

# EUROPEAN MANAGER OF INTELLIGENT AND RESPONSIBLE TERRITORIES (GETIR) PROJECT

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## EVALUATION WORKSHOP REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

Present document is the report of the evaluation workshop carried out during the last coordination meeting under the external evaluation process.

One of the activities included under the external evaluation process of GETIR project was the organization of an evaluation workshop with the participation of project partners. The above mentioned workshop was hold during the last transnational meeting that took place in Timisoara (Romania) on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

The purpose of the group dynamics was to assess the future viability of the project outcomes once the project is over as well as to explore the possibilities organizations have to go on collaborating in the future as a partnership.

## METHODOLOGY

The session was divided into two different parts. During the first part, partners were asked to give answers to five questions regarding the future use of the project outcomes per country and then they had to put the answers in common and create a debate. On the other hand, in the second part of the session all attendees were invited to join the discussion about the different possibilities for future collaboration among the partnership.

### → First part

The first activity consisted on a discussion based on their answers to these questions. The answers had to be according to each country reality.

- Which outcome of the project do you consider to be the most sustainable one – and why?
- Which problems have to be solved for further implementation?
- What are the outcomes of the project you will work with in the future?
- In which context can be implemented these outcomes best? (Will the project outcomes be used by the target groups defined by the project or by different ones? Which ones?)
- How is the project valued from outside the project in your country? (According to stakeholders' feedback).

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The first idea was that members from the same organization or country worked together during this activity. But, unfortunately, the Swedish partner was alone so we decided to answer the questions all together.

### → Second part

Then, the second part of the evaluation workshop, as it was already mentioned, consisted of a debate among all people attending the meeting about the possibilities for future collaboration between the organizations.

Two different inputs were given to participants in order to get their feedback. The inputs were:

- What do you expect from the partnership now that the project is over?
- Ideas for future collaboration.

Participants gave their answers and ideas during the left time for this issue in the agenda.

## RESULTS

In this section, we are presenting the results got in the evaluation workshop. They are presented according to each raised question and according to its applicability in the five countries.

### Question 1 - **Which outcome of the project do you consider to be the most sustainable one – and why?**

Partners agreed in this question. All of them said that the **Professional Profile** is the most sustainable outcome of the project according to their vision but always adapting it to each country. They think the professional profile has a great potential of because there are not similar training profile in most of their countries (e.g. Greece)

Besides, they thought that it is important to count with a quality training course in order to train people to become European IRT Managers, so the **Training Tool** was considered as a sustainable outcome too. They highlighted as strong points of the tool that it is multilanguage and multimedia so it has an easy access for e-learning students. In addition, it is flexible and it could be applicable to different environments and the training can be done using different teaching methodologies. Besides, partners think that the contents can be useful for people already working on the local development field.

Finally, partners mentioned the **Best Practices** as another sustainable project product because they consider that they show very interesting examples that can be applied and adapted to other scenarios.

### Question 2 - **What are the outcomes of the project you will work with in the future?**

In the case of the second question, the answers are linked to each country and even to each partner organization. So we are presenting the results accordingly.

The Folkuniversitetet (Sweden) said that they will use the training contents at local level to organize courses and train consultants, etc. In addition, they think

this can be related to the third sector. In Sweden, the project outcomes will be more prone to be used by private consultancies.

Partners from Bulgaria pointed out the virtual community is a crucial outcome for further transference of the profile to other sectors

Romanian partner said that they will use the training materials because they are very innovative although they think the contents cannot be applied to many professional fields.

While Greek partner mentioned that the dissemination and use of materials in Greece will be hindered as there is no translation of the materials from English to Greek. They said they will use the Best Practices.

Finally, in Spain, partners will use the training contents to adapt the intelligent and responsible management of territories in other fields of expertise, for example, in the touristic sector or in the environmental sector. Besides, Spanish partners think that another European project could be developed with this base. They also will use the virtual community together with the training materials and they think the virtual community could be dynamized with innovative techniques as storytelling.

