

4.2

Process of co-operation

Leonardo da Vinci Project: "Building the Future for Agricultural
Communities through Life-Long Learning"
Cooperation Process

New FW
IRL/04/B/F/PP-15321

Description of partner organisations:

a)- A E IC - Associação dos Industriais Exportadores de Cortiça (A C E I - Association of Cork Export Industrials):

This association was established on 20 of August 1975, and is the result of the fusion between "Grémio dos Corticeiros do Centro" with the "Grémio dos Corticeiros do Sul", and develops its intervention on the cork sector.

Goals:

The main goal of this association is to defend the interests of their associates, developing all the necessary activities to promote and coordinate the cork sector in the region.

b)- Association "Cork Routes": is one of the projects promoted by the Association of Cork Export Industrials

- Tourism, despite being a strategic sector of the Portuguese economic development, will only be practical if connected to economic activities that allow the maintenance of the ecologic specificities that determine the uniqueness of the region. Cork, due to his long tradition, gathers all the conditions to become an attraction pole allowing the development of new clusters.

- Our aim is to establish organized routes that allow people to see all the cork processing scheme, taking advantage of the new tourist tendencies that ally leisure to knowledge and an active participation of citizens in the preservation of nature, cultural traditions and sustained development.

c)- Farmers Association of the Council of S. Brás de Alportel:

Created in 1993, his main goal is to contribute, by all means, to the technologic, social, and economic development of the municipality agents, related to the agriculture, cattle and swine breeding, and therefore to the municipality development.

- Municipality of S. Brás de Alportel:

Through a planned action, the municipality wishes to obtain a sustainable development. This sustainable development will contribute to the improvement of the population life quality.

- Direcção Regional da Agricultura (Regional Department of Agriculture):

Is an organism that depends from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. It

participates on the establishment of agricultural and Food politics and rural development. It is also responsible for the execution of the policies on an agrarian level, according to the functional standards issued by the central services and in articulation with the organizations representative of the agrarian sector.

Rationale for inclusion:

- A C E I, throughout his years of activity has been developing a wide range of studies and projects in the cork sector also promoting training courses which are financed by several programmes like: PO E FDS , A G R O , P O R V L T , P O E , P A M A F .

- Farmers Association of the Council of S. Brás de Alportel

A non-profit Association intended to provide expertise in rural tourism to his associates. By doing this the resources created by the Association Cork Routes were potentialized. Consequently an application to the PO E FDS Programme was done which hasn't received a reply yet.

- Direcção Regional de Agricultura (Regional Department of Agriculture):

Initially, and in partnership with the Farmers Association of the Council of S. Brás de Alportel, the intention was to promote a training course targeted on entrepreneurs or employees of any sector with mandatory education. Still, the financing request made by the Farmer's Association intended to promote this training course was denied.

Due to this, a partnership with Direcção Regional da Agricultura do Algarve, where an agrarian training centre is located, was established.

The training courses – "Integrated Protection of Citrus Fruit" and "Biologic Agriculture"- are part of the Programme A G R O S – Operational Program "Agriculture and Rural Development" and integrate the measure nº 7 – Professional Training, priority axis nº2.

These measures aim to:

- Increase the entrepreneurship and to reinforce the technical skills in agricultural production, cattle and swine breeding;
- To reinforce the technical and scientific skills of the trainers, technical staff of the agrarian and forest sectors and teachers of agriculture schools;
- To reinforce and adjust the structure of management of professional training courses.

With these partnerships we aim to:

- Describe the demographic profile of the region.
- Describe the changes occurred in the rural communities in terms of employment
- Document the skills and abilities of the agricultural/rural community.
- To identify development measures that impact on a community in a local/regional level.
- Describe the agricultural employment evolution on a local/national level.
- To indicate the development of "Life long Learning".
- Describe the existing training courses areas based on "Life long Learning"

Description of the cooperation process:

Considering that partnership work results from the mutual understanding of the different participants which in a voluntary and equalitary way handle resources into the conversion and accomplishment of mutual projects, A njaf started this cooperation process in S . Brás de A lportel because of the process bias in S antarém.

Partner's Identification and selection process:

Several contacts were established with the local partners, in order to promote a productive contribution between A NJA F and the institutions committed with S ão Brás de A lportel, and A lgarve` s development. T o accomplish this purpose A NJA F addressed and presented the " Building the Future to A gricultural Communities through Lifelong Learning" project to local and regional institutions, who demonstrated a positive feedback, and interest in collaborating with our association in the realization of this investigation.

Farmers A ssociation of the Council of S . Brás de A lportel was one of the institutions that were meant to develop training courses in the agricultural subjects. O n the other hand the Regional Department of A griculture already develops this kind of training courses.

Frequency of the meetings – A t the beginning, A NJA F had meetings to present this project with local and Regional Institutions. During the investigation, meetings have occurred with the different partners in order to exchange information related to agriculture. T he meetings with them were informal, and were reinforced by emails and informal contacts. Given that A NJA F is presently involved in training courses promoted by the Regional Department of A griculture meetings have occurred periodically once a month. T hese meetings allow the presentation of the evaluation tools used as well as their application and study.

Bilateral Meetings of the Partners – T he partners have bilateral meetings due to their integration in several projects occurring in S . Brás de A lportel.

Partners cooperation in the Preparation and evaluation oh the programs – T he partners have a financed projects connected to training areas. T hese Programmes consider not only the dissemination and impact strategies but also their evaluation. A NJA F also actively participates in the evaluation of the training courses ministered by the Regional Department of A griculture of A lgarve.

Lessons, Benefits and Challenges of the cooperation process:

With this cooperation process we had the benefit to:

- to collaborate with entities that are use to work in partnership in other kind of projects;
- do an investigation about life- long learning in our region;

It was a challenge since the beginning because we structure this project to a region, and it was not possible, and then we turn into another region (south), where the crops were different; the farmers have different education and values.

Developing the partnership into the future:

A njaf pretends to continue the partnership with the Regional Department of A griculture of A lgarve, in the area of training courses to farmers. We pretend to lecture training courses that aren't lectured by that E ntity, but that are necessary to the farmers of this region.

