

# SEDETT NEWSLETTER

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## Seville Project Management Meeting 2: Overview

The II Project Meeting was held in Seville from 14 to 15 June. The different partners could enjoy a very warm but mostly humanly warm weather. Two important questions about the time of the meeting should be highlighted: on the one hand the place where it was held; on the other hand on June 15, an important day for the religious community of the city.

The meeting was held in the house-palace commonly known as the "House of Mermaids", built in the nineteenth century. The building is located in a public garden of 1574 which makes it the oldest in Spain and Europe. In the second half of the last century it was a refuge for bohemians, artists, prostitutes and a key space in the social struggle and development of Seville. The agenda organized for those days began on the morning of the 14th at 9.00 where after welcoming each of the partner organisation's representatives Noemi Mier, the project manager of Urban Mission de Ayuda made a presentation on the work of the Mission. In addition we had the opportunity to dialogue with David Pino, Director of Innovation and Social Economy of the City of Seville about the work of the Directorate and the aims and purpose of the SEDETT project (see later for more information).



The project's management meeting continued with our agenda and considered the minutes of the previous meetings were discussed and approved and progress reports of work done in connection with the project's intellectual outputs (IOs) were discussed. After a brief stop for a coffee and a break to clear the mind, we continued with our tasks. At lunchtime we enjoyed fusion cuisine in "Arte y Sabor", a restaurant where the shores of the Mediterranean fuse making us travel through its warm waters. Finally, we were expecting a special evening that night, a flamenco show in the emblematic "Carbonería", which was the block of the House-Palace of Samuel Leví, in the Jewish quarter of the city, where the heat did not stop the soul of such magical dance, the heart of such a chanting.

The next day our meeting was scheduled to finish. During the meeting we heard in the distance the preparations for the festival of Corpus Christi which is celebrated across the city. The morning followed the planned schedule where Pathways guided the group in creative learning activities that focused on the generation of material for IO3. The final section of the meeting considered issues that needed to be addressed at the next project meeting in Rome in September.



Although the city still waited to give the group a surprise because on June 15<sup>th</sup> in Seville the Catholic festival of Corpus Christi is still celebrated. On that day the city is dressed with flowers and incense, images and drums, religious icons are positioned around the city and people go out and take it all in. So as ever we said goodbye to each other with some regret given such a useful meeting in such a wonderful location.

# Meeting with DAVID PINO,

**Director of Innovation and Social Economy for the City of Seville**



David explained that in his position as Director of CADE "Strategies" - Andalusian Centre for Entrepreneurship - in Seville, he has helped to create more than 300 cooperatives and about 200 social enterprise companies of different denominations. It was explained the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship provided a tutoring service and an advice service to such organisations in their first years of existence. Its success is unbeatable: The average survival of the companies that form in this CADE is of 90%. David himself holds a master's degree in Business Administration and is a teacher in Social Economy, Collective Entrepreneurship, Cooperation, Cooperative Training, Strategies of Self-employment, New Business Initiatives, New Models of Management and Strategic Planning. David's position as the Director of Innovation and Social Economy for the City of Seville means that he is working a local legislation from which to promote social entrepreneurship across the Andalusian region.

David's passion for social enterprise was evident to the group and it was pointed out that Andalusia could be considered to be a land of social entrepreneur. It was indicated that 18% of the new Spanish cooperatives were created in the community, where the total count of these companies across Spain grew by 2%. However, in 2016 employment levels in Andalusian cooperatives increased by 3.2% and so it was claimed that Andalusia continues to lead the creation of labor cooperatives with 18% of cooperatives created in Spain. In addition Andalusia continues to lead the creation of cooperatives, and with respect to job creation, the community also ranks first, with 20% of the jobs created in the sector in 2016. In that year 1,809 new cooperative jobs were created, which represents an increase of 3.2% over the previous year. As an example of the success of cooperatives, according to official figures, in Spain 80% of the people working in cooperatives are members of these companies, and they have permanent contracts.

David indicated that the city council is currently working on the Master Plan of Social Innovation for the area and it is in dialogue with the community groups of the city. The ambition of this Plan is high because it wants to create a space that serves as a link for companies, social entrepreneurs, NGOs and associations, social movements, public administrations and universities. It is not a matter of uniting individual objectives, it is a matter of setting common goals, which are achieved by the joint effort of the workers. And, in this sense, Social Economy companies are democratic organizations, based on the valuation of the person and in which solidarity is the support of the operation of the initiatives. In discussion with the group it was agreed that the generation of a participatory framework which aided cohesion of employees and volunteers was fundamental for the development and success of the present companies.

Since 2011, more than 7,000 new cooperative enterprises have been created in Spain, of which an average of 76% are cooperatives. They are companies that are 100 percent owned by workers "who apply democracy to management and are based on egalitarian values". Discussion with group identified that need and economic circumstances were key issues that caused social enterprises to develop within particular communities.

Further discussion with the group identified that the significant position of the local community, as far as the development of Social Economy is concerned, was not a casual fact as it was the availability and usefulness of the Territorial Support Network for Entrepreneurs, made up of more than 200 Business Development Support Centers (CADEs) and managed by Andalucía Emprende that helped to make the social enterprises sustainable.