

# Newsletter

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Erasmus+

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Together  
Against  
Poverty



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**We had an interesting discussion with the representatives of at the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employability on best practices for fighting poverty and social exclusion.**

The final partners' meeting in Zoetermeer (the Netherlands) was organized by Leido Academy on July 7-8, 2016. The main topics in the agenda was an overview of work within Output 3 "Methodology of workshops for people at risk of poverty and social exclusion," and Output 4 "Methodology of workshops for decision makers and politicians", as well as the overview of the whole project.

Partners shared the information about ongoing workshops for people at-risk-of poverty and social exclusion (under the action O3), and those dedicated to policy-makers and social policies

(under the action O4). In all countries, the workshops were very popular among the participants and their practical value was often stressed by them.



Partners also dedicated their time to discuss issues related to the evaluation and dissemination, especially that the project has met great interest on the international forum, which was reflected by participation of some partners in meetings and conferences organized by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). Similarly, the national authorities of each partner have a keen interest in the research results and conclusions of the workshops, an example of which we had during this meeting. On the second day, we met at the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employability, where we had an interesting discussion with the representatives of ministries on best practices for fighting poverty and social exclusion.



Discussions with the representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employability

## **SUPPORTING BOTH, PERSONS BEING AT RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION, AND SOCIAL POLITICIANS AND DECISION MAKERS – THE SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOPS**

June/July this year, a series of workshops dedicated to the project's target groups were carried out. First workshops were addressed to persons living in poverty or being at risk of poverty and social exclusion, second – to social politicians and decision makers. Ten persons, representing both target groups, took part in the workshops. Each of the participants completed the educational path, based on the methodology prepared within the project. The participants shared their comments and pointed to the most crucial elements of the workshops, which were, among others practical attitude to teaching, working with real examples, the elements of creative work or advancing self-awareness. According to the participants, the workshops were well organized and the effects – tangible, measurable and useful for future reference. All the participants stated that they would recommend the workshops to others, as an effective way of increasing their skills and knowledge.



Wednesday 20th July 2016, in Turin, was held the Final Conference “Nuove strade per l’inclusione sociale – TAP Multiplier event”. Vol.To organized and hosted the event to display the outcomes and the products of the project, after two years of hard work. The project allows to design the needs of the people who live in poverty or at risk of social exclusion, to map different European systems of welfare and to plan new answers and actions.

The plenary part of the Event started with institutional greetings by Vol.To Vice President Luciano Dematteis, then Nicolò Triacca explained European policies and the main goals Europe 2020, Erasmus+’s opportunities. He introduced European project TAP, its objectives and results, final project products available and he also gave an overlook on data about poverty in Turin and in Italy. During the event, Vol.To offered the publications “Poverty and social exclusion in selected European countries” and “Social security models in selected European countries” to people who have showed interest about these topics and presented the two new methodologies.



This was also an opportunity to present a successful case study The National Civil Service as a training experience for young people to improve the competence necessary for insert in the working world. A final outcome of National Civil Service was a brochure written by young people who lived one years in contact with Vol.To and volunteering associations, improving new skills, learning to relate with people coming from different situations and conditions, this was an effective action to prevent poverty.

The public was numerous and heterogeneous, more than 50 people participated at the event: coming from volunteering organizations, policy makers, people who live in disadvantaged conditions, young who made in the past or who will make in the future the Civil Service experience but also public and private bodies that are active in social policy and/or youth policy with goal and hope to giving opportunities for young people to insert in the working place, even if the economic crisis always is present.



At the end of the event, there was a debate within speakers and public, many suggestions came from the audience, who was very active and careful

about these specific topics.



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*Wednesday 20th July 2016, in Turin, was held the Final Conference “Nuove strade per l’inclusione sociale – TAP Multiplier event”.*

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## TAP PROPOSES POVERTY ALLEVIATION BY STEPPING UP ADULT EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

On 28 July 2016, CILSDGC hosted the multiplier event within the TAP project, which brought together 25 people from both public institutions and private entities, as well as individuals interested in the topic of poverty alleviation and social inclusion. School directors, educational, social work and



labour inspectors, adult educators, NGO representatives, representatives of the Cluj County and Cluj-Napoca Municipality public offices met with the project team and with members of the target groups to discuss how improved adult education provision may contribute to fighting poverty, and more specifically what solutions the TAP project proposes. The discussions were marked by the fact that Romania's government is currently promoting a set of measures for fighting poverty and social exclusion, one of which targets adult education, more specifically Second Chance Education for adult learners.

Having attended the project presentation, and presentations of each major output, the participants agreed that Second Chance Education, though it has been around for well over 10 years, and it is set in the Law of National Education, does not seem effective as such due to numerous seemingly small aspects that nonetheless require legislators' attention, and therefore other forms of adult education are also needed. For instance, in the TAP project, the training curriculum for entrepreneurial skills development emphasises the importance of developing adults' soft skills in parallel with or even prior to sharing information about how to set up and run a business.

