



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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INTRODUCTION

The driving elements that have characterised the activities of the network in 2016 are related on the one hand to the work carried out by the Board in relation to the adoption of a new strategy for the period 2016-2018. On the other hand there has been a consolidation of the activities implemented in the field of education and social welfare policies through a new set of projects.

The new strategy adopted at the SERN general Assembly 2016 in Trollhättan addresses five priority areas: learning and education; energy and environment; local and regional development; health and welfare; social inclusion and migration. While the first three policy areas have been maintained two new focus areas have been introduced: 1) health and welfare and 2) social inclusion and migration.

The choice of addressing these issues has been strictly connected to new priorities that local and regional authorities have to face in terms of policy responses to the migration waves that have been affecting Europe in the past 3 years.

Politically at EU level the themes of migration and inclusion have been acquiring centrality and as a result of that the Commission has been prioritizing such themes in the framework of some of its Programmes. Locally municipalities have been facing the challenges of welcoming and including migrants. Due to the long-term nature of the phenomenon of migration such challenges will have an impact on the local communities in terms of welfare and inclusion policies (and actions) set up to deal successfully with the new local scenarios. As a result of this as of 2016, and even more clearly in 2017, SERN members have been redirecting their attention to project themes connected to social inclusion and migration as demonstrated by the projects such as INTED, EVOLAQ and BAGS4YOUTH but also by other project proposals which were submitted at EU level which have not been financed. The centrality of such themes have also been reflected in the programme of the General Assembly 2016.

As shown also in the financial report section, in 2016 the amount of services that the Secretariat has been providing to the members in relation to project formulation and implementation has increased substantially compared to previous years. On the one hand, this shows that the overall amount of activities within the network is increasing at least in quantitative terms. On the other hand, it indicates clearly the need of creating and strengthening capacity among the member organizations.

As one of the objectives of the strategy is to “strengthen the capacity of SERN as a network to engage in larger projects”, it is crucial to underline how this is connected to the capacity of its members, the ultimate beneficiaries of projects, to adequately plan, manage, implement and report activities and results. It should be noted, however, that the increasing number of requests coming from the members for support in relation to the activities above with the current human resources of the Secretariat can only be satisfied to a limited extent given the current amount of members of the network. The training activities implemented in early 2016 and illustrated below, could constitute a possible complementary solution to foster and increased capacity at local level as they strengthen the project planning skills while diminishing the reliance on the Secretariat support in the formulation phase.



SERN STRATEGY

The SERN Strategic document
for the period 2016-2018

Identity

We are a network that links Northern and Southern Europe. SERN actually represents a unique example of North-South cooperation in the European Union.

We operate following our long term values:

- cooperation;
- common belonging to the EU;
- democracy and equal opportunities;
- responsibility;
- Trust.

Mission

Our mission is to promote and support the network members in developing long-term relations and partnerships. To create mutual knowledge, to foster active citizenship and cultural enrichment and to achieve economic and social development.

Objectives

The objectives of the strategy are:

- to increase cooperation among members of the network, between Italy and Sweden and, more in general, the North and South of the EU;
- to strengthen SERN's capacity to engage in larger and/or more complex EU projects.

Driving Themes

The driving themes constitute the framework of reference for the members and the Secretariat in the definition of the activities that will be carried out in the context of the network.

They 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.

The driving themes for the period 2016-2018 are:

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



ONGOING PROJECTS IN 2016



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 involves some 140 participants in transnational activities representing three main target groups: practitioners (pre-school teachers and managers), representatives of local authorities and academics/trainers.

The three main areas of activities are:

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. The first research meeting took place in Porto in April 2015, where the research partners in the project presented research papers on ECEC practices and related quality indicators. Another coordination meeting was held in Slovenska Bistrica in September 2015, where it was decided upon the precise focus of the job shadowing phase of the project. The job shadowing phase then began in October 2015 and is expected to go on until February 2016. In this month, the third coordination meeting took place which focus on the main results of the job shadowing activities carried out in each partner country.

You can find more information about the project at www.equap.eu
Participants from SERN: The Municipalities of Linköping and Forlì.





