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# Together Against Poverty





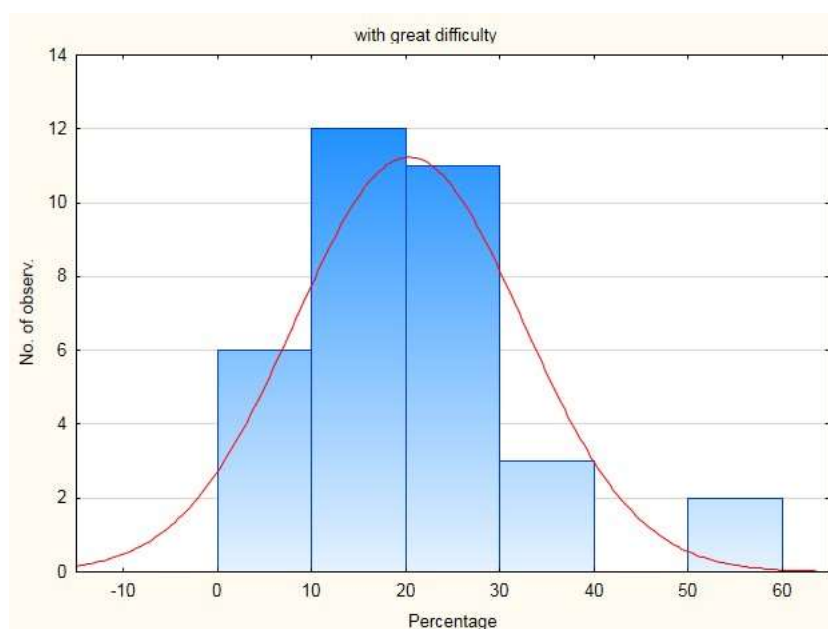
In the "TAP-Together Against Poverty" project, which is implemented in international partnership and financed by the European Commission (under Erasmus+ Program) cyclical analysis of the phenomenon of poverty and social exclusion is being constantly conducted. The data available in this field often comes from social research. One of those examples is Eurofound portal, where the data collected by the European Union's Agenda are published ([www.eurofound.europa.eu](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu)).

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Within „European Quality of Life Survey 2012” the questionnaire analysis was conducted, including questions about standard of living and deprivation, and the question on how to make ends meet. The data presented on the portal allows us to group the answers according to different income groups of the respondents. Taking into account the “TAP” project`s subject, persons with the lowest income have been chosen. Those people have possibility to choose one from six options: with great difficulty, with difficulty, with some difficulty, fairly easily, easily, very easily.

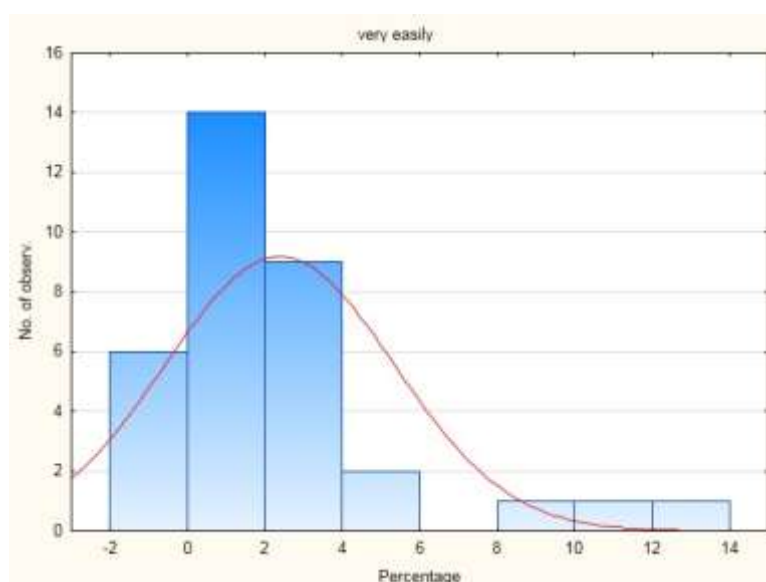
Having analysed the answers provided only for extreme ratings, i.e.: “with great difficulty” and “very easily” it is easy to notice the huge disparity in this regard among the European countries (Chart 1 and 2).

