G.O.L. Get Out of the Loop

ERASMUS PLUS - STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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Recommendations for national policy makers

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Thank you for sharing your experiences and knowledge with us, even if online!

ACLI Firenze, Italy

Fondacion Campus Arnau, Girona, Spain

Vondi Consulting, Austria **VONDI** CONSULTING

Glocal Factory, Italy

Common Thing Foundation, Poland

1. About G.O.L. and the proposed Policy Recommendation

The GOL project, "Get Out of the Loop", designed on 2018 and implemented during 2018-2021, aims to tackle the theme of social exclusion in an innovative way, such as:

-valorizing existing **good practices** in Europe to combat social exclusion;

- comparing **operators** working on marginality with European tools and practices against social exclusion;

- bring out the new **needs** on social inclusion by the operators who work every day in this sector together with the excluded

- confronting the **method** of "generative welfare", based on the involvement of the marginalized people developing empowerment processes and re-creating the link broken at the community level

- analyzing **social policy experiments** based on the resilience of people in times of difficulty and crisis

- monitor **social protection systems** to identify practices that best respond to the problems of poverty and social exclusion

- developing a **model** of social inclusion practices to be used in social centers, associations and non-governmental organizations dealing with poverty and social exclusion

The following GOL partner organisations have been leading the project implementation:

- ACLI Firenze, Italy
- Fondacion Campus Arnau, Girona, Spain
- Common Thing Foundation, Polonia
- Vondi Consulting, Austria
- Glocal Factory, Italy

The Covid -19 interrupted the consortium activities, the Trasnational Meetings and the Short-term joint staff training events from Mars 2020 until February 2021.

Thus, partners focused on local resilience practices to combat poverty during the phases of the pandemic in our communities.

This policy recommendation aims to generate engaging dialogues with policy makers involved in the field of social inclusion at local and national level. The content of this recommendation is grounded in the experiences of coordinators and social workers working on Third Sector against exclusion and poverty.

2. How this recommendation is built

The Recommendation answers 3 questions from 3 different phases of the project:

I) What a GOOD PRACTICE on social inclusion is? The criteria selected by the partners at the 1st meeting in Florence on 2018 were:

1. **Effective and successful:** A "good practice" has proven its strategic relevance as the most effective way in achieving **combat poverty and social exclusion** objective; it has been successfully adopted and has had a positive impact on communities.
2. **Goal-orientated:** it meets current needs, in particular the **essential needs** of strengthen soft skills.
3. **Gender sensitive:** it addresses the specific needs of men and women as well as they are able to motivate major involvement of both gender in volunteering.
4. **Technically feasible:** it is easy to learn and to implement.
5. **Replicable and adaptable:** it should have the potential for replication and should therefore be adaptable to similar objectives in varying situations.
6. **Logic of respect of the human rights and people empowerment:** it reflects the basic universal principles of human rights law. Taking into account the local contexts, the practice aims to reinforce rights granted to all vulnerable people
7. **Co-production approach:** it improves collaboration between professionals, institutions and citizens includes the beneficiaries in what concerns design, implementation and evaluation; it follows a participatory approach, by promoting meaningful participation of disadvantaged people, and supports a joint sense of ownership of decisions and actions.
8. **Innovation:** it tries to give innovative answers to the different aspects of "new poverties", according to a logic of Communitarian and Generative Welfare.

II) What are the EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE in Austria, Poland, Italy and Spain?
The GOL Consortium collected 20 good practices as a model of social inclusion of vulnerable people within a "Vademecum of good practices", with examples, experiences, data, photos and links of the most meaningful experiences in the Partners 'countries. This happened between the 2nd Transnational Meeting in Girona, Spain, on September 2019 and the 3th online Transnational Meeting on Mai 2021

III) WHO is the main actor of inclusion process?
During the Pandemic period, the GOL Consortium focused the "real network" contrasting the social exclusion of the weakest on the collaboration of Public, Private and Third Sector area.
The role played by grassroots associations, neighbourhood clubs, individual volunteers together with public bodies during the pandemic was strong and widespread. The branches of voluntary associations and family points have worked as intermediation centres for information and activities among the most marginal and institutions, helping, supporting and including those who would otherwise have fallen into total isolation.

3.Policy Recommendation

Identification of key areas where Policy Recommendation is proposed

We think that the pandemic emergency has highlighted the weaknesses of the welfare state system but at the same time enhanced the role of grassroots associations working daily in contact with vulnerability people.

For this reason, we believe it is necessary:

- to work in an INTERSECTORAL WAY together with public, private and third sector area in order to counteract exclusion;

- to MAP THE LOCALLY SERVICES working for social inclusion in order to get an updated picture of actors involved in the social inclusion;

- to strengthen the role of GRASSROOTS ASSOCIATIONS, neighbourhood clubs, local social points, as intermediaries with the public administration in situations of economic, social and physical exclusion;

- to increase empowering approach in order to give visibility and responsibility to marginal people;

- to develop a PARTICIPATORY budget at local level, in order to increase and boost the grassroots associations;

- to strengthen INTERNATIONAL networks, policies and exchanges among the actors of the social systems.