

Innesti di cittadinanza



Medicinal plants drying
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Location

Trentino Region

Country

Italy

Short summarizing description

The project "Innesti di Cittadinanza" started at the end of 2016 with the scope of allowing two refugees / asylum seekers to be part of an entrepreneurship activity. The project consists in the production and the sale of soap bars, made of medicinal plants, grown by organic agriculture. The project was developed by the cooperation between an organic farm, a social cooperative involved in soapmaking, and an association working with refugees. This network foster a new sector among the farm's activities: medicinal plants agriculture for the production of soap bars. With specific regards to the medicinal plants the project has as further outcomes the retrieving of abandoned fields. The three organisations support the two refugees, which, by being in charge of the plants plantation, the soap manufacturing, and the selling activity, are actually the main actors of the project. So far the implementation of the project lead to the concrete chance of employing the two refugees involved.

Key Terms

Refugees, organic agriculture, empowerment

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

Even though Trentino is historically linked with agriculture and farming, nowadays many fields are not used. On the other hand, Trentino hosts around 2.500 refugees and asylum seekers. These people, that usually experienced trauma and violences, usually don't have skills to find a job in short time, plus their networks are too weak to support them. Moreover, the context in Europe is deeply different from the one they were used to. These factors, plus the economical crisis, prevent refugees to be autonomous in a short time. The project will connect these two different realities, matching their needs and potentialities. Thanks to the empowerment of refugees, whose background is often linked to agriculture, agricultural sector will gain new energies and abandoned fields could be retrieved.

Which are the key objectives of your measure?

- developing a new model of inclusion for refugees and foreign people; - starting a production sector from agriculture to selling activities; - retrieving abandoned fields for agricultural activities; - giving value to the skills of refugees; - involving further economic and social realities in the refugees inclusion process.

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

-Refugees and asylum seekers -Trentino's local community

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

The project started in December 2016 and it will end in March 2018. During the first year, a medicinal plants production has been implemented, and a significant amount of soap bars has been sold. The efforts of the two refugees and the network of the three organizations involved made the project well-known by the local community and the distribution of the products broad. Furthermore, the presence of the two refugees during different markets and events raised awareness on the asylum seekers issue. Thanks to the increase of the business resulting from "Innesti di Cittadinanza", the chance of employing the two refugees is almost a reality. Hopefully one of them will be hired by the organic farm and the other one by the social cooperative.

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

So far the main challenge has been the empowerment of the two refugees. In order to overcome this problem a proper training, on how to manage a business activity in Italy, has been provided by the cooperative. Thus today the two refugees are not only autonomous but also play a key role in the project planning. We can identify two new challenges: - the extension of the distribution net, thus to make the activity more stable; -the systematization and the dissemination of our experiences in order to foster best practices in the field of the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees.

Link to website

<http://www.centroastallitrento.it/promuovere/progetti/178-innesti-di-cittadinanza-2>

Starting date

2016-12-10

Duration

15

Regional scale

2 - small region (some municipalities, a mountain valley etc.)

Other involved partners

Cooperativa Forchetta e Rastrello; Azienda agricola Biovallelaghi; Cinformi - Centro Informativo per l'Immigrazione della Provincia Autonoma di Trento

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Category 1, Managing social change

The project manages social change because a category of people usually seen as undesired will be able not only to offer a service to same community that used to outcast it but also to increase the economic opportunities in the local community that host it. From this outcome it will necessarily result a higher level of social cohesion.

Category 2: Integrating migrants into the local/,regional labour market

The project aims to involve refugees and asylum seekers in the local business and labour market. Considering the peculiarities of Trentino, the project decided to invest in the organic agriculture sector, that is developing quite fast in this region. The two refugees involved in the project, thanks to the support of the three organisations, became fully responsible for the plants plantation, the soap manufacturing, and the selling activity. Nowadays thanks to the daily work and to the specific training the two refugees are actually the main actors of the project and also play a key role in the project planning. So far the implementation of the project lead to the concrete chance of employing the two refugees involved, hopefully one of them will be hired by the organic farm and the other one by the social cooperative.

Category 3: Improving land use, nature ,protection and regional development

Although Trentino is historically strictly connected with agriculture and farming, nowadays a considerable amount of lands are actually abandoned, causing not only the loss of an economic potential income but also the loss of the cultural traditions and the social cohesion in the rural areas of Trentino. The project will match the need for a better use of the abandoned lands with the need of new entrepreneurship opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore the project choose to practice an organic agriculture in order to ensure the full respect of the environment. Hopefully the new interaction between refugees and local communities will bring new energies for the development of a new agricultural sector in Trentino.

Category 5, PR impact and awareness raising

One of the final steps of the project will be the implementation of the advertisement of both the product (until now sold through small market and informal nets) and the project results, through internet websites and articles.

Category 6, Innovative dimension

The measure is innovative thanks to the creation of a new production sector that was not existing before, giving at the same time educational opportunities for asylum seekers and valuing their previous skills.

Category 7, Transferability

Thanks to the systematization and the dissemination of this experience it is possible to foster best practices in the field of the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees.

Category 8, Embedment in a comprehensive welcoming strategy

The measure is part of Trentino's welcoming policies and is developed in collaboration with the local Immigration Department (that gave its approval for the internship of the refugees), and it is judged as a way to enrich the traditional welcoming strategy. Moreover, we would like to invite other companies to follow this example in order to foster the implementation of new production sector managed by refugees.

Further Information



Soil arrangement
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Web page for the selling of Christmas baskets containing the "innesti di cittadinanza" soaps