



Social Start Ups, Unlocking the entrepreneurial talent of EPGs

Social Start Ups is a project funded by EU, under the Erasmus + KA2 Programme, led by Tamat that will be developed together with the University of East Anglia (Norwich), the Parco Tecnologico 3-A, the Municipality of Brtonigla (Croatia) and the NGO Amsed (France).

The goal of the project is to develop, test and validate a learning methodology for adult learners by experimenting the Ethical Purchasing Groups (GAS) as real laboratories for the acquisition of key competences. The methodology of Social Start Ups is based on a "learning by doing" approach, which includes the direct involvement of adults / participants in the Ethical Purchasing Groups start-up and management's activities.

The project also aims to define, through a participatory approach, a sustainable model of E.P.G. that meets producers' and, at the same time, consumers' needs. The partners, Parco Tecnologico 3-A and University of East Anglia, will contribute to the definition of this model and to ensure adequate technical support to the experimenting phase that will be conducted by Tamat, Amsed and the Municipality of Brtonigla respectively in Italy, France and Croatia.

The identification of this model will be achieved through a series of meetings, discussions and analysis of the current contexts. The first phase of the project foresees a mapping activity of EPGs and small local producers and a qualitative survey aimed to analyze the current state, the mechanisms and the strengths and weaknesses points that characterize this type of system. In order to achieve this goal, Tamat, Amsed and Municipality of Brtonigla will organize a series of focus groups including members of the GAS, local producers, people interested in taking part in the experimentation phase, members of other associations interested in the topics covered by the project Social Start Ups. These activities will contribute to the creation of an interactive map, which will be shared through the project's website, and a network of EU EPGs and small producers.

After this "preparatory" stage Tamat, Amsed Verteneglio and will start the experimentation directly involving participants in the activities of start-up and management of EPGs. This phase will begin in December 2015 and will last about one year.

At the end of the experimentation phase, University of East Anglia will develop a practical guide with a set of tools, developed throughout the project, for anyone who wants to repeat the experience and apply this new methodology.