Mobility in Elderly Care (MOBEC)

MOBEC is the result of 2 applications submitted in 2015 under the Erasmus+ Programme in Italy and Sweden. The projects started off from an analysis of problems and needs in the elderly care sector. The partner organisations have acknowledged that the staff responsible for training other staff need to acquire specific competences given the social and cultural changes that are taking place within the social services. On the basis of the training needs, the consortium has identified three areas for improvement:

1. Improve the intercultural competence of the staff participating in the mobility;
2. Develop training skills in the assessment and development of staff working within care services for the elderly;
3. Develop or enhance the European dimension of education in the participating organizations.

On the basis of training needs and areas for improvement identified by the European development plan job shadowing will take place in the facilities of the partners. Training courses for the participants will also be held for the participants at the university of Pori in Finland. The first phase of job shadowing took place in November and December 2015, and the project will continue throughout 2016 into 2017. In May and September 2016, the second and the third job shadowing rounds took place in Italy and Sweden, respectively.

Participants from SERN: Comunità Comprensoriale Oltradige Bassa Atesina, the Municipalities of Norrköping, Linköping (Leanlink), Luleå (Lulebo), Laives, Cervia, Pellegrino Parmense as well as ASP Sud Est and ASP Ad Personam



Let the children save the world

The project is an Erasmus KA2 project focusing on pre-schools which started in late 2015 and led by Mölndal Municipality in partnership with Imola Municipality and three other partners from Poland, Norway and Estonia. It starts off from the fact that discrimination is a violation of law and human rights in all of our countries and is a criminal act. The number of assaults, based on all the grounds of discrimination, is high in most European countries. The objectives of the projects are:

- to create educational environments in the preschools (facilities, materials, teaching methods etc.) that promote every individual's human rights, regardless ethnic background, race, skin color or nationality, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, disabilities or age;
- to increase the children's acceptance for variety and respect for human rights;
- to increase the teachers' self-confidence concerning teaching children within the theme of the project;
- to increase teachers' teaching skills concerning the theme of the project;

- to equip teachers with useful tools to address and manage the different situations of not acceptance based on all the grounds of discrimination;
- to increase parents' participation in activities connected to the project topic.

With this project, the partnership aims to make a real difference, in the short run in the preschools of the project, and in the long run in Europe. The partnership wants to contribute to a decrease of discrimination in European societies, by directing attention to small children, to how they are taught and how they learn by examining our attitudes and our education environments.

Project Website: www.childrenchangetheworld.eu



50/50 Project

50/50 is a project self-financed by SERN and its members introducing the themes of sustainable development and energy saving at schools starting from the results achieved by the European network "Euronet 50/50". The project brings a methodology into classrooms that has been verified to teach children how to use energy wisely and how to save it through actions causing behavioural changes in pupils. These changes will set in motion a process that will ultimately bring lower energy waste in schools. An important aspect for the implementation of the project has been the involvement of technical experts helping the schools learn more about their energy systems. Pupils, teachers, a representative from the municipality and the energy expert together make up the energy team, responsible for implementing the project methodology at the schools. Economic incentives for energy saving were agreed between schools and municipalities (usually the actors running schools) at the beginning of the project to support the activities. 50% of the energy savings generated during the project due to the behaviour change of pupils and teachers will be reimbursed to the school, while of the remaining half, 40% becomes a net saving for municipalities paying the bills. The remaining 10% is turned over to SERN as a contribution to the total expenditure of the project. 12 municipalities were partners of the project in 2015 for a total of 18 schools participating. 2 of these schools have joined in the second half of the year. A first transnational workshop was held during the SERN General Assembly weekend in Salsomaggiore Terme in May 2015, where participants got to listen to a presentation of the project and share their thoughts about its implementation. The activities of the schools and municipalities were presented during the second transnational seminar that took place in Trollhättan on the 20th May 2016. National meetings were held in Imola and Linköping in October 2015. During the year 2016 the Municipalities and schools have calculated the savings resulting from the activities which implemented by students. In total all the schools together have saved 150.000 kwh of energy. In the framework of 50/50 one of the objective is to foster the collaboration among the participating schools, therefore in October 2016 a delegation from the school Tärnan in Vänersborg visited the primary school Bersani in Forlì. You can find more information about the project at 50-50.sern.eu



