Slparte: soft coaching and a rural hackathon to support socio-entrepreneurial innovative businesses in rural areas

The case of Valbelluna, northeastern Italy Glasgow, September 2nd, 2019

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Outline of the presentation

- 1. Why social innovation and youth entrepreneurship
- 2. SIMRA and innovation actions
- 3. The context of the Valbelluna territory
- 4. What is Slparte?

5. Outputs











1. Why social innovation and youth entrepreneurship

Key characteristics of entrepreneurs

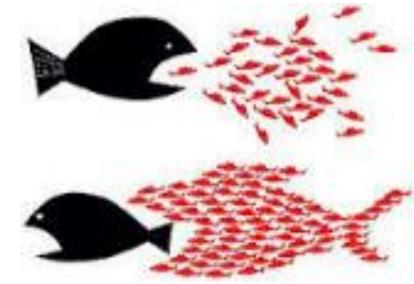
Source	Definition	Key aspects
"Who is an Entrepreneur?" Is the Wrong Question. Gartner, W. (8,355). 1989	Entrepreneurship is the creation of new organisations.	Creation of a new organisation
The Theory of Economic Development. Schumpeter, Joseph A. 1911	"The function of entrepreneurs is to reform or revolutionize the pattern of production by exploiting an invention or, more generally, an untried technological possibility for producing a new commodity or producing an old one in a new way , by opening up a new source of supply of materials or a new outlet for products, by reorganizing an industry and so on"	New product or service
The Application of Psychological Testing to Entrepreneurial Potential. Palmer, M. 1971	The entrepreneur is "that individual who can interpret the risk situation and then determine policies which will minimize the risks involved".	Ready to risk but with a strategy to minimise risk
Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Drucker, Peter F. 1985	The entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity to create profit.	Harnesses opportunities to create new value

Factors of development in a territory:

- Natural capital
- Financial capital
- Infrastructural capital

Human capital

Social capital



Keywords:
→ Networks, relationships
→ Coordination, collaboration
→ Trust and solidarity
→ Awareness and professionlism
Social innovation











What is Social Innovation?

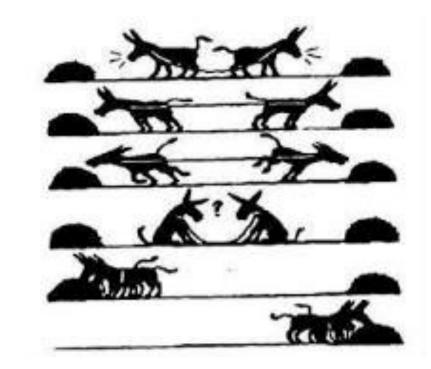
Social Innovation (SI) definition

•Several definitions in literature: another "fuzzy" word - risk of misleading

•SI as a key issue for Europe: so far focused on urban contexts and problems

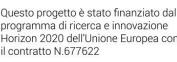
•Need to focus the attention on marginalized rural areas

"The reconfiguring of social practices, in response to societal challenges, which seeks to enhance outcomes on societal well-being and necessarily includes the engagement of civil society actors" (SIMRA def.)



- New ideas
- New products and services (to people and the community)
- New networks
- New rules and procedures
- New shared values













2. SIMRA and innovation actions

Horizon2020 SIMRA - Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas

4 years (2016-2020) – To understand, evaluate and boost social innovation (SI)

- in marginalised rural areas (MRAs) in EU and Mediterranean area
- in agriculture, forestry and rural development



WELCOME TO SIMRA

Innovation actions

Objectives: "to strengthen local collaborative learning processes inspiring discussion and collaboration across local communities, associations and organizations in implementing social innovations" (SIMRA IA team)









