SERN

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

SWEDEN EMILIA ROMAGNA NETWORK

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2025 marked a milestone in the history of SERN: 20 years of cooperation between Sweden and Italy, rooted in dialogue, mutual trust and shared learning. Over two decades, this journey has supported local communities in Italy and Sweden in developing collaboration, strengthening ties and building capacity across borders.

Throughout 2025, our network continued to translate this long-standing partnership into concrete actions. Municipalities, professionals and partners worked together on a wide range of projects, thematic initiatives and professional exchanges that enhanced **education, inclusion, sustainability and innovation** at the local level.

In the area of **education and training**, projects such as **BRIDGE, INTEC and STEAMworks** strengthened support for pre-schools, schools and educators, improving learning environments and promoting quality education for children and young people. At the same time, thanks to the **Erasmus+ Accreditation**, social services and professional development were also at the centre of activities such as facilitated training courses, study visits and staff exchanges for professionals working in welfare and social care, contributing to stronger service delivery and everyday practice.

May's SERN General Assembly in Parma was an important moment for reflection and strategic exchange, bringing together members from across the network to discuss shared priorities and future work. **Youth participation and civic engagement** were addressed during the General Assembly but also through projects such as MIK-ON, WOOH and Voices of Heritage, which empowered young people and citizens to take an active role in democratic, social and cultural life.

Sustainability, local development and innovation remained central themes. Through initiatives like **LEAF, UST, TRANSMIC-VET, Food4Future, Strade Future and Equal4Green**, the network supported sustainable tourism, vocational education and training, responsible mobility, food system transformation, and gender equality within the framework of the European Green Deal.

In 2025 we also celebrated the successful conclusion of the Intelligent Cities Challenge: the collaborative work of participating municipalities was recognised at the European level with an award in Brussels, highlighting the value of our efforts in transnational cooperation models supporting green and digital transition at local level. **In the same year, SERN joined the Urban Agenda Partnership on Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement**, further strengthening its engagement at the European policy level.

The SERN Thematic Wall remained a hub for dialogue and exchange, with thematic cycles focused on **Sustainable Tourism and Quality Education in Times of Change**, fostering reflection on shared challenges and practical, locally grounded solutions.

Looking back on this anniversary year, we celebrate not only results and milestones, but above all the people and communities who make this cooperation possible. Together, we continue to build strong local partnerships between Italy and Sweden, onward to 2026.



Nicola Catellani
Network Coordinator

ABOUT THE NETWORK

SERN is a European cooperation network that brings together Italian and Swedish municipalities and public actors, supporting collaboration and joint action between the two countries.

SERN originates from a long-term process of **cooperation between Italian and Swedish municipalities** and public actors. This process was launched in 2003 with the aim of creating a structured and permanent partnership between the two territories. In 2025, SERN marks **20 years since the start of its activities**, confirming its role as a stable and growing European cooperation platform enabling ongoing collaboration between Italy and Sweden.

As a non-profit **transnational association**, SERN is characterised by three key features:

- it is the only bilateral network in the European Union specifically connecting actors from **Northern and Southern Europe**;
- it operates as a **multilevel network**, enabling cooperation between different levels of government;
- it is open to **civil society organisations** and **private actors**.

Mission

SERN's mission is to strengthen a European Union based on North–South cooperation, where Italian and Swedish communities actively contribute to social inclusion, sustainability and digital development through collaboration at local and regional level.

Three focus areas

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

- Quality Education
- Active Citizenship
- Services for Vulnerable Groups

DIGITALIZED COMMUNITIES

- Digital Skills
- e-Government
- Artificial Intelligence

GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

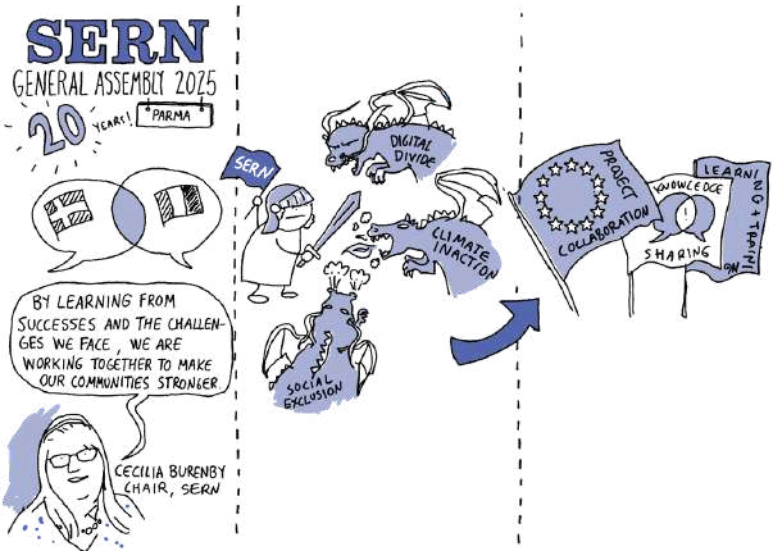
- Climate Action
- Sustainable Tourism
- Smart Mobility

Activities

- Project-based cooperation
- Information and showcasing
- Learning and training
- Pooling of expertise

STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The **SERN General Assembly 2025** took place on **14–16 May** in Parma and Fontanellato and was hosted by the Municipality of Parma, the Province of Parma and EmiliAmbiente. The event brought together **more than 100 participants** from Italy and Sweden, as well as guests from Germany and Finland. This special edition marked the celebration of **20 years of SERN's activities** since the Network was established in 2005.