ITALIAN MUNICIPALITIES:

Cavriago
Cervia
Collecchio
Bertinoro
Imola
Forlì

SWEDISH MUNICIPALITIES:

Åle
Linköping
Norrköping
Orust
Trollhättan
Vänersborg

PROJECTS STARTED IN 2016



Building Actions of Guidance Services for Youth Employment



The Bags4Youth project will unfold in 10 events which will contribute to exchange knowledge among the participating municipalities. During the two years of activities (2016-2018), Bags4Youth foresees seminars organised in each participating country to ensure the transfer of practices and one final conference to present the results.

In the last years, one of the priorities at all levels has been to boost young people's employability. Employment facilitates social inclusion for a wide range of marginalised citizens since it gives a sense of stability bringing to the development of oneself. However, there is a need for promoting a job-related culture that even gives value to the humblest working activity.



Young people need to be supported in the research or creation of jobs. Considering this, civil society organisations and institutions are called to act by creating networks at local level in a logic of solidarity and complementarity.

The project Bags4Youth brings together 6 organisations from 5 European countries (Italy, Sweden, Finland, Croatia and Spain) with the objective of creating a European network for the exchange of experiences on how to foster employability and active participation of young people with a focus on disadvantaged categories. The first coordination meeting took place in Masku, Finland in August. The project's central aspect is creating collaboration among local institutions for the development of innovative and inclusive job-orienting and guidance services.



These are the specific objectives:

1. to raise awareness of political representatives on inclusive models of job-orienting services;
2. to improve the competences of the staff working in the services, focusing on innovative tools and strategies to relate to young people, particularly disadvantaged, and interact with the local network of stakeholders;
3. to enhance communication with young people to foster their participation in the formulation of local policies;
4. to create synergies between different actors at local level and between different contexts of intervention, non-formal and informal.

You can find more information about the project at www.bags4youth.eu

Participants from SERN: The Municipality of Forlì and Jobb och Kunskatorget (Linköping)



Enhancing Volunteering Actions and Quality in Europe (EVOLAQ)

EVOLAQ is a European project co-financed within the Europe for Citizens Programme, Strand Networks. The partnership is composed of 7 European countries and 9 organisations, both civil society organisations and local public authorities.

Volunteering actions represent an important expression of the active citizenship in the EU; indeed, by giving one's time for the benefit of others, volunteers serve their community and play an active role in society. They develop the sense of belonging to a community thereby also gaining ownership. Volunteering is therefore a particularly powerful means to develop citizens' commitment to their society and to its political life. Secondly, Civil society organisations, associations of a European general interest, town twinning associations and other participating organisations often rely on volunteer work to carry out and to develop their activities. Therefore, attention is paid within the Programme Europe for Citizens to the promotion of volunteering.

The shared background among partners foresees two elements:

1. The potential of voluntary activities is still not fully realized, above all the involvement of young people and of people with different ethnic backgrounds;
2. The picture of volunteering is differing from country to country – regarding quality standards.

These are the objectives of the project:

1. To increase the knowledge about volunteering in Europe;
2. To increase civic participation through volunteering above all elderly, young and disadvantaged people and to attract people from different ethnic groups and to include them in civic participation processes;
3. To exchange best practices at transnational level and to transfer new models to approach people to volunteering;
4. To compare volunteering experiences in the partner countries and to create guidelines on the support of volunteering.

The plan of the project activities foresees 9 events, both at transnational level and local one in which all the partners will be involved as hosting organisation from March 2016 to December 2017. The first coordination meeting was held in Linz, Austria from the 1st to the 3rd March, while the opening conference took place in Norrköping, Sweden from the 30th May to the 2nd June. Two transnational seminars were also arranged. The first was in Pforzheim, Germany between the 24th-27th October and it focused on what motivates people and why they get involved and committed. The second was in Dubrovnik, Croatia between 21st-24th November and it focused on the relation volunteering.

