Evaluation
of the
Study Visit

"Staff Training Service on Social Economy Enterprise"

07 – 12 September 2015

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INTRODUCTION

EuroEd Foundation and Pixel organized a mobility initiative, which aimed to provide participants with the opportunity to get to know and compare, with own experience, the strategies and practices for the management of social economy in Italy. As result of this, 11 representatives of EuroEd came to Florence, hosted by Pixel, for a mobility initiative lasting for 7 days (07 – 12 September 2015).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY VISIT

The mobility initiative aims to provide participants with the opportunity to get to know and compare, with own experience, the strategies and practices for the management of social economy in Italy.

The specific objectives of the "Staff Training Service on Social Economy Enterprise" Study Visit were to give participants the opportunity to:

- acquire a better understanding of the Italian and Tuscan social economy;
- acquire knowledge about the current policies and strategies for the management of social economy;
- acquire information about how the social economy is organized and managed in Italy and in Tuscany in particular;
- acquire information of the existing methods and experiences for the management of social economy;
- share best practices with social enterprises and cooperatives;
- develop new contacts and explore opportunities of cooperation with public and private institutions operating in the field of social economy.

RESULTS

The individuals who participated in the mobility initiative had the opportunity to get to know new methods, strategies and solutions for a successful management and development of social economy initiatives within the public and private system in Italy and in Tuscany in particular. Furthermore, the programme gave the participants the opportunity to meet with managers of public and private social cooperatives and with public key policy makers operating in the field of social economy and share with them experiences, problems and best practices.

RELEVANCE OF THE INITIATIVE

The "Staff Training Service on Social Economy Enterprise" Study Visit was relevant to respond to the needs of the participants involved because it gave them the opportunity to:

- acquire a better understanding of the Italian and Tuscan social economy;
- acquire knowledge about the current policies and strategies for the management of social economy;
- acquire information about how the social economy is organized and managed in Italy and in Tuscany in particular;

- acquire information of the existing methods and experiences for the management of social economy;
- share best practices with social enterprises and cooperatives;
- develop new contacts and explore opportunities of cooperation with public and private institutions operating in the field of social economy.

EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE

At the end of the study visit, participants were asked to compile an Evaluation Questionnaire in order to express their assessments and comments regarding the quality of the activities carried out.

The Evaluation Questionnaire given to the participants was divided into five subject areas. Under each subject area there was a series of questions and the participants were asked to grade them from 1 (min.) to 10 (max.) or to express their own comment.

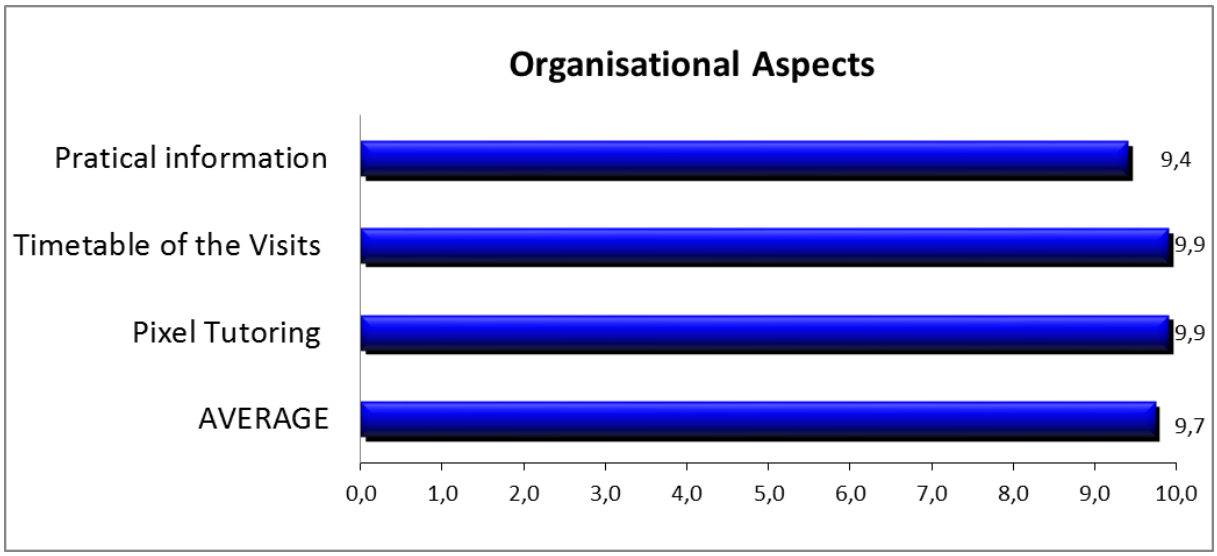
The subject areas addressed by the Evaluation Questionnaire were:

- Organizational aspects
- Study Visit Contents
- Lessons' contents
- Organized Visits
- Final Evaluation

ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

In this section of the Evaluation Questionnaire, the participants in the study visit initiative evaluated the organisational aspects such as: Information received about the course, Timetable of the Visits, Tutoring from Pixel.