Chart 1. Distribution of percentage of households, that assessed situation as “with great difficulty”



Source: own elaboration based on: [www.eurofound.europa.eu](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu)

Chart 2. Distribution of percentage of households, that assessed situation as “very easily”



Source: own elaboration based on: [www.eurofound.europa.eu](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu)

On average, 20% of households in Europe indicated that they "make ends meet" with very great difficulty (median 19.6%). In some countries, such as Greece, Romania, Slovakia or Lithuania, the rate was significantly higher (respectively: 51.5% in Greece, 38.2% in Romania, 35.6% in Slovakia and 32.1% in Lithuania). In the fact, that on reaching the lowest income, the household could meet their needs very easily, believes less than 2.3% of households (as an average). The median response in this case was only 1.4%. Over 10% of this category of evaluation indicated only in Denmark and Sweden (respectively: 12.1% and 10.2%). In some of the surveyed countries, this answer has not been chosen at all, so this situation according to the respondents did not take place at all (in Montenegro, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia and Portugal).

In the project partners` countries, showed the following response in the analysed categories (Table 1).

Table 1. The response in the analysed categories in the project partners` countries

Country	with great difficulty	very easily
Estonia	19,6	0,8
Spain	24,6	1,6
the Netherlands	11,9	3,5
Poland	24,7	1,2
Romania	38,2	0,9
Italy	17,7	0,8

Source: own elaboration based on: [www.eurofound.europa.eu](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu)

## RECRUITMENT FOR WORKSHOPS IN POLAND

In the headquarter of "Centre for Education and Enterprise Support" Association the recruitment process of volunteers for the workshops organized within the project is being conducted. The volunteers belonging to the first target group of the project (people being at high risk of poverty and social exclusion) can learn about the details of the workshops planned for June this year. Recruitment at the headquarters of



the Association is just one of the ways used for this purpose. In reaching the representatives of this group, particularly helpful were the contacts with other institutions offering support to people being at risk of poverty, e.g.: from Rzeszow Regional Development Agency, the Association for Women "Victoria", which for years have been engaged in similar activities. The recruitment process of volunteers belonging to the second target group of the project (policy makers and social politicians) is being conducted via personal contact with the previous research participants`. They are very interested in the main subject of the planned meetings.





Ruta Pels, MITRA (Estonia)

Photos: Leonid Smulskiy, MITRA (Estonia)

Estonian project partner non-governmental organization MITRA had opportunity to present TAP project during meeting and handicrafts exhibition and fair organized by Latvian chapter of European Anti-Poverty Network in Riga in April 13-14, 2016.

MITRA members told about objectives and outcomes of TAP project to representatives of NGOs, small enterprises from the Baltic sea region and decision makers, discussed with them possibilities for people in risk of poverty to start own small business, to find contacts and cooperate with handicrafts masters from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Kaliningrad district (Russia).



Baltic colleagues in Riga in April 2016

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*Participants of the meeting and exhibition exchanged the best practices in creative work, organization of health care, family businesses, marketing and trainings.*

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Participants of European Anti-Poverty Network in Baltic sea region

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*Participants of the meeting and exhibition shared experience in work with people from the risk groups and good practices how to motivate them to study and to become entrepreneurs.*

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A musical greeting from the Roma group during the handicraft exhibition



MITRA member of the board Ruta Pels with former prime-ministry of Latvia Laimdota Straujuma

## **PREPARATION TO O3 AND O4 WORKSHOPS**

Pavel Smulski, MITRA (Estonia)

Mitra has started preparations to O3 and O4 workshops and have contacted all potential participants. All project partners' case studies were translated and sent to potential participants of O4 workshops- experts in social affairs in the Department of unemployment.

The process of translation of O3 and O4 methodology has started. We already have first feedbacks and comments about partners' case studies.

Before the translation, the methodology was discussed and adapted to the local realities by Mitra staff members. Mitra team staff have analysed needs of participants of O3 workshop and edited programme according the needs of the participants.

