

**Project No. 2020-1-LV01-KA204-077474**

**Building a Network to Boost Social Secure Europe**



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Building a Network to Boost Social Secure Europe - BOSS

REPORT FROM WEBINAR IN FLORENCE, ITALY, 26 NOVEMBER 2021

### BOSS Capacity Building

Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità participates as a partner in the Project "BOSS- Building a Network to Boost Social Secure Europe" supported by the European Union's Erasmus+ Program, which involves 10 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from an equal number of EU countries.

The objectives of the project are:

- 1) to establish a cooperation network of European organizations for the promotion of social security and to strategically strengthen the capacity of this Network.
- 2) to increase the knowledge of BOSS partner organizations' employees and volunteer leaders about the social inclusion strategies.
- 3) to ensure the exchange of experience for the BOSS partner organizations' employees and volunteers on the possibilities of implementing social rights and gender equality.

On 26 November 2021 Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità organized a webinar titled "Capacity Building" with the following goals:

- To learn networking strategies.
- To increase knowledge on capacity building
- To understand how to transform acquired capacities in operational services

The moderator of the webinar was Giorgio Gabriele a psychologist working with Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità on social inclusion.

The participants at the webinar were 25:

Organization	Country	N. Participants
Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità	Italy	4
Municipality of Florence	Italy	1
EAPN Latvia	Latvia	5
Socialist Women's Movement	Ciprus	2
Stowarzyszenie VESUVIO	Poland	2
NOVAPOLIS	Romania	2
Esti People to People	Estonie	2
B-Creative Association	Sweden	2
Hellenic Antipoverty Network	Greece	2
Velferdsalliansen EAPN	Norway	1
Smes Europe	Belgium	1
Smes Italia	Italy	1

The webinar opened with a brief presentation of the participants and after few minutes the moderator introduced the first speaker:

**Luigi Leonori:** he is the president of Smes Europe, an European organization working at the intersection between homelessness and mental health. The aim of the organization is developing and sharing new methods and approach to face the complex needs of homeless people with mental health disease.

Luigi Leonori described the strategies to build an international network speaking about the history of Smes Europe. The organization was funded in 1990 gathering professionals involved in the field of social exclusion. Thanks to several Conferences organized every two years the organization was able to develop a real network of professionals, from the social and the health field all around Europe. Exchanging practices and new methods to face the complex needs of homeless people with mental illness the organization was able to analyse and monitor the phenomenon and at the same time to share new tools and skills with its members. Thanks to the interactions between the network have been developed several projects and in many countries was held a national smes organization.

After a brief debate and some questions Giorgio Gabriele introduced the second speaker of the webinar:

**Silvia Raimondi:** she is the secretary and one of the funders of Smes Italia, the Italian representative of Smes Europe. Smes Italy works in Rome directly on the field with homeless people with mental illness. It is based on a strong network made by volunteers and professionals.

Silvia Raimondi described the importance to build an effective network between professionals, public and private institutions and volunteers. The complex needs brought by homeless people with mental illness need to be faced by several actors. It is not possible to imagine to solve these kind of problems working alone without interaction between professionals and organizations. Very important seems to be the integration between mental health professionals and social professionals with an holistic approach aimed to put at the center of the intervention the person with her needs and will. At the same time it is important to give equal dignity both to the professionals and the volunteers. Indeed volunteers often are an important resources to put on the field elastic and innovative solutions.

To conclude Giorgio Gabriele introduced the last speaker of the day:

**Jacopo Lascialfari:** he is the service's director of Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità. Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità is the joining together of 20 organizations working in the field of homelessness in Tuscany, Italy. Its mission is to fight poverty and every form of social

exclusion with special attention on homelessness. Since 2014, the Coordinamento Toscano Marginalità, manages the day centre La Fenice, a place where homeless people are hosted and can realize an individual project to break out from the exclusion condition. The access to the center is direct, people can enjoy its services directly from the street, without any filter neither the need to be sent by an institutional service. The day centre hosts more than 70 persons per day, in one-year contacts more than 300 people and registers more than 20000 accesses. The day centre is a "no formal" psychologically informed environment where people can enjoy services in the answer of the primary needs (breakfast, shower, lunch, lockers, etc) and can realize an individual project to break out from their condition of severe socio-economic deprivation.

Jacopo Lascialfari described how important is to be part of an international network as Smes Europa. During the years it was possible to bring inside the day centre La Fenice the methods and the good practices highlighted thanks to the international exchanges. Nowadays La Fenice is a polyfunctional centre in which homeless people can find answers to their needs with an holistic and "trauma informed care" approach. Many European organizations are involved in the process of monitoring and evaluating of the services provided inside the centre and the methods are constantly in evolution.

At the end of the speech Giorgio Gabriele conducted a debate on the main themes described and give the opportunity to the participants to share with the speakers their comments and questions.

The webinar was recorded and it is available for future trainings and insights.

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