

SEPAL Newsletter—Issue no. 5
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Local Stakeholders Committee Training in Greece



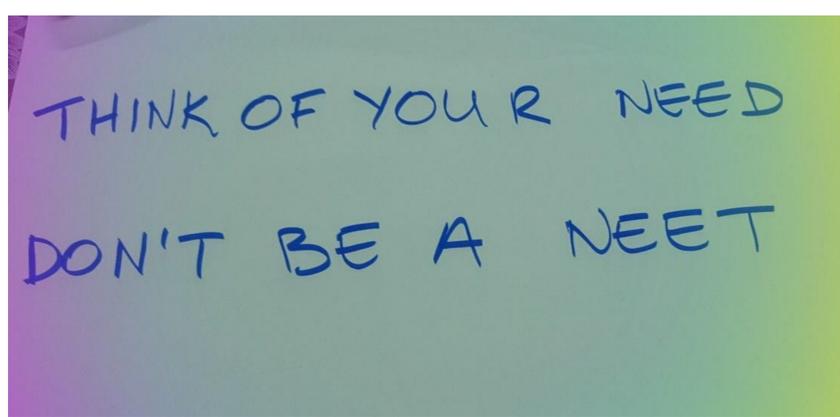
During the period 2-4 October 2019 the training meeting for **local stakeholders (LSCs)** involved in the **SEPAL** project was held in **Athens/Greece**. It was attended by representatives from the partner countries involved in the implementation of the SEPAL Project: Romania, Spain, Lithuania, Greece and Poland, as well as their local stakeholders from each country. The three-day training was conducted in a room that was kindly made available to us by the Serafeion Foundation of the Municipality of Athens.

During the **first day** the event was opened by Greek **SEPAL** project manager, Christos Makliri, and all were welcomed by Myrto Mirialli, president of KOISPE Diadromes, Greece. We had the opportunity to get to know each other in a playful way and then a more formal presentation of each SEPAL project partner: Bucovina Institute (Romania), Fundacio Privada Pere Closa (Spain), ZISPb (Lithuania), KOISPE DIADROMES (Greece), Collegium Balticum (Poland) took place.

The **second day** started with a presentation on: *NEETs in Europe. Statistics, profiles and analysis. Developing Emotional and Community Skills as Guarantees of Success in the Labor Market*. We identified that across countries the profiles vary somewhat but mostly have similar traits. Ages in studies center from age 15 to 29 mostly while gender numbers tend to be equal in most countries. Low self-esteem, a difficult job market and low income families tended to be part of the NEET profile in most countries. We had the opportunity to develop slogans, to have a photo shoot and video recording to promote SEPAL and access NEETs from all countries. This allowed for creativity and fun moments to emerge. A presentation and workshop on *Challenges in Social Entrepreneurship to integrate NEETs*, allowed us to think of different parameters that come into play when considering how to create job opportunities for vulnerable people. The workshop facilitated by the **SEPAL** WISE expert from Fundacio Privada Pere Closa from Spain, on *Vulnerability in the workplace. The Importance for Employers to Recognize vulnerability*, helped us think of difficulties around retaining NEETs in a training/work environment and consider possible solutions.

During the **last day** of the training there was organized the workshop on *Supported employment workshop in working with vulnerable groups and solutions. Relationship and cooperation with employers*, facilitated by the **SEPAL** WISE expert from Lithuania, which led to discussions on work demands and how to support NEETs to fulfill them. Following this, there was a presentation and workshop on *The importance of apprenticeship. Benefits of Business Apprenticeship Programmes* and a presentation and workshop on *The contribution of LSCs to the apprenticeship and internship stages*, facilitated by the **SEPAL** WISE expert from Greece. These workshops focused on the benefits of apprenticeship from different points of view and encouraged thinking around possible problems and solutions as well as creating services that can aid this process.

The event was successful and enjoyable during our work and all other activities. The meeting allowed for an **extremely productive process** to unfold. The interaction of all parties involved was necessary and useful for the implementation of the SEPAL project and we look forward to more opportunities to **exchange ideas** and plan our work together with all of our partners.



1st Annual Thematic Seminar of Active Youth projects



On 25 and 26 November 2019, at the invitation of the Fund Operator and Financial Mechanism Office we took part in the **first annual thematic seminar** for projects funded under **Active Youth call** for proposals and had the honor to be on the first panel discussions presenting our SEPAL innovative project.

The annual thematic seminar was an opportunity for the project partners to get together and strengthen their community through common learning. The **event focused** on learning and skills development within the field of youth employment, to enhance the competence of the project partners. Its goal was to **inspire the project partners and encourage their active participation** through creation of common learning space. The ambition was to use the seminar's topics to ensure knowledge-sharing relevant and useful for all 26 projects, focusing on common challenges like outreach, soft skills development, cooperating with local stakeholders, work-based learning, entrepreneurship and job creation.

More details you can find also on the website of the [Youth Employment Magazine](#).

3rd Dissemination event Romania



On November 13th 2019, Bucovina Institute organized the third dissemination event for the **SEPAL** project, which took place in **Suceava/Romania**.

We had the great opportunity to collaborate with the **National Authority of Qualifications from Romania** and to debate on the **topic of assessment and certification of professional competences obtained in non-formal and/or informal learning contexts**. This is a very important issue for the young people from our target group which generally have obtained some professional competences, but which are not officially certified.

This event was part of the initiative of Romanian National Qualifications Authority (through its structure – the **National Accreditation Service**) and Bucovina Institute to get closer to the main actors from the labour market, as well as those from the vocational education and training segment, explaining more clearly the system and the principles of the process for assessment and certification of professional competences obtained in a non-formal and/or informal learning contexts.

