the local students perspective, moreover, the attendance of coetaneous immigrants constitutes an opportunity to enrich themselves and their own education for a civil cohabitation, to increase linguistic skills starting from their own mother language as a communication language with the immigrants.



The project deals with the question of integration in the educational contexts. In particular the project aims to:

1. Identify and highlight existing good practices in order to improve the introduction of immigrant pupils in all school levels;
2. Experiment innovative methodologies aiming at easing learning and leading to educational success of the pupils;
3. Spread among all students an intercultural dimension aimed at civil coexistence;
4. Promote the national language learning in immigrant pupils;
5. Promote the creation of a bridge from school to work.

The structure of the project foresees two seminars and a final conference, study visits and the testing of pilot projects related to best practices emerged in the project.

The lead partner is the Östsam (Sweden) and the other partners participating in the project are the municipalities Norrköping, Linköping, Odeshög in Sweden. In Italy the coordinating organisation is the Region Emilia-Romagna in cooperation with SERN, while the partners are the Municipalities of Forlì, Cervia, Reggio Emilia, Modena, Bologna.

The project is characterised by the active participation of several schools, associations and other organisations working with the theme of the project.

The Opening seminar took place in Bologna in november 2010. Seminars and study visits are planned during February 2011 in Norrköping, Linköpings and Odeshog..

Website: <http://www.gutproject.eu/>

WELFARE

Support to Parenthood (2008-2010)



In the year 2010 the Learning Partnership on Support to Parenthood, the follow up of the project Network on Support to Parenthood Policies, took its conclusions. The aim of the project was socializing through seminars the experiences among the partners to get more awareness about best practices in the familiar context.

Partners: Municipality of Vanersborg, Municipalities of Ravenna, Scandiano, Imola and Municipality of Hyvinkaa (Finland).

The Objectives of the action were:

- socializing the experiences among the partners, helping the practitioners of each Countries to get more awareness about their practices in order to support to the parenthood, especially in favour of these families which are at risk of social exclusion;
- helping the same people to describe these experiences in the shape of Best Practices, using specific, analytic formats and outcome indicators;
- promoting the exchange of Best Practices between the Countries involved in the partnership;
- realizing new projects as a result of experiences exchange;
- permitting to confront the outcomes of these implementation;
- allowing to realise a basic Handbook of European Best Practices in order to support the families at risk of social exclusion through the Community Empowerment methodology.

The activities included local and transnational seminars where the learners of one country will become trainers in the other countries.

The project obtained the following results:

- In the involved institutions the practitioners participated to local and transnational activities mobilities and actions of dissemination, realized by the direct participants of the project;
- At the same way, the involved municipality realized public initiatives of information and visibility of the project, also by media;
- The development of an “Handbook of Community Empowerment Methodology” (which is an outcome of this partnership project) that will be used as an instrument for lifelong learning both into the institutions, and in the formal system of local education.

Partnership for youth Sport Trainers (2009-2011)



This LLP Sub-programme, Grundtvig, was approved and started up in the Fall of 2009. The leading applicant Forlì municipality in partnership with Piteå municipality (Sweden) and Diputació de Jaén (Spain) will be implementing a learning partnership for youth sports trainers.

The project aims at sharing a method to promote health and psychophysical wellbeing through the formation of a key “educational figure”. The idea the project is based on, is that sports educators can be key players in promoting youth health. Starting from experiences of the project’s partners, and especially the one of the AUSL (Local Health Authority) of Forlì, the project aims at drafting an innovative training model destined to youth sports trainers. This model will then be experimented in the territories of the partner countries and finally harmonized to be used and replicated in other European contexts.

Main objectives of the partnership are:

- 1) Comparing different realities and sharing successful experiences (best practices);
- 2) Increasing sensitivity and awareness toward the role of sports coaches in the prevention of youth distress;
- 3) Developing skills and professionalism of trainers (educators, psychologists, etc.) in order to prepare training programmes addressed to sports coaches, also envisaging a direct involvement of the sports clubs’ managers.
- 4) Drafting a shared training programme to be experimented in the three partner countries.

In September 2010 the different partners started training courses for sports educators at a local level to develop useful guidelines to replicate in European contexts.

