



Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO

The project Atlantic Social Lab is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program (EAPA_246 / 2016)



A. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Date	27-11-2017
Location:	Vila Nova de Famalicão
Name	The Social and Cultural Centre of S.Pedro do Bairro ¹ – Pedagogical Farm
Legal Status	Private Institution of Social Solidarity - Non-profit public utility
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B. SHORT DESCRIPTION	
Objectives <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Social and Cultural Centre of S. Pedro do Bairro, has a mission of meeting the needs and expectations of the local and municipal community through excellence in the provision of education, training and rehabilitation services, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of the population and to a more open and inclusive society. The main project of this institution is the Pedagogical Farm, the main purpose of the project is the integration and inclusion of disabled people.
Methodology <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	The operation mode of this project, has as main objective which is the participation of disabled people in the maintenance of the Pedagogical Farm. It will allow a socialization with the staff of the institution and with other users (elderly and children). It will allow the local disabled community to learn some kind of "art" that will later be useful in their integration into the society and therefore in the work market. In short, there is a promotion of social inclusion with participation in the daily tasks of maintenance of the Farm by the disabled people, as well as a socialization and habituation of these people in dealing with the so-called "normal" people. So a participative methodology is used, in away that the disabled people, will learn by doing...It will be a way of socializing, by sharing and being in contact with a larger amount of people and by these means the disabled people will be more prepared for the real world.

C. MAIN FINDINGS	
Social Needs <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	<p>With this project, The Social and Cultural Centre of S. Pedro do Bairro, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for integration by disabled people; • Need for inclusion and socialization by disabled people; • Learning and qualification needs that disabled people have for the future; • Need for maintenance of space by the institution; • The financial needs of the institution; • The need for children to become accustomed to dealing and cohabiting with disable people and elderly in order to become more socially responsible adults.

¹ Photograph 1, - Entrance of the Social and Cultural Center of S.Pedro do Bairro

	It is observable that the main social need that this project - Pedagogical Farm - wants to achieve is the inclusion, socialization and integration of the individuals with disabilities into society. So that correlated and alternative effects as, the aid in the maintenance of the space, the self sufficiency in some production by the farm and the socialization of children with elderly people and those with disabilities can exist.
Social Innovative Practices (<i>identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs</i>)	The practice of social innovation that will be highlighted in this project is Pedagogical Farm ² , as a whole. The whole project is embedded and rooted in a web of socialization, inclusion and integration of disabled people. There are several activities that promote learning, qualification, socialization and inclusion of these type of individuals, such as: agricultural activities, animal treatment, pellet production, tea plantation and aromatic herbs, among others. All these activities will promote the future integration and inclusion for the disabled people in the community. In addition to these activities, the centre with the Pedagogical Farm project promotes a constant interaction between disabled individuals and the other users (children and the elderly) in their day to day life. As this institution is financed largely by national funds (about 60%), there is a need to be able to raise funds in other ways, Therefore, the Pedagogical Farm encourages their self-sustainability ³ , as they produce products for its auto-consumption (example of the pellets production), as well as, for later commercialization (example of the teas and aromatic herbs).
Collaboration and Networks (<i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i>)	Its collaborative network has as agents, the Famalicão Municipality, other social institutions, the local church and the National Government.

D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS	
Challenges and Barriers (<i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks...</i>)	The biggest challenges this organization faces, are the economic and financial challenges, since they are heavily dependent on national and regional funds. Other of the biggest challenges and problems are the high level of requests for help from poor families, elderly people, children and disabled people (there is a waiting list at the centre), because the size of the facilities and the number of human resources isn't enough to respond to the entire surrounding community.

E. CONCLUSIONS	
Key Concluding Lines	In conclusion, the centre with the Pedagogical Farm project as already was mentioned throughout the report, intends to "give" a better quality and perspective of life for the disabled people, the key ingredient is their integration, inclusion, socialization and qualification. It also aims to socialize "all with all" the elderly with children, disabled people with children, disabled people with the elderly, and so in order to create an "open minded" community, a community that respects each other in its "equalities" and in its "differences".

² Photograph 2, ASL partnership visiting the project facilities – Pedagogical Farm

³ Photograph 3, ASL partnership planting a tree at Pedagogical Farm, promoting environmental sustainability

Other information considered relevant	Despite the Pedagogical Farm being the main social innovation project that this report is highlighting. The Social and Cultural Centre of S.Pedro do Bairro offers a wide variety of services to its community, such as: Nursery and Kindergarten; Free Time Activities; Day Centre; Professional qualification; Social Support Service; Elderly Residential; Families at Risk Mediation Support and others...
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Study Visit Photos



Figure 1 - Entrance of the Social and Cultural Center of S. Pedro do Bairro



Figure 2 - ASL partnership visiting the project facilities – Pedagogical Farm



Figure 3 - ASL partnership planting a tree at Pedagogical Farm

Partner: Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

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Review: Hugo Pinto and Atlantic Social Lab Partners