The event tried to raise the degree of confidence in the qualifications obtained at national level, but especially increasing the functional relevance within the binomial **"education and vocational training – the labour market"**.

At the end of this event, we reached the conclusion that there is an actual need to develop at least one **Center for the assessment and certification of competencies** in our county and we identified, with the help of the National Authority of Qualifications (through its structure the National Accreditation Service) what are the actual steps in developing such a center.

SEPAL project team in Cologne/Germany

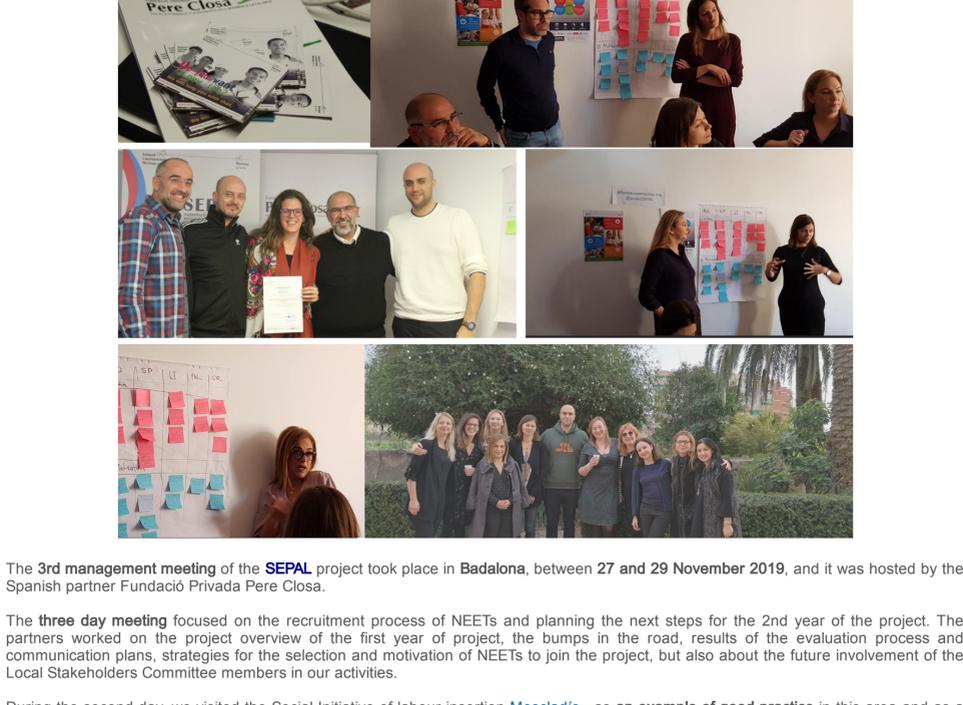


In the period 23-24 October 2019, the **SEPAL** partners met in **Cologne/Germany** for the Executive Committee meeting of Social Firms Europe CE FEC. They presented the current activities of the project to the other members of the network, shared the promotional materials created.

Also, the Executive Committee members discussed about the organization of the **2020 SFE CE FEC Conference**, which will take place on 18-19 March 2020 in Dortmund/Germany and where the SEPAL project will have a big floor to present the status of the project and to discuss about the vocational training process.

More details about the 34th SFE CE FEC Conference, *Inclusion by Employment*, you can find accessing this link: <https://34cefecconference.com/home>

3rd Management meeting in Spain



The 3rd management meeting of the **SEPAL** project took place in **Badalona**, between 27 and 29 November 2019, and it was hosted by the Spanish partner Fundació Privada Pere Closa.

The **three day meeting** focused on the recruitment process of NEETs and planning the next steps for the 2nd year of the project. The partners worked on the project overview of the first year of project, the bumps in the road, results of the evaluation process and communication plans, strategies for the selection and motivation of NEETs to join the project, but also about the future involvement of the Local Stakeholders Committee members in our activities.

During the second day, we visited the Social Initiative of labour insertion **Mescladís**, as an **example of good practice** in this area and as a new LSC for the **SEPAL** project. At the end of the meeting, the partners made a practical exercise in which each **SEPAL** team members identified the main obstacles and lessons learned during the first year of project.

News from around Europe



In **October 2019** the **SEPAL** project manager participated, in **Brussels**, at the **European Week of Cities and Regions**, taking part actively in two sessions concerning: *Co-building the title of European capital of social and solidarity economy and European Social Economy Regions 2019*. On 9 October, he met with Mr. Dragos Pislaru (former Minister of Romanian Ministry of Labor and Social Justice), now a Member of European Parliament and chair person of the InterGroup on youth disability and child rights and member of the **Committee of Employment and Social Affairs** within European Commission. We discussed about measures to support youth employment across Europe and cooperation for **SEPAL** meeting in Brussels with European institutions representatives in 2021 in order to build and promote the **SEPAL White Book**.

On 27 November 2019, the **SEPAL** project manager was present in **Strasbourg**, the 1st European capital of social economy, celebrating the **EESC Social Enterprise Day** with all the main actors on Social Economy at the European level. There were fruitful discussions on how to create at the European level an ecosystem favorable to Social economy enterprises and **WISEs**.

Also, **November** was a busy month in the adult learning sector across Europe:

- A **forum for reflection on adult learning** took place in Portugal. The aim of the event was to discuss how adult illiteracy can be tackled, and to acquaint participants with different methodologies. (PT)
- Meanwhile, the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science **hosted an adult education forum** to discuss the opportunities and challenges of adult education in the workplace and to highlight best practices in employee training. (LV)
- In Finland, the government **proposed to earmark €20 million** for high-impact education and employment services. The funding will support existing training opportunities and prepare adults for changes in the working life. (FI)



The SEPAL project is financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment