

3rd NEWSLETTER

S.E.E.D. – Social Entrepreneurship and Ecosystems Development

3rd Learning tour

From April 7th to 11th, 2025, the Italian Learning Tour of the S.E.E.D. took place in Italy. Partners from Finland, and the Netherlands participated in an intense week of meetings and in the Salerno and Baronissi area, in direct contact with social enterprises, third sector organizations, and local institutions.

Day 1 – Monday, April 7th

The day began at the Confindustria Salerno headquarters, where the project partners were welcomed by Giovanna Palumbo and Francesca Sauro from Essenia UETP. The morning started out with a presentation by Francesco Piemonte, professor at the University of Salerno and President of MODAVI - Movement of the Italian Volunteering Associations ([MODAVI – APS RA](#)) on

how Social Enterprises and third sector entities in Italy work and are governed from a legislative and political point of view. Then we explored with Patrizia Stasi of [Fondazione della Comunità Salernitana](#) the concept of foundations and the activity of her foundation promotes the implementation of sustainable local projects Antonio Del Vecchio ([Stratego](#)



[Comunicazione - Benefit Corporation](#)) and Simonetta de Luca Musella ([Dielleme Srl – Benefit Corporation](#))

covered the topic of Benefit Companies in Italy, providing insight on how even though they aren't social enterprises, they are a legal form of businesses that, in addition to generating profit, legally commit to pursuing a common benefit, such as positive social or environmental impact.



Gabriella di Maio, Economics and business teacher at the Genovesi – Da Vinci High School, and her student Antonella Iuliano, instead, gave examples of talked about integrating teaching social entrepreneurship at VET school.

The afternoon consisted of first visit to [Mestieri Campania](#), a Social Cooperative active in the labour market and training



sector. Anna Checchero, Regional Director, introduced how Mestieri works to not

only provide professional training and career orientation to individuals, but also focuses on working on social inclusion projects: helping people who are vulnerable, unemployed (including NEETs), refugees, and other marginalized groups to access work or reintegration. After that,

we met Luca Goffredo, President of [Cooperativa Giovamente](#), a Social Cooperative active in aiding people with disabilities, and assisting disadvantaged and immigrant minors.



Then the group had a visit to the educational center [Life is a Game – Autism Center](#), where were observed how young people with autism are taught practical life skills

focused on integrating them towards an autonomous lifestyle.

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 8th

The group started off the day at the PalaDiCerbo sports and gymnastics center Salerno with a presentation by Carmen Guarino and Tiziana dello Russo of [Fondazione Casamica](#)



regarding their foundation and how they aim to promote

sports participation, ensuring access to sport for all, especially to vulnerable groups. The visit was then followed by travelling to Pontecagnano Faiano to visit the [Nonno Emilio Farm](#), a Social Didactic Farm with organic farms, swimming activities and Hippotherapy for young people with disabilities. We then took a walk to the nearby [Dopo di Noi co-housing](#). Dopo di noi, which means "After Us," is a group apartment/co-housing



community solution for individuals with severe disabilities, designed to support a planned process of deinstitutionalization and rehabilitation towards social autonomy.



The afternoon was spent with a visit to [Legambiente Occhiverdi](#) one of the most well-known environmental NGOs in Italy. We toured the community gardens, first of their kind in southern Italy where people can rent a plot of land to grow crops.



Day 3 – Wednesday, April 9

Wednesday's visits were centered around visiting and observing social enterprises in and around Baronissi, whose Municipality is partner of the project. We started out by touring the [Arcobaleno Nursery School](#) managed by Social Cooperative "GEA" where topics regarding early Childhood Services were observed and discussed. Afterwards, an institutional meeting in the Municipal building was held with Mayor Anna Petta, who presented the actions of the Municipality.

