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EUROPE programme co-financed by the ERDF



# Mail Letter

For supporters, partners and stakeholders  
of the project European Rural Futures

## EURUFU in Operation

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The European Union is facing unprecedented demographic changes (ageing population, low birth rates, changing family structures and migration). In the light of these challenges it is important, both at EU and national level, to review and adapt existing policies. Therefore the EURUFU project was launched in May 2011. A lot of ideas were worked out to find solutions for the problems that rural areas deal with.

The EURUFU project is not at the period of beginning any more, it is underway and as successful as expected.

From the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013, an international meeting among EURUFU partners took place in Asti (Piedmont, Northern Italy), starting on the first day with a Scientific Conference about EURUFU issues.

During these three days, all the partners had the chance to present their work.

This is the fourth edition of the EURUFU newsletter. It provides you with information about the current status of the project, the latest meetings and shows you an overview to the upcoming events. We also invite you to visit our website

[www.eurufu.eu](http://www.eurufu.eu)

to keep informed. There you can also register for the newsletter. Any comments to the editors (contact data at the last page) are warmly welcome.



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## EURUFU Project – 4th Consortium Meeting

From the **8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013** all EURUFU partners met in Asti (Italy), where PP7 LAMORO has its head office. There, they spent three days exchanging ideas and updating one another about the current status of their projects.

The meeting started on the 8<sup>th</sup> October with the 2<sup>nd</sup> EURUFU Scientific Conference. The following day, after a welcome made by Host and Lead Partner, EURUFU partners met with stakeholders and scientists, presenting selected pilot actions results with thematic respect to scientific conference.

After the presentation, the stakeholders briefly introduced problems in their practical work regarding pilot action themes and discussed them with scientist and consortium.

Then the Internal Session was opened by a Workshop on WP4 issues, followed by a joint concluding discussion about combined testing, the evaluation of pilot actions and the preparation of a common evaluation scheme for pilot actions.

At last, after a Workshop on WP3 issues, a discussion about Output 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 and the finalization of WP3, the Lead Partner Help Desk closed the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of meeting.

In the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, October 10<sup>th</sup>, a final General discussion about Action 5.1-5.3 took place.



2<sup>nd</sup> EURUFU Scientific Conference:

**Education, local economy  
and job opportunities  
in rural areas  
in the context of demographic change**



**Invitation & Programme**  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Asti, Italy

**UNI-ASTISS** POLO UNIVERSITARIO  
www.uni-astiss.it ASTI STUDI SUPERIORI



### “Education local economy and job opportunities in rural area in the context of demographic change”: 2<sup>nd</sup> EURUFU Scientific Conference held in Italy

The 2<sup>nd</sup> EURUFU Scientific Conference about “Education, local economy and job opportunities in rural areas in the context of demographic change” was held at the University of Asti in Italy on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2013.





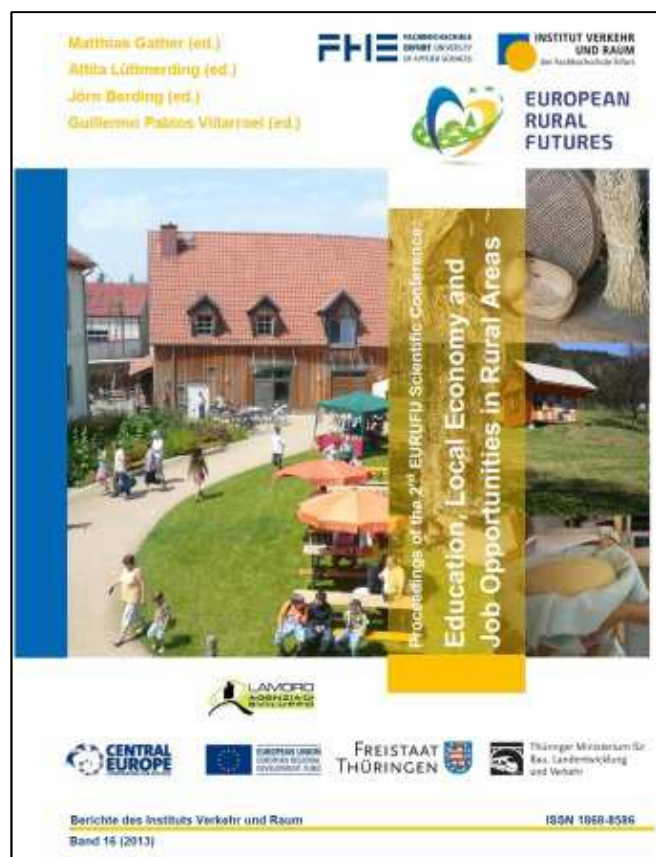
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The conference was the second in a row of three scientific events organised during the EURUFU project life-time by the Transport and Spatial Planning Institute (PP2). The invited speakers represented university faculties, research institutes, ministerial bodies and consultancies from Spain, Austria, Slovenia, Romania, Ireland and Italy. They addressed a variety of important topics and issues in relation to the role of basic and higher educational infrastructure, education options for adults, lifelong-learning and employment for people living in rural areas against the background of demographic change and the consequences like shrinking and ageing populations: the presentations encompassed on one hand regional studies concerning the development of schools in rural areas from a sociological perspective as well as the potential impact of higher educational institutions on the migration decisions of skilled young people and regional development. Moreover, results of current research were presented from a rather economic perspective, focussing on entrepreneurship and sustainable development, opportunities for a “smart growth” of regions and their competitiveness, employment and inclusion in rural regions as well as strategic approaches for remote, so called “inner” areas.

The presentations delivered valuable input for the following discussion between scientist, project partners and stakeholders, which related the findings presented to the actual EURUFU-context.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EURUFU Scientific Conference will take place in March 2014 in Sondershausen/Thuringia, Germany and provide scientific input about the topic *Social issues and Health Care in Rural Areas*.

Jörn Berding and Attila Lüttmerding from the EURUFU PP2 Team,  
Fachhochschule Erfurt



The proceedings of the 2nd EURUFU Scientific Conference can be downloaded for free under:  
[http://www.thueringen.de/imperia/md/content/eurufu/en/media/events/meetingasti/eurufu2\\_proceedings\\_v18.pdf](http://www.thueringen.de/imperia/md/content/eurufu/en/media/events/meetingasti/eurufu2_proceedings_v18.pdf)

This documentation of the conference represents a collection of the papers which were presented by the authors as well as further papers which could not be presented in Asti due to time constraints.





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## Regional Pilot Actions

Thüringer Ministerium für Bau, Landesentwicklung und Verkehr (LP):

### General Physician's Mobile Assistants Graduated

In September 2013 eight doctor's assistants successfully graduated as "Mobile Assistant" (in German VERAH – Versorgungsassistentin der Hausarztpraxis).

From now they are able to support the GP's in the EURUFU Pilot Region Kyffhaeuser district with home visits of patients and other services. With this degree their engagement will also be better paid by health insurances.

The measure – financed by EURUFU – is a contribution to stabilize public services in a shrinking region. The evaluation is running until January 2014.

Building up on the experiences of this course we are now planning to hold a similar one in the rural district Greiz. There the demographic and medical service preconditions are comparable with the Kyffhaeuser district.



The fresh examinees

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## Regional Pilot Actions

### Ústí Region, Czech Republic (PP3):

#### **Job Fair is a good tool**

Regional Job Fair was organized on 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 in Vejprty (CZ). There was introduced a local labour market by four employer agencies from the Czech Republic and Germany. Job centre Chomutov – CZ, Job centre Annaberg-Buchholz – GE and two private agencies – 1 German, 1 Czech.



The first part of meeting was focused on theoretical knowledge, basic conditions and labour law regarding labour market in the Czech Republic and Germany. Jobseekers could ask about their questions. Jobseekers could register according to their interest to Czech and German employer agencies in the second part of meeting. Some jobseekers found a job from the offer that was introduced during the meeting.

Regional job fair was the last part of the Pilot activity of the EURUFU project held in Usti Region that improved the situation in rural cross-border region of Vejprty Regional Association. Usti Region tried to find the tools for supporting development of local labour market and local economy.

