D4.8: Final conference/ Networking and Experience sharing event

Project Title	RETICULATE
Grant Agreement Number	VS/2021/0247
Project Duration	November 2021 - June2024 (33 months)
Lead beneficiary	Anci Toscana
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WP4: TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

Deliverable n. 4.8 - *Final conference/ Networking and Experience sharing event*

The event took place 22nd of April 2024, in Brussels, the day before the event organised by the EC on integrated minimum income for coordinators of EaSI projects addressing the topic.

The event was the final occasion for the dissemination of Reticulate project where ESN, as partner, has the responsibility of the dissemination and foster the synergies with similar initiatives in other member states.

Reticulate proposed a territorial model for the coordination of social, employment and health services for an effective minimum income support toward the active inclusion of those deprived. In detail, the projects focused on:

- strengthening the functioning of the professionals dedicated to income support measures
- boosting the consolidation of multidisciplinary teams in social services
- improving the collaboration between local authorities and third sector networks in the co-designing of supporting income schemes and to promote active inclusion
- promoting more people-centred care schemes

Provision of a minimum income that ensures a financial safety net to guard against social exclusion has proven to be a vital safeguard for vulnerable populations across Europe. Access to cash that meets basic needs is crucial. Nevertheless, as the European Social Network's (ESN) work in this area has demonstrated, financial assistance is only one part of a broader range of support.

ESN has been advocating for a stronger integration of minimum income with social services for several years. In its latest report on the subject, 'Partnerships for Social Inclusion- Integrated Minimum Income and Social Services Programmes', ESN presented how the different services

available to people in situations of poverty or social exclusion can work together to support them in an integrated way to achieve the greatest possible impact. Minimum income, in combination with social services, is a key instrument for social inclusion and to combat the growing gaps between rich and poor.

The final conference showcased the results of the social innovation model promoted by Reticulate in different cities from Tuscany (Italy) and was attended by project partners, other EaSI proposal coordinators as well as ESN members from a range of countries. The key focus of the event was to report the experiences of the four territories which implemented the innovative model, highlighting enablers and obstacles, and to discuss next steps and what is yet to be done.

Improving collaboration between public social and other services

Attendees at the event heard how Reticulate innovated by developing local models for the coordination of social, employment and health services that would work alongside effective minimum income support. The goal? To ensure the active and social inclusion of different vulnerable populations.

Reticulate complied with the original target of reaching at least 300 individuals who were supported by different parts of the social welfare system. Moreover, Reticulate managed to strengthen the collaboration between different local public services along with all relevant local actors including third sector and private companies, and create effective multidisciplinary teams. Professionals and practitioners from across different sectors worked together around specific needs of people.

In terms of governance and implementation, coordinators from each project stressed the importance of a professional case manager to help users navigate the schemes. It was essential, they emphasised, that case managers have access to all data, contacts, and information from each public service involved.

Ensuring the involvement of people using services

The programmes included beneficiaries of the integrated system thereby ensuring their insights on planning, design, delivery, and evaluation.

User involvement was important from the get-go, including the setting up of services and outlining priorities.

"This co-production phase is the best way to guarantee that programmes meet the specific needs of the region and of service users", said one the EaSI projects coordinator.

Feeling part of an inclusive network

Co-production plays a vital part in ensuring that beneficiaries of services feel they have some ownership of their inclusion plan. Event delegates emphasized how important it was that people using the services as well as practitioners share a sense of joint ownership in terms of service planning and delivery.

The successful implementation of integrated minimum income models implies the sharing of data and solutions among the public entities involved.

The work at Reticulate illustrates how integrated minimum models that focus on collaboration between services as well as people themselves can drive innovation. Crucially, models that are designed to increase social inclusion and which foster the full participation by members of vulnerable populations, ultimately take us one step closer to a true safety net.

Andrea De Conno, coordinator of Reticulate from the local municipalities association -ANCI Toscana, underlined how the 30 months of the project allowed to create that spirit making the base to continue the experimentation of the model in other Tuscan cities.

Annex

Event Programme

09:00 Registrations
09:30 Event Opening

Christian Fillet, European Social Network
Francesco Capuani, European Social Network

09:45 Reticulate Project- Dissemination Session

Andrea De Conno, ANCI Toscana, Reticulate Coordinator
Daniela Loi, Italian Institute for Social Research

Territories which implemented the Reticulate model:

Giuseppe Fanucchi, ARTI Toscana (Comune di Capannori)
Elisa Sironi, ARTI Toscana (Comune di Livorno)
Giuseppe Fanucchi, SDS Grosseto
Gilda Corsini, SDS Pistoia

Q&A

11:15 Coffee Break

11: 45 xEITU Project - Dissemination Session

Begoña Lopez Gonzalez, Asturias Region, xEITU Coordinator
Isabel Sierra Blanco, Asturias Region
Aida Brun González, Red Cross
Esther María Pérez Quintana: Ministerio de Inclusion, Seguridad Social y Migraciones

Territories which implemented the xEITU model:

Mª del Mar Suárez Martínez, Region Asturias
Elisa González García, Region Asturias
Raquel Menéndez Fernández, Tineo Municipality
Mar Argüelles Menéndez, Mieres Municipality
Emilia Ordoñez Alvarez, Region Asturias

Q&A

13:15 Networking Lunch
14:30 Interactive Session

Moderator: **Andrea De Conno,** ANCI Toscana

Panellists:

Isabel García Menéndez, Social Services of Gijón
Isabel Sierra Blanco, Asturias Region
Marzio Mori, Italian Federation of Bodies for the Homeless
Luca Fanelli, ActionAid

Q&A

16:30 Conclusions

Andrea De Conno, ANCI Toscana, Reticulate Coordinator
Begoña Lopez Gonzalez, Asturias Region, xEITU Coordinator

Networking Session

Refreshment