You can find more information about the project

at www.evolaqproject.eu

Participants from SERN: The Municipalities of Cervia, Collecchio, Norrköping and Skövde.





What's up in Education

What's up in education: new models for future preschool services" project is part of the Erasmus+ Programme. The project started in November 2016 and will finish in May 2018. Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Services and Programmes represent an important context to promote children and family wellbeing and prevent vulnerability. These issues require to extend the access to ECEC services to accommodate a greater number of families, develop more inclusive and holistic educational services, able to intercept the different needs of different families and different type of users. The 3 partners of (Scuola d'Infanzia Arcobaleno, Italy; Öjebyn Förskoleenhet, Sweden and Vrtec Jelka, Slovenia) the project represent examples of different ECEC government and organisation services. The job shadowing experience (one of the main activities) will enable the partners to share the best practices to transfer and experiment into their own communities.

These are the two specific objectives of the project:

1. To identify organisational solutions that improve ECEC services and contribute to increase access;
2. To improve families and community participation in the life of pre-schools services.

The project will facilitate knowledge exchanges among teachers, managers, coordinators and the larger community, to enhance intellectual, cultural, and social influence to improve young children's developmental outcomes. The "school to school" exchange is an opportunity to share different pedagogic and governance models by deepening the knowledge about each other's practices and learning from them, and identify practices to be transferred or tested in the home context depending on each partner characteristics. Transnational meetings are the main instrument of communication, cooperation and sharing among partners, that can meet during the project implementation. Each meeting is attended by 4/5 people for each partner and all local staff. On 16th-17th November, the coordination meeting was held in Italy and it aimed at mutual knowledge of partners, planning of the activities, sketching of instruments for supporting the activities and the collection of the expected results, and sharing the dissemination plan. Besides such meeting and job shadowing, the other activities consist of local experimental practices and local seminars. On the one hand, the specific objective 1 is linked to these three expected results: innovative preschool organisational models identified, best practices tested and implemented with teachers and families, and preschool teachers' competences improved. On the other hand, the specific objective 2 is linked to this expected result: ECEC services more in line with family and community needs. The project results will be absorbed by the integrated network of preschool educational services which characterizes the territorial realities of the partnership. The network of preschool services is called to invest on increasing the quality, through well-integrated services based on a common vision of the role of ECEC services.

You can find more information about the project

at www.whatsupineducation.eu

Participants from SERN: Scuola d'Infanzia Arcobaleno (Unione Terre d'Argine) and Öjebyn Förskoleenhet (Piteå).



SIA-ProD

The SIA-ProD project aspires to develop an innovative approach for the professional development of early educators. This partnership supports the notion of self-assessment and self-improvement, upon which the whole project will be based. More specifically the current project aims to provide to early childhood educators the methodology and the instruments for self-evaluation and self-improvement with an effective, personalized, easy and low cost way. To achieve this goal, the project has four objectives:

1. To transfer, adapt and implement an innovative technique named Discrete Choice Modeling (DCM) that gave to Dan McFadden who introduced DMC and more specifically for the professional development of early childhood educators. DCM is widely used in marketing, finance, biostatistics and other scientific areas (Ben-Akiva, & Lerman, 1985), while its use in education is sparse.
2. To promote the utility of self-assessment as a powerful tool and prerequisite for effective in service training procedures. To achieve this objective this project aims to develop the Teacher Self-Assessment Assistant (TSAA), based on the DCM method described earlier. The educators will be able to complete the instrument and receive feedback for their teaching profile.
3. To support teachers' self-improvement. To achieve this goal the current project will develop the Self-Improvement Educational Package (SIEP). The early childhood educators that will participate in the project and complete the TSAA will receive feedback about their teaching profile.
4. To confirm with research based findings that this new approach for in-service training is beneficial for both the early childhood educators and their students.

The partnership consists of 6 partners from 4 EU countries. The organizations involved in the partnership are: 3 universities, 1 research institute, 1 local authority managing preschools, and 1 teacher training organization that is also a transnational network of local and regional authorities. The project will involve around 10 academic researchers, 4 local authority's employees and approximately 200 early childhood educators that will be engaged in the project and its intellectual outputs.