In the graph below we can see how the participants evaluated the aspects mentioned above:

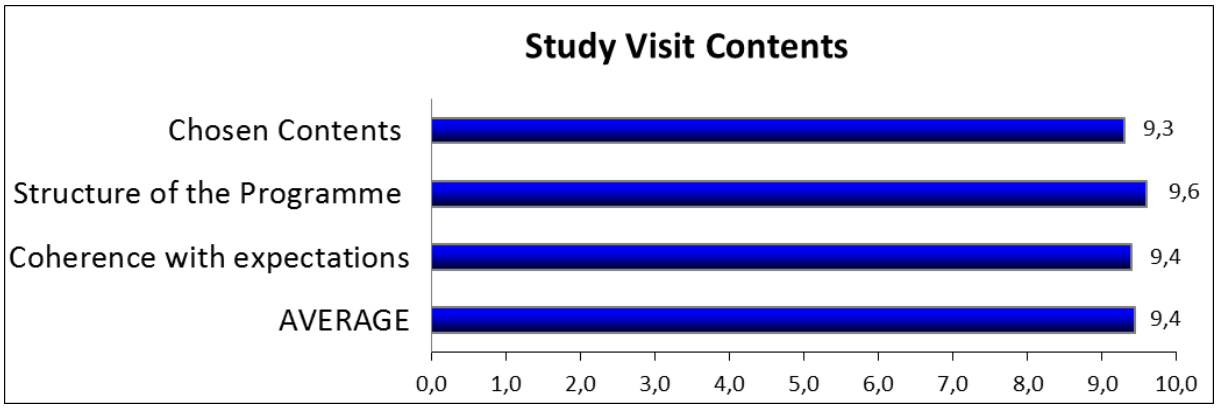


All the aspects concerning the organization developed by Pixel received positive marks, with an average of 9.0 out of 10. In particular way, participants appreciated the tutoring offered by Pixel (9.9 / 10) and the timetable of the visits (9.9 / 10).

STUDY VISIT CONTENTS

In this section of the Evaluation Questionnaire, participants in the mobility initiative evaluated the contents, such as: chosen contents, structure of the programme and coherence with expectations.

In the graph below we can see how the participants evaluated the aspects mentioned above:

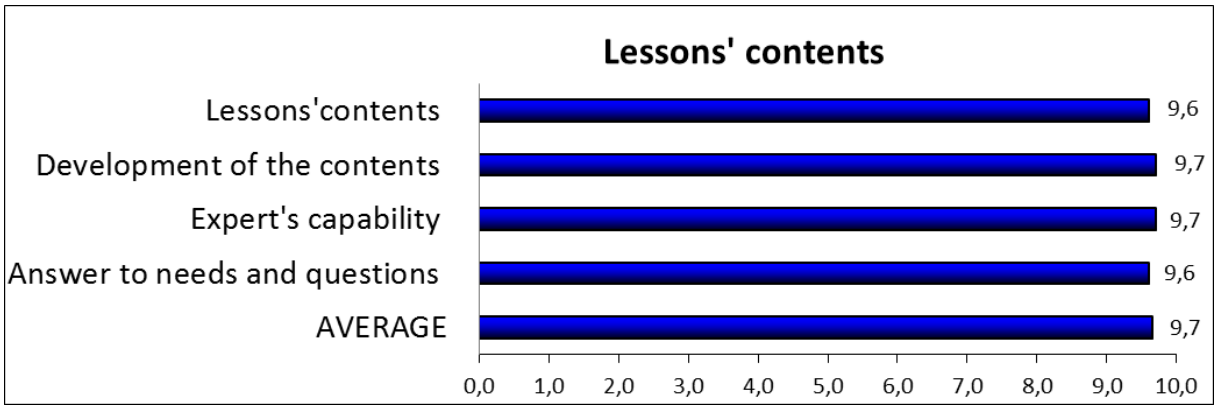


The participants considered very positively the contents of the mobility initiative and the structure of the programme with an average mark of 9.4 out of 10. The contents chosen by Pixel staff largely answered the needs of the participants (9.3 / 10) whose expectations were fully satisfied. According to the participants, indeed, the mobility initiative has shown a positive structure of the programme (9.6 / 10) and a good coherence with the expectations they had before starting this experience (9.4 / 10): a positive result, considering their strong desire to learn something new which could be directly adopted in their professional career.

LESSON'S CONTENTS

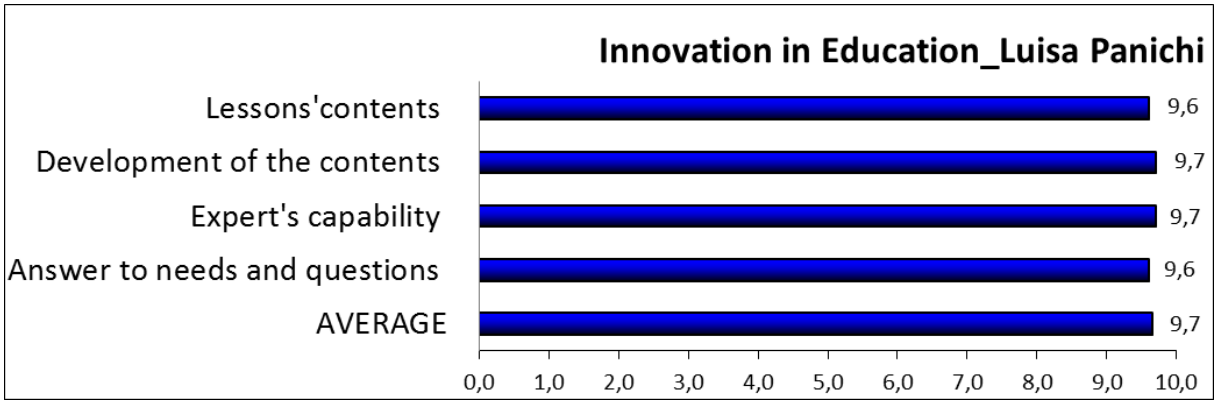
In this section of the Evaluation Questionnaire, the participants in the mobility initiative evaluated the contents of the lessons delivered.

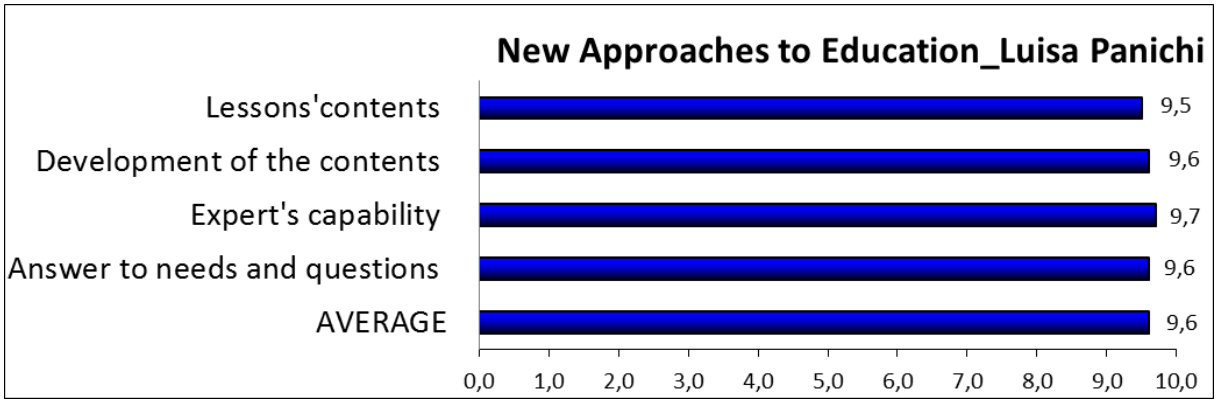
In the graph below we can see how the participants evaluated the lessons:

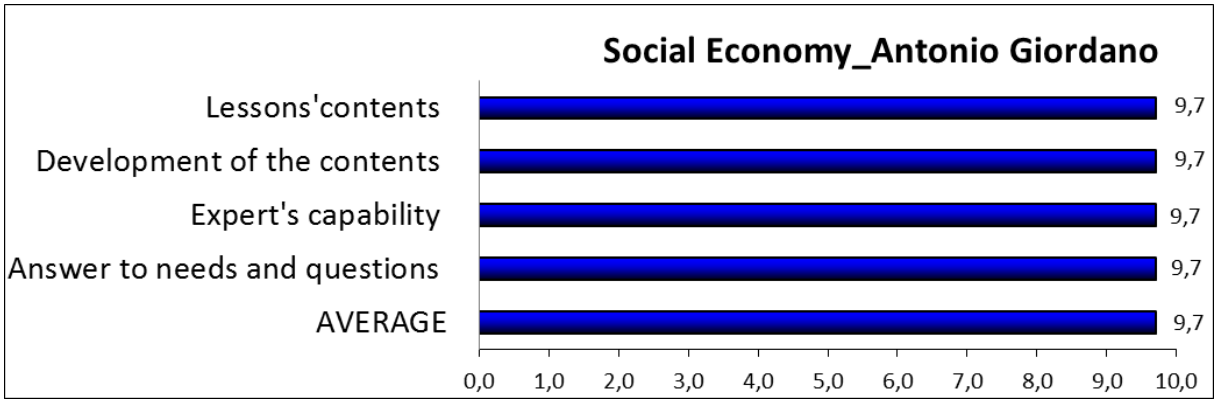


One of the objectives of the study visit was to acquire knowledge about the current policies and strategies followed in the field of social economy: the objective can be considered as successfully achieved, considered the average mark (9.7 / 10) expressed by the participants with reference to the lessons' contents. Participants appreciated the chosen contents, the development of the contents, the answers received to their personal needs and questions and, amongst all the criteria, the experts' capability to meet their needs (9.7 / 10). "I really liked the experts' flexibility to our group learning needs" stated one of the participants.

In the graphs below, the results achieved by the experts involved:

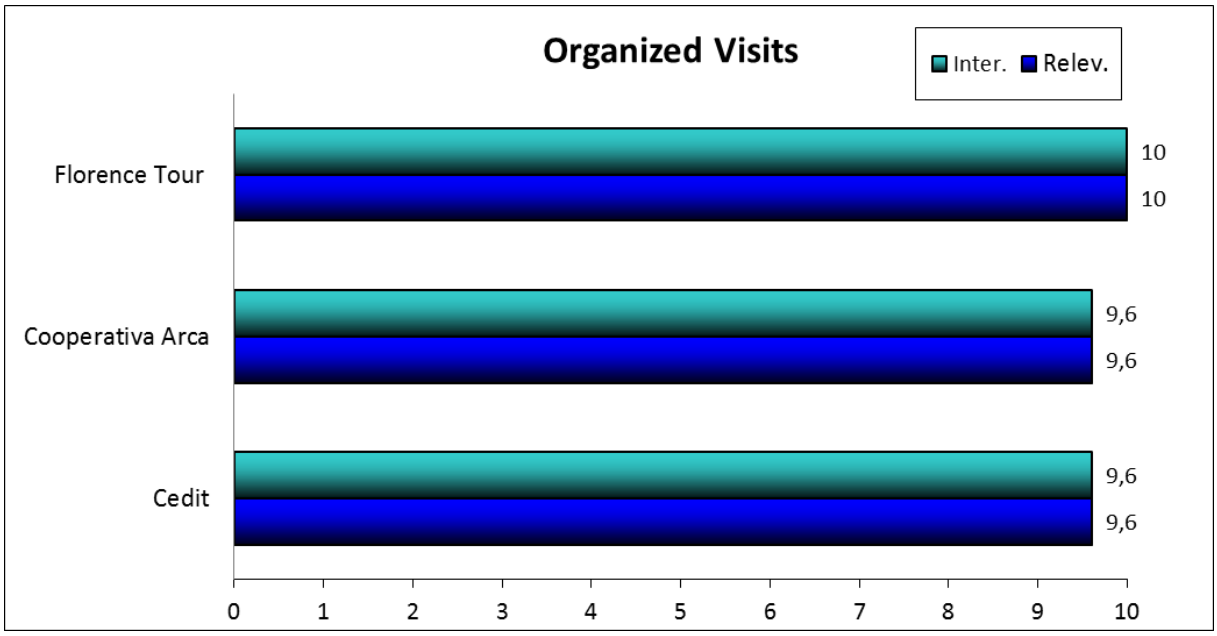






ORGANIZED VISITS

In this section of the Evaluation Questionnaire, the participants in the study visit initiative evaluated the organised visits: guided tour of Florence, Cooperativa Arca, and CEDIT.



All the visits obtained a positive feedback. In particular participants appreciated the visit to Cooperativa Arca, whose representatives "were excellent hosts, telling us about their activities and patiently responding to all our questions".

Final evaluation

The final evaluation is almost perfect: the study visit was overall evaluated with an average mark of 9.7 on a scale up to 10. All the participants considered the study visit highly interesting and involving and stated they would suggest it to others.

They liked most the lessons provided by Pixel, the assistance of the tutor, the organized visits: "*It was a pleasant and extremely enjoyable experience. I really liked the lessons and the way in which they were presented. I would like to thank Pixel for the great organisation*".

CONCLUSIONS AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

The participants had the opportunity to get to know, and to compare with their own experience, the strategies and practices for the management of social economy in Italy.

Furthermore, they had the opportunity to meet with public bodies' directors and managers operating in the field of social economy and share with them experiences, problems and best practices.