The Pilot activity began by reconstruction of the study room in the year 2012. The room was equipped by furniture and audiovisual technology. Language and educational courses for unemployed people and recent employees in tourism and service industry were realized here during 12 weeks in the spring 2013. The aim of these courses was to improve language knowledge and jobseekers skills with regard to job opportunities at local service industry and at cross-border German labour market. Language and educational courses consisted of 2 classes of recently unemployed people visited by 25 clients and 1 class of recent employees of service and tourism industry with 14 clients.

The Regional Job Fair was visited by more than 60 jobseekers. Out of those jobseekers, who registered with Job centers and agencies during the Regional Job Fair, 2 jobseekers have found a job via Job Centre Annaberg-Buchholz during next two months and 8 clients from Vejprty region have found a job via private job agency.

Another peripheral border rural region – the “SEVER” Regional Association in Sluknov region would like to partly implement our Pilot activity was. Project EURUFU and the Pilot activity Usti Region were presented to mayors of villages in Sluknovsky vybezek in September 2013. The mayors stated that the Regional job fair with Czech and German Job agencies, is a good tool to reason unemployment in rural border areas.

The project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the ERDF.

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## Regional Pilot Actions

LAMORO Development Agency, Italy (PP7):

### Integrated project for urban recovery and development of biological agriculture

The main goal is to create services in the city of Cirié (North-West of Piedmont) and job opportunities in agriculture and tourism in the valley.

Cirié is recognised as the barycentre of the area and takes the role of "supramunicipal reference framework", the most appropriate level to implement actions to increase the attractiveness of the area.

The 20th April 2013 a final conference took place in Cirié, during which this project has been presented by LAMORO and some local and regional stakeholders.

In November 2013 the evaluation and approval of the design choices for the recovering of the existing building is foreseen to be achieved.



*The new Social Infrastructure: "il Batandero di Cirié" Renewal of a dismissed public building. Part of it will be reserved for people in need who have an emergency in terms of housing, while another section will be devoted to the creation of housing for elderly and for young people. There are some common areas to encourage socialization and a special place will be reserved for the retail sale of products of bio-gardens.*



*All stakeholders that affect the housing issue have been involved and a local agreement to promote the housing autonomy of young people has been signed.*

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### "ABITARE"

#### New housing opportunities for young people

The main goal is to promote the housing autonomy for young people in order to keep them in rural areas, since even if they work in main cities they would like to live in small villages (rediscovery of the local identity and of a healthy way of living in rural areas) but there are no policies concerning the housing issue and the existing houses are inadequate.

Sordevolo area suffers from a progressive depopulation; the aims are now to identify an innovative package of discounts, subsidies, tax exemptions to promote the autonomy of young people in terms of housing and to identify innovative architectural solution for a sustainable housing policy.

The 19th April 2013 a final conference to present the current status of the project has been held in Biella involving LAMORO, some experts and public entities.

Sonia Abluton from the EURUFU PP7 Team





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# Regional Pilot Actions

## Biotechnical Centre Naklo (PP9) – Educational Program:

### **Developing Opportunity – Discovering the Potential**

Pilot Action was started at Biotechnical Centre Naklo (Slovenia) in November 2012 and finished on the end of January 2013.

Program contained 5 modules which included sustainable development, entrepreneurship, organic, green economy projects, local characteristics, legislation and preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

The basic aim of the educational program »Developing opportunity – discovering the potential« is to offer the inhabitants of the rural areas the possibility to get systematically acquainted with contents enabling them to take an active role in activities and services leading to the development of rural areas as follows:

1) Greater motivation of the already registered suppliers, unemployed and other inhabitants of the rural areas interested in self-employment or performing additional activities, 2) Activation of the young for additional training and management of different activities or services in rural areas, 3) Creating additional income in rural areas with the existing local potential, 4) Strengthening the possibility for marketing of products, services and different events in rural areas, 5) Achieving greater access of inhabitants to the participation of training program and additionally stimulate them to take part in different forms of lifelong learning, 6) More intense motivation for cooperation, project work, common marketing of products, services and events in rural areas.

