



Annual Report 2014

Sweden Emilia Romagna Network

SERN members in 2014

Aiccre Emilia-Romagna	Meldola Municipality
Ass. of Municipalities Norrbotten	Motala Municipality
Ale Municipality	Mjölby Municipality
Arvidsjaur Municipality	Mölnådal City
Asp Sud-Est Parma	Norrköping Municipality
Asp Ad Personam Parma	Norrbotten County Council
Bertinoro Municipality	Parma Province
Boden Municipality	Pellegrino Parmense municipality
Borgo Val di Taro Municipality	Piteå Municipality
Brisighella Municipality	Proges Cooperative
Cavriago Municipality	Ravenna Municipality
Cervia Municipality	Regional Development Norra Bohuslän (5 Mun.)
CIOFS/FP Bologna	Russi Municipality
Collecchio Municipality	Orust Municipality
Corniglio Municipality	Sala Baganza Municipality
Coop. Consortium Leonardo	Scandiano Municipality
Coompanion Norrbotten	Sinettica
Coompanion Skaraborg	Smedjebacken Municipality
Coompanion Östergötaland	Skövde Municipality
Darvoce	Söderköping Municipality
Falköping Municipality	Traversetolo Municipality
Felino Municipality	Trollhättan Municipality
Forlì Municipality	Vänersborg Municipality
Imola Municipality	Västra Götaland Region
Il Noce	Unione "Terre Verdiane" (8 Mun.)
Jokkmokk Municipality	Unione "Val d'Enza" (8 Mun.)
Kara Bobowski Soc. Coop.	Älvsbyn Municipality
Kalix Municipality	Ängelholm Municipality
Linköping Municipality	Östergötland Region
Luleå Municipality	Östgöta Coop Center
Matproducenterna i Norr	



Introduction

During the year 2014, the Network had to face with the new opportunities, new challenges and project tools offered by the new programming period 2014-2020 established by the European Commission.

New challenges caused by the increased competitiveness of the Programme Europe for Citizens and Erasmus+ (which substituted LLP Programme): within these two programmes the Network was really successful in the past years and on the one hand, SERN had the opportunity to create privileged arenas of discussion on important themes in priority areas for the Network such as preschool education, environment and welfare policies developing European stable and profitable partnership relations with more than 15 European countries; and on the other hand, the grants coming from the approved projects represented an important income for the Network from the economic point. The latest successful rate both for Erasmus+ programme and Europe for Citizens are around 10%: this means the need to develop innovative project proposals which can answer to local political priorities in a transnational context and to involve actively as many European countries as possible.

In order to reach a high successful rate in the project submission, the Executive Board highlighted several times that more members of the Network have to play an active role in proposing and participating in the project planning creating stronger projects with a balanced numbers of European partners.

New opportunities were caught by SERN, despite the very challenging situation, with the approval of a ⁴

project under KA2, Strategic Partnership of the Erasmus+ programme. The project called **Enhancing Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care through Participation - EquaP** has the general objective to contribute to an improved quality of ECEC in Europe through an increased acknowledgement of families and carers as a key component of the system. The European partnership is composed of 7 EU countries and 11 partnering organisations (3 pre-schools, 2 local authorities managing pre-schools, 1 teachers training organization, 2 universities, 2 research centers, 1 transnational networks of local and regional authorities). SERN is the project applicant and coordinator of the 3 year project activities (2014-2017). Linköping Municipality and Forlì municipality are the project partners of the Network.

EquaP project was one of the 12 KA2 projects approved in 2014 by the Italian Erasmus+ Agency with a total grant of € 381.000,00.

Moreover, SERN is the coordinator of a Europe for Citizens which has the Municipality of Borgo Val di Taro as applicant. The **Rural Europe Network - REN** project is focused on increasing attractiveness of the municipalities involved to better exploit their potentialities in the rural sector in a European perspective. The project, with a grant of € 150.000,00 involved 5 European countries and 8 Municipalities in Italy, Sweden, Finland, Croatia and Spain.

A new project experience was launched by the SERN Secretariat as a support organization of the Covenant of Mayors. The **project 50/50** sees the participation of 13 Municipalities in Sweden and Emilia-Romagna with the involvement of 13 schools from pre-school (3-6 years old) to primary and lower secondary education with the objective to valorise, transfer and further develop the results of the original project (Euronet 5050) on a larger scale; - Raise awareness among the pupils on the theme of energy savings; - Develop a process aiming to engage a wide range of actors at local and transnational level.

