

# PILOT ACTION



CONNETTIAMOCI! COLTIVARE COMUNITÀ.  
*Let's connect! Growing Communities.*



SOCIAL INTEGRATION  
AND COHESION

## AIM

The aim of the pilot in Bologna "Connettiamoci! Coltivare Comunità" was to contribute - through Community Labs activities and social inclusion laboratories - to the growth of a culture of relationship and participation among citizens, asylum seekers and refugees living in the metropolitan City of Bologna.

## APPROACH OF THE PILOT

Community Labs are the methodology used to develop the pilot in a process of engagement and analysis of needs and resources of each territory, in order to find common solutions to common problems, and to create a real connection between citizens, immigrants, NGOs and local Institutions.

Community Lab is a method that foresees active participation of local community, ordinarily implemented in Emilia-Romagna Region, aimed at innovating public policies and processes that conduct social change. Starting from the different needs of citizens (migrants and locals) and topics identified by a Relational Mapping, the team has designed different Community Labs.

## ACHIEVEMENTS / OUTCOMES

12 Community Labs were implemented on:

- Job Stories, Recognize yourself at work!
- Urban Exploration - let's connect on the territory
- Migrant Associationism - let's connect on collective imaginaries
- Handcraft and recycling workshop
- WE.Self-representation workshop by Pennelli Ribelli
- Video making Lab
- Handmade design Lab
- Research laboratory work with smartphone

122 Participants: 65 migrants, 57 locals, 33 Stakeholders involved during the co-creation of Community Labs and their implementation



## THE PROJECT

**Social Innovation for Refugees** (SiforREF) examines and tests solutions with the aim to support societal and labour market integration of refugees after their arrival in five Central European cities. The team consists of researchers, representatives of local government and actors from civil society.

## THE PILOT ACTION

The Pilots are concrete actions for the inclusion of refugees into society and labour market. Seven pilots were conducted from April 2021 until September 2021. Each of them addresses a specific challenge, target group, goal and working approach in respect to refugee inclusion.

## PARTICIPATING REGIONS

Berlin, Germany (2)  
Bologna, Italy (1)  
Ljubljana, Slovenia (1)  
Parma, Italy (1)  
Vienna, Austria (2)

## AIM

The findings from each Pilot contribute to develop social innovative and inclusive practices and policies that are mainstream and institutionalised.

## PILOT RESPONSIBILITY BY:



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[sociale.regione.emilia-romagna.it/](http://sociale.regione.emilia-romagna.it/)

## KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE PILOT

- Job is the key issue to interest and involve asylum seekers and refugees in the territories.
- Designing practices involving small local companies is essential to foster job orientation, a real meeting process and a good approach to the diversity.
- The active participation of local institutions is fundamental to activate the formal and informal network on the territories.
- The networking among Public Authorities and Associations with the citizens can trigger an inclusion mechanism for people seeking asylum and taking refuge in the projects of welcome SAI (Reception System Integration).
- Migrant people get information and take part at initiatives by word of mouth among community leaders and compatriots. It's important to understand those information to work on a real activation, participation and awareness of asylum seekers.

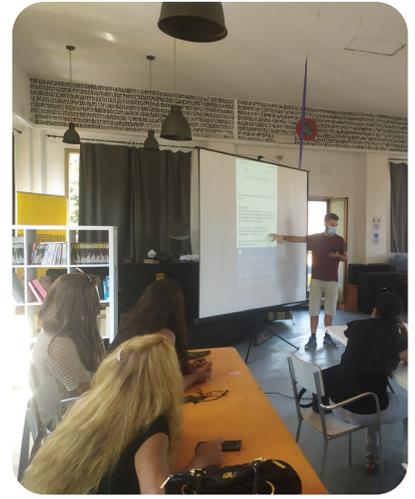


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## FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- San Donato – Bologna: realization of a territorial network for each area of the Neighborhood; creation of a local handcraft laboratory in a territory to support the continuity of the process in a difficult area (Piazza dei Colori)
- San Lazzaro di Savena: Experimentation of training/orientation paths with the collaboration of business companies and use of “institutional” spaces in an informal and open way
- Alto Reno terme: building a network between entrepreneurial realities and reception centers in the territories.

## STUMBLING BLOCKS

- Covid-19: A factor that had an impact is certainly the health emergency we have been experiencing. The workshops started immediately after the slackening of restrictions, a period in which people wanted to go out and not do structured activities or activities that are still online.
- Participation of migrant and citizens: The main difficulty was related to the participation at the Community Labs. We are aware that activation processes take time, so we believe we have diffused opportunities that in some cases will be maintained and carried forward over time, and in others they can also be transformed into something else.
- Collaboration of institutional stakeholders: The institutions identified in the first phase of mapping were then contacted for the implementation of Community Labs. It was complicated to involve them in practical actions, such as involving citizens, finding spaces and understanding the long-term goals of the processes that were activated through the workshops, such as the possibility that the workshops experienced for a period of time could become permanent activities.



## FUTURE POTENTIAL

- Increase the network of contacts among migrants, locals and stakeholders who took part at the Community Labs;
- Create spaces to socialize, to meet with one's compatriots, to realize social activities, spending time together;
- Create workshops in cooperation with the associations and stakeholders who took part at the Community Labs.

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