Program was carried out by expertise with lot of experiences in the fields, twice a week, 4 hours a day for 3 months. Participants were actively involved in the implementation of the pilot program which contained lectures, presentations, discussions, concrete demonstrations of best practices and also visiting and discussing with some of successful entrepreneurs at the local area. Participants had many chances to incorporate their ideas with new knowledge gained during the program.



Educational program gave concrete opportunity to participant to acquire the skills and competences required for the self employment, re-employment or first job seekers - "multi skilled work force", capable of moving with the times and reacting to the concrete local / regional / national / EU demands.

In the future Biotechnical Centre Naklo will offer the educational program modularly. This will enables adoption to the current needs of population in different areas - choosing 1, 2 or 3 of modules depends what kind of knowledge person needs at the time.

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# EURUFU - Bilateral meeting in Zeltweg

## ROW – Regional Management Upper Styria West Austria (PP10)



*Transnational transfer of results and cross-border cooperation were in focus.*



The first results are available from EURUFU project. The pilot actions have successfully completed their first round and now it is time to share the insights and experience with the other partners and organizations. This took place at the bilateral meeting between the Regional Management Upper Styria West and the two EURUFU partners' of Slovenia "Development Agency Sora" and "Biotechnical Centre Naklo" on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 in the rooms of the AiZ Zeltweg. The partners discuss about transferability and adaption of pilot action results and further cooperation. To ensure a broad knowledge and experience transfer, the Slovenian delegation was accompanied by representatives of the "Employment Service of Slovenia" and the education center Škofja Loka. On Styrian side some representative of the SFG, the bit Management GmbH and the "Junge Wirtschaft" participated in the meeting.

Together we identified potential and agreed to further cooperation. Gathering Ideas for transnational projects and cross-border cooperation with respect to the new programming period 2014-2020 will be the next steps.

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PP11 - Municipality of Brzeg Dolny continues with next step in realization of its pilot action – investment in the village Grodzanow.

The idea of the investment is renovation and adaptation of a partly derelict building with adjacent area and creating a common room and social-recreational area which could play an educational and social role, and which will also serve as a place for sports and recreation.

Local inhabitants have had great impact on the actual layout of the construction design and hopefully will take full advantage of the realized pilot action. It was always a bottom-up approach and their creative thinking in the planning phase made it possible to realize what is expected.

There needed to be some changes implemented as to what was forecast in the beginning of the project.

Due to the fact that investment focuses on partly derelict building great amount of money and renovation works are needed as to the roof and walls of the building. This is performed with both EU and co-financing of municipal budget.

Municipality will also focus its own money on the interior construction works, such as renovation of the building's first floor and creating rooms that will serve local community: kitchen and social room, room for cultural events, etc. The general contractor for renovation works has been chosen with compliance to public procurement rules.

The investment is already under way, it is scheduled to be finish this Autumn.

After realization it could serve as a role model for other rural areas of our region, and also due to very active town twinning of Brzeg Dolny – in transnational level.

After the end of the co-financing period the Municipality of Brzeg Dolny will be financially and technically responsible for sustaining the investment.

Local community in rural area will be responsible of managing the "life" of the investment, elaborating local activities, perhaps creating new associations, local traditional food and local customs.

Thanks to elaboration of construction design and other external expertise that is projected in the EuRuFu project the Municipality will continue with further steps of improving local area after the project finishes, creating external square – inhabitants' meeting place with barbecue shed, outdoor scene, playground, football/basketball/volleyball field, table tennis, field chess, internal paths etc.



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## Upcoming Events

### 3rd EURUFU Scientific Conference about “*Social issues and Health Care in Rural Areas*” and Final Project Meeting

The conference will be held within the framework of the project EURUFU in **March 2014 in Sondershausen/ Thuringia, Germany.**

For more information:

EURUFU project website:

[www.thuringen.de/eurufu/en/](http://www.thuringen.de/eurufu/en/)

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For unsubscribe do the same procedure with „unsubscribe newsletter“.

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## Information

All recipients and readers of this newsletter are kindly asked to support the project in bringing in innovative ideas to secure the provision of public services and infrastructure in rural regions.

**Demographic change is present and future reality in Europe so let us adapt and frame it!!!**

### Impression

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