



**Lab 2: Capacity building on refugee  
integration: how to prevent and reverse the  
fears of the local communities**

**PlurAlps Conference**

**16th & 17th May 2018 in Turin**

Minutes





<b>Organisation(s)</b>	<b>FIERI</b>
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## **Lab 2: Capacity building on refugee integration: how to prevent and reverse the fears of the local communities**

Lab outline: Based on the best practices selected via the PlurAlps award, the participants in this workshop work together to discuss how to deal with the social challenges risen by the arrival of refugees and to propose possible responses in terms of public communication and local engagement of the local communities.

Total time available: 135 min

Language: English and Italian

Materials used: paper tablecloths, flipchart paper, maker pens.

Facilitators: Davide Donatiello (FIERI), Leila Giannetto (FIERI)

Participants: Elisa Agosti, Katharina Benedetter, Stefania Cammarata, Antonio Cristoforetti, Francesco Della Puppa, Sarah Fux, Giulia Maria Jannelli, Ožbej Račević, Sara Sacerdotti, Peter Stade, Katharina Staeger, Peter Steurer, Anne Vlogger, Donata Boronovo Re, Patricia Garza.

Number of participants and facilitators: 17

Structure of the workshop:

- 1) Presentation of the Lab's aims and method (10')
- 2) Presentation of three Pluralps award winner projects (45')
- 3) 2 rounds of world café (25' each)
- 4) Presenting the table discussions to the other groups (15')
- 5) Sharing the table discussions in the final plenary session (15')

### **1) Presentation of the Lab's aims and method**

The workshop started with the presentation of the Lab's aim and method. The facilitators explained the aim of the lab, which was to exchange ideas and solutions on how to deal with some of the most challenging issues risen by the arrival of refugees in the Alpine area, namely social conflict and xenophobic backlash, followed by the presentation of the Lab structure. The method of the lab was based on the "world café". The method used required one rapporteur per each table.

### **2) Inputs from best practices'**

Best practices' presentations were delivered by: Sixth Continent (Anne Volgger), Germinale Agricoltura (Giulia Maria Jannelli), Ožbej Račečič (Municipality of Postojna). The participants were then invited by the facilitators to think about the presented best practices for the ensuing world café.

### **3) Inspiring café**

The facilitators helped the formation of the four tables and the selection of the rapporteurs per each table and explained the rules of the world café. The facilitators also took part to the tables to ensure that all participants had their voice and opinions heard during each round.

The debate then had two rounds which revolved around two main questions:

*First round: What are the main challenges to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence posed by the arrival of refugees in the Alpine area?*

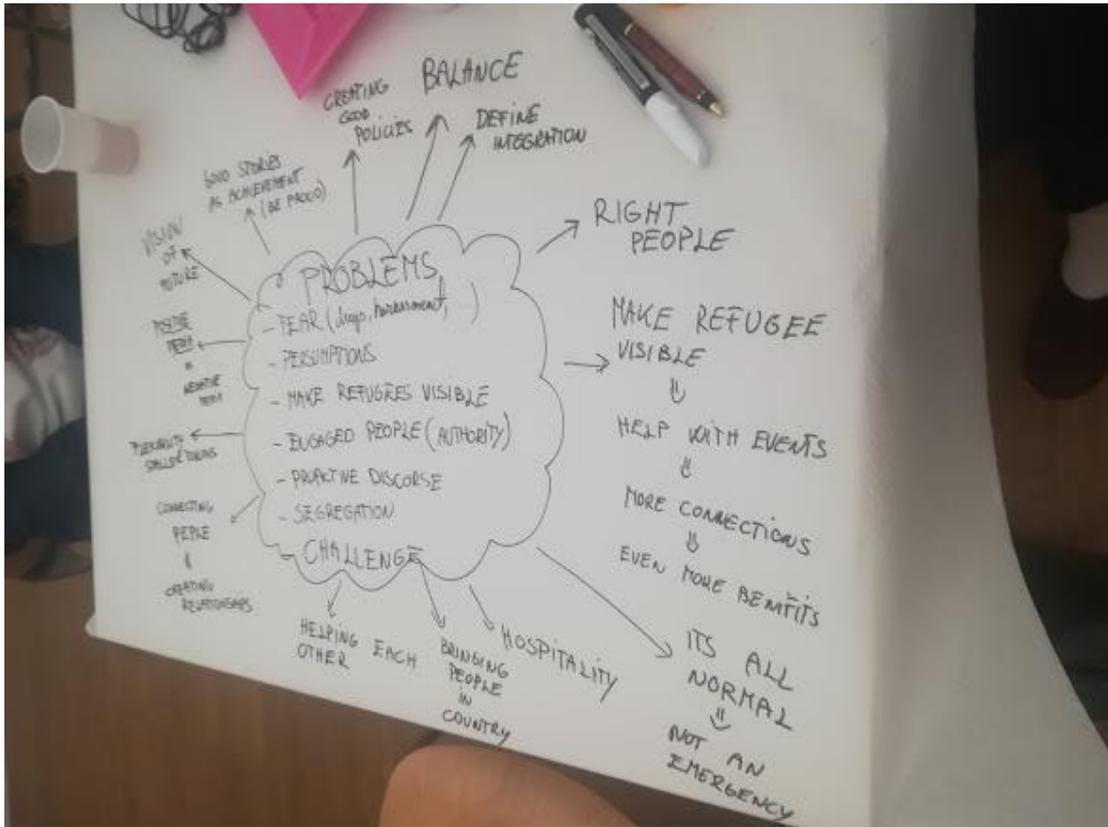
*Second round: What responses and solutions in terms of public communication and local community and refugee engagement can we put in place to deal with those challenges?*