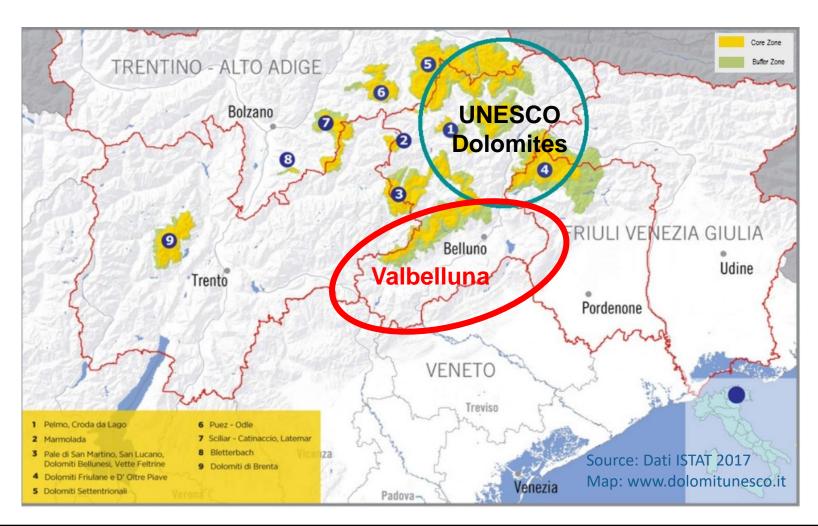






3. The context of the Valbelluna territory

Valbelluna: the area of the Local Action Group Prealpi e Dolomiti



Located in the Veneto Region, northeastern Italy 100 km north of Venice in the Dolomites

- Municipalities: 23
- Population 2017: 133.103
- Area: 1341 kmq
- Natural values: Unesco World Heritage Site











Fragile territory

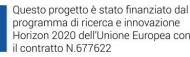
- Population is decreasing
 - 8,6% (2011-2017) outmigration of young
- Ageing (Var. 2011-2015)
 <50 years old = 4%
 >50 years old = +4,4%
- Low quality tourism not organized destination
- Limited entreprenurial capacity
 scarse innovation and few patents
- No research centres

Bruneck Lienz Brixer Meran Bolzan Sondrio Bell/no ergamo Bresci Padova POPULATION GROWTH RATE (%) AVERAGE ANNUAL 001-2010 Mantova 1.00 - -0.01 0.65 - -0.15 0.040 Institute for Regional Development 0.50-0.99 100-1.99 and Locational Management research 2.00 - 4.00 Authors: RAVAZZOU E. PUZO Q. × 4.60 Copyright August, 2013

Source: EURAC, Istat 2011, 2015 and ComuniItaliani.it 2017

- \rightarrow Some areas have been completely abandonded
- ightarrow Loss of social and cultural identity
- → No employment opportunities for local young people













Characteristics: high natural and environmental values







Photos: A. Scariot, D. Tonet, M. Cassol (Interreg SCORE)

















Characteristics: ethnographic, social and cultural values



Photos: GAL2, N. Deutsch, web











Characteristics: landscape and productive diversity



Photos: GAL2, N. Deutsch, web











4. What is Slparte?

SIMRA INNOVATION ACTION

SOCIAL BUSINESS ACCELERATOR geared at supporting new youth entreprenurial ideas

SECTORS

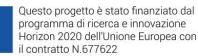
high quality agriculture, social uses of the forest, sustainable rural tourism, artesany and local culture, social inclusion

- Participatory network meetings
- Soft coaching
- Field visits
- Rural hackathon
- Selected startup support

Participatory networking meetings

Opening	1° network meeting	2° network meeting	Field trip	3° network meeting	Rural Hackathon
8 May 2018	15 May 2018	22 May 2018	29 May 2018	20 September 2018	4-5 October 2018
Istituto Catullo, Belluno	Palazzo dei Servizi, Sedico	Biblioteca comunale, Limana	Agripolis, Legnaro (PD)	Museo di Seravella, Cesiomaggiore	Feltre
17.30-20.00	14.30-17.30	14.30-17.30	10.30-14.00	14.30-17.30	13.00-13.00 (+24 h)
Opening conference showcasing best practices in SI	«Design thinking»	«Components of a business model»	Ecosystems supporting innovation	«Preparation to the Rural Hackathon»	«30-hour non-stop Rural Hackathon»













In different areas of Valbelluna













Opening event: showcasing best practice in Social innovation





Best practice examples on Social Innovation

Presentation of Slparte > 60 people attended











Network meetings: idea generation through participation



- awareness raising on **sustainable business opportunities**
- soft coaching for network building

1° meeting: Getting to know each other, SWOT analysis and envisioning business opportunity

2° meeting: From needs to business ideas



3° meeting: Narrowing down ideas

Average of 20-30 participants

Partecipative techniques: focus group, world cafè, SWOT, brainstorming, «market place»











Field study visits: getting to know about local business opportunities in heritage areas - facilitated by municipalities













Rural Hackathon: 30 hour non-stop event and final pitch

6 teams, 24 participants

- 8 mentors
- 1 winning team

Structured participatory activities:

- Sustainable mountain tourism
- Slow bike tours
- Family green restaurant
- Recovery of marginal lands
- Artisanal paper making
- Cooperative-organised music festival

