



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER IL CONSIGLIO DEI COMUNI
E DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA

DIALOGUE ON COHESION POLICY

AICCRE

REPORT event #1, 21 febbraio 2018,

Aula Magna Istituto di Istruzione Superiore C. Cattaneo

Via Matteotti, 10 – Monselice (PD)

Report Activity

Agenda of the event

Giampaolo Peccolo - University of Bologna: European Union and Cohesion Policies.

Prior to the presentation of the ESI funds, there is an introduction of a more general framework of the EU legal order, to avoid that the debate on Europe is reduced to the question of funds, underlining how the EU is not only the funds that it delivers. This objective stems from the observation, supported by the Eurobarometer data, of the European culture deficit in Italy. European culture leads us to overcome the barriers, including cultural ones, that fragment Europe. When Europe finances student mobility it does not do it to pay for holidays to someone, it does it because, in this way, Europe builds Europe and the Europeans. Prof. Peccolo then proceeds to an excursus of the history of the EU starting from the Treaties of Rome of 1957. Emphasizes how the institution of the euro represents an important step in the process of transferring sovereignty from national states to the EU. He presents the legal framework of reference: TEU and TFEU. It illustrates cohesion policy as a policy that aims to harmonize the different states from the point of view of their economic / social development through investments in infrastructure, innovation and training. Peccolo concludes by underlining how the European funds are fed in part thanks to VAT and partly thanks to the contributions of the member states, and how those same states benefit from the same funds, which are then sent indistinctly, returning instead distinguished by the different policies, including that of cohesion.

Raffaella Lioce - Consultant: Cohesion Policies and Cohesion Funds in Veneto: general vision; ERDF Project "Veneto Free WiFi".

Mrs Lioce introduces the structural funds as the financial instrument that the EU is going to earmark to the implementation of the cohesion policy. To support the investments and the economic



development of the regions, with the aim of favoring the balanced development of the whole Union, according to a program with a value of 7 years. She therefore presents the 5 main funds:

- 1) ERDF, which promotes balanced development in the different regions of the EU;
- 2) ESF, which supports employment projects and invests in Europe's human capital;
- 3) FC, which supports investments in areas where the GDP is less than 90% of the average;
- 4) EAFRD, to support investment in rural areas. Both for companies and for local authorities;
- 5) FEAM, which promotes sustainable fishing methods and the diversification of coastal economies.

She then proceeds to explain how the Funds help to finance in different ways and by combining each other the calls of the different programs, which develop the common strategic framework. She therefore presents the 11 thematic objectives of the current programming in Veneto Region. Mrs Lioce illustrates the division between regional and national operational programs and for cross-border and transnational cooperation. She recalls the National Operative Plan for the school, employment for young people, POR FESR Veneto and POR SFE Veneto. She mentions the articulation between Axes, Measurements and Actions. As far as the ERDF fund is concerned, she illustrates how one of her first projects was financed around 2000: a cycle path along the river Adige, realized with a project that saw the cooperation of four municipalities, something very innovative in those years. Always by way of example, he cites the construction of a hostel, always co-funded by the ERDF fund. Presentation of the "Veneto Free WiFi" project, which is a project for the creation, extension, upgrading and updating of public WiFi networks. Funded by the POR ERDF Veneto, 2007-2013 Programming, under the "Regional competitiveness and employment" objective, related to priority axis 4, Line of action 4.1: Development and provision of services and applications for SMEs and Local societies. This is also a positive example of the impact of European funding: it has made possible the spread of public hotspots for the wifi, which today may seem normal, but at the time was the vanguard and, even if you are not aware of it, it is all thanks to the ERDF fund.

Silvia Baraldi – Deputy Mayor for Culture, School, Youth, European Funds, Territory - Municipality of Legnago: Local Authorities and ESI Funds; ESI Project "Great Valleys"

Mrs Baraldi emphasizes the importance of ESI funds and their knowledge. Testifies how in particular local authorities are equipped to seize the opportunities that direct and indirect funding made available by the Union offer. This co-financing system is the tool to give substance to the best project ideas, which otherwise would remain inscribed in their dream book. Thanks to European funds,



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administrations can help to significantly improvement of the quality of life in their territory. Presentation of the Valli Grandi project, under construction thanks to the funds of the LAG. This project is an excellent example of how European funds can be put at the service of the enhancement of a territory: they finance the realization of cultural initiatives, the preparation of cycle paths and ICT-related tools for the promotion of the historical and cultural riches of the territory, like a bronze age archaeological site of inestimable value but very little known, for the benefit of the local community and beyond. Project that a local authority could never carry out independently without the contribution of European funding!