The General Assembly introduced **new formats** to strengthen exchange and cooperation among members. The programme combined thematic sessions on key societal challenges, **scenario sessions organised by professional role, a project development track, peer-to-peer learning moments** and **informal networking spaces**.

Scenario sessions involved political representatives, managers, and SERN contact persons and staff working on international affairs. Organised by professional role, the sessions focused on the **strategic value of international cooperation** within local organisations, the mainstreaming of project results, cross-sectoral collaboration and **effective communication on Europe** at local level.

One of the key moments of the General Assembly was the **Project Showcase**, where members presented more than ten European projects developed across the Network. Covering themes such as education, social services, sustainability, digitalisation and public procurement, the session highlighted concrete practices and inspired participants to explore new opportunities for cooperation.

The programme also included p**eer-to-peer learning moments**, providing informal spaces for direct exchange among members, and a project development track, supporting dialogue on future collaborations and the development of new joint initiatives within the Network.

A dedicated seminar, ***Europe in Challenging Times***, invited participants to reflect on the future of the European Union through political, academic and business perspectives, with contributions from **Stefano Bonaccini**, Member of the European Parliament, **Fabrizio Tassinari**, Executive Director of the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute, and **Alberto Figna**, President of Augiaro and Figna and CEO of ALMA. During the General Assembly, the **SERN Most Active Members of the Year** 2025 award was presented to the Municipality of **Linköping** and the Municipality of **Ravenna**, in recognition of their strong and continuous engagement in the Network's activities and European projects. The General Assembly concluded with the **election** of the new SERN **Executive Board** and **Board of Auditors** for the 2025–2027 mandate.

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SEPN
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY







Executive Board 2025 - 2027



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SABA GIOVANNACCI
Parma Province



Vice - president
CECILIA BURENBY
Mjölby Municipality



CENTURIO FRIGNANI
AICCRE Emilia Romagna



SILVIA FEDERICI
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MARTINA ZECCHETTI
Cavriago Municipality



MIRKO BOSCHETTI
Cervia Municipality



KAROLA SVENSSON
Falköping Municipality



LINNEA JÄGESTEDT
Linköping Municipality



FREDRIK BRUHN
Luleå Municipality



GIADA SEVERI
Meldola Municipality



FREDRIK TOPPLUND
Motala Municipality



EVA-BRITT SJÖBERG
Norrköping Municipality



JONAS GUNNARSSON
Piteå Municipality



BARBARA MONTI
Ravenna Municipality



LORENA LANZONI
Scandiano Municipality



SARA TONINI
Sissa Trecasali Municipality



JOHAN OLOFSSON
SveDest



ANGELICA LUNDGREN BIELINSKI
City of Trollhättan



NORBERTO VIGNALI
Unione Pedemontana Parmense



DANIELA TEBASTI
Unione Terre dell'Argine



BENNY AUGUSTSSON
Vänersborg Municipality

Board of Auditors 2025 - 2027



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Coompanion Skaraborg



MARCO GIORGI
EmiliAmbiente S.p.A.



MIKAEL ARVERMARK
Kunskapförbundet Väst



FRANCESCO MARIANI
Unione Valli Taro e Ceno

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

In 2025, the SERN Executive Board met three times to guide the **strategic development of the Network** and oversee its core activities.

The first meeting was held online on 14 **February** and focused on the monitoring of ongoing projects. During this session, the Executive Board approved the draft Annual Report 2024 and the programme of the 2025 General Assembly.

The second meeting took place in **May** in Parma, in connection with the General Assembly, and was structured in two separate sessions. The first session focused on the review of the 2023 Board of Auditors' report and on discussions concerning the future organisation and development of the Network.

The second session was held after the General Assembly and the election of the new Executive Board members, who subsequently appointed the President and Vice-President.

The final meeting of the year took place on 14 **November** in Linköping. Discussions centred on the financial situation of the Network, the planning of SERN's thematic initiatives for 2026, and the initial preparations for the next General Assembly.

Throughout 2025, the Network continued to grow with the admission of two new members: **Fyrbodal Association of Local Authorities** (Sweden) and the M**unicipality of Fidenza** (Italy). These new members further strengthened SERN's cooperation across regions and thematic areas.













OVERVIEW ON THE ACTIVITIES

INTELLIGENT CITIES CHALLENGE

In 2025, the **Intelligent Cities Challenge (ICC)**, an initiative of the European Commission supporting cities in their green and digital transition through **Local Green Deals**, came to an end, concluding a two-year process of transnational cooperation. SERN took part in ICC **for the second time**, acting as lead partner of a consortium composed of the municipalities of **Cervia, Vänersborg and Trollhättan**, supporting the development of three Local Green Deals, signed between late 2024 and mid-2025.

The Local Green Deals addressed shared sustainability goals while responding to local priorities: **decarbonisation of tourism services in Cervia**, **support to SMEs on energy efficiency and renewable energy in Vänersborg**, and **improved energy flexibility and efficiency in industrial areas in Trollhättan**.





The European Commission's INTELLIGENT CITIES CHALLENGE

Through three Local Green Deals, the consortium delivered concrete actions on energy efficiency, renewables and support to local businesses.



The ICC programme formally closed with the **Final Conference in Brussels** on 5-6 March 2025. On this occasion, SERN received a **Special Mention for communication from the European Commission**, recognising the strong transnational cooperation within the consortium and the concrete results achieved in supporting the green transition at local level.

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URBAN AGENDA PARTNERSHIP ON INNOVATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Since 2025, SERN has been a member of the **Urban Agenda Partnership on Innovative and Responsible Public Procurement (UAPP)**, one of the thematic partnerships under the Urban Agenda for the EU. The Partnership brings together **cities, regions, EU Member States, European institutions and organisations** to promote more strategic and responsible public procurement practices, supporting sustainable development and smarter local policies. Through **peer exchange**, joint work and shared deliverables, UAPP supports public authorities in using procurement not only as an administrative procedure, but also as a practical tool to generate **social and environmental value**.



SERN joined the Partnership to support its members, particularly **small and medium-sized municipalities and local authorities**, in strengthening skills and approaches linked to procurement. In 2025, SERN also set up a **working group with its members**, creating a dedicated space to share experiences, identify common needs and reflect on how procurement can be used more effectively to support local priorities. By taking part in UAPP, SERN aims to strengthen **capacity building** across the Network, connect members with European peers and expert organisations, and ensure



that the perspective of local authorities is represented in discussions on the future of public procurement at **EU level**.



In 2025, SERN participated in **two in-person Partnership meetings** held in Haarlem, contributing to exchanges on strategic procurement and the implementation of the UAPP Action Plan 2025–2028. During the meeting in May, partners discussed practical tools and approaches to strengthen responsible and climate-oriented procurement. In November, SERN attended the meeting together with its member **Province of Parma**, taking part in sessions on procurement developments at European level and future trends, while strengthening the link between the Partnership's work and the priorities of local authorities within the Network.

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SERN THEMATIC WALL

Launched in January 2024, the **SERN Thematic Wall** (**STW**) is a strategic framework designed to foster structured discussion, knowledge exchange and collaboration among SERN members. In line with SERN's mission to support **sustainable, inclusive and digitalised communities**, the STW continued in 2025 as a practical space for **peer learning** and **transnational dialogue** on shared priorities, with **two cycles** developed respectively in the first part of 2025 and in the second part of the year.

FIRST STW CYCLE 2025 - SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Implemented in the first part of 2025, the STW cycle on **Sustainable Tourism** explored how local destinations can strengthen resilience, improve governance and create long-term value for communities through more sustainable tourism planning and stakeholder engagement. The cycle focused on practical perspectives and transferable approaches for municipalities working on tourism development and territorial attractiveness. It was delivered through the following online events:

- **Small Destinations and Experiential Tourism** (10 March 2025 | Online) - *Exploring how experiential tourism can strengthen local identity and support sustainable destination development.*
- **Attracting and Retaining Talents in the Tourism Sector** (1 April 2025 | Online) - *Addressing skills needs and strategies to improve the attractiveness of jobs and careers in tourism.*
- **Broadening the Perspective of Tourism: Multilevel Collaboration among Municipalities and Stakeholders** (29 April 2025 | Online) - *Focusing on cooperation and governance as key drivers for sustainable tourism planning.*

SECOND STW CYCLE 2025 - QUALITY EDUCATION IN TIMES OF CHANGE

Developed in the second part of 2025, the STW cycle on **Quality Education in Times of Change** focused on how education systems and local communities can respond to ongoing social transformations, while promoting inclusion, well-being and active participation. The cycle provided space for reflection and exchange on teaching approaches and educational practices that support children and young people in increasingly complex learning environments. The programme included one training seminar and three online webinars:

- **Giving Voice to Children: Participation and Learning in Early Childhood Services** (23-26 September 2025 | Parma) - *A **four-day in-person training seminar** focused on participation, inclusion and learning in early childhood education. The programme combined input sessions with practical workshops and a project ideation lab, creating space for peer exchange and joint reflection on how to give children a stronger voice in everyday educational settings.*
- **Inclusive Learning through AI** (6 October 2025 | Online) - *Exploring how digital tools and AI can support inclusion and personalised learning.*
- **Emotional Literacy and Dialogic Education** (28 October 2025 | Online) - *Discussing approaches to strengthen emotional skills, dialogue and well-being in education.*
- **Education in the Age of Misinformation** (9 December 2025 | Online) - *Focusing on media literacy and critical thinking to support democratic participation.*



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ERASMUS+ ACCREDITATION

Social services and digitalisation

Since 2021, SERN has held an **Erasmus+ accreditation in Adult Education (KA1)**, valid for the entire **2021-2027** period. This accreditation has made it possible to build a stable and active consortium of local authorities and social service providers (ASP), investing in the professional development of welfare staff through **learning mobility, peer exchange** and direct cooperation with European partners. Now **halfway through this journey**, the accreditation confirms its strategic value not only as an opportunity for international training, but also as a concrete lever to support **innovation in personal care services**, strengthen organisational competences and promote a shared **European culture of welfare** within the Network.



In **2025**, the programme continued to focus on **social services and digitalisation**, supporting upskilling and reskilling pathways for professionals working with vulnerable groups. Activities addressed key priority areas such as **mental well-being, dementia, disability**, and broader skills development for welfare staff, combining structured training with on-the-job learning and practical observation in different European contexts. The mobility programme was implemented with the support of host organisations in **Sweden (Norrköping)**, Portugal (APCC Coimbra), Belgium (Paradox Ghent) and The Netherlands (Enschede).



Throughout the year, the accreditation offered a diverse set of learning experiences abroad, including job shadowing, group mobility and structured training courses. Job shadowing activities took place in Coimbra (May 2025) and focused on disability services, while Norrköping (August 2025) hosted a mobility dedicated to **leadership and competences development for welfare management staff**. In June 2025, the consortium also carried out a group mobility in Enschede, enabling participants to explore approaches and service models related to elderly care, and took part in an intensive training course on dementia care in Ghent, strengthening competences through peer learning and case-based work.



In addition to international mobilities, the accreditation also supported training activities organised in Italy, involving a broader group of professionals.
In November, an intensive course on **dementia care** was delivered by experts from Paradox Ghent. The training adopted a **person-centred approach** and focused on improving the quality of support provided in everyday settings, with particular attention to how services can better respond to the needs, routines and emotions of people living with dementia.



Through case-based exercises, participants worked on real situations and reflected on key care dimensions such as the role of the living environment in well-being, communication and alignment with families, and emotions management in complex care dynamics. The programme also addressed sensitive but essential topics, including intimacy and sexuality in dementia care, supporting professionals in developing a more open and respectful approach.

In December, the course "**Out-of-home care in Sweden**" was held in Parma and delivered by experts from **Norrköping Municipality**. The training provided an in-depth overview of the Swedish **out-of-home care system**, offering a clear perspective on how child protection services are organised and coordinated. Topics included foster care and residential care models, recruitment processes and support measures for foster families, and the importance of inter-agency cooperation between social services and other actors. By comparing approaches and reflecting on operational practices, the course supported participants in strengthening professional competences in child protection and provided concrete insights that can contribute to service improvement and organisational learning within the consortium.





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PROJECTS

Projects started in 2025

LEAF Learning and engaging for action on biodiversity-friendly SMEs

LENGHT: 2025
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, City of Trollhättan (SE)

OBJECTIVE

The project's main objective was to strengthen SMEs' capacity to adopt and implement strategies and practices that contribute positively to biodiversity in industrial areas. In particular, the project aimed to raise awareness among SMEs of the importance of biodiversity and the role businesses can play in its protection. In parallel, partners worked together to identify the training needs of entrepreneurs and municipal professionals in Italy and Sweden, focusing on the knowledge and skills required to integrate biodiversity considerations into business practices.

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ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The project activities combined local engagement and transnational exchange to support SMEs in integrating biodiversity into everyday business practices. LEAF started with a kick-off meeting in Italy, where partners began mapping local good practices and concrete examples from industrial areas in Emilia-Romagna and Västra Götaland. The project then moved forward through the collection of case studies, targeted dialogue with companies and local stakeholders, and initial strategic support actions aimed at helping SMEs better understand how biodiversity can become part of business planning and innovation.





The international seminar held in Trollhättan in September 2025 brought together SMEs, local authorities and experts for two days of discussions, interactive workshops and study visits, creating a practical space to share experiences and explore common solutions. The project also strengthened cooperation between public and private actors by actively involving SERN members and associated stakeholders, including the City of Trollhättan Företagarna Trollhättan, and partners from the Parma area, with the engagement of the Municipality of Parma, Unione Parmense degli Industriali, and two local companies, Laterlite S.p.A. and Davines S.p.A..

WOOH The way out of homelessness - Sharing strategies and practices between Bologna and Norrköping municipality

LENGHT: 2025 - 2026
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, Municipality of Norrköping (SE), ASP Città di Bologna - Municipality of Bologna (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project's general objective is to strengthen the skills and methodologies of social workers in supporting people experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness through the Housing First model.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the project activities started with a first transnational training seminar held in Norrköping in May, combining expert inputs, peer exchange and visits to local

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local services supporting people facing homelessness alongside complex vulnerabilities such as addiction and mental health challenges. The seminar offered participants a practical overview of how the Housing First model is implemented at local level, including operational methods, collaboration with housing actors and the main challenges in ensuring stable pathways out of exclusion. The project continued in November with the seminar "Empowering communities through Social Housing" in Bologna, where participants explored the local welfare system through presentations and study visits to key centres, gaining direct insight into adult reception services, housing first and temporary housing, transitional housing solutions, social-healthcare integration and emergency support for highly vulnerable people.



Single Market Programme

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FOOD4FUTURE — Sustainable Food Future: engaging schools and families to combat food waste in rural municipalities

LENGHT: 2025 - 2027
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, Municipality of Sala Baganza (Unione Pedemontana Parmense) (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to identify the main drivers of consumer food waste and develop, test and scale a replicable behaviour-change model through actions involving families, schools and local communities.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the project focused on data gathering to establish a baseline and set future targets. This included surveys for teachers and families, as well as focus groups with primary school teachers.

Data were also collected in school canteens and through activities designed to capture children's opinions. These actions provided in-depth insights into food habits and the quantities and causes of food waste at home and at school. All findings will be compiled into a report to guide future actions. Next steps include a school programme on food waste and broader community engagement through Zero Waste Days.



