

Donne Nissà Frauen



Mafalda - fathers's day
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Location

Bolzano, Trentino Alto Adige

Country

Italy

Short summarizing description

The Associazione Donne Nissa was formed in Bolzano in 1995 by a group of women from different cultural backgrounds. The mission is to construct specific intercultural activities that facilitate the integration of different cultures within the local context. This requires the empowerment of migrant people and the empowerment of the territory itself. ADN provides conduits that inform and link groups of people from different services and cultures who would otherwise not interact. It applies innovative practices and processes at the socio-cultural level. In essence, ADN works through three channels: Mafalda – a children's centre providing education and parenting skills. Empowerment of women – a range of activities designed to empower women to become active citizens through the development of their own potential. Intercultural community gardens, promoting intercultural relations by providing opportunities for people from different cultures to work together, socialize and cultivate.

Key Terms

Social change Intercultural Social innovation Transferability

Context and background, Which problems/challenges does your measure try to solve/cope with?

The presence of migrants in Sudtirolo has increased in the last decade and with the continuing arrival of refugees in Italy, is expected to increase exponentially in coming years. The challenge for ADN is to build bridges, scale the wall and explore new borders so we can live together with people who are different. This includes people who have different cultures, religions and languages. The problem confronted by ADN is the 'wall' that is often built between new and old citizens. In order to 'scale' that wall, specific interventions are required that promote respectful dynamics and recognize that everyone needs time to understand and get to know each other. ADN aims to go to those new borders, explore their potential and encourage new and different ways of conceptualizing modernity.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

Encourage learning (promote participation in education, training and development initiatives) Promote participation in work through employment, unpaid or voluntary work, including family and carer responsibilities Engage with the community by connecting with people, using services, participating in local, cultural, civic and recreational activities Finding a voice to influence decisions that affect them as individuals, groups or cultures Promoting the values of equity, equality, social justice, human rights, freedom while at the same time promoting tolerance and embracing diversity

Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of your measure?

Women Families Children Refugees and asylum seekers

Which actions have already been implemented and which results have been achieved so far?

ADN has undertaken many projects and has made good headway in the achievement of its objectives. Mafalda is affordable for parents with limited financial resources. While caring for the children, ADN workers engage with and listen to the parents, providing support and facilitating the development of parenting skills. Empowerment of women. Activities include language courses, meetings and initiatives with local services and socialization activities. Intercultural gardens, ADN manages the Semirurali and the Volta. It established the gardens on abandoned land and since rehabilitation of the land, has successfully promoted integration between locals and intercultural groups. All interventions have an intercultural lens on creating commonalities, not differences: MA, the parents meet here, have the same desires and fears, irrespective of their cultures. EOW, the strength in being a woman is universal and ADN works to facilitate this potential, enabling women to manifest this strength in a new country.

Which were the main problems and challenges you were/are facing when implementing the project and how did/do you (try to) overcome them?

Problems and challenges include the following: Bringing new and diverse cultures together; Facilitating communication between different cultural groups; Sensitising the local area to ensure that new arrivals are welcomed; Integrating new intercultural activities and services into everyday life; Activating women of other cultures to co-build a new society, and helping them to recognize the importance of their existing personal and cultural resources; Restoring abandoned and neglected land and then creating spaces to cultivate the earth and enable socialization.

Starting date

2010-01-01

Duration

22 years

Regional scale

1 - local (one municipality)

Other involved partners

Autonomous Province of Bolzano (provincial offices are either German or Italian language speaking) Political and social services offices Bilingualism and foreign letters offices (Italian) Permanent education (German) Comune di Bolzano

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Category 1, Managing social change

ADN's general work is undertaken at various levels. Mafalda has existed since 1998. Since then, hundreds of children and parents have passed through its services and all have benefited from ADN's focus on a truly welcoming environment and its successful intercultural activities. Empowerment of women. ADN has helped women interact with official government offices. Empowerment initiatives target women from different migration backgrounds, including new arrivals, those who have been here for many years but do not speak Italian. The steps to empowerment begin with language courses developed in collaboration with CLS, where women are provided with the basic tools to reach out to services and explore their territory. Intercultural gardens. The Semirurali promoting community development in an intercultural context. The Volta is a garden for younger people, including refugees and university students. New and experimental cultivation techniques are implemented.

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

Mafalda demonstrated capacity to attract and retain both parents and children who live in vicinity and in other areas of Bolzano. Promotes social inclusion. Supported by local services and institutions. Operated in collaboration between members of ADN, paid workers and local institutions. Empowerment of women ADN networks and bi-directional strategies have drawn increasing attention to the needs and challenges of women from different cultures in Bolzano recognition by local media that ADN strategies are improving women's degrees of control over their lives and successfully reducing gender disparities by facilitating women's access to local resources. Regular referrals to local domestic violence centres, including free legal advice and expertise. Intercultural gardens: Regular articles in the local media, and TV news broadcasts. Synchronized approach between men and women to cultivation, challenging gender norms. Improving the health of both men and women, particularly young refugee men.

Category 6, Innovative dimension

Maf. Provision of culturally responsive information in an early learning environment to build self confidence and skills for children and parents. Positive interactions between parents and ADN and other services can shape children's perceptions about the community they live in. Children and parents learning how to distinguish between cultural and language differences. Empow. Wom. ADN's activities, programs and celebrations are tailored to bring energy, innovation and cultural diversity to their new communities and provide opportunities for transformative change. Ensuring opportunities to succeed and then to celebrate individual and group success means that these women cannot be systematically ignored. Availability of competence based activities – language learning, First Aid. Interc. Gard. Promoting democracy and rights for migrants and refugees. Fostering intercultural understanding alongside community development. New and innovative cultivation techniques have been introduced.

Category 7, Transferability

Maf. ADN is pragmatic approaches to learning will assist schools and kindergartens with approaches to child learning and development. Civic-minded learning and development outcomes for children and parents will contribute to civil society. Connecting migrant women and their families to the broader community. Emp. wom. ADN now works in collaboration with a range of health, social and community services, ensuring transferability of skills, information and resources. Transferable community development skills and potential to contribute to the local economy. Interc. gard. Meeting and networking with other people, cultures, languages provides immediate potential for all participants. Showcasing 'grass-roots' democracy at work – how to use cultural diversity to create formal organisations who operate harmoniously with shared rules and behaviors. Cross-pollination' of ideas and resources (local/national/international)

Category 8, Embedment in a comprehensive welcoming strategy

ADN has defined migrants reception routes due to its large network in the Bolzano area. ADN interventions are spread throughout the territory due to the variety of its interventions and its commitment to and focus on a common denominator to always work with people from different cultural groups in order to activate comparisons and in-depth knowledge. Embedment via empowerment of women through language development, knowledge of their environment, service provision, parental support, sharing spaces to cultivate food and enable socialization so that cultures get to know and nurture each other. Giving way to everyone's identity, and letting each person define themselves in a complex and profound way and even giving them the opportunity to step out from cultural patterns that are often too stereotyped and limited. ADN also empowers the territory by raising awareness, informing it and putting it in contact with groups of people from different cultures that would not otherwise be reached.

Further Information



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