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○ 3rd Issue

○ July 2012



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector qualification in Europe

A GRUNDTVIG PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



*This project main objective is to identify and exchange 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector qualification experiences at an European level, involving partners who's experience will create an added-value towards the deepness and improvement of this sector qualification activities.*

## Third meeting, Berlin, 4-5 June 2012

Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V. (TECHNET) hosted the third partners meeting of the Project Q3.eu. The German partner was welcoming its Italian, Cypriot and Portuguese partners in order to discuss training, quality and certification issues in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector from the point of view of third sector organizations, social enterprises, and training providers.

For this meeting all partners presented papers on training and quality issues in 3<sup>rd</sup> sector/social economy. The partnership also reviewed the goals, working plan, and prepared the interim evaluation.

During the meeting there were made presentations on good practice examples of social enterprises, training courses for the third sector and the social economy, and auditing procedures. This time, an intensive discus-

sion brought intense light into our whole project.

Q3.eu project partners met at TECHNET's head office in Berlin. The partnership took part in workshops organized by the hosting partner. These workshops had as main goal to demonstrate some examples of good training service providers, practical examples of qualification in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and some examples of improving the management of organizations in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector itself, including the Social Accounting and Audit of SAN.

Moreover, the Portuguese partner University of *Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro* co-ordinated the Project Q3.eu focus group methodology for the interim project.



## Social dinner at "Die Weltküche"

An international meeting at the multi-cultural restaurant Die Weltküche in Berlin, run by the social enterprise "Graefewirtschaft", took place in the borough of Kreuzberg. This enterprise was set up collectively by migrant women from Ecuador, Serbia, Syria, Turkey. It also runs a catering service, predominantly for schools in the neighbourhood. This enterprise start-up was accompanied by BEST, the Berlin Development Agency for Social Enterprises and Neighbourhood Economy which is run by TECHNET.



## 3rd Meeting Conclusions:

The contexts in which the partners work, are very different and accordingly, the learning approaches are different as well. But the different approaches were interesting and obviously important for the practices in other countries.

The focus these days was put on the issues of the local social economy and its enterprises. The social enterprise approach is a more sustainable and efficient way of acting economically than the one carried out in the public and private sector as it does not depend on transfers, and on a high return on investment.

By investing into people, it produces a social benefit for its beneficiaries and the whole society.

Beneath learning subjects which are common for most of private enterprises, this ever-growing sector in the European Union needs additional competences and qualification. The European Learning Package Local Social Economy is designed to develop specific micro-economics for this sector.

The same applies for the auditing procedures of those enterprises. In parallel to financial audits, it is recommended to carry out Social Accounting and Auditing which eventually leads to a Social Audit ([www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/](http://www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk/)).

Certification issues also relate to learning, and management, and discussion on this is going on...

### Social enterprises are...

- Set up by citizens,
- Commonly administered,
- Not-for-private-profit distributing, and
- Working co-operatively

## A two-day workshop on 3rd sector training and qualification



### Procedure of the Meeting in Berlin

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, Guenther Lorenz presented the host's organization - which is an intermediary social enterprise, serving the local social economy. This presentation was followed by a survey from Dr Karl Birkhoelzer, on the third system / social economy in Germany and the EU. Another presentation on a European Curriculum for the Local Social Economy which leads to a certificate, at the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences [www.cest-transfer.de](http://www.cest-transfer.de) (co-funded by the EU Leonardo ITP Programme), was given by Dr Lorenz.

A project monitorization, including the Rome meeting evaluation results, dissemination issues, and the networking and communication followed. In the afternoon, the social audit approach, a social accounting and auditing procedure, adapted to the needs of 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organizations, social enterprises included, finalized the working programme. In the evening, the guests were invited to a meal in a multi-cultural social enterprise in the borough of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg.

Next morning, the Cypriot Neuroscience & Technology Institute presented their organization's goals, and the training and certificates they provide for their clients, in-

cluding their didactics and methodologies.

Thereafter, the partners were asked by the representative of University of *Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro*, in a focus group discussion, to detect important information for the interim evaluation. Organized in a very well structured way, the benefits of the projects, on some problems and recommendations how to overcome them, came out of this discussion.