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RETHINK — Enhancing all citizens' participation in rethinking the city as an inclusive, sustainable and beautiful place through art and culture

LENGHT: 2025 - 2027
MEMBERS INVOLVED: Municipality of Parma (IT), City of Trollhättan (SE)

OBJECTIVE

The project's main objective is to strengthen SMEs' capacity to adopt and implement strategies and practices that positively contribute to biodiversity in industrial areas.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the RETHINK project launched its first phase of transnational activities through three training events, aimed at strengthening partners' shared understanding of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) and its application to participatory urban transformation. The first meeting took place in Parma in May 2025 and focused on NEB values, tools and practices, combining a structured training programme, a workshop and local visits showcasing urban regeneration and citizen engagement initiatives. The second activity was hosted in Lublin in September 2025 and explored how art, culture and youth participation can support inclusion and revitalisation in neglected urban areas, drawing inspiration from Lublin's experience

as European Youth Capital 2023. The third meeting took place in Trollhättan in October 2025 and focused on translating NEB principles into concrete local action, with particular attention to co-design methods involving children and young people in public space planning. The event concluded the first project phase and resulted in the development of shared guidelines to support the upcoming local implementation work, built around three key values: harmony with nature, sense of belonging, and richness of experiences.



STRADE FUTURE Youth and responsible mobility

LENGHT: 2025 - 2026
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, Parma Province (IT), UPI Emilia-Romagna (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project's general objective is to reduce road accidents caused by alcohol and drug use, particularly among young people up to the age of 20, by applying the Vision Zero approach through integrated education, prevention and infrastructure measures to promote safer and more responsible mobility.

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ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the Strade Future – Giovani e mobilità responsabile project was launched. A first coordination meeting was held at the Province of Parma in April, bringing together institutional representatives, technical staff, law enforcement and school professionals to align on objectives, planned activities and the shared work programme, in line with the Vision Zero approach.





The project then continued with a transnational training seminar in Parma in May, where local practitioners worked with Swedish experts to explore prevention strategies targeting young people, with a focus on inter-institutional cooperation, family engagement and effective communication on alcohol and driving. The exchange dimension was further strengthened through a study visit to Linköping in June, allowing provincial staff and local police officers to deepen their understanding of Vision Zero and explore concrete practices involving schools, municipalities, health services and law enforcement.

In parallel, teacher training sessions were also delivered, equipping educators from the Parma area with Swedish-inspired materials and active methodologies. The training introduced the four key modules to be implemented in schools throughout the year, focusing on alcohol awareness, driving skills and impairment, responsibility and social pressure in risky situations, and the link between individual behaviour and active citizenship. The project also entered its operational phase through joint evening roadside checks carried out by traffic police and local police forces, combining enforcement actions with awareness-raising efforts to prevent drink-driving and promote safer and more responsible mobility.



TRANSMIC-VET Transforming micro-destinations through C-VET: enhancing governance, collaboration and sustainable growth

LENGHT: 2025 - 2028
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, SveDest (SE), GAL L'Altra Romagna (IT)

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OBJECTIVE

The project's general objective is to empower entrepreneurs, local policymakers and community leaders in micro-destinations through continuing VET, by strengthening governance capacities, fostering collaboration and supporting sustainable tourism development.

ACTIVITIES

The project, launched in September, addresses key challenges such as stakeholder fragmentation, hyper-seasonality, and limited digital and green transition strategies. In the first months, project partners held a series of online meetings to lay the foundations of the project. These meetings focused on project management, monitoring, dissemination, and the development of key outputs. A key early activity was the mapping of stakeholders in selected micro-destinations. These stakeholders will play an active role throughout the project. This initial phase sets the basis for future training pathways and governance tools supporting sustainable tourism.

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PLEO Improving the quality of the preschool learning environment and education outdoors

LENGHT: 2025 - 2027

MEMBERS INVOLVED: Bergstadens - Klippans and Stenåsens förskola - Luleå (SE), Municipality of San Lazzaro di Savena (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to make preschool outdoor environments more stimulating and effective learning spaces by improving outdoor areas for inclusive play and learning and strengthening teachers' competence in outdoor pedagogy for children aged 1–6.

ACTIVITIES



In October 2025, PLEO started its first transnational study visit in Luleå, opening the practical implementation phase of the project. The visit focused on outdoor education in early childhood and combined joint experimentation with different outdoor learning activities and visits to early childhood education services. These experiences allowed participants to observe and discuss organisational models, the design and use of outdoor spaces, the role of natural materials, family involvement, and the educational approach to outdoor play and exploration.

The exchange provided concrete inspiration for local practice and led to the start of the experimental phase in the participating services during the second part of the year. At the same time, partners began preparing the following transnational activities, with the aim of further developing and sharing approaches to outdoor education.

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DANTE Diversity, empAthy, awareNess, respecT, knowlEdge: inclusion tools for schools

LENGHT: 2025 - 2026

MEMBERS INVOLVED: IC Rossetti - Forlimpopoli (IT), Piteå musik och dansskola - Piteå (SE)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to enhance secondary school teaching tools and methodologies on diversity, empathy, self-awareness, respect and the value of knowledge by developing innovative music-, theatre- and dance-based practices that foster student inclusion.

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the Erasmus+ project DANTE started its implementation with an online Kick-Off meeting, introducing the project's objectives and discussing participatory and inclusive teaching in Sweden and Italy, with a focus on music and theatre/dance. During the year, partners also launched the DANTE Hive of Ideas, a cycle of working days on diversity, empathy and inclusion through artistic approaches, which will continue in 2026.

Ongoing projects in 2025

INTEC Developing an innovative IN-service Training model for ECEC Staff

LENGHT: 2023 - 2026
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, Municipality of Vänersborg (SE), Municipality of Bologna as associated partener (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to develop and spread a new approach to ECEC staff training based on European in-service professional development. It does so by creating a shared CPD competence curriculum for ECEC professionals, developing new training contents and courses for different target groups, and strengthening the European dimension of staff training through transnational mobility and exchange.