Forward Policies and Actions for seniors in Europe(2009-2011)



The project was developed in 2009 and will last until September 2011 and consist of 6 transnational meetings. The aims of the project are creating cooperation among the participating cities on the issue of quality of life of the senior in Europe. The partners are all dealing with an ageing populations and this trend needs to be met by drafting new policies and services based on the needs of the senior citizens of the 21st century. Participants of this project are the municipalities Skövde, Norrköping (Sweden), Parma and Traversetolo (Italy), Enzkreis (Germany), the City of Tours (France) and the Social Agency Pedemontana Sociale (Traversetolo, Collecchio, Felino, Montechiarugolo, Sala Baganza).

From the 17th to the 19th May 2010, the second meeting of the project was hold in Enzkreis (Germany): the conference focused on the actions and policies to let elderly people actively participate in the social and civil society.

Then, from the 12th to the 14th October 2010, Norrköping hosted the third event, dedicated to the creation of services and products for over 60 in a demand driven perspective.

The fourth seminar took place in Tours from the 20th to the 22nd January 2011 and it was focused on the topics of housing for and with seniors.

Website: <http://www.qlse.eu>

Social Welfare Skills (2010-2012)



This EU co-funded project aims at creating a long-term transnational network of cooperation among the participating cities and municipalities on the basis of the fact that new needs emerging in the health and welfare sector call for actions in:

- raising the standards of education
- finding cost-efficient and coherent methods that satisfy the future needs of the labour market
- specifying quality criteria that meets the needs of the customers
- providing opportunities for continuing training of those already working
- recognizing professional skills acquired in life long learning
- improving the quality of the services offered
- creating the basis for permanent collaboration among the beneficiaries of the project

The objectives of the project are to:

- Explore more suitable relations between labour market and education by exchanging knowledge and experience
- Create innovative ways of cooperation between labour market and educational sector
- Create a transnational management group in this field

The network consists of 6 partners: the municipalities of Norrköping (Sweden, leading applicant), Motala (Sweden), Ciudad Real (Spain), Dundee (UK), Guldborgsund (Denmark) and the group of municipalities called Terre Verdiene Union (Italy).

The first coordination meeting of the project was held in Norrköping on the 31 August 2010 and also the first conference (30 November 2010).

Website: www.socialwelfareskills.eu



PIECES - Pathways into employment in the care and tourism sectors (2010-2012)

The project aims at sharing and developing the already existent solutions to create training courses to support the scarcely qualified staff of the care sector. In the meantime, another objective of the project is to evaluate the possible use of this type of training also in the touristic field.

Research and development of a new model: starting from the practices found by the R&S centre of Linköping and the University of Dundee, the project aims at defining a model following which trainers and employers can cooperate in planning and producing professional training courses able to answer to the present needs of people employed in the care sector, supporting the learning in the workplace and the developing of new skills.

The project aims at testing and evaluating a model which, following the requests of the different partners, could be portable not only in geographical terms but also in the sectorial one.

The results of the project will be disseminated in order to foster its adoption at different levels (national, regional or local) and the possibility to use the model also after the end of the financed period.

Activities: the project is structured in work packages with different objectives, contents, results and length: project management, mapping and revision, implementation of the principal product, adaptation and transfer, testing, dissemination, evaluation.

PIECES is a project financed by the Life Learning Programme.

Partners: municipality of Linköping (leading applicant, Sweden), province of Parma (Italy), Dundee College (UK), Decroly (Spain), Kildare Association of Parents and Friends of Handicapped People (Ireland).

ENVIRONMENT

Energy Efficiency and Territorial Planning (2009-2010)



The 10 months new project Energy Efficiency and Territorial Planning ended in the spring of 2010. This project was closely linked to the EU goal of reducing consumption and to introduce a more sustainable energy use by 2010, with the specific aim to bring a deeper knowledge about the European approaches among the participant countries. Particular attention was paid to innovation in design in the building construction, communication actions within the local sector and energy efficiency and territorial planning.

The leading applicant was the municipality of Boden and the others participants are Jokkmokk, Norrköping, Trollhättan, Vänersborg, Falköping and Mölndal municipalities (Sweden), Forlì, Parma, Russi and Traversetolo municipalities (Italy) also together with the Peterborough municipality (UK), Tampere (Finland) and Karlsruhe municipality (Germany). In March 2010 the second seminar was held in Boden. The activities planned for this meeting consisted in presenting the results of the working plan carried out by the partners between June and January and the deepening of specific aspects related to energy efficiency emerged in the first event (June 2009 in Forlì).

Towards 3X20: Reducing CO2 Emissions and increasing Energy Efficiency (2010-2012)



In 2009 a new project within the environmental area was submitted and approved. Rimini municipality (Italy) is the leading partner in the 3x20 Network, which general objective is to raise awareness among citizens on energy policies of the European Union and on the energy efficiency goals of 2020. More specifically, the main aim is to exchange good practices on the development of local energy plans and to analyze the role of the different local authorities on this subject.

The project sees the participation of Landkreis Offenbach (Germany), the city of Bydgoszcz (Poland), Norrköping, Linköping and Motala municipalities (Sweden) and finally the Reggio Emilia Province.



The work programme consists of 6 different events. First event has been a two-day kick-off meeting (held in Reggio Emilia from the 24th to the 26th March 2010), where project's partners was asked to discuss the original action plan and to defining some common elements : evaluation tools, dissemination outputs and administrative-financial management procedures. This will be followed by a set of 4 transnational events (the first one took place in Rimini from the 27th to the 29th October 2010), having the same structure, but addressing four different themes and targets. The final event will be an evaluation and follow-up meeting.

The project will be characterized by the use of different methodologies: plenary discussions, work groups, study visits, panel discussions followed by debate . During the project life, the coordination group will meet twice (1st and 6th event) in the context of specific management meeting and they will have also the opportunity to meet.

Website: <http://www.3x20net.eu>

Go green now! (2010-2012)

The objective of achieving a more efficient use of energy at local level is connected to effective awareness raising actions and to the analysis of the specific local realities targeting the citizens in terms of sustainable lifestyles and conscious consumptions. Another important aspect is tied to the involvement of local actors in the planning and adoption of innovative solutions in terms of policies and technologies and transport fostering and increasing the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources at local level in a long term perspective.

On this basis the project will involve various target groups (political representatives, schools, companies and economic stakeholders and citizens) in order to reach a higher level of awareness. The leading partner is the Municipality of Collecchio and the partner municipalities come from Spain, Sweden, Finland and Germany.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Twinnovate: Innovation in Local Development (2009-2011)



foster economic growth by using the economic, social, human and cultural resources of the different territories.

The project has three main objectives:

1. to exchange good practices on the implementation of innovative tools to local development policies
2. to involve actively a wide range of actors such as local authorities, private actors, voluntary associations
3. to experiment locally new solutions for the promotion of entrepreneurship, for the creation of sustainable jobs, for the promotion of public services for the community benefit and of cultural and leisure innovative services.

The project partners are the Province of Reggio Emilia (leading partner, Italy), Albacete (Spain) and Enzkreis (Germany), and the Regionförbundet Östsam (with the municipalities of Motala and Söderköping) in Sweden.

In 2010 the second event took place in Albacete (Spain) from the 16th to the 18th of March, focusing on the role of the public administration in fostering development and innovation in local and regional level.

The third event was held in Östergötland (Sweden) from the 14th to the 17th of June 2010 and the fourth one in Enzkreis (Germany) from the 21st to the 23rd of September 2010.



Website: <http://www.twinnovate.eu>



PERSONNEL EXCHANGE AMONG COOPERATIVES (2010-2012)

Partners: Coompanion Västra Götaland, Legacoop Parma (Lead partner)

Objectives: The project focuses the development of innovative methods for the exchange among civil society organizations and in particular among organizations (cooperatives) promoting social inclusion of disadvantaged and marginalized target groups.

The project has two main objectives:

- The development of innovative ways of exchange among civil society organizations;
- To increase the number of organizations active in transnational activities.

Activities: The project foresees two sessions of exchange, one in each country in the spring of 2011. Each session consists of five days of job shadowing in Italy and Sweden. The sessions will be complemented by a preparatory and coordination meeting in Parma, Italy and a final dissemination seminar, where the results of the project will be presented.

Expected Results: The project will be developing a possible model for the exchange of personnel by implementing job shadowing activities among members, leaders and advisers of the organizations involved in the two countries.

HORIZONTAL ISSUES

NTT+ Improving the planning and management of networks of twinned towns

The project starts off from the need of municipalities - small and medium-sized in particular - to gear up their town twinning relations to the challenges posed by the an active participation of their communities in the European integration process.



Even the small local authorities nowadays see the importance of re-interpreting town twinning relationships in a more strategic way oriented towards the exchanges of best practices in several policy areas through benchmarking and the development of innovative local policy as a result of “contamination” with policy outcomes developed in other EU countries.

The main aspect that stands at the core of this project is the fact that a more ambitious development of town twinning relations through a thematic network. The thematic network however requires more efforts especially for medium sized and small municipalities, enhanced

skills among the civil servants at local and regional level and the development of tools supporting them in the management of their projects once approved.

The main objectives of the project are:

- 1) the improvement of the role of the town twinning officers that from a manager of people-to-people contacts or citizens meetings is required to become the manager of more complex types of relationships which are more demanding in terms of strategic planning with the partners, networking within their administrations ;
- 2) the involvement and the active engagement of the managers of policy area(s) within the municipality covered by the thematic networking activities
- 3) the development of monitoring and quality management tools designed for the networks of twinned towns that allow a more effective implementation of the projects and more consistency between planned objectives and results achieved in practice.



All the project events took place in 2010 both at national and transnational level.

Two project applications were submitted in September 2010 (“Go green, now!” and “Current and Future Skills in the health and social welfare sector”) while three applications were submitted in early 2011. The project has produced training material and online tools for the planning and management of networks of twinned towns.

The 2010 session of the General Assembly

The 2010 SERN General Assembly took place in Piteå (Sweden) from 6th to 8th May 2010 with an intense three day programme with seminars, workshops and study visits. More than 90 people participated in the annual event with the representation of about the 80% of the SERN members. During the first two days, three important themes were discussed with presentations held by Italian and Swedish experts:

- creative industries with a study visit to the Piteå music and leisure centre Acusticum;
- E-health in Italy and Sweden;
- renewable energies policies with a study visit at the Solander Science Park.

After the welcome speeches held by Lars Olof Petersson, chairman of the Piteå Municipal council, and by Kent Ögren, Norrbotten County Council who highlighted some moments of the Network history stressing that the biggest challenge is to inform and communicate better the various activities proposed and implemented by the SERN members, the president Roberta Mori open the assembly.

The members in the General Assembly were called to discuss and approve several issues:

1. the 2009 annual report
2. the balance sheet 2009 and the budget proposal 2010
3. the SERN strategy and guidelines 2010-2012 with the description of the main operational elements of the Network. The strategy stressed the two driving themes of the Network activities: local and regional growth and competitiveness and social inclusion.

During the meeting a new member has been welcomed: the Municipality of Smedjebacken in the Swedish region Dalarna. Moreover, two new members of the Executive Board, Paul Åkerlund of Trollhättan Municipality and Paolo Bianchi of Collecchio Municipality entered in the SERN Executive Board. Considering that a representative of AICCRE Emilia Romagna is a member of the Executive Board, an auditor has been replace with a representative of the Traversetolo Municipality.

The Municipality of Bertinoro (Italy), through a presentation of the vice mayor Giampaolo Amadori, proposed its candidature to host the 2011 General Assembly. The SERN members approved this invitation thanking the Municipality of Bertinoro.





The SERN Executive Board

In the year 2010, the members of the Executive Board met three times: in February in Scandiano (Italy), in May in Piteå (Sweden) and in November in Brussels.

The Executive Board in Scandiano approached the theme of the revision of the SERN Strategy



2010-2012. Indeed, the background has been changed with the impacts of the financial crisis and the project priorities within SERN were influenced by these changes. The two priorities for the next two years are: local and regional growth and competitiveness and social inclusion. With the occasion of the Board meeting, three new members were welcomed: Cooperative Sociale Kara Bobowski formed in

1992 in the Forlì area and it works mainly with children and young adults with or without disabilities. Now it is expanding its activities in the Leonardo programme, Smedjebacken Municipality located in the region of Dalarna in Sweden and Laives Municipality, the first non Emilia-Romagna Italian member of SERN.

The Executive Board members in Piteå discussed three new issues: 1. The presentation of the evaluation process carried out by the Norrköping Municipality together with the University of Linköping on the SERN Network. The evaluation was made on the basis on three different levels: political, operational and citizens' level; 2. Issues related to the internal and external communication of the network; 3. Presentation on integration related issues with a particular focus on the situation in Forlì.

