

3P4SSE NEWSLETTER_ #3 contribution from PAT (Provincia Autonoma di Trento)

CONCRETE AND SUSTAINABLE: TRAVELING WITH THE SOLIDARITY ECONOMY **Food policy and participatory guarantee system**



The Trentino solidarity economy has promoted training sessions and study visits in Italy to understand the opportunities and challenges of the solidarity economy at Italian level.

On October 22 and 23, 2024, a delegation of Trentino stakeholders representing the provincial table of the solidarity economy and the entities that are part of the Trentino ES visited the Trentino solidarity economy district.

The study visit started with the presentation of the Parma biodistrict, created with the aim of establishing a network of agricultural producers who produce healthy, organic and environmentally friendly products. Compared to traditional producers, members of the network can benefit from greater advertising and sales opportunities for their products if they follow certain additional rules. The heart of the study visit was the presentation of the participatory guarantee system modeled by the Solidarity Economy District (DES) of Parma. The participatory guarantee system arose from the need of solidarity purchasing groups to have food products that are not only organic and healthy but also certified. The guarantee system enhances the production and the predominantly local exchange of quality goods and services that are respectful of people and the environment. Moreover, these systems are quality assurance systems that act on a local basis. The certification of producers requires the active participation of interested parties and is built on trust, social networks and the exchange of knowledge. In essence, the Parma DES (<https://www.desparma.org/>) identifies agricultural companies from which to purchase food products for solidarity purchasing groups. Before being certified, companies are subjected to a preventive check by an agricultural technician paid with resources from the solidarity economy fund. Once they meet the specifications, they are included in the circuit of certified companies. Additional checks also take place in subsequent phases over time to verify that the products remain organic, respectful of the environment, and the company respects workers and, if it is a livestock farm, animal welfare.

The actors in the system consist of three parties.

- The first party includes producers who commit and sign a declaration of conformity and offer guarantees on production and processing.
- The second party consists of groups or social actors who purchase such products; or organizations that market and support such an initiative and/or product. These are the ones that ensure compliance with the established standards, not producers.
- The third party is a professional entity, accredited by the competent bodies, who checks the compliance with the established standards, and is able to certify producers both in groups and individually.

During the study visit, an agricultural company that produces organic mountain Parmigiano Reggiano was visited and it was possible to observe the processes of an on-site check. Furthermore, a cohousing project was presented, initiated by a group of families who decided to join forces to build a zero-emission building. The advantage of purchasing the land, having your own project and identifying your own builder lies in the reduction of production costs. Furthermore, an apartment was allocated for the free hospitality of disadvantaged individuals. Finally, the building includes numerous common spaces to create moments of sociality and aggregation between the condominium members. The most challenging part of the development of the model was to ensure the sustainability and coexistence of the families. The study visit was an opportunity to discuss and review some strategies and needs of the Trentino solidarity economy.

<https://www.economiasolidaletrentina.it/le-attivit /concreta-e-sostenibile-in-viaggio-con-leconomia-solidale/>

“Do the right thing” fair returns to Trento:



From 18th to 20th October 2024, the 20th edition of “Do the right thing!” was held in Trento.

“Do the right thing” is the fair of critical consumption and sustainable lifestyles. Approximately 145 exhibitors participated in the fair, many of them are actors in the Trentino solidarity economy and the fair welcomed more than 5800 visitors. The products on display, mostly "eco-products", ranged from organic farming products, cosmetics, and clothing to solar panels.

Throughout the fair, a variety of workshops on critical consumption and sustainable lifestyles were organized, such as an environmental play-education project created by the Ortazzo and Punto Zero associations dedicated to school children, cooking workshops, the "Call to Harvest" of the Pimpinella association with its ancient seeds.

The Province of Trento, together with Trentino Social Tank (TST), manager of the Trentino Solidarity Economy Fund, proudly hosted a stand with a variety of exciting initiatives!

Highlights of the fair included the following:

- Promotion of products from the Trentino DES;
 - Climate change awareness activities by Clima3T;
 - Workshops on food waste reduction led by the Provincial Table on Waste Reduction and the Food Bank.
- DES Agriculture in collaboration with the Municipality of Trento ran engaging activities for both adults and children, focusing on green maintenance and biodiversity education. Moreover, the fair served as the perfect launch pad for the Municipality of Ledro to unveil the Ledro Land Art Project, an artistic and naturalistic park. Last but not least, the Interreg CE 3P4SSE project was also publicized with the aim of raising citizens' awareness of the issues of the solidarity economy and highlighting the European projects in this area.

PAT FTC local action plan development



The Autonomous province of Trento and the Trentino Federation of the Cooperation organized workshops with the local stakeholders of the Trentino solidarity economy within the scope of the activities of the 3P4SSE project. The aim is to identify the strategies and actions of the local action plan for the promotion and development of the solidarity economy.

In February 2024, two different workshops were organized to identify the strategy vision. Afterwards two workshops were organized on 11th June and 17th June 2024 with the aim to identify the actions and goals to reach.

During these workshops the following goals were discussed and approved by the stakeholders:

Goal 1 Mapping of solidarity/social initiatives

«Dedicated mapping of solidarity/social initiatives (constantly updated) and updating of the current system of Solidarity Economy Districts also aimed at the creation of new districts and pilot projects in Trentino»

The discussion between groups and the rotation of people in the different groups made it possible to discuss the objectives of the meeting in a precise and detailed manner, and define the actions to be developed in the local action plan.

Goal 2 Forum of solidarity economy

“Create greater connection between the various actors in the territory for the creation of a provincial level forum with the function of monitoring, discussion and continuous development of the DES. Identifying topics of interest to participants.”

Preparation of an event that also involves the DES of other Italian regions to contaminate the different realities, learn about challenges, problems.

Goal 3 Increasing awareness

«Activate a bottom-up approach that guarantees greater interaction between citizens, Trentino Districts of Solidarity Economy and public administration. In particular, a widespread awareness-raising action in the territory is necessary with meetings and initiatives even in the valleys and in the most marginal territories, the inclusion of the theme of DES in already existing training courses (e.g. training of territorial managers, Master GIS, etc.), in awareness-raising and training courses to be continued and strengthened.”

All 3 goals will be pursued, with different ways and times. Action 1, considered a priority and functional to the following ones, will be a pilot intervention, while actions 2 and 3 will be carried out by the Provincial Solidarity Economy Table with provincial funds and therefore will not be part of the local action plan but will be developed in parallel with it.