At the end of the meeting, a final balance of the meeting was made:

- Determination of the activity report, evaluation report, and the interim report, and next newsletter,
- Tasks and timescale definition for the future,
- Preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> partnership encounter, including its objectives, activities, and expected results, and the timescale definition.

Our discussion was vivid and creative, bringing about more clarity about the subjects we spoke and richness of experiences, our partners could share with us.

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## PROJECT OUTCOMES



- Partners presentations (4)
- Documentation about each country "state-of-art" (4)
- Dissemination plan (1)
- Networking and communication system (1)
- Partner encounter activity reports (6)
- Partner encounter evaluation reports (6)
- Final evaluation report (1)
- Newsletters (6)
- Workshops report and documentation (3)
- European sequence project plan (1)
- Typology of (new) tools for 3rd Sector qualification (1)
- Joint standards of training and consultancy courses (1)
- Partners cooperation protocol (1)
- Intermediate report (1)
- Final report (1)

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# About our hosts - TECHNET -

## Project Q3.eu

3rd Sector European challenge: share, learn, cooperate, innovate

TECHNET's contribution to the Q3.eu project will be concretely in realizing the products foreseen by the project which will be disseminated and promoted.

TECHNET particularly took over responsibility to

- Develop a typology of training schemes used by and / or developed for the Third Sector / Social Economy
- Analyze the pro and cons of existing quality management systems available in the countries of our partners. This includes also the certification systems used by the Third Sector / Social Economy



*Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e.V.* (an association certified as working for the public benefit) is a network of individuals, initiatives and organisations working towards the common goals of research, training and education in the areas of need-based local and regional technology, economic development and employment strategies. It runs an *Economic Self-Help Training and Education Centre* as well as an *Interdisciplinary Research Group (IRG) 'Local Economy'*. A key focus of the research and development activities is the creation of jobs through the establishing of social enterprises. Via its work, TechNet has built up a wide range of contacts and co-operative relationships with similar projects, agencies, public sector bodies and enterprises. Since 1993 it has also acted as the co-ordination office for the *European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development*, which TechNet played a key role in founding.

TECHNET provides a wide range of training, counselling, and education and training on the subject of Local Social Economy.

Currently, TECHNET provides a further education and training course at the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences, based on a Leonardo funded multi-lateral innovation of transfer project called **Learning Package for the Social Economy**. It is a European Curriculum for multipliers of the Local Social Economy.

For 6 years, TECHNET runs the **BEST Development Agency for Social Enterprises and Neighbourhood Economy** which supports the setting-up and consolidation of social enterprises in Berlin, Brandenburg and other German Laender. Social management, social marketing and social accounting are the main tools for developing social enterprises which want to use and build social capital.



*Technologie-Netzwerk Berlin e. V.*

TECHNET OFFERS:

- The learning package **Local Social Economy** which is available in German and English on the website [www.cest-transfer.de](http://www.cest-transfer.de),
- Support for people who want to carry out **Planning for Real**, a mobilizing planning system for communities who want to improve their neighbourhood.
- **Social Accounting and Auditing** as a means to improve the performance of social enterprises and organizations,
- **Research** on Local Development, Social Economy, and related subjects.

Q3.eu

GERMAN PARTNER

### CEST Learning Package:

• The Learning Package (sometimes referred to as the curriculum) has been designed for 'multipliers' - that is, everybody who is actively committed to and involved in the promotion and development of the Local Social Economy Movement which we believe is fast becoming international. Therefore, the 'multipliers' are:

- practitioners, workers in, and managers of social enterprises or related social economy organisations
- supporters of social enterprises or related social economy organisations
- consultants, researchers, managers and other staff members of intermediary organisations supporting the Local Social Economy
- politicians and administrative staff members of national or regional government or local authorities who are interested in the Local Social Economy
- post-graduate students who want to learn about and prepare for work in the social economy

To sum up, the overall objectives of this Learning Package is aimed at...

- understand the emergence, the nature and future possibilities of the Local Social Economy Movement
- analyse and reflect the overall framework in which the Local Social Economy Movement operates
- analyse and propose practical policies and strategies for Local Social Economy organisations
- analyse and reflect on the successes and failures of Local Social Economy organisations
- improve the performance of consultants, researchers, politicians, managers and other staff of intermediary organisations as well as public authorities in relation to Local Social Economy organisations
- improve the performance of activists, practitioners and supporters working for and with social enterprises