Culture is an effective and important tool for avoid poverty and social exclusion. As it is argued by the National Action Plan for Social inclusion for Irish.

Ensuring effective access to and participation in cultural activities for all is an essential dimension of promoting an inclusive society. Furthermore, participation in cultural activities can also be instrumental in helping people and communities to overcome poverty and social exclusion. The issue of access to culture is thus a very important one for the European Union's social inclusion process and in particular for Member States in developing their National Action Plans on poverty and social exclusion (NAPs/inclusion).

From the 12th to the 16th May 2016 in Turin it was held the 27<sup>o</sup> edition of **Salone del Libro**, the **biggest Italian international book fair**. This year the number of visitor has increased reaching most than 339 thousand people. Vo.To has actively participated for the whole duration of the event with its own space hosting debates and meeting. Many topic were addressed, as Third Sector National policies, School and Volunteering and Corporate Social Responsibility.



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*The theme of Poverty was also discussed and presented through **TAP Project**. The two researches developed during the first year of the project were available at the stand and the Vol.To's staff explained to the many people interested the importance of the project.*

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Many people reached were also be informed about the second phase of the project, concerning the implementation of two workshop aiming at reducing poverty and growing skills among people in poverty or at risk of social exclusion and policy makers.





## LEARNING IN TAP WORKSHOPS IN CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA

Over four weekends in April-May 2016, 10 people took part in the TAP entrepreneurship training programme organised by CILSDGC. It was the first time we tested the training programme developed within the project partnership.

The targeted learning outcomes for this the 30-hour training programme were: increased self-awareness and self-confidence, enhanced knowledge of career opportunities and the world of work, and improved planning skills. The major topics dealt were: *Who Am I?*; *My Place in the World of Work*; *Where am I headed and how do I get there?*; *My Toolkit*. In a highly collaborative environment, the participants learnt from both the trainers, and each other. Most of the activities proved fully accessible for all learners; for a few, however, the trainers had to provide some more support than anticipated.



Who am I?

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*From the participants' self-assessment, it has resulted that 9 out of the 10 have made highly significant progress in improving their entrepreneurial skills.*

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Learners and trainer in the O3 workshop



Learners in the O3 workshop

The TAP workshop for decision-makers in the social protection system is currently being prepared. The planned structure is as follows: in the first meeting, the learners will discuss and provide solutions – according to the Romanian legislation and practice – for problem situations shared by the Polish, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and Estonian partners. In the second meeting, the participants will review the suggestions received from the partners for solving the Romanian case. These solutions will be weighed carefully to decide whether they are similar to what is being done in Romania within the current legal provisions, or whether the current legal provisions prevent such solutions, whether it would be a good idea to amend the law or whether the solutions would call for more radical restructuring of the social security system.





## SESSIONS WITH DUTCH EXPERTS (FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY)

In the Netherlands there is a lot of attention for the outcomes of our project, bringing some solutions at 'the discussion table' for preventing poverty and social exclusion. There has been our participation as Leido in a working group, set up by the Ministry for Social Affairs in our country. This group could help with the preparation of the Presidency of the European Union in the first semester of 2016. Almost all relevant organisations, associations and network in the Netherland were represented. This gave us the opportunity to invited experts - working for them – to take part in the sessions about the cases as formulated by the partners in the project, based on real situations.

On the 14th of April the first session took place in Deventer, in the premises of the University of Applied Sciences there. The cases were prepared by us, using a specific format, to make the discussions effective.

More than we have expected this approach worked.

*Cases about poverty and social exclusion in other countries gave the experts the best opportunity to reflect on them from different points of view. And every expert could bring in his or her own solutions, giving a good mix at the end to report to our project partners.*



Experts' meeting – O4 workshop

## TRAINING SESSION FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY

As Leido is just a network, involved in developments concerning Lifelong Learning in the Netherlands (and also in European networks), the focus for the training for people in poverty is on 'life management'. This means that institutions involved in social security and helping people to 'survive' by having social benefits, have to detect the right target groups – knowing that members of them can be helped by offering education. The start is a scan of the personal situation, followed by a string of training courses to get more and better entrepreneurial competences – including getting the right attitude for using them. This can also be done as an 'intrapreneur', as an active employee.