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ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the INTEC project moved into its main implementation phase, delivering training activities for preschool staff and pedagogues. In the first part of the year, local training sessions were rolled out across the partner territories, focusing on five key topics: internationalisation, family participation, diversity and inclusion, STEM promotion, and environmental and social sustainability. Each topic has been delivered through two complementary formats, with a local version and an international session open to participants from partner countries and Erasmus+ accredited preschools, supporting exchange and peer learning.



In September, partners met in Latvia for a transnational coordination meeting to review feedback from the training activities and fine-tune the curriculum and evaluation tools, while also preparing the Winter School and planning the next project steps, including upcoming job shadowing model development. In the second part of the year, the INTEC Winter School in Brussels was organised as a joint training activity for ECEC pedagogical coordinators and managers.

The programme introduced the course framework and the NICCO methodology, and covered key topics such as Internationalization of the Pre-School Services, diversity and inclusion, STEAM approaches, cooperation with families in diverse contexts, and sustainability in education, alongside peer learning and reflection sessions.

BRIDGE Building Resilient compulsory schools through an IntegrateD and EmpowerinG approach to wEll-being

LENGHT: 2025 - 2026
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, Municipality of Luleå (SE), Liceo Marconi as associated partner (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to improve the quality of school education by developing a whole-school approach to well-being, strengthening staff competences, enabling student participation in co-designing interventions, and creating an easy-to-use "well-being at school" toolbox for schools.

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ACTIVITIES

In 2025, BRIDGE project partners worked throughout the year on developing and finalising all the main project outputs aimed at supporting schools in strengthening student well-being through a whole-school approach.

The work focused on the testing and refinement of the student engagement strategies, as well as on the completion of the training course and the "Well-being at School" toolbox for teachers and school staff.

A transnational seminar was held in Luleå and hosted by Luleå Municipality, bringing together teachers and partners from Sweden, Italy, Spain and Latvia. Over three days, participants shared experiences from the testing of ten engagement strategies in schools across the four countries, discussing how they worked in practice, the benefits observed for students, and the lessons learned. Workshops and school visits supported joint reflection and helped consolidate the toolbox with concrete methods that can be applied in different school contexts.





The project concluded with the final coordination meeting in Parma, hosted by SERN, where partners completed the final steps of the outputs and prepared the upcoming dissemination phase. The programme also included a visit to Liceo Marconi, associated partner of the project, offering further insights into school practices that foster a positive learning environment and support student well-being.

STEAMWORKS

Enhancing young children STEAM topics learning with physical phenomena as playmates

LENGHT: 2025 - 2027
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, Municipality of Piteå (SE), Municipality of Ravenna (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to enhance the quality of ECEC by introducing STEAM learning to children aged 1–3 through natural and arts-based materials, strengthening educators' competences, supporting children's language and scientific development, and actively involving families in a gender-balanced STEAM approach.

READ MORE

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



In 2025, the STEAMworks project continued with training activities and coordination work. A three-day training seminar was held in Brussels in March, focusing on innovative STEAM approaches in ECEC using action verbs and natural and recycled materials. The programme continued with a second training course in Piteå, where teachers and pedagogical coordinators explored physical verbs as playmates to introduce STEAM learning to very young children. The year concluded with the final coordination meeting in Ravenna in November 2025, where partners finalised project results, reviewed the shared STEAM glossary of verbs, and worked on dissemination, evaluation and monitoring activities. Partners worked on the preparation of three project products: a conceptual framework that presents the rationale behind the STEAM approach; a pedagogical booklet as a guide to implement a STEAM approach within an educare pedagogy for young children; a visual lexicon of different STEAM verbs analysed and experimented during the project.

MIK-ON Promoting the active participation of young people in democratic life

LENGHT: 2024 - 2026
MEMBERS INVOLVED: Ung Zon - Municipality of Linköping (SE), Municipality of Bologna (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to support the active democratic participation of young people aged 16–18 from disadvantaged neighbourhoods by strengthening their personal, social and citizenship competences through non-formal learning and by increasing their motivation, confidence and sense of belonging and European identity.

READ MORE

ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the Erasmus+ KA2 project MIK-ON, led by Ung Zon Linköping with Bologna Municipality and SERN, continued to engage young people aged 16–18 from marginalised neighbourhoods in Bologna and Linköping to strengthen their active participation in democratic life through creativity and collaboration. From 17 to 20 February, 22 young participants and 10 youth workers took part in a four-day transnational activity combining team-building and brainstorming workshops, which highlighted racism as a key shared concern; this led to a poster art workshop facilitated by Collettivo Franco, where participants transformed their experiences into strong anti-racism messages later displayed across Bologna.





In June, the Italian group travelled to Linköping for the final transnational phase, working together with Swedish peers to prepare an exhibition and public event at Skylten, presenting creative outputs including posters, videos, songs, podcasts and performances addressing racism, inclusion and gender equality. The project concluded in October with a final event in Bologna, attended by hundreds of participants, where the young people also presented a movie documenting their journey and the impact of the project.

DIGILIBRA Digital Skills Empowerment in Libraries

LENGHT: 2024 - 2026
MEMBERS INVOLVED: Municipality of Motala (SE), Municipality of Ravenna (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to promote digitalisation among adult citizens, especially those in vulnerable situations, by using libraries to foster learning with digital resources, strengthen digital skills and critical and secure online behaviours, and support the inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly migrant families and older people.