### **4) Final presentations of the rapporteurs**

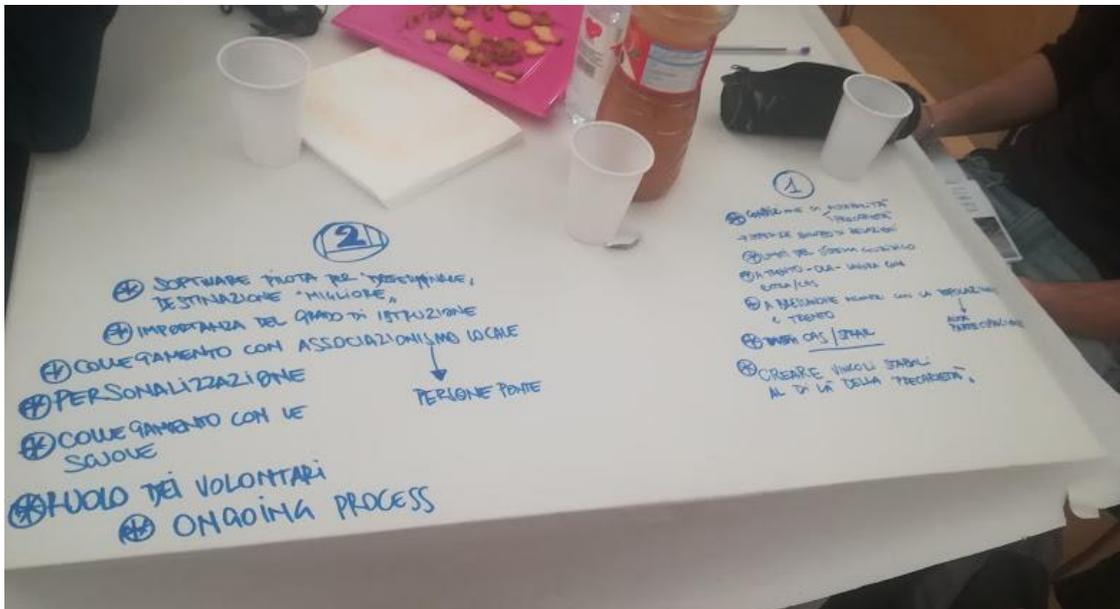
**Main points and problematic aspects discussed in the first round:**