The training session done by Leido, is about two issues: learning the participants more about TAP and its aims, and the training itself.

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*The overall conclusion can be that they like this way of working, with more attention for the possibilities for him or her as an individual.*

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Of course, the household, the family and the neighborhood are important and sometimes crucial, but the feeling of the person has to be that wishes, possibilities and ideas will be taken seriously. That is the start, also of such a training as 'life management'.



Meeting about the O3 workshop

## FINAL PARTNER MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS (JULY 2016)

The project is almost finished. Time was flying, having a range of interesting activities, meetings and sessions as partners from these countries, with different backgrounds. The last partner meeting will be in the Netherlands, in Zoetermeer – not far from The Hague – on the 7th and 8th of July. The venue is the premises of SBB, an organisation involved in developing qualifications for Vocational Education and Training, at all levels. The schedule for those days is as follows.

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### *Thursday morning 7 July*

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We will start with a formal meeting as partners, to talk about the arrangements to close the project in the right way. But it is also to talk about the possibilities for some next steps, after ending the cooperation within the framework of this Erasmus+ project. The exploitation of the outcomes is one of the big challenges, without a direct funding for activities. But we know that poverty is one of the themes high on the national and European agendas – thinking about the situation for youngsters (in the slipstream of the economic crisis) and for migrants coming to Europe. There are things to be done – and we will discuss them.

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### *Thursday afternoon 7 July*

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The afternoon will be used for a workshop on the role of education in ‘preventing’ youngsters against coming in vulnerable situations. Of course a lot is depending of the background of young adults, but if giving concrete information to them as part of a study – in this case for Vocational Education and Training – can help... it can be an option to develop specific courses for them, and for their parents too.

Representatives of SBB, our host for the meeting, will contribute to the workshop. Leido will also present some proposals for such an approach, as part of an application for a Dutch project concerning the threats of the ‘social loan system’ in the Netherlands.

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### *Friday morning 8 July*

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The final activity as partners in the project, learning more of The Hague and the way the Ministry for Social Affairs are involved in looking for the best strategies for the Dutch fight against poverty. There will a guided walk in the center of The Hague (done by volunteers), followed by a visit to the ministry. After some presentations about the Dutch system and recent initiatives taken by the government, the closing lunch will be in the restaurant there. This restaurant is led by people who are in some way disabled – giving them the opportunity to be part of the society.

After a short farewell session the partners will go their own way, but knowing that in 2017 Leido is organizing an international event about the founding of an European network for experts groups in the member states... using the experiences in TAP.



## TAP WORKSHOPS IN MADRID, SPAIN

The third week of April, 2016, a workshop of the project Together Against Poverty took place in Fundación Senara. The so mentioned workshop was an entrepreneurship training programme organised under the framework of Erasmus + program.

Fundación Senara is focused on helping people with few resources to find an employment, especially those who are at risk of social exclusion or who are disabled. For these purposes they contact social organizations and companies that demand their services achieving then their work-integration in society. They work with more than 50 social entities and 350 companies, which have been benefited from their agreements and have successfully fulfilled their expectations of covering the vacancies.

Fundación Senara has participated since 2008, through the Program Youth in Action, as a sending organization of volunteers to projects of the European Voluntary Service (EVS).

The foundation started up in 2002 a job bank in order to work more actively towards the insertion of people at risk of social exclusion. It has been focused in two areas: household service and companies.

Fundación Senara recruited the participants of the workshop that completed the 10 hour “curriculum and methodology of entrepreneurship training for people at risk of poverty and social exclusion” specific of the project. Such training turned out to be very interesting as they had never attended a similar one.

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*The O3 workshop turned out to be very interesting as the participants had never attended a similar one.*

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The main goal of the TAP project is poverty prevention through the development and implementation of educational tools. Thus, throughout the sessions the cases exposed by the countries which are members of the project were analysed. We haven't had many difficulties developing and solving the cases. Some of them would easily be transferable to Spain.



Trainer and learners in the O3 workshop