Antonio Florio with [Consorzio Valle dell'Irno](#) gave an insightful overview on institutions and social enterprises in all of Italy. Florio also expanded on how the Consorzio Valle dell' Irno (Irno Valley Consortium) coordinates and delivers social and care services across several municipalities near Salerno by supporting families, the elderly, people with disabilities, minors, and women, with programs focused on inclusion, protection, and community well-being. After that,

we headed to the [A.L.E.S.S.I.A. Center – Fuori Tratta Project](#), ("Free from trafficking



project"), carried out by ARCI one of Italy's largest and most influential non-profit cultural and social associations where the group was informed about the difficult fight that Alessandra Galatro and her colleagues wage against human trafficking regarding immigrant and refugee women. The next visit was at, which, while not a social enterprise, promotes social welfare through the use of educational farms for schools and eco-conscious methods for managing their extensive vineyards. Then the group visited [Un Cuore a Cavallo](#), a non-profit organization aiming to become a social enterprise. It offers hippotherapy activities for young people with disabilities and disadvantaged people. Nicoletta Barrella, the head of the organization, showed us around the farm and demonstrated how effective horses are in helping these young people.

Day 4 – Thursday, April 10

Thursday started at the Municipality of Salerno, where met Paola De Roberto, City Councilor for Social and Youth Policies, and Barbara Figliolia, Municipal Assessor that presented on local institutional policies and strategies regarding social services, labour market and entrepreneurship



Then, the partnership went to [Hub Rete Salerno](#), one of the territorial "hubs" of the "Progetto Rete" initiative, which is implemented by Invitalia, the Italian government agency focused on economic development. We learned about how the "Rete" project providing strategic consultancy and for young entrepreneurs to promote the creation of social enterprises. The tour continued with the visit at [La Tela di Carlotta](#), a Social Cooperative residential home for minors (the majority of which unaccompanied and from economically disadvantaged countries), supporting their



integration, facilitating access to education, healthcare, employment.

The next meeting was at the social enterprise [Saremo Alberi](#). Other than being a children's bookstore, Francesco Cicalese and Saremo Alberi are also part of a Social Cooperative focused on management of cultural services for children and families, providing interactive and inclusive activities for young adults with autism and much more. Saremo Alberi is also an independent publishing house, also designing books for children with autism. The day ended with a visit to the headquarters of the [Marea Association](#), which hosts a



"Solidarity Purchasing Group": a community-based group of people who come together to buy goods and foods directly from

local producers. These are typically ethical, local, and sustainable products with a strong focus on social and environmental responsibility, such as "[Stalker](#)", a social cooperative that employs individuals psychiatric conditions, immigrants, and former prisoners, while "[Libera Scafati](#)" promote legality, social inclusion, and community



engagement through the revitalization and cultivation in areas and places sequestered from the mafia.

Day 5 – Friday, April 11

Friday marked the final day of the learning tour with a closing meeting at Essenia UETP where were discussed the activities. The Learning Tour in Italy was an important opportunity to compare social enterprise models, inclusion policies, and sustainable practices. Thanks to the contribution of the partners and local organizations involved, participants acquired new skills, ideas, inspiration

and valuable contacts for the continuation of the SEED project activities.

Training for teachers

In November, teachers from Finland and the Netherlands will join together to deepen their understanding of Social Entrepreneurship. Participants will explore their role within the wider ecosystem and discuss how educators can inspire entrepreneurial students to create positive impact in ecological or social contexts. The programme will include theoretical sessions as well as plenty of interaction among teachers. In addition, two visits to inspirational social entrepreneurs are planned. During the training, the teachers will also contribute to the improvement of a textbook for students—the first draft of which has already been prepared by the project partners.

If you are a teacher from another VET school who would like to learn more about this training, please contact Kurt van Katwijk (kkatwijk@novacollege.nl).

Sharing our project

On Thursday, 30 October, the team will participate in Impact Fest 2025 in The Hague, where they will share experiences and insights from the SEED project. Impact Fest is recognised as one of Europe's leading events for impact-driven communities, bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, NGOs, policymakers, and thought leaders to address urgent social and environmental challenges.

On 4 November, the project will be presented at the EMES International Research Network event in Rotterdam, where it will be discussed with other organisations during a Practitioners' Lab. Both events offer excellent opportunities for anyone interested or active in Social Entrepreneurship to connect and engage.