DELIVERABLE D.T1.3.3

Concept report on transnational shared
methodology for developing a social
innovative approach

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Introduction to the deliverable. This deliverable starts from the evidences provided in the A.T1.1 about refugee policy, and taking advantage of the input from partners, experts, refuges and stakeholders involved during the Co-Creation Workshops lead to the development a shared methodology for an innovative approach on refugees. As part of the Activity A.T.1.3 "Co-creation of a transnational methodology for a common social innovative approach in refugee policy", this deliverable contributes to SIFforREF WP1 by presenting indications for the co-creation methodology useful for the following development of a set of indicators for measuring social innovation capacity of policies and practices to facilitate the integration of refugees.

Rational beyond this co-creation methodology. As indicated, this deliverable contributes to the Co-Creation of a transnational methodology for a common social innovative approach in refugee policy. The presentation of same input for co-creation methodology had to be connected within the rational beyond SIFforREF project, as well as the first result achieved within the WP1. First at all, in previous deliverable, we applied an organic concept of Social Innovation (SI), being the aim of this project to enhance opportunities for integrating refugees. We argued that SI requires a new form of governance, that favors public deliberation and the cooperation with civil society and public and private actors. In the view of our project, following Moulaert et al. (2017),[1] SI is grounded in three core dimensions, that are: 1) to satisfy basic social needs (the content dimension), 2) to transform social relations with regard to governance (process dimension); and 3) to increase the socio-political capabilities and access to resources of the target group (the empowerment dimension). Therefore, we stressed how the methodology in which SI is embedded includes co-operation with local authorities, reflection and co-learning emanating from these core dimensions. Therefore, the SIforREF Consortium had first at all provided the groundwork for identifying the social needs for better integrating refugees in the local societies. More in detail, the mapping of

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[1] Cfr. Moulaert, F., Foreward: Social innovation as a school for democracy. in: Oosterlynck, S.,A. Novy, A. and Kazepov, Y., 2019 Local Social Innovation to Combat Poverty and Exclusion: A Critical Appraisal. Bristol: Policy Press: pp. vii-xii.
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existing policies and practices in all Central European Regions, complemented by the in-depth investigation in the five cities included in our analysis (Berlin, Bologna, Parma, Ljubljana and Vienna), we provided the basis for reflection on the impact of policies and practices on opportunities for refugee integration, as well as on their specific barriers. In a second step, the aim of the Co-creation Workshops was to engage the different practitioners and stakeholders involved in each City to reach towards solutions to some of the main constraints identified in previous activities. To this purpose, workshops' methodology in each City stressed cooperation between all these actors, by enabling the participants to reflect together on practices and policies that may reach beyond traditional, old-dated administrative procedures. The findings collected during the Co-creation Workshops had provided additional material to a better understanding of both the needs and barriers faced to refugee integration, thus contributing to elaborate potential strategies for new solutions within the five Cities involved. The elaboration of these potential strategies had also taken advantage of a selection of best practices currently in use in different Central European Regions. Inputs for a Co-creation methodology come from all these activities, and they are following presented.

Inputs for a Co-creation-methodology. Co-creation aims at genuine and meaningful interaction among key stakeholders. It is more than genuine participation of the target group, because co-creation takes a further step in producing practical outcomes. Katrin Prager[2] states that co-creation is more likely to be successful if there is a shared problem that:

- "has some degree of urgency,
- stakeholders have an interest in solving, and
- stakeholders feel they can do something about and cannot solve on their own."

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[2] Katrin Prager (2016): Is co-creation more than participation? URL: https://i2insights.org/2016/07/28/co-creation-or-participation/ [06.12.2019]

Arnim Wieck[3] highlights eight strategies for co-creation-processes that are also relevant for the development of a transnational methodology in the context of the SIforREF project:

- "Clarify objectives and processes up-front: Co-creation processes need to be carefully designed, with clear objectives (expected outcomes) and processes (who collaborates with whom, when and how). (...)

- Identify relevant stakeholders and use a well-balanced engagement throughout. Stakeholders bring different needs, interests, capacities, and resources to the table and the co-creation process should take this diversity into account. Strive for a good balance among stakeholders from the following groups: those negatively affected, those benefitting, those involved in causing the problem or situation under investigation, and those with legitimate concerns. A well-balanced engagement does not mean that every group needs to be involved to the same extent at all times.

- Use professional facilitators: Neutral facilitators should enable a just and open engagement process. Facilitators must watch out for power asymmetries, hidden agendas and private interests across the spectrum of relevant stakeholders.

- Choose an appropriate process: There is a wide range of co-creation processes, including:
  - Listening sessions that allow stakeholders to air their concerns, perspectives and ideas.
  - Discussion sessions among stakeholder groups (which can be diverse or homogeneous) aimed at exchange and mutual understanding.
  - Collaborative sessions on project deliverables.
  - Elicitation sessions to receive feedback on deliverables.
  - Interactions can be via interview, survey, focus group, walking audit workshop or other means. Engagement can be virtual or face-to-face. (...)

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[3] For the following see Arnim Wieck (2016): Eight strategies for co-creation. URL: https://i2insights.org/2016/05/12/eight-strategies-for-co-creation/ [06.12.2019]

- Ensure there are sufficient resources: A sound process requires reasonable resources for stakeholder engagement processes, facilitators, and experts in co-creation.

- Conduct formative evaluation: Formal evaluation should be used to assess whether the co-creation process had made a difference in the complex problem".

In the context of the stakeholder-workshops and the SIforREF project the following additional strategies are relevant:

- Try to overcome language barriers that limit participation for refugees. (Consult with NGOs working with refugees on strategies and methods.)
- Clear objectives and outcomes for co-creation-activities are crucial; ongoing engagement of stakeholders throughout the whole project.
- Co-creation-activities need a lot of planning "ahead" so that decision makers and other important stakeholders can take part in the activity.

To conclude, a major advantage of this Co-creation methodology proposed is that the cooperation among all the people involved (a mixture from local authorities, civil society organizations, public and private bodies, and academics) guarantees a plurality of information for policy design.