



# GOOD PRACTICE INVENTORY

Exploiting Potentials of

Social Enterprises through Standardized

European Evaluation

and Development System

## SOCIAL SEEDS

Interreg Europe



SME competitiveness



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## I. GOOD PRACTICE COLLECTION

### 1. Name of the good practice (100 characters)

Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens in Abruzzo Region (*Rete Locale di Asili Domiciliari in Abruzzo*)

### 2. Overview (2000 characters)

The idea of the **Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens** comes from the analysis of a specific local community's need: the necessity for several family units to find a place where they could leave their children until 3 years old while they are at work, without paying expensive fees and not being forced to modify their working time according to public nursery schools' opening hours.

The **overall objective** of the project is to create an extended local social network, able to satisfy the needs of a great number of families, promoting the improvement of the quality of life through the diffusion of an appropriate work-life balance, relationships, education and free time. In these terms, the aim of this Local Network is not to compete against public institutions, but to enrich the range of tailored services for children and families with children, integrating the existing nurseries without generating any further cost to the public sector.

The **strategy** of this project embraces the entire process of Domestic Nursery, starting from an accurate selection of the professionals (called "Tagesmutter") who will be able to assist the children. Moreover, thanks to annual crowdfunding campaigns, the Local Network is able to sustain the administrative costs and external expertise. It also take care of training and upskilling the professional profile of the Tagesmutter (whose preparation must always be certified with a master of degree in childhood education, pedagogy, psychology and education sciences), offering continuous upgrading courses and indications about the range of recreational and educative activities they can do with children.

There is a fee determined coherently with parents' necessities: part time (4 hours) and full time (8 hours); parents are free to choose how use their amount of hours per day according to their needs. The Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens in Abruzzo Region seeks to promote inclusive and equal growth for all children through the implementation of social innovation solutions in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector.

### 3. Abstract (500 characters)

The Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens in Abruzzo Region aims at creating a collaborative network connecting professionals and families, engaged in defining and sharing a service of assistance tailored on the needs of children and their families. This will be

possible thanks to the development and interaction of a number of specialised professionals who will host in their own houses up to 5 children between 3 months to 3 years old, offering to the parents the maximum time flexibility and to the children a comfortable and tiny environment where to play and learn during the day. The adopted approach by the domestic kindergartens is professional, flexible, welcoming, involving and focused on the promotion of child development and wellbeing.

#### 4. Coherence with the Dimension of the Social Enterprise Inventory

- Social innovation (including services)*
- Social impact and measurement opportunities*
- Cooperation atmosphere (PPPs)*
- Regulatory frameworks and bottom-up grassroots*
- Social entrepreneurship skills and competencies*
- Access to finance (including external funding)*
- Access to market (including the internationalization approach)*
- New(ly) established social enterprise model*
- Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_*

*You can tick more than one dimension, but emphasize which one is the most significant!*

#### 5. Policy Instrument connected with the good practice

The theme of Domestic Kindergarten is raising a central role within political discussions at national and regional level, due to the lack of public children assistance structures: the Abruzzo Region voted the first law on Domestic Nursery's Services in 2000 (Legge Regionale 76/2000) but it hasn't been applied until 2011 when the regional Council voted the DGR 935/2011 on the experimentation of a validation system of childhood domestic services.

The Policy Instrument that can be connected to this practice is within the Investment Priority 9 "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and discrimination" of the ESF Operational Programme 2014-2020, Specific Objective 9.7 "Reinforcement of the social economy", and in particular the actions 9.7.1, 9.7.3 and 9.7.5.

Moreover, it is possible to associate this practice to the implementation of Investment Priority 3a – measure 3.5.1, of ERDF Operational Program 2014-2020 to promote entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new enterprises, even through business incubators

## 6. Location

The Local Network for Domestic Asylum is now diffused in the territories of Chieti and Pescara, although the Association evaluates also requests coming from other parts of Abruzzo Region.

## 7. Start date (tentative)

1-06-2014

## 8. Total revenue / income created / personnel employed by the good practice (EUR)

Not specified.

## 9. Challenges

The lack of Nursery Schools is a problem affecting the entire Italian country: in particular there are less public structures available than the global request at national level, and waiting lists could not satisfy the needs of all families. Private Kindergartens, which give total flexibility to the parent's exigenceiss, offer an alternative solution but their access fees are expensive and not all the families can afford these costs. It still often happens that one of the parents (mostly women) is forced to leave his/her job in order to look after the children.