New tools have been proposed to the members of network in order to facilitate the project planning with European partners and a set of training seminars on Project Cycle Management. This working tool is available on the SERN platform and can help step by step all members interested in developing projects according to the PCM mainly analysing the first phase, that is to say the, the indicative programming one. In this phase, partners who are interested in developing a theme can describe specific aspects of their organization and to look for elements in common with one or more members.

During 2014 six SERN members used this tool under the supervision of the Secretariat staff.

New challenges are in front of SERN members and new opportunities are displayed to promote larger and more participated projects: now, the floor is yours!



ACTIVITIES

The project activities held during 2014 followed the priorities outlined in the SERN Strategy by promoting fostering activities in the following thematic areas: Education, Local Development, Environment, Employment and Social Inclusion.

In 2014, the Network members participated and implemented activities for a total of 6 EU projects, namely: 4 Networks projects (measure 1.2 of the Programme Europe for Citizens), 1 Comenius Regio project, 1 strategic partnership (KA2) project under the new European programme Erasmus+.

The Italian members involved were the Municipalities of Borgo Val di Taro, Forlì, Imola, Traversetolo, Pellegrino Parmense, the province of Parma and the ASP Sud-Est of Parma.

The Swedish members in the projects are the Municipalities of Norrköping, Möndal, Linköping, Piteå, Falköping,

The project activities described in this section, will be divided under 3 categories:

- Projects ended during 2014
- Projects in progress during 2014
- Projects approved in 2014.

Finally the 50/50 project will be presented, which is different from the others because it is completely self-financed by the member of the network.

PROJECTS ENDED IN 2014

Active Engaged Generation (AGE)



The AGE project started in February 2013 with a coordination meeting where partners defined the work programme and planned the future events.

In 2013 the first two transnational meetings took place, the first one in Imola (May 2013), focused on the practices to prevent elderly diseases in a socialisation perspective and the second one in Buje, Croatia (October 2013) with a focus on the intergeneration cooperation between old and young people.

During 2014 the project implementation continued at local level. In Sweden, Poland and Spain the partner municipalities have organized local events targeted to inform elderly people about opportunities and active participation in society. The results of the local events have been shared during the final conference which took place in Parma from the 29 September to the 3 October 2014.

More information: www.projectage.eu



European cities network for business friendly environment (EUC4BIZ)

The main objectives of the project were:

- Exchange needs and know-how in supporting entrepreneurship at European level;
- Develop guidelines and recommendations for creating favourable climate for entrepreneurship.
- Create long lasting cooperation between twinned cities on this specific subject among different stakeholders.

Euc4biz unfolded in 4 international events which included seminars, workshops, study visits, final conference and two local events in each participating city/municipality. All of these events have followed a research work at local level with assignments for every partner between the transnational events.

After the events in 2013 local workshops have been arranged in each country with the objective of disseminating the content of the project to relevant stakeholders at local level. In 2014, partners met twice in Norrköping for the third transnational event and in Zagreb for the final conference.

Norrköping, may 2014: The partners presented the results of the local events arranged in each city before the meeting. The second part of the event focused on presenting the EU initiatives and directives (e.g. Small Business Act for Europe, Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan) as well as the preliminary results of the survey carried out at local level. Furthermore, some workshops on how to support cultural and creative entrepreneurs have been organized.

Zagreb, October 2014: The final event of the meeting has been a moment to present the results of the project and the guidelines for more favourable business environment, which are available on the project's website.

More information: www.euc4biz.eu

Raising awareness for eco friendly behaviors in waste collection (ECOWAS)



The project started in February 2013 with the aim of promoting common values and strategies for a more sustainable waste management as a part of wellbeing of the European citizens. Ecowas started off from the need of and increasing eco-friendly behaviors in recycling and reuse by increasing the interaction and participation among the European citizens.

In 2014 the project continued with activities at local level in each participating municipality with the direct participation of citizens. The results of these activities have been shared in occasion of three transnational events in Mölndal, Hasselt (Belgium) and Traversetolo.

These events have involved different stakeholders at local level (municipalities; waste management companies; schools and citizens) thanks to the networking done by partners. The different actors invited in the meetings contributed to the discussion on how to raise the awareness in waste collection among citizens. The municipality of Traversetolo summarized the results of Ecowas in a publication available in the project website.

More information: www.eco-was.eu

ONGOING PROJECTS IN 2014

Sharing Experiences Acknowledging Learning (SEAL)



SEAL is a Comenius Regio project which involves two European areas, one in Italy (Parma) and one in Sweden (Norrköping).