Elena Bovolenta - Venice International University: ESF Project "Europroject Management School - Interregional High Training Catalog"

Mrs Bovolenta testifies how European funds, and in particular the ESF, finance the training sector. She presented VIU and the network of universities that join the Venice International University. She then presents the training center in European planning. She illustrates how, from 2011 to 2014, some regions (initially 4, then increased up to 14, sign of the goodness of the initiative) have developed an interregional catalog of the advanced training courses, exploiting the structural funds given to the regions. In this context, UniVIU has created a Euro-planning course called "Europroject management school". Participation in this course could be facilitated by a regional public co-financing, by the regions participating in the catalog. Obviously this required Univiu's accreditation to the catalog, and downstream a documented request from stakeholders. The nice thing is that many of the people who attended the course in the different editions have then found job opportunities in the industry, others have developed design ideas that are materializing. Here those funds have been an important possibility of investment in the future of these people. The ESF, in this case, has therefore given way to mostly unemployed people, mostly women, to find a qualified job.

Antonio Picerni - Entrepreneur: ERDF project "Integration of cloud-based software services"

Mr Picerni testifies how the ERDF funds through the region have been assigned to a software development project at the service of the artisans. The software Sicurcloud was created to offer help to craft companies and especially to consultants who must be able to ensure fundamental aspects of the management and organization of security in compliance with the laws, regulations and guidelines, present and future. A portion of the investment is made by Ecipa, a training body linked to the CNA



(National handicraft consortium), while the other funding has been supported by European funds. He draws attention, after a technical description of the software operation, in reference to the needs of the stakeholders, on how the financing has led to the realization of a real and concrete project, with tangible results for the benefit of the artisans. A software has been achieved which since the project has been continuously developed and has been spread through artisans, thus demonstrating its validity. But that would never have been developed without the contribution of European funding, because it would not have been economically viable. Especially a small business, like the artisanal one, could not develop software by working for months or years before seeing it become profitable. Therefore, in the absence of large companies that can invest in R & D, it is essential to maintain funds to support innovative projects.

Jasmine Tramarin, Entrepreneur: ERDF project "Lovivo tour experience"

Lovivo is a start-up, born thanks to European funds, specialized in doing experiential tourism, doing incoming. Ms Tramarin briefly illustrates the phases in which the experience of participation in a call for tenders has been articulated, from the exit of the project to the statement of the project, underlining the importance of the possibility of obtaining in advance the co-financing. She then presents all the activities of Lovivo, underlining how this set of proposals have been elaborating autonomously, from a company that has not yet 2 years of life, and which could be formed thanks to a project that led to a co-financing of 50% by European funds, failing which it would have been difficult to start an activity that today is solid and which has positive effects on the territory, promoting local events and productive activities, generating tourism and knowledge of the territory.

Debate from the public:

Nicola Soloni - School Director of the IIS C. Cattaneo

Mr Soloni brings the greetings of the school institution and thank AICCRE for organizing this event, an important training opportunity for young people. He then asks if these loans can also be accessed as individuals.

Giampaolo Peccolo - University of Bologna

He replies by illustrating how the openness also to individuals (whether entrepreneurs, even if only potential ones) it is a kept promise of the current EU government. Both for funds managed directly by Brussels, and for funds managed through the regions. What matters is the validity of the project idea.



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Conclusion, recommendations and further steps

Giampaolo Peccolo - University of Bologna

Prof. Peccolo concluded by underlining how the EU does not care about the individual software or the single tourist agency as such. It is of interest that these institutions bring results of general interest. Europe is working to build Europe. UE is leading us to think about the contents that are close to our hearts. The EU never defends itself from the criticism it receives, never replies.

We must defend it: it is our common heritage. It is our future. The projects presented today are intended to demonstrate how European funds and cohesion policy are an important resource for all aspects of our lives: innovation, research and development, tourism, culture, territorial development, training and employment.

Results/ expected results

From a content point of view, the participants have certainly brought home an idea of how European funds and programming work. But above all they have discovered how, in our territory, there are already many projects that Europe is silently supporting, for growth and development. We hope that this will help to grow in them the desire to know this world of opportunities, developing and spreading the European culture.

Participants

Gender balance and mainstreaming: n. 89 participants;

n. 49 men, n. 40 women; (55% men, 45% women)

divided as follows:

	WOMEN	MEN
- Students	24	43
- Civil society	10	3
- Speakers	4	3
- Local admissions	1	0
- Members of Parliament	1	0



Communication strategy

AICCRE:

TWEET event: n.10 plus 5 retweets,
views ONLY of our (therefore excluding retweeted) 13011 (thirteen thousand and eleven).
News: AICCRE website enriched with 13 videos, written interventions, slides.
n.8 interviews on the YouTube channel AICCRE. In the editing stage the video footage of the event.
<https://www.aiccre.it/evento/monselice-padova-21-febbraio-evento-aiccre-regionale-sulla-politica-coesione/>

Newspapers and agencies:

The morning of padova

<http://m.mattinopadova.gelocal.it/padova/cronaca/2018/02/21/news/liceo-cattaneo-un-incontro-sui-fondi-europei-1.16507146>

note of National Cohesion Agency:

http://www.agenziacoesione.gov.it/it/Notizie_e_documenti/news/2018/febbraio/dialoghiCoesione2018