## 10. Would this programme work well in another European context?

The idea of a Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens derives from the observation of Nursey Schools' systems in other European context: structure like home Kindergartens are a stable reality in Sweden and Danemark and in Northen Europe in general, but also in Germany and in The Netherlands. Education and care systems for young children (from birth to compulsory school age) vary in different countries; however, early childhood education and care can lay the foundations for later success in life in terms of education, well-being, employability, and social integration. Having the Commission already set out the priorities for ECEC, among which "By 2020 at least 95% of pre-school children of 4 years or older should participate in early childhood education", this practice could be implemented in countries needing to reinforce measures to match the EU objectives in this field.

## 11. Activities (2000 characters)

The Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens in Abruzzo Region ensures to support and monitor the creation of a Domestic Kindergarten during all the organisational steps and even after the beginning of the official activities. Thanks to the work and the crowdfunding campaigns, the Local Network is able to take on the entire cost for the opening of domestic

nurseries and give to the new certified Tagesmutter a starter kit of 500€ for the purchase of the minimum equipment (such as changing tables and folding chairs).

Furthermore the project foresees to provide the new home nurseries with free external expertise for the activity's starting-up, related also to the administrative burdens and for the financial management and. If necessary, the network can also anticipate funds for food, nappies, recreational material and stationery.

The other main service offered by the Local Network concerned the training of the future professionals of the home nurseries: as the overall objective of the project concerns the promotion of this social enterprise model, only qualified operators receive the support of the Local Network. A great part of the financial resources is allocated for the education and continuous updating of the would-be Tagesmutter, which are supported in their daily activities by psychologists and pedagogists who can give them the needed assistance at anytime. Moreover, these future ECEC professionals are followed by nutritionists who can collaborate in creating appropriate daily alimentation plans and can help them with allergic problems. The insurance's cost of Tagesmutter is covered by the Local Network, so these professionals are protected against any risk.

## 12. Achievements so far

The Local Network of Domestic Nursery School in Abruzzo Region has succeeded in opening quite a large number of home kindergartens. The growing interest shown toward such an innovative model in Abruzzo influenced local and regional policy-makers in defining and implementing new political decisions on social innovation and on Domestic Nursery School, as it is demonstrated by the declaration of the Council member Blasioli from the Municipality of Pescara who in June 2014 expressed a positive statement regarding this initiative as a highly-impacting project able to meet unsatisfied needs.

Additionally, the network used innovative tools for enhancing awareness and gathering additional financial resources, such as a crowd-funding campaign on the social platform "Larancia.org" (<https://www.produzionidalbasso.com/project/asili-domiciliari-abruzzo-1/>; unfortunately it did not reach the fixed value)

## 13. Strengths, weaknesses, difficulties and lessons learned

The Local Network of Domestic Nursery School in Abruzzo Region is a start up in the social sector who has been able to produce an innovative model of social innovation through the analysis of already existing experiences. It has been able to include a reasonable amount of families at local level and deliver them a service they could not receive from the national and regional institutions.

Among the weak points, the project presents evident geographical limits: the inclusion of just two provinces of the region influenced its capacity of a more diffused promotion of its

activities and also its financial capacity, even if a widespread penetration of the network at regional scale would have required a major investment of resources.

#### **14. Tips for success**

Although recent times have seen a slowdown of the project's activities, the Local Network of Domestic Nursery School in Abruzzo Region has succeeded in promoting a socially innovative model for the children assistance, which has been able to respond to one of the most urgent need of modern Italian families. It has been able to integrate a public service without public funding and realise a model suitable for other context and able to give a high quality service in complete autonomy.

Furthermore, the network has greatly understood the importance of involving already consolidated networks of other professionals having to deal with children, so ensuring a capability of raising awareness of its own activities.

#### **15. Dissemination and sustainability**

In order to help the local network to continue growing, dissemination is a key factor for the project. The Local Network of Domestic Kindergartens in Abruzzo Region created a useful website in which is it possible to find all the information about the range of services provided, with different sections covering diverse themes (personal admitted as Tagesmutter, specific indications about time flexibility and training, targeted geographical areas). This initiative has been promoted also through local radio programmes and several local newspapers.

As far as the sustainability, it has already been said that this initiative was defined on similar actions in other European countries. This is a future-oriented project, aimed at creating a service available for every family at local level and at promoting equal growth for every children with the perspective of the enhancing social innovation in the education field. It has demonstrated that it could pursue its main objectives without public funds, but with auto-financing resources.

#### **16. Source – URL or Facebook**

<http://www.asilidomiciliariabruzzo.it>

#### **17. Contact person and details**

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