The general objective of the Comenius Regio SEAL is to identify criteria, actions, tool or procedures representing a shared and common approach to quality as a fundamental element of future policies in ECEC and preschool education. Seal started in November 2013 and it will end in June 2015. The project is based on two main actions:

Action 1: documentation of existing best practices testifying qualitative relevant experiences implemented in partner regions.

Action2: experimentation made by involved schools of practices transferred from the partner region.

The first transnational meeting of the project was held in Parma in March 2014 while the second meeting took place in Norrköping in May 2014. In these events teachers from Italy and Sweden shared their experience and discussed about the focus areas of the project: learning context; documentation; parental involvement; organizational matters; evaluation methods.

Two dissemination seminars have been arranged in 2014 to present the results emerged in the transnational meetings to practitioners in the field of pre-school education. In 2015 the project foresees an evaluation meeting aimed at assessing the testing process of the best practices identified by the partner organisations during the first phase of the project and the final conference.

More information: www.sealregio.eu

PROJECTS STARTED IN 2014

Rural Europe Network (REN)



REN is a thematic network of twinned towns co-financed by the Europe for Citizens programme aimed to increase the attractiveness of the municipalities involved to make the best of their potential in the rural sector. All the partners have similar profiles characterised by a rural environment, therefore they share same issues and needs: lack of knowledge on competitiveness and promotion of the surrounding, lack of opportunities for young people, insufficient knowledge of young farmers on the potential of small local productions, the lack of openness of European citizens and decision-makers. REN will work in two directions, on one side transnational meetings will be organized in 2015 to favour the exchange of experience among professionals, on the other side the partners will carry out dissemination seminars at local level to engage different stakeholders concerned about the issues addressed by the project. At the moment the partners met once in occasion of the coordination meeting in Borgo val di Taro in October 2014, to organize the work plan and other practical aspects related to project management.

More information: www.renproject.eu

Enhancing Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care through Participation (Equap)



EQUAP is an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership in the field of School Education running between 2014 and 2017. The general objective of the project is to contribute to an improved quality of ECEC in Europe through an increased acknowledgement of families and carers as a key component of the system. The project will involve in the transnational activities some 140 participants representing three main target groups: practitioners (pre-school teachers and managers), representative of local authorities and academics/trainers.

The three main areas of activities will be:

- 1) Research pertaining participation in ECEC;
- 2) The identification/exchange of best practices and job shadowing activities of pre-school teachers aimed at preparing the conditions for cross-testing and mainstreaming of the practices pertaining participation across the partnership;
- 3) The development of quality indicators addressing participation as a process.

The municipality of Forlì hosted the first coordination meeting in November 2014. During the event the partners set out the technical aspects regarding the implementation of the project, such as: workplan, dissemination strategy, communication processes among the partners, research activities structure etc.

Besides, the first two transnational meetings of 2015 have been scheduled, the first research meeting will take place in Porto (PT) on 23rd/24th April 2015, and the preparatory meeting before the jobshadowing of the practitioners will be in Crete on the 24th/25th April 2015. This last meeting will be followed by the jobshadowing activities of pre-school teachers and managers which will take place between the October 2015 and February 2016.

More information: **www.equap.eu**



50/50 is a project self-financed by Sern and its members which introduces the themes of sustainable development and energy saving at school starting from the results achieved by the European network “Euronet 50/50”.

The project brings into classrooms a methodology that has been thought to teach children how to use energy wisely and how to save it through actions which causes behavioural changes in the pupil. These changes will set in motion a process that will ultimately bring to lower energy waste in schools. Economic incentives for energy savings are agreed between schools and municipalities (which usually run schools) at the beginning of the project to support the activities. 50% of the energy savings generated during the project due to the change of behaviour of pupils and teachers shall be reimbursed to the school, while of the remaining half, 40 % becomes a net savings for municipalities that pay the bills. The remaining 10% is turned to SERN as a contribution to the total expenditure of the project.

After a preliminary phase in 2013 when the project proposal has been presented and approved by the SERN executive board 50/50 started its preparation activities. Letters of intent have been sent to all the municipalities in the network to evaluate the possibility of participate. After the collection of the letters, 13 municipalities have joined the projects with a total of 15 schools.

From October to December 2014 the toolkit (a set of instruments to carry out the activities at school) has been designed and assembled. On December the 1st the secretariat arranged a meeting with the technical experts that will assist the Italian municipalities at school and with the participation of the Italian responsible of the “Euronet 50/50” to coordinate the implementation of the project.



In order to avoid further expenses for the participating municipalities the SERN Secretariat contacted some potential donors willing to support this initiative. The Region Västra Götaland decided to contribute by financing the creation of the project's website which will be the main communication tool for the participating schools from Italy and Sweden.