The main activities of the SIA-ProD project are: a) 7 transnational meetings, 3 of which will be coordination meetings and 4 research meetings. b) the development of the Teacher Self-Assessment Assistant (TSAA), c) the self-assessment phase (with the pilot and main study), d) the development of the Self-Improvement educational package (SIEP), e) the self-improvement phase (please see description of the project), f) the multiplier events.

The main results (impact resulting from the activities in the local contexts of the partners) of the project will be: the development of a new instrument for self-assessment of early childhood educators, the development of supportive educational materials that will promote the self-improvement of practitioners, increased competences of the ECEC staff and students participating in the project and increased internationalization and stronger European dimension in all partners.

Participants from SERN: The Municipality of Imola



Integration through Education and Information (INTED)

This project started in September 2016 and will finish in October 2018. INTED wants to improve the work amongst refugees/immigrants in the different partnership countries with the aim to get a faster, efficient and more rational integration process. To make it possible for immigrants to faster step into the educational system and the labour market, they must improve their basic language skills and the knowledge about their new countries cultural and civic system. The project involves 6 organisations from 5 different countries: The Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma (Croatia), Omega - Transcultural Centre for mental and physical health and integration (Austria); Landratsamt Enzkreis (Germany); Val d'Enza District (Italy); Gårdshuset (Sweden) and The Section of Resource and support (Sweden). There will be seven meetings during the project and four of them are learning and training activities for staff. The participants in the learning and training activities will be different kind of staff from the participating organizations adapted to the theme of the event. There are also transnational project meetings which purpose are to manage and plan the project and follow up the projects guidelines. The participants in transnational project meetings will, besides the contact person for each project, be for the content of the meeting relevant persons as decision makers, teachers, link persons, instructors or different kind of specialists. The projects objective is to create a more efficient integration process through:

- Providing basic skills and language courses to immigrants and simultaneously giving civic information to make them prepared for further studies and job.
- Educating new instructors and improving the competence amongst earlier educated staff.
- Reaching and starting trustful communication with immigrants in their neighbourhoods with assistance of link persons
- Identifying, build relations and include people who is suffering from war trauma and mental instability, also them who are not in studies, in labour market or in active social life.
- Involving more volunteers and NGOs in the work.

Participants from SERN: Val d'Enza District, Gårdshuset and The Section of Resource and support (Linköping) and Bilda

LIFE

Learning to innovate with families (LIFE)

The 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 need for the project was identified through a major research study undertaken jointly by 2 of the partners, the R&D

Centre Linköping in Sweden and the NTNU, Trondheim Child Welfare Research and Innovation Centre which involved 900 families and concluded that despite interventions by a range of professionals, there was often little change in the situation of these families over time due to a lack of innovation skills at practice level and the need for a more holistic approach. The project has a strong partnership which also includes the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, the APCC, an NGO in Portugal specialising in disability issues, and the Municipality of Cervia, Italy.

The objectives of the project are:

1. To undertake a Baseline Study/Needs Analysis to map the competency and skills needs required by social workers and other professionals involved in this work and develop a Competency Framework
2. To develop a 'Knowledge Triangle' learning model which will use abductive learning to strengthen links between researchers, educators and practitioners working with vulnerable families
3. To develop a transferable Innovation Skills Development Programme together with a 'toolkit' of supporting learning materials
4. To test these products through a pilot programme involving professionals from each partner region who will each work with a small number of families during the programme
5. To review the results of the piloting including impact on work with the families and to amend the products
6. To produce a project report and organise national and transnational mainstreaming and dissemination, including the use of ECVET.

The impact and long term benefits will be to support the development of new and improved practice, in particular through the use of innovation skills in working with vulnerable families and in addressing the disadvantage faced by the families, enhancing their social inclusion.

The common skills gaps identified within the partner countries reinforces the need for a European dimension.

Participants from SERN: The Municipalities of Cervia and Linköping

PROJECTS ENDED IN 2016



Rural Europe Network (REN)

REN was a thematic network of twinned towns co-financed by the Europe for Citizens programme aimed at increasing the attractiveness of the municipalities involved to make the best of their potential in the rural sector.