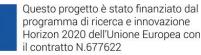
Final pitch > 35+ audience



















Selection criteria for the start-up idea

- Clarity and detail of the final pitch
- Relevance of social and environmental impacts
- Economic sustainability of the idea
- Team experience
- Participation to networking meetings
- Team members < 40 years old
- Use of the prize













Prize for the winning team

Choice from a host of services and soft coaching for a total value of euro 8.000 offered by Etifor:

- Support to the startup phase
- Support in drafting the Business Model Canvas and Business Plan
- Support in developing a communication and marketing strategy
- Development of the logo and corporate identity
- Web site development













The winning team: «Terre d'incontro»

Facilitating the encounter of market demand and supply for marginal abandoned lands in mountain areas

About 60.000 hectares of Marginal land (ISTAT, 2010)







FELTRE

Avete dei terreni, volete ven-

derli, ma non sapete come rag-

giungere i potenziali acquirenti? Volete acquistare appezzamenti,

ma è un problema raggiungere

chi li vende? Da oggi queste non sono più difficoltà perchè il team

composto da Michele Pellegrini.

Danila Attene, Andrea Reato e

Alessandro Caviola (nella foto)

con il suo progetto di start up che

punta a far incontrare domanda

e offerta, ha vinto gli Smila euro

belluno@gazzettino.it

Acquirenti

e venditori

uniti in rete

►Il Gal premia il progetto elaborato da un gruppo di quattro giovani

lo di dare valore alle idee dei gio-

vani. Il culmine si è avuto questa

settimana con l'Hackathon che è

consistito in 24 ore di confronto e progettazione durante le quali

le idee, nate nel corso degli in-

contri precedenti, sono state sviluppate con l'aiuto di esperti di

sostenibilità, social develop

ment, marketing e imprendito ria. Ieri, al termine della marato-

na, i partecipanti hanno esposto

le loro idee imprenditoriali alla

giuria che ha selezionato il pro-

getto vincitore che riceverà il

premio di 8mila euro in servizi e

Il gruppo premiato ha presen-

oft coaching erogati da Etifor

I VINCITORI

di terreni

Article on the local press, October 2018

WeEurope









Questo progetto è stato finanziato dal programma di ricerca e innovazione Horizon 2020 dell'Unione Europea con l contratto N.677622

BELLUNC





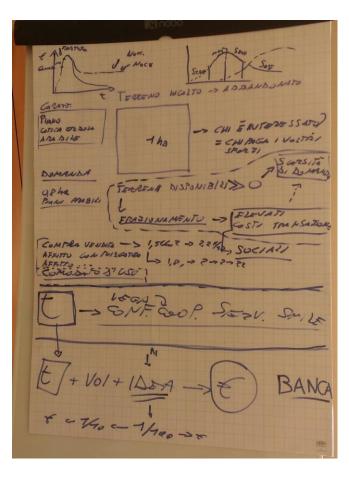




5. Outputs from Slparte

Outputs from Slparte

- n° 1 communication campaign (Etifor, LAG and SIRMA websites; Facebook page with three weekly appointments over two months);
- n° 60 people reached during the opening event
- n° 30 participants at each networking meeting (x3)
- n. 4 study visits organised by the LAG with 10-15 participants
- n° 24 people organised in 6 groups for the Rural Hackathon
- n° 5 local newspaper articles published
- n° 15 meetings with the winning startup (ongoing)
- n° 1 final workshop (September 19, 2019)



One of the training meetings in Belluno, February 2019











Outputs from Slparte

- New business startup methodology developed
- New networks created
- Greater interest in youth entreprenuership: new business accelerator created locally

Challenges:

- Ensuring participation → regular facebook communication (three weekly appointments were designed); personal communication efforts required; study visits to support interest
- Lack of entrepreneurial spirit \rightarrow intensive training but difficult to get committment













Follow SIMRA and Siparte

- Website: <u>www.simra-h2020.eu</u>
- Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/SIMRAeu/</u>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/simra_eu/status/753903906443370496 @SIMRA_eu, associated with the hashtag #SIMRA_eu
- Scoop it!: <u>www.scoop.it/u/simra-1</u>
- Research Gate:

www.researchgate.net/project/SIMRA-Social-Innovation-in-Marginalised-<u>Rural-Areas</u>

• Linkedin:

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/

8546624/8546624-6159676893563015168













Thank you for your attention

Social Innovation in

Marginalised Rural Areas

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Tommaso