

“NEVER LET A GOOD CRISIS GO TO WASTE”: SOME EXAMPLES FROM RIAC PROJECT

Winston Churchill’s famous observation - made during the bleakest days of World War II – can summarise also the mind-set of the RIAC partners along the duration of the project. In the last 30 months the partners and participants of the RIAC project have been coping with local, national, European and global challenges. A restrictive immigration policy in Italy, a monetary crisis in Turkey, new waves of populist, sovereigntist, identitarian movements became stronger with each electoral campaign in many countries in Europe, and nowadays a pandemic. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to a brief review of some of the strategies developed by our partners to respond to unexpected challenges.



A project is a space for experimentation: creativity and innovation thrive and develop in this space and produce ideas and models.

The RIAC Project comprised the implementation of 20 actions (RIACs) in four partner countries (Germany, Italy, Denmark and Turkey). The actions were defined in the project both in terms of organisational aspects and content.

Starting from the results of the standardisation of operations, each partner was invited to consider possible innovations with regard to internal processes.

In addition to the implementation of the model on the basis of the topics already analysed, the experiences of the partners revealed operational possibilities and possible solutions that were not foreseen in the original model.

The constant search to adapt the model to local conditions (political and economic) lead to the creation of innovative solutions, which were collected and shared again with the project partners.

This repeated transfer guaranteed that the project is characterised by its transferability. The adaptation of practices to local contexts made the model scalable.

THE RIAC EXPERIENCE

As a result of the exchange of practices, the project partners implemented alternative and innovative solutions in the second series of activities. In particular, tools for the integration of specific target groups (women and self-employed) into labour market were translated and transferred to very different regional contexts.

The Coronavirus pandemic faced our individual and social behaviours with new challenges.

The partners of the RIAC project responded effectively and creatively to issues related to communication, training and information, and provided participants with innovative tools that enabled them to maintain a physical distance, but not an emotional one.

This way we realised the component “put into practice” within the framework of the RIAC project, i.e. the transfer of concrete activities for the uptake and the use of tools developed by relevant actors, during the project duration.



The Italian experience that **Alisei** had with female refugees who were victims of trafficking and deprived of residence permits for humanitarian purposes was a milestone in the project: the idea was born to help these women by setting up cooperatives as a form of self-employment, but in a very structured way. This approach was an interesting input for other partners, for example in Turkey, but also for an innovation transfer project at **Pro Arbeit** in Germany.

In line with the current situation and the spread of COVID-19, **Habitat** has started a wide offer of online workshops with RIAC Network members to empower them in digital transformation on the topic of “Working from Home”, including all the information necessary to be confident and understand how digital platforms work and how privacy settings can be established through active use of digital platforms.

The members of the Habitat RIAC Network will also participate in the Online workshop “I have Control” to help them surfing the internet.

Issues such as safety and security in the workplace are also an important principle for protecting workers and saving lives, especially in times of unexpected situations such as COVID-19, which is spreading in these times.





KIZ

KIZ

<https://www.kiz.de/>

Since 1997, KIZ has been supporting and advising people from different backgrounds on how to integrate into the job market or start their own business. It is currently active in over 20 cities and districts. KIZ has served over 30,000 customers and supported the founding of over 6,000 companies throughout Germany. The spectrum of training offered ranges from underserved, disadvantaged target groups such as migrants and refugees to students, graduates of universities and vocational academies. KIZ has become one of the leading experts in Germany for inclusive entrepreneurship and social innovation, with a focus on creating meaningful jobs, finding solutions to promote integration and social cohesion.

Since 2017 KIZ is a member of the Youth Business International (YBI) network, a network of organisations that offer mentoring programs to young entrepreneurs in 30 countries around the world. Now KIZ, like many other organisations of the YBI network and supported by Google, also offers support for small businesses that have got into difficulties due to the Corona crisis (Soforthelfer.org).

KIZ has a very strong network on entrepreneurship in the Rhine-Main area. In cooperation with the City of Offenbach, KIZ pushes the local network "city of entrepreneurs". This network brings together the most important regional actors for the promotion of entrepreneurship. Through this network KIZ can reach regional companies to become host entrepreneurs as well as start-ups interested in going abroad to improve their entrepreneurial skills. In addition, for more than 15 years KIZ has been organising the annual Hessian Founders' Days and the associated prize with which the state of Hesse honours start-ups.

KIZ also has a strong network throughout Germany and Europe. KIZ is the German partner of the globally active organization "Youth Business International", carries out an INTERREG Europe project as well as an EEA & Norway grant to promote entrepreneurship among the NEETs and has been an active partner in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme since 2017.

Motto:

First people,

then numbers.



EVENTS



A european based community of engaged management scholars

THE BUSINESS OF NOW:
THE FUTURE STARTS HERE

Online 4 – 6 December

Supported by Trinity College, Ireland

The annual conference of the European Academy of Management (EURAM) is being held online this year with the support of Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and will cover topics ranging from the environment to social inclusion, from ethical entrepreneurship to the sustainability of free markets and their ability to achieve the social and economic goals that were considered an integral part of the liberal capitalist system of the last century, defining the "Business of Now" as a response to the immediacy demanded by business and society.

You can find more information here:

<https://conferences.euram.academy/2020conference/>



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