All the partners' similar profiles were characterised by a rural environment.

Therefore, they shared the same thematic and needs: lacking knowledge on competitiveness and promotion of the local territory, lacking opportunities for young people, insufficient



knowledge of young farmers on the potential of small local productions, lacking openness of citizens and decision-makers. REN worked in two directions: on the one hand through transnational meetings to favour the exchange of experiences among professionals, on the other hand, the partners carried out dissemination seminars at local level to engage different stakeholders affected by the issues addressed by the project. A coordination meeting was held in Borgo Val di Taro in October 2014 to organise the work plan of the project.

In 2015, eight local events took place.

In Camarinas in March and Buzet in April transnational meetings were held. Local events took place in Pellegrino Parmense in June, Jalasjärvi in August, Vila de Cruces and Portole in September and Falköping in October.

The focus of every local event was on presentations of practices, workshops combined with study visits to local producers.

An evaluation seminar was held in Jalasjärvi in December 2015.

In April, the final conference was held in Borgo val di Taro.

The experiences from this project discovered that rural Europe mostly has similar challenges throughout the continent and that

the connections to other European stakeholders were the main benefit of the project.

In fact, the importance of REN was to enable young farmers to meet each other in the first place. Moreover, developing the countryside was possible thanks to: making farming profitable, cooperating with R&D actors, promoting local foods and developing services for tourists.

A final publication was produced as a result of the project, describing the general results of the project as well as the project objectives and activities. The publication is available in English language at www.renproject.eu

Participants from SERN: The Municipalities of Borgo val di Taro, Pellegrino Parmense and Falköping.



STUDY VISITS

From the 16th to the 19th of September 2016 a Swedish delegation from Hushållningssällskapet Väst and Vänersborgs kommun was guided by the Secretariat through the territories of several Italian members for a study visit on local productions in the agrifood business.

The visit were hosted in the municipalities of Borgotaro, Imola and Sala Baganza, which have warmly welcomed the Swedish guests. The main results of the visit were an increased knowledge about business solutions developed by farmers working with organic products, new contacts established with a wide range of actors public and private, the identification of practices to transfer in the home context, ideas for new projects of cooperation.

Following a request from the the Erasmus+ Italian national Agency, the Secretariat organised a study visit for a delegation of pre-school teachers from the UK.

The focus of the visit was the organization of services in the Parma and Reggio Emilia areas. The visits took place in Scandiano and Collecchio.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The municipality of Cervia has organized in cooperation with the Secretariat a set of training activities in January 2016 aimed at strengthening capacity of municipal civil servants and key local stakeholders (schools and youth organizations) in relation to project development skills.

The meetings focused on project cycle management methodology with a specific focus on the first three phases of the project cycle: Indicative programming, identification and formulation.

During the meetings issues pertaining stakeholder's management and the transferring of information from the logical framework into the project application were also addressed.

During the meetings the participants while learning about the project planning did plan a project proposal.

The participants generated four project proposals one of which was submitted in the framework of the Erasmus+ call 2016 in late March 2016 and it was then then approved in July.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016



The annual General Assembly of the Network took place in Trollhättan, Sweden from 19th to 21st May 2016. During the assembly, several thematic seminars were held about different topics. Working groups were arranged as well. The study visits organised by the host addressed themes pertaining education and welfare (with a focus on immigration).

The thematic seminars focused on the following topics:

- Agriculture as a tool for increasing integration and competitiveness;
- Integration of migrants in education;
- 50-50 Project;
- The future of local elderly care policies in ageing communities;
- Industrial conversion and the impact on local development.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the Annual Report 2015 and the Financial Report 2015. The Budget Proposal 2016 was also presented to the participants and it expected an income statement for a total value of € 294,752.00.