READ MORE

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In 2025, the DIGILibra conti projectnued to promote digital skills among citizens, with a focus on older adults and families with a migrant background. In May, librarians from Motala travelled to Ravenna for a three-day exchange visit, during which Italian and Swedish colleagues explored the services of Biblioteca Classense, shared good practices and discussed the role of libraries in strengthening digital inclusion at local level. In the second half of the year, project partners tested the practices exchanged during the visit, assessing their adaptability and transferability in supporting digital skills development among the target groups and innovating library services.



Projects completed in 2025

UST — Upskilling municipal staff competences on planning and managing sustainable tourism

LENGHT: 2022 - 2025
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, SveDest (SE), Municipality of Falköping (SE), Municipality of Scandiano (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to strengthen sustainable local tourism and increase the attractiveness of medium-sized municipalities by upskilling municipal staff, improving competences in tourism planning and management, developing innovative stakeholder-driven territorial marketing strategies, and promoting tourism that balanced long-term economic, social and environmental impacts.

READ MORE

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In 2025, the UST project entered its final phase, focusing on consolidating results and finalising the main outputs. On 25–26 February 2025, partners met in Falköping (Sweden) for an important coordination meeting to review feedback from the testing of the e-learning platform, agree on final adjustments, and prepare the last project deliverables, including the final handbook gathering good practices and practical examples of sustainable tourism management across Europe.





By the end of the project, UST delivered a set of concrete tools designed to support municipalities in strengthening their role in tourism planning and governance. The Self-Assessment Tool helped local authorities reflect on existing policies, stakeholder engagement approaches and sustainability priorities, and identify areas where further development was needed. Building on this, the Gap Analysis provided a clearer picture of common needs and skills gaps across the partner territories, highlighting where targeted upskilling could have the strongest impact.

These findings were translated into a multilingual e-learning platform, offering structured training modules and practical resources to support municipal staff in applying sustainability principles in their day-to-day work. Finally, the handbook brought together project insights, case studies and recommendations, providing a usable reference for municipalities aiming to improve strategic planning, strengthen cooperation with local stakeholders and place communities, culture and the environment at the centre of sustainable tourism development.



EQUAL4GREEN — Promoting European Green Deal among citizens in a gender equality perspective

LENGHT: 2024 - 2025
MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, City of Trollhättan (SE)

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the project is to promote the European Green Deal from a gender-inclusive perspective, strengthening citizens' awareness and engagement.

Erasmus+

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In particular, the project aims to strengthen knowledge of Green Deal policies, develop competences on gender equality, reflect on gender differences in environmental behaviours, and promote the exchange of good practices among European partners and local stakeholders.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In 2025, Equal4Green continued the work started during the in-person seminar held in Cavriago on 28–29 November 2024, which introduced the European policy context connecting the European Green Deal and the EU Gender Equality Strategy, and opened a first discussion on how these priorities can be applied at local level. Building on this shared background, partners met again in Parma on 14–15 May 2025 to exchange practices and reflect on gender equality in mobility and city planning, combining presentations with group work aimed at developing common project ideas. The process continued with an online meeting on October 2025, where partners further refined and improved the proposals through a shared planning approach, supporting the definition of future cooperation steps at European level.



VOICES OF HERITAGE Citizens' participation in identifying European cultural heritage

Voices of heritage

READ MORE

LENGHT: 2024 - 2025

MEMBERS INVOLVED: Municipality of Cavriago (IT), Municipality of Mjölby) SE

OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to promote the participatory enhancement of cultural heritage at local and transnational level by involving citizens, especially younger generations, in its identification, conservation and promotion, contributing to a more open and resilient society in line with the 2030 Agenda.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

After the project was launched in late 2024 with initial online activities, the main implementation phase took place between January and May 2025, engaging citizens, with a strong focus on young people, in identifying tangible and intangible cultural heritage through online contributions and local actions. This process resulted in more than 100 contributions from Italian, Swedish and French young people and the creation of an interactive digital map. The project concluded with a seminar in Cavriago in June 2025, bringing together young participants and municipal representatives to review the collected inputs, identify emerging patterns and discuss possible follow-up paths at transnational level.



DATA4ENERGY Data for better energy and climate monitoring

Data4Energy

Erasmus+

READ MORE

LENGHT: 2024 - 2025

MEMBERS INVOLVED: CAB - County Administrative Board of Östergötland (SE), Lepida (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to conduct an initial investigation of the data sources used to monitor energy and climate goals, as a basis for developing a digital platform for improved future monitoring, and to facilitate the exchange of local and regional experiences in energy data governance and statistics.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The project combined transnational exchange with local engagement. It began with a kick-off meeting in Bologna, followed by interviews and surveys with
municipalities to map existing practices and gaps. The results were discussed at the final seminar in Falun, which included technical sessions and workshops, and were further validated through local follow-up meetings in both countries.

Data4Energy produced a comparative overview of how municipalities in Italy and Sweden collect and use energy and climate data. It highlighted key challenges and proposed initial tools to support data collection, visualisation and strategic planning, while also laying the groundwork for future cooperation and follow-up initiatives.