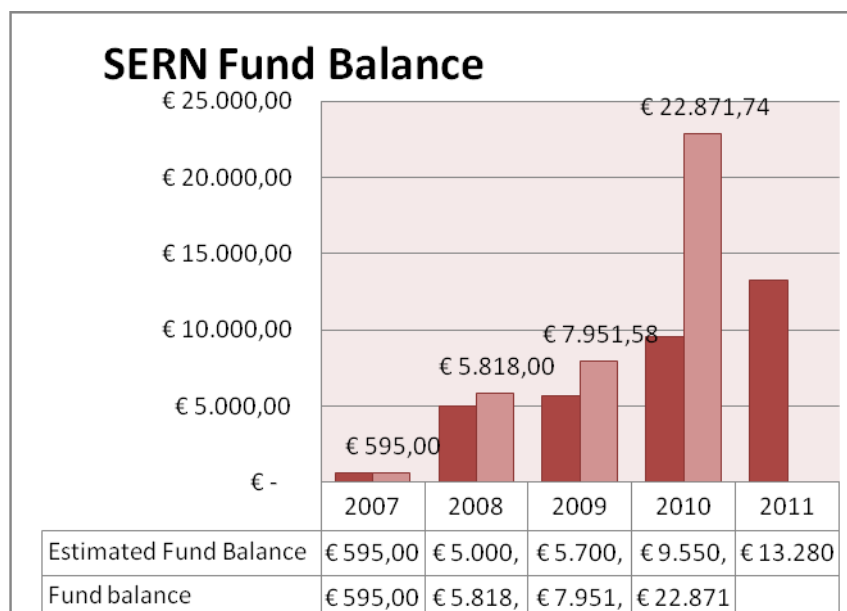
The last meeting of 2010 was held in Brussels at the end of the final event of the project NTT+. This Meeting has been focused on: 1. the evaluation of the NTT final event and 2011 follow up; 2. SERN communication Strategy; 3. Preliminary financial report 2010 and the budget proposal for 2011. The members of the Executive Board were asked to approve the membership of the City of Linköping, in the Östergötland region and to welcome a new political member, Francesco Castria, representative of the Parma Province.



Financial Report

The 2010 financial report of SERN shows a positive result with an increase of the fund balance to **€ 22.871,74** at the end of 2010. This very positive result indicates that the 3 year projection presented by the Secretariat and approved by the Executive Board in Mölndal in 2009 is very likely to be achieved as shown below..

In 2010 the book keeping system has been adjusted to international standards as a result of the increased number and complexity of the activities. The increasingly diversified nature of sources of income and the expenses stretching over different financial years in required the adoption of a system that could provide a closer monitoring of the financial situation.



The incomes for the year 2010 amounted to € 168.983,06 while the total expenses amounted to € 154.062,90. The income statements 2010 shows a surplus of € 14.920,16. This figure (contrary to previous years) takes into account all the incomes and expenses related to activities that pertain to the financial year 2010. This result has been achieved thanks to a lower expenditure on some of the items in particular general expenses and travel expenses and the electronic platform.

On the income side a substantial extra revenue for the network has derived from the support provided to some of its members in the development and submission of applications for EU funding and other activities of support in relation to study visits.

Furthermore the participation in EU projects (NTT, CREANET and GUT) has permitted a rationalisation of the travel expenses. Furthermore, as far as the projects CREANET and GUT are concerned, there has been, and there will be, a reimbursement of staff costs which will constitute an additional resource to count on.



In general the payment of the fees has been reflecting the trend of last year in terms of punctuality. The the incomes derived from the new members has been in line with the forecast. To note also that the payment of a contribution of the Emilia-Romagna region of € 6.000 which has been lower than the contribution of 2009.

The balance sheet shows instead the situation in terms of assets and liabilities. The total amount of assets (credits and cash) on the one hand and liabilities (Debts and fees paid in advance and fund balance) on the other equals to € 48.845,65.

Indicators

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 qualitative character to the evaluation of the outcomes of the different groups. The guidelines include also some quantitative indicators concerning the activities started or implemented in 2010.

Special attention has been given by the Executive Board to the electronic platform. The number of users is slightly lower than the previous year but of course there is a great space for improvement through training sessions and more consistent use of the platform at least among contact persons and project group coordinator.

INDICATORS	
Number of EU projects submitted at EU level in 2010	16
EU grants for projects approved in 2010	14
LLP Individual mobility grants submitted in 2010	15
LLP Individual mobility grants approved in 2010	10
EU grants awarded in 2010	€ 1.374.882,00
Number of member organisations involved in the activities	38
Number of logins to the platform in 2010	2.953
Number of members that logged in 2010	138 out of 284
Visits (unique visitors) to the public pages in 2010	8.945