The SERN Strategic Guidelines 2016-2018 were also approved by unanimity. An important element emerged from the strategic document was the importance to expand our activities through larger projects. Valorising the results of the work done is another

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2015-2017

SWEDISH MEMBERS

Glenn Berggård
Kent Ögren
Yvonne Stålnacke
Ann-Katrine Sämfors
Paul Åkerlund
Conny Johansson
Gunilla Levén
Marie Dahlin
Eva Andersson
Elias Georges
Julie Tran

ITALIAN MEMBERS

Lubiano Montaguti
Cristina Bacchi
Ouidad Bakkali
Stefano Corradi
Francesco Trivelloni
Annalia Guglielmi
Matteo Daffadà
Rosella Fabbri
Norberto Vignali
Marco Monesi
Gianluca Manelli

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eva Andersson

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lubiano Montaguti

relevant aspect; the General Assembly should be used for this purpose and for creating opportunities for sharing the results with other member organisations which can make use of the results. The General Assembly approved the Forlì Municipality's proposal to host the General Assembly 2017 between 18th-20th May.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

In 2016, members of the Executive Board met three times. The first meeting was held in Meldola in March, the second took place in Trollhättan in May during the General Assembly and the third meeting was held in Sala Baganza in November.

The discussions were mainly focused on the following themes: the financial sustainability of the Network, the revision of the SERN Strategy 2016-2018 and membership issues such as applications and withdrawals. As far as the first issue is concerned, the board took note of the income statements 2015 and approved to send it to the financial auditors and it urged the members with unsettled fees to pay as soon as possible. The Financial Report 2015, the Budget Proposal 2016 including its updated version and the preliminary Financial Report 2016 were presented to the Board members. During the meeting in March in Meldola, the board approved the revised strategy to be presented at the General Assembly.

INCOME STATEMENT 2016

INCOMES € 283.832,01

Statutory Revenues	€ 75.522,93
Other Incomes	€ 33.327,48
Project 50/50	€ 938,83
Interests on bank account	€ 7,91
Contingent Assets	€ 217,59
Project Gal Europa	€ 17.143,40
EU Projects	€ 156.673,87

EXPENSES € 283.832,01

Personnel	€ 73.282,41
Interpreting Executive Board	€ 457,09
General Assembly 2016	€ 3.803,59
Expenses for Network's Guests	€ 113,72
General Expenses	€ 7.863,97
Missions and Travel Expenses	€ 15.035,00
Contingent Liabilities	€ 570,35
Board of Auditors	€ 447,52
Equipment	€ 2.991,56
Tax	€ 52,41
50/50 Project	€ -
Study Visits	€ 4.717,22
Project Gal Europa	€ 13.165,35
EU Projects	€ 156.673,87

The board asked the Secretariat to prepare the annex concerning the priority themes for the November Executive Board at the latest.

The text of the strategy presented during the Board in Trollhättan was the same which was revised and approved during the board meeting in Meldola. After this presentation, the Board approved the SERN Strategy 2016-2018.

Finally, the Board approved the membership requests of four new organisations: GAL L'Altra Romagna, Unione Terre d'Argine, Comunità Comprensoriale Oltradige Bassa Altesina, and Husållningsälskapet Väst.

The Board also approved the proposal to consider the communication received from Association il Noce in December 2015 as the official withdrawal date.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK 2016

The income statement of SERN for the year 2016 shows a total income of € 283.832,01. Even though the total amount is lower than the estimate (€ 294.752,00) approved by the General Assembly in 2016, the difference is due to a lower amount spent for EU projects (with a consequent lower income balancing the expense).

The amount of incomes for the institutional activity of SERN amounts to € 127.158,14 showing a 26% increase in comparison to the ex-ante estimate. After operations, the income statement surplus equals for 2016 to € 4.657,95.

The incomes related to fees from new members have been lower than estimated (€ 1.087,00 instead of € 1.500,00).

This is due to the fact that the 4 new members have joined the network in November 2016 and therefore they have contributed to the 2016 budget only with a pro-rata contribution.

These new members will contribute € 5.468,00 to the 2017 incomes.

As for the other incomes deriving from services to the members, they have been € 33.327,48 which is 56% higher than the amount originally estimated (€ 21.250,00).

This item has contributed substantially to the final result from operations.