Erasmus+

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PLUS+T Exchanging practises and enhancing in the field sustainable transports

LENGHT: 2023 - 2025

MEMBERS INVOLVED: SERN, CAB - County Administrative Board of Östergötland (SE), Parma Province as associated partner (IT)

OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to strengthen civil servants' knowledge and facilitate the exchange of experiences at local and regional governance level on sustainable transport.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The project supported mutual learning through the collection and exchange of good and bad practices on sustainable transport planning, a transnational Sustainable Mobility Seminar, and local online follow-up meetings in Italy, Finland, Germany and Sweden to share results and engage stakeholders. One of the main outputs was the final report, which summarised the project's outcomes and stakeholder insights, identified key challenges, and highlighted concrete needs and opportunities to make transport planning more inclusive, effective and sustainable.

MEMBERS



AICCRE Emilia-Romagna
Albareto Municipality
ASP Cav. Rossi-Sidoli
ASP Parma
ASP Sud-Est
Azienda Servizi Sociali Bolzano
Bertinoro Municipality
Boden Municipality
Bologna Municipality
Borgo Val di Taro Municipality
Casalgrande Municipality
Cavriago Municipality
Cervia Municipality
Coompanion Fyrbodal
Coompanion Östergötland
Coompanion Skaraborg
Coompanion Sjuhärad
County Administrative Board of Östergötland
Emiliambiente
Falköping Municipality
Faenza Municipality
Fidenza Municipality
Fyrbodal Association of Local Authorities
Forlimpopoli Municipality
GAL L'Altra Romagna
Hushållningssällskapet Västra
Icaro Cons Coop.
IIPLE
Imola Municipality
Kara Bobowski Soc. Coop.
Kunskapsförbundet Väst
Lepida S.c.p.A.
Liceo Scientifico Moro - Reggio Emilia
Liceo Scientifico Marconi - Parma
Linköping Municipality
Luleå Municipality
Meldola Municipality
Mjölby Municipality
Motala Municipality
Noceto Municipality
Norrköping Municipality
Orust Municipality
Ozzano Emilia Municipality
Parchi Emilia Occidentale
Parma Municipality
Pellegrino Parmense Municipality
Piteå Municipality
Province of Parma
Ravenna Municipality
San Lazzaro Municipality
Scandiano Municipality
Sissa Trecasali Municipality
Svensk Destinationsutveckling
Trollhättan City
Unione Pedemontana Parmense
Unione Terre d'Argine
Unione Val d'Enza
Unione Valli Taro e Ceno
Unione Province d'Italia - Emilia-Romagna
Vänersborg Municipality

THE SECRETARIAT



NICOLA CATELLANI
Network Coordinator



LAURA AVANZI
Project Officer



GINEVRA ROLI
Project Officer



FEDERICA GRAVINA
Project Officer



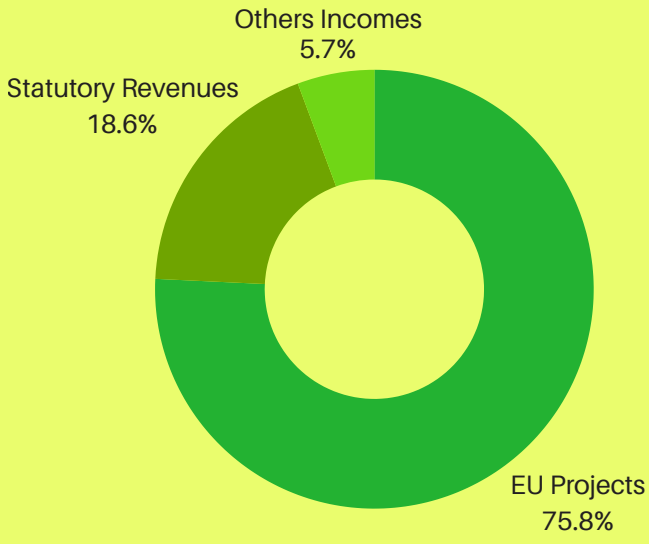
ALESSIA MEREU
Communications Officer



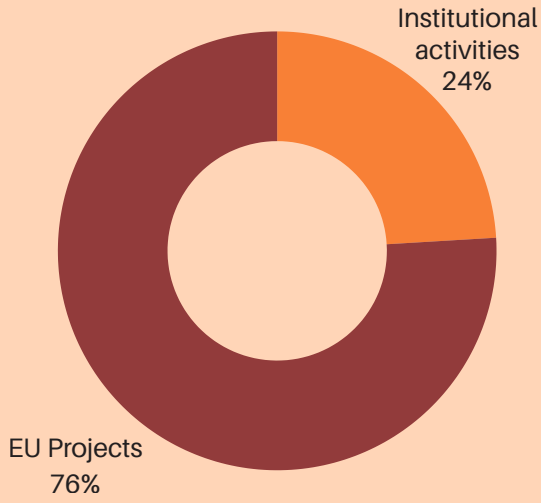
NANNA MIKKELSEN
Trainee

FINANCIAL REPORT

Incomes



Expenses



INDICATORS

	2025	2024
Number of project proposals submitted	**15**	15
Number of projects approved	**6**	5
Project ideas received by the Members	**29**	36
Members involved in the Network activites	**51 out of 60 (85%)**	48 out of 60 (80%)

In 2025, SERN maintained a stable level of project development activity compared to 2024. The number of project proposals submitted remained unchanged at 15, confirming continuity in members' engagement.

The number of approved projects increased slightly, from 5 to 6, indicating a gradual improvement in proposal quality. At the same time, project ideas collected from members decreased from 36 to 29, reflecting a more focused and selective approach to project development.

Member participation continued to grow, reaching 85% in 2025 compared to 80% in 2024. This confirms the strengthening of members' commitment and SERN's role as a platform for cooperation.

SERN

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