

< **UPAL - The Network on Active Labour Market Policies- Italy** >

General details

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Details of activity

Background to the case study	<p>Aims and objectives</p> <p>The UPAL network aims at promoting new methods for cooperation and integration among local (Provinces) and regional authorities within the framework of active labour market policies. In particular, it aims at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a local network of efficient cooperation -Defining active labour market policies in synergy with the regions and in coordination with the local authorities. - Meeting specific local needs <p>The ultimate goal is to support targeted and coordinated measures for people at risk of exclusion from the labour market and to meet companies' needs that influences the economic and employment growth.</p> <p>Brief rationale</p> <p>UPAL was implemented within the framework of the decentralization of competencies in the field of employment services from the State to the Regions and to the Provinces both at administrative and political level. The decentralization process was instituted by Law 469/1997 and Regional Law 1/99.</p> <p>The Region of Lombardy and the Provinces signed an agreement on employment services management in 2001.</p> <p>Implementing organisation</p> <p>Agenzia Regionale per il Lavoro ; 11 Provinces of Lombardy, Region of Lombardy</p> <p>Funders</p> <p>1st year: European Social Funds</p>
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	<p>2nd year: National Employment Funds 3rd year: European Social Funds When activity started / end date? Start date: 2003 Supposed to be sustainable</p>
Description of activity	<p>- Outline of programme / activities and approaches used The network is made up of 11 experts, one for each Province, who have the task of supporting the Provinces with technical assistance. The expert promotes the sharing and exchange of information and best solutions that are adopted at local level and the know-how transfer from the Region to the Provinces. The experts are coordinated by the Agenzia Regionale per il Lavoro.</p> <p>- Origins – how it came about – bottom up / top down, grew from previous initiative (if so what) Created and developed by the Agenzia Regionale per il Lavoro in line with the principle of subsidiarity.</p> <p>Who was involved in the design, management and delivery of the programme The Regional Government (D:G:Education, Training and Employment), The Agenzia Regionale per il Lavoro and the 11 Provinces.</p> <p>Recognition – has the programme been recognised as good practice? If so, by whom? /</p>
Policy context within which the programme operates	<p>Describe the policy context in which the programme operates:</p> <p>Although Lombardy region boasts successful labour market practices, local issues are still emerging that need to be solved. In particular, to improve employment performance it is necessary to support the following groups: people with disadvantages, over 40 year old workers, immigrants and women, as their level of employment is low.</p> <p>It was clear that an inclusive and network-like approach was needed to improve working methods and bring local authorities closer to the Regional government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the policy context supportive / prohibitive? The policy context is supportive since the initiative is in line with the principle of subsidiarity and contributes to the development of efficient active labour policies both at regional and local level. • Has the policy context changed during the life of the activity



	<p>Since the creation of the network, some of the local Council members have been changed. However, these political changes in the Local council have not compromised the continuous development of the network.</p> <p>Which came first – local activities or policy priorities (i.e. is activity leading or following policy priorities)?</p> <p>The network came from a political decision to respond to specific local needs. Once the agreements were signed, the activities were identified.</p>
Geographical focus of the case study	<p>At what level does the programme operate?</p> <p>Regional and local level</p>
Impact	<p>Describe the impact of the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs – scale and scope of people reached through the programme <p>11 experts working within the local government who meet regularly upon regional initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes: <i>at local level</i> – what difference at local level and <i>at regional and / or national level</i> – what difference made? <p>In particular the outcomes are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Draft of local active labour policies programmes carried out by the Provinces, the network UPAL and the Agenzia Regionale per il Lavoro – Promotion of Borsa Lavoro Lombardia, a regional system for employment services. – Contribution to the creation of territorial agreement – A team of experts on active labour market policies (the first in Italy) – Regional government closer to the territory and a more efficient and transparent dialogue among the institutions <p>Any impact at European level?</p> <p>NO</p>
Partners' details	<p>Name and briefly describe partner's contributions to programme</p> <p>Provinces: involved in training activities and carrying out tasks for 2 levels of government (local and regional). The real added value to the organisational chain.</p>

Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the	Name target group / groups
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programme?	Public functionaries and the ultimate target groups are those citizens at risk of exclusion from the labour market. They are those most influenced by the policies developed and the services provided by the network.
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	Describe <i>Regional and local, both at administrative and political level</i>
What actions resulted in mainstreaming?	How did they do it? Serendipity / luck, contacts, drive, X factor? Where has programme been replicated? The BORSA LAVORO LOMBARDIA – a regional system for employment services based on an inclusive public-private partnership, of which UPAL is a key actor, was the first regional system to be created in Italy and it has subsequently been replicated in several regions in the country.
Sustainability	What achieved / how funded? Up to now, funds come from ESF and National resources. Still looking for further funds that will make the project sustainable
Successes / lessons learned	What contributed to the programme's success? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The efficient and transparent dialogue between the Region and the Provinces through the UPAL experts. - Implementation of measures and the delivery of services that the Provinces would not have been able to do if the network had not existed - Increased quality of active labour policies - Efficient share and exchange of best practices - Good expertise of the UPAL members What lessons have been learned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the network-like approach and the inclusive involvement of the actors make active labour policies more successful. The share of a common method of coordination at different political levels makes planning and management of policies more efficient and brings institutions closer to local, real citizens needs. If they had their time again what would they do differently? The actors involved should have focused on what should have been the financial resources to make the project sustainable.