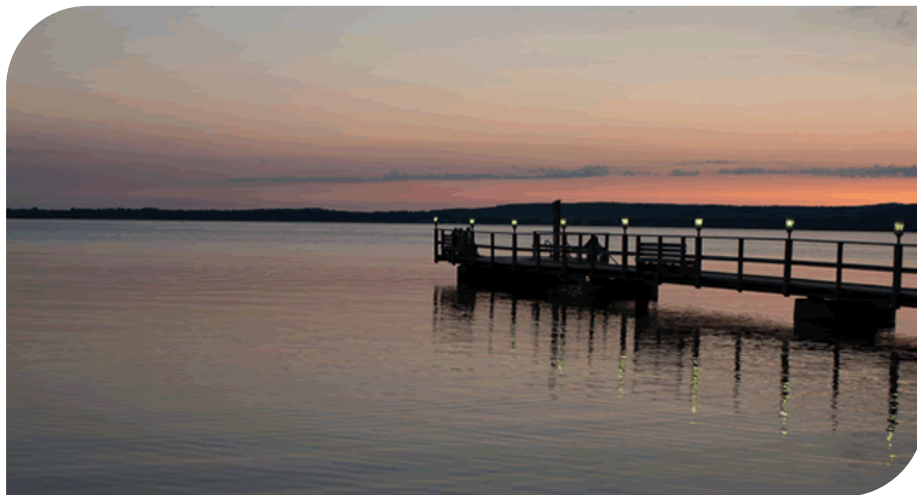
More information: 50-50.sern.eu

ITALIAN MUNICIPALITIES:

Cavriago
Cervia
Collecchio
Bertinoro
Fontanellato
Forlì
Scandiano

SWEDISH MUNICIPALITIES:

Ale
Linköping
Norrköping
Orust
Trollhättan
Vänersborg



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014

The annual general assembly of the Network took place in Motala, Sweden from 8th to 11th May 2014. The meeting of the Network's members was also the occasion to talk and discuss about the Europe 2020 Strategy thanks to a EU co-funded project under the Programme Europe for Citizens with the City of Motala as applicant. This project gave the chance to participants from Germany, Latvia, Finland and Croatia to participate in the meetings and to plan new projects in the new programming period.

Particular attention was paid to the analysis of the strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth which wants to tackle short and long term EU challenges such as the economic crisis, the ageing population, the globalization and increased competitiveness and climate changes.



The Municipality of Motala organized several presentations of local experiences, study visits and group discussions, focused on the subjects highlighted in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Parallel paths were created to analyse experiences on:

- Local economic development with focus on sustainable tourism, culture and local growth and rural development
- Energy and environment with focus on energy efficiency in public buildings, from waste to resources and sustainable water planning treatment
- Outdoor education
- Youth employment and integration
- Elderly care



The General Assembly session was dedicated on the presentation of the on going projects and the submitted project with particular attention to the results of the CREANET project and to the first step of the 50/50 project. Moreover, the members approved by unanimity the financial documents and budget of the Network after the control of the Board of Auditors.

Union Terre Verdiane invited SERN members in its municipalities in May 2015 for the annual general assembly, the member organizations accepted the proposal.

Members of the Executive Board 2013-2015

Swedish members from Ostergötaland:

Eva Andersson,
Jan Owe-Larsson,
Camilla Egberth.

Swedish members from Västergötland:

Paul Akerlund
Marie Dahlin
Gunilla Leven
Marie Ekman

Swedish members from Norrbotten:

Åke Eltoft
Kent Ogren
Jerry Johansson
Ann-Katrine Samfors

Italian members:

Francesco Castria,
Patrick Leech,
Valentina Morigi,
Stefano Corradi,
Francesco Trivelloni,
Mirco Cantelli,
Matteo Daffada,
Mirko Capuano,
Paolo Bianchi
Marco Monesi,
Gianluca Manelli.

Chief of the Executive Board: Eva Andersson

Vice chairman of the Executive Board:
Patrick Leech

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

In 2014, members of the Executive Board met three times. The Spring session was held in Borgo Val di Taro in March, the second meeting took place in Motala in May during the General assembly and the Fall session in Imola in November.

The discussion was focused mainly on two issues: the financial sustainability of the Network and the tools to answer to the opportunities offered by the new EU programming period.

Concerning the economic sustainability of the Network, the discussion took into consideration the need to revise the fees structure for the members after the analysis proposed by the Secretariat based on three elements: the correlation between the number of members and the total fees; the contribution and structure of SERN members; and the contribution of EU grants and other income in the SERN budget. The political representative of the Board decided to increase the membership fee of 5% for all members for 2015 and to analyse the possibility to link the fees to a fix index.

