

Refine – Italian Network

Partners, Interviews, Tools, Activities and Budget

April 2004

1) Short Description of Partners

University

LUMSA

Free University Maria SS. Assunta (Lumsa) is a medium-sized, Catholic University in Rome, which is fully integrated into the Italian public higher education system. The School of Education awards first-level diplomas (laurea triennale) in social work, professional education, psychology and educational sciences, second-level diplomas (laurea specialistica) in the same fields, as well as Ph.D. degrees.

Since 2002 the School opened a program for the accreditation of prior experiential learning, leading only to first level diplomas.

Engaging in Refine is important in order to: 1) compare accreditation arrangements with other institutions and countries; 2) reinforce bonds between sectors; 3) develop quality procedures for the program