The incomes from EU grants in 2016 equalled € 156.673,87: € 122.944,26 for the project EQUAP running until September 2017, € 30.813,58 for the project MOBEC in its second and final year of implementation, € 1.774,78 for the BAGS4YOUTH project and € 1.141,25 for the SIA-PROD project.

On the expenses side, the total amount of resources spent for institutional activities amounts to € 122.500,19.

The main component pertains staff costs which equal € € 73.282,41 (€ 92.599 including the costs reimbursed by EU projects). In 2016 the amount of human resources has been the same as the previous year.

The two other main items of expenditure have been Missions and General Expenses. While general expenses have been lower than estimated (€ 7.863,97 against an estimate of € 11.000,00), the travel costs have been higher totalling € 15.035,00.

A total of 13 missions for a total of approximately € 10.000,00 - the remaining € 5.000,00 pertain travel costs incurred in Italy).

The number of missions does not include EQUAP, SIA-PROD, BAGS4YOUTH project meetings.

The total incomes and expenditures for EU funded projects equals € 156.673,87.

If looked upon in perspective, the total value of the income statement has doubled from 2014. This has been due to the EU projects but also to a general increase in the annual turnover of the network.

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet of SERN for 2016 shows total assets for € 269.453,10.

This amount is divided into Cash € 229.790,63) and Accounts Receivables i.e. Credits (€ 39.662,45). In absolute terms, the outstanding membership fees have increased from € 15.088,82 to 20.229,49.

To note however that a part of the outstanding fees have been paid in early 2017 bringing the amount in the first quarter of 2017 to approximately 13.400,00.

The liabilities instead consist of a total Fund Balance of € 55.693,30. As for the Accounts Payables pertaining members the amount of € 9.139,50 has been paid by some members in 2016 for the financial year 2017.

Finally, the Accounts payables i.e. Debts equals € 204.620,27.

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 to EU grants, which are resources received by the EU in 2016 but referring costs of the financial 2017.

INDICATORS 2016

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 carried out in 2016.

The number of projects submitted (11) has increased compared to the previous year (8) however, the number of approved projects remains high (7).

Most of the projects have been funded in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme and the Europe for citizens Programme.

INDICATORS	
Number of EU projects submitted at EU level in 2016	10
Amount of EU grants requested	€ 2.154.000
EU grants for projects approved in 2016	7
Amount of EU grants awarded in 2016	€ 1.194.000
Number of members involved in activities	30

SERN MEMBERS IN 2016

Aiccre Emilia-Romagna

Ass. of Municipalities Norrbotten

Ale Municipality

Arvidsjaur Municipality

Asp Sud-Est Parma

Asp Ad Personam Parma

Bertinoro Municipality

Boden Municipality

Borgo Val di Taro Municipality

Brisighella Municipality

Cavriago Municipality

Cervia Municipality

CIOFS/FP Bologna

Comunità Comprensoriale Oltradige Bassa Altesina (18 Mun.)

Consorzio Fantasia

Coop. Consortium Leonardo

Coompanion Norrbotten

Coompanion Skaraborg

Coompanion Östergötaland

Corniglio Municipality

Falköping Municipality

Forlì Municipality

GAL L'Altra Romagna

Imola Municipality

Husällningsälskapet Väst.

Jokkmokk Municipality

Kara Bobowski Soc. Coop.

Kalix Municipality

Laives Municipality

Linköping Municipality

Luleå Municipality

Meldola Municipality

Motala Municipality

Mjölby Municipality

City of Mölndal

Norrköping Municipality

Norrbotten County Council

Orust Municipality

Parma Province

Pellegrino Parmense Municipality

Piteå Municipality

Proges Cooperative

Ravenna Municipality

Regional Development Norra Bohuslän (5 Mun.)

Scandiano Municipality

Sinettica

Smedjebacken Municipality

Skövde Municipality

Söderköping Municipality

City of Trollhättan

Vänersborg Municipality

Västra Götaland Region

Unione "Pedemontana Parmense" (5 Mun.)

Unione "Terre d'Argine" (4 Mun.)

Unione "Val d'Enza" (8 Mun.)

Älvsbyn Municipality

Ängelholm Municipality

Östergötland Region



SERN

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