



Social and Intercultural Dialogue through Governance for Local development: Mediterranean Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

SIDIG-MED



Priority 4 Promotion of cultural dialogue and local governance

Measure 4.3 Improvement of governance processes at local level



Project
funded by the
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IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Project in brief

Poverty and social exclusion take complex and multi-dimensional forms which require the mobilisation of a wide range of policies and actors. Alongside employment policy, social and intercultural dialogue has a pre-eminent role to play, while the importance of other factors such as housing, health, culture and communication should also be acknowledged. The Mediterranean area is facing a significant increase in urban groups at risk of social exclusion, although no public campaign involves Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) as a poverty and exclusion remedial tool. In addition, UPA is an activity which has been managed primarily by private citizens and it is only recently that local governments have started to seriously look into supporting UPA activities.

In this context, **SIDIG-MED** project aims to use Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture as a means to improve governance processes for public authorities and to promote social and intercultural dialogue through cooperative organizations and associations fighting social exclusion and poverty. Implemented in cities and territories characterized by vast agricultural areas (Rome, Al-Balga, Mahdia and Barcelona), the project will adopt permaculture* and organic farming concepts including innovative and energy-efficient techniques for water harvesting, composting to enrich the soil and beekeeping for income generation and pollination.

Beneficiary

The Royal Botanic Garden (Jordan, Al-Balga)

Partnership

1. Municipality of Rome, Department for Environmental Conservation (Italy, Lazio)
2. Municipality of Mahdia (Tunisia, Mahdia)
3. ESMO Srl (Italy, Lazio)
4. Barcelona Metropolitan Area acting as Medcities Secretariat (Spain, Cataluña)
5. Forestry Department of Al-Balga, Ministry of Agriculture (Jordan)

Specific objectives

- To improve capabilities of project partner cities and public administrations towards implementing governance policies and strategies on local Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA)
- To fight urban social exclusion and poverty in city groups involved in Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

* Permaculture is a branch of ecological design, ecological engineering, and environmental design that develops sustainable architecture and self-maintained agricultural systems modeled from natural ecosystems (source: Wikipedia).

Expected results

- Four strategic UPA plans to fight urban exclusion and poverty planned and implemented
- Joint UPA governance committees created including local associations, cooperatives and local authorities taking care of and involving people at risk of social exclusion
- Increased involvement of marginal communities, cooperative organizations, associations and NGOs in the processes of governance
- At least 4 pilot projects implemented to test the governance model in the project partner cities/territories
- Increased capacity of cultural mediators in public administrations (Rome, Barcelona, Mahdia and Al-Balga) to promote social dialogue and support UPA governance processes
- Surface of urban and periurban agricultural areas of the four target areas protected and valorized through UPA increased
- Increased involvement of marginal community members in UPA fields in three areas (Al-Balga district, Mahdia and Rome)

Main activities

- Analysis of existing UPA policies along with legal and institutional frameworks in the Mediterranean area
- Definition of 4 governance models for UPA in Al-Balga, Mahdia, Rome and Barcelona
- Implementation of 4 pilot projects involving marginalized people with specific focuses (olive cultivation in Mahdia, organic permaculture in Al-Balga, creation of 3 urban garden units in Rome and establishment of 36 public orchards in Barcelona)
- Training sessions to transfer UPA governance tools to local operators of public authorities and to reinforce entrepreneurial skills of UPA subjects
- Drafting of a document on UPA governance best-practice models to be adapted to other contexts

Target groups

- Local public authorities of the project partner cities and territories
- Cooperative organizations and associations working in the field of UPA and social exclusion/poverty
- Communities at risk of social exclusion

Final beneficiaries

- Citizens consumers of organic and traditional Arab and Middle-Eastern products from farmers' markets
- Communities at risk of social exclusion residing in cities who are willing and able to work in Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

Duration

24 months (November 2013 - November 2015)

Budget

- Total budget: € 1.998.646
- Programme contribution: € 1.798.781 (90%)
- Project co-financing: € 199.865 (10%)

Website

www.sidigmed.org

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