The participants were appreciative of the shared learning model promoted in O4, whereby policy-makers and practitioners in the field of social assistance from the partner countries were indirectly guided to learn from each other using a highly practical innovative approach. In the feedback they provided at the end of the event, the participants spoke with appreciation about the constructive discussions they had during the event. One participant shared, "All the institutions in charge of social services should come together like in a choir whose conductor should be the local authority, as only through everyone's joint contribution can we alleviate poverty and social exclusion." Another one wrote, "The TAP project can be a good starting point for a coherent legislative initiative in the field of poverty alleviation and social inclusion, a starting point to develop effective local strategies, first of all."



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*From the organisers' perspective, it was useful to bring together people from diverse institutions and organizations, with multiple perspectives, so that there could be fruitful sharing of ideas and constructive discussions voicing complementary viewpoints on solutions to alleviate poverty and social exclusion.*

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## THE FINAL NATIONAL MEETING – 25 AUGUST

It is clear in advance: a project always has a limited lifespan. TAP also is nearing the end of the two-year project. We worked with a lot of energy to the search for the most vulnerable groups when it comes to poverty and the risk of ending up in it, and the possibilities to prevent this form of social exclusion. This mainly involves designing a training to improve and increase the personal competences related to entrepreneurial behavior. The past two years has brought many new insights, along with a number of written (and digital) products that can be used by all kinds of audiences.

For us as Leido it's been especially important to look at young people who want and can study in vocational education. This may be dependent on their parents and then having little money will be tricky when it comes to an expensive study. This can be seen now in secondary vocational education. For higher education there recently the system was introduced that a loan for the study is needed. Students from poor families can still get support from the government, but that amount of money is certainly not enough to do good studies. Living in private rooms and that sort of things is not possible.

Leido would also committed to making educational materials for young people, with the intention that they will find out for themselves what the possibilities are and what possible threats can be. So they have to 'do it yourself' and exhibit a form of entrepreneurial behavior. That make these plans an extension of what TAP has brought us. It is a good evidence of what has been possible in TAP and it is good to share the experiences with the attendees.

*On August 25 we go speak throughout the day about these developments with a large group of persons concerned and with representatives of all organizations that we have met during the project. The intention is to consider together what is happening around vocational education and training for young people who want to study. They will consider what are possible solutions, to be carried out together with other organizations.*



*Meeting in Washington about similar issues with representatives of Community Colleges (part of a study trip, June 2016)*



## SPANISH GATHERING AGAINST POVERTY

The Spanish final event of TAP project involved three organizations which were part of it from the beginning, which were gathered together in order to speak about the two trainings they developed on poverty and social exclusion: The Spanish Confederation of Education and Training Centres (CECE), Fundación Ángel Martínez Fuertes and Fundación Senara.

Firstly, the concept of poverty and social exclusion in Spain was introduced, as well as the risks this people face and the way each of the organizations represented in the event fight against that – designing projects, implementing them, providing legal support, providing training in different aspects...

Then, the idea of the project was brought in, and CECE presented the results of other outcomes of this project: “Poverty and social exclusion in selected European countries” and “Social security models in selected European countries”. A break for lunch took place and, afterwards, the time to discuss O3 and O4 came. For that, two participants of each training presented themselves and the training they attended and reflected their ideas and conclusions on it. A discussion which involved all the participants of the event took place, regarding the topic “what can we do to maximize the outcomes of these trainings?” and “other prevention and intervention measures in order to fight poverty and social exclusion”.

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*Finally, this event was evaluated –very positively and CECE, the institution organizing it, expressed its gratitude and willing to keep on working together in the future.*

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‘Together against Poverty’ project multiplier event in Estonia was organized on July 24 in Tallinn under the title “We are together against poverty”. 25 participants – representatives of non-governmental organisations, few politicians and decision-makers in the field of social policy and also representatives of risk groups, those most vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion attended event.

Leader of Mittetulundusühing MITRA, Estonian partner in TAP project, Pavel Smulski presented the state of poverty and social exclusion in Estonia and then participants took part in the discussion.

MITRA member of the board Ruta Pels made presentation of the TAP project and overall presentation within Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Programme, TAP project goals, objectives and implementing partnership.

Participants had chance to learn in small groups more about TAP research reports Poverty and social exclusion in selected European countries & Social security models in selected European countries. After the break presentation and discussions were about the training programs Developing entrepreneurial skills to fight poverty and social exclusion & Problem solving by means of encouraging communication among European decision-makers and practitioners in social assistance.

All participants agree that the topic of poverty is very important and sensitive in Estonia as well as in Europe and it is a lot to do together for poverty reduction and awareness raising of opportunities for the risk groups.



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*Participants supported ideas of collaboration between people in risk of poverty and decision-makers, so they can understand better needs and create common vision toward future programs and trainings.*

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