- Knowledge of the host community language - Ad hoc training aimed at improving language knowledge can smoothen relationships between the local population and refugees and foster reciprocal knowledge. The latter is crucial to overcome cultural prejudices and diffidence
- Skills assessment – The availability of smart and accessible tools to assess refugees' skills is important to ensure their early access to the local labour market and to find the best match between the local demand for labour and refugees' competences.
- Differences among larger municipalities and small mountain villages in terms of opportunities for integration and residents' reaction – Small municipalities have fewer experiences with migration issues when compared to large cities. As a consequence, small towns can be either more hostile towards refugees or more inclusive compared to large cities. This is due to the impossibility for refugees to remain "out of sight" and to the multiple opportunities for interaction which characterise specifically small towns. Thus, if well managed, refugees' reception in mountain villages can have a potential positive effect on their long-term integration.
- Distribution of refugees across the territorial areas - It is important to redistribute refugees among different municipalities in proportion to inhabitants.
- Interactions and relationships between local residents and newcomers – it is crucial to attain peaceful coexistence and social cohesion by fostering the establishment of personal relationships; these might expand refugees' social networks and in turn increase their opportunities to be included in local communities and to find proper accommodations and jobs.
- Local economies based on tourism and handicraft can facilitate the matching between employers and refugees-employees in the local labour market since in those sectors the labour supply from the local population is generally lacking
- Location of refugees' accommodations – Distance from services and town centers matched with lacking public transports could foster segregation/isolation.

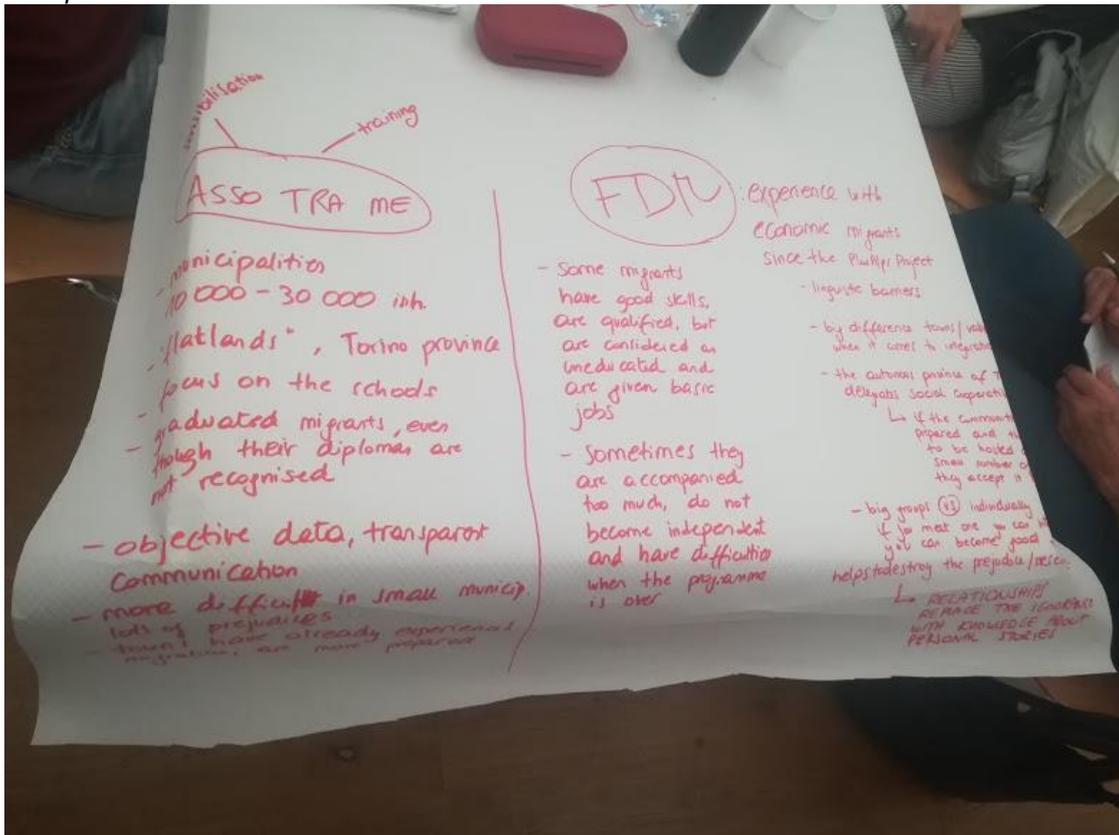




Group 3:



Group 4:



Presentation by last group's rapporteur:



Partial video of the first rapporteur's presentation:  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/KSKoxHeyXPI5i1gy8>