### **Question 3 - Which problems have to be solved for further implementation?**

Regarding the problems have to be solved for future implementation, partners pointed out several things.

Regarding the professional profile, some partners think that it is quite general so if it is going to be applied to some other professional area or field of expertise, the profile should be adapted to each particular case.

One of the main problems they have encountered is the language barrier. GETIR project language is English although all the training modules are translated into the national languages (Spanish, Bulgarian, Romanian and Swedish). However, one of the aims of the project is to create a European network of stakeholders so it is necessary that all participants use English

language in the virtual community to communicate. Unfortunately, we have noticed that up to now, many participants find it difficult and refuse to communicate in English.

Another problem partners mentioned is how to dynamize the virtual community (and also the project website) once the project is over. While the project was being implemented, the virtual community was active because stakeholders and project partners accessed and exchange information about the project. However, partners know that in the future, it will be necessary that some people are in charge of the virtual community in order to keep it updated and attractive to the visitors, if not, it won't be very active.

The training contents of the multimedia training tool may become outdate in some time and, in this case, GETIR training tool won't be useful anymore. So it would be necessary to update the training contents when applicable. This question may arise also the budget problem due to the person in charge of updating the contests should be paid.

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It was also mentioned that the training contents are quite large and if they are going to be transferred to another country, they should be translated what could be very expensive for some organizations. In addition, the people / organizations that may use the multimedia training tool in the future need to be trained so partners think that a 'train the trainers' course might be necessary although this drives to the financial issue again.

#### **Question 4 - In which context can be implemented these outcomes best?**

The target group of GETIR project was experts of local development, training centres, authorities... This question was aimed to know if partners think that this is the best context to use GETIR outcomes or if they consider that they can be applied in different contexts.

DOCUMENTA will disseminate and promote GETIR among Local Development sector, and touristic and environmental sectors, and as an additional training for undergraduates and graduates, whereas DIMITRA will try to work oriented to

the regional administrations, which now are very interested in promoting the tourism and environment sectors.

IREA would like to promote GETIR as a continuous training for people working in local administrations and as a part of the training curriculum for undergraduate students (Sociology, Economics, Educational Sciences).

BDA also thought in the touristic sector and Folkuniversitetet will use them in the context of third sector entities and organizations devoted to minimize the risk of social exclusion.

### **Question 5 - How is the project valued from outside the project in your country?**

Finally, we wanted to know how the project has been valued in the countries where it has already been implemented.

Feedback from Romania was that stakeholders consider it is the perfect time for a project like this because the local authorities in that area are very interesting in empowering the territory.

In Greece, the project has been seen as innovative, constructive and very useful. They think that it is time to give more power and responsibilities to the local governments and decentralize the countries. So the European Manager of Intelligent and Responsible Territories can help to achieve this goal.

Finally, in Bulgaria, partners have got the feedback from the stakeholders and authorities participating in the workshop (testing). They showed their interest in this professional profile.

### **Other matters of discussion**

Finally, participants in the meeting debated about the following questions:

- What do you expect from the partnership now that the project is over?
- Ideas for future collaboration.

There was not much time left for this discussion but partners launched several ideas.

DOCUMENTA mentioned the aim of developing a Transfer of Innovation Leonardo project, to test GETIR training with final users in a pilot training course with the same or similar partnership.

Another possibility is to provide training courses for a long pilot training stage, adding emphasis on the practical work.

Finally, it was mentioned the importance of creating networks to improve governance, taking into account the role of the local authorities in the countries; it will be necessary to collaborate with them for the success of the project in the context of the on-going decentralization process

## CONCLUSIONS

In the evaluation workshop it was possible to notice that partners are fully satisfied with the final result of project products and they are going to use them in their countries after the end of the project.

The most sustainable product is the professional profile together with the training contents, according to partners' opinion. They think it is a good professional profile that can be used in different contexts.

In order to use the project outcomes in a proper way, partners have identified some problems that should be tackled. Some of these problems are related to the language barrier, the updating of the training contents and the management of the tools (website, virtual community, etc.).

Finally, partners are willing to work together in the future and they shared their ideas for doing it.