About the second point, the new programmes proposed by the European Commission, such as Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe, gave new opportunities for SERN members to develop their project idea with direct grants coming from the EU.

SERN proposed several projects under Erasmus+ programme as applicant and one of them was approved with key action 2, Strategic Partnership: the EQUAP project. This three-year project will see the participation of 7 European countries and 11 organisations. SERN is the coordinator of the activities and the associated partners, members of the Network, are the Municipalities of Linköping and Forlì.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2014:

CIOFS/FP, Bologna (www.ciofsbo.org)
Municipality of Luleå (www.lulea.se)
Municipality of Orust (www.orust.se)
Coompanion Norrbotten (nord.companion.se)
ASP Ad Personam, Parma (www.adpersonam.pr.it)

WITHDRAWALS:

Drivhuset

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

INCOME STATEMENT

The income statement of SERN for the year 2014 shows a total income of € 105.753,38 which equals to an increase of 11.357,15 € in comparison to the budget proposal approved by the General Assembly in 2014. After operations the Income statements surplus equals to 3.738,99 €.

The amount of **incomes for the institutional activity** of SERN amounts to € 99.972,54. The incomes from fees of the new member has been higher than estimated. The **other incomes** deriving from the 50-50 projects (€ 2.520,00) and from the support to members for services has also been higher of what originally estimated (€ 16.999,80). To note also **contingent assets** related to payables towards suppliers or members which have been reduced or cancelled during the year. The **incomes from EU grants** in 2014 equaled € 5.780, 84.

On the expenses side, the total amount of resources spent for institutional activities amounts to €96.233,35. The main component pertains staff costs (€ 64.305, 43). If one includes also the staff costs allocated to the projects, the total amount for staff costs equals € 69.570,93 the same amount spent of 2013. The two other main items of expenditure have been Missions and General Expenses. While General expenses have been lower than estimated, the travel costs have been higher totaling € 10.986,7 against an estimate of € 8.206,23.

The total incomes and expenditures for EU funded projects equals € 5.780,84. In 2014 SERN has been involved in the Comenius Regio SEAL (ending in June 2015) and in the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership EQUAL (running until September 2017).

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet of SERN for 2014 shows total assets for € 81.577,12. This amount is divided into Cash (€ 62.389,31) and Accounts Receivables i.e. Credits (€ 19.187,81). The liabilities instead consists of a total Fund Balance of € 50.300,44, € 2.711,00 of Membership Fees 2015 paid by some members in 2014 and Accounts payables i.e. Debts for € 28.565,68.

In absolute terms, the outstanding membership fees from have decreased from € 16.800 to € 9.039,00.

As far as liabilities are concerned, the main item pertains section C of the balance sheet i.e. Account payables. In this section the largest amount refers to debts towards employees (C1 and C 5) which constitutes the main source of payables.

REMARKS

The surplus of € 3.738,99 achieved in 2014 has been transferred almost entirely to the newly created Endowment Fund in order to reach the amount of € 50.000 required by the Italian authorities to acquire legal personality (obtained on January 19th 2015).

Income statement 2014

INCOMES € 105.753,38

Statutory Revenues	€ 74.036,73
Other Incomes	€ 16.999,80
Region Emilia-Romagna	€ 4.000,00
Interests on bank account	€ 6,16
Contingent assets	€ 4.929,85
EU Projects	€ 5.780,84

EXPENSES € 105.753,38

Personnel	€ 64.305,43
Executive Board	€ 1.639,81
General Assembly	€ 5.499,83
Exp. for Network's Guests	€ 173,32
General Expenses	€ 6.397,94
Communication	€ 82,41
Missions	€ 10.986,70
Contingent Liabilities	€ 1448,48
Board of Auditors	€ 210,28
IT Equipment	€ 367,83
Tax	€ 1.261,94
50/50 Project	€ 3.859,58
EU Projects	€ 5.780,84
Net Income from operations	€ 3.738,99

INDICATORS 2014

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 project groups. The guidelines include also some quantitative indicators concerning the activities started or implemented in 2014.

The number of projects submitted (13) has been almost the same of the previous year (14) however, the amount of approved projects has been very high (10). Most of the projects have been funded in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

INDICATORS	
Number of EU projects submitted at EU level in 2014	13
Amount of EU grants requested	€ 1.069.057,00
EU grants for projects approved in 2014	10
Amount of EU grants awarded in 2014	€ 751.484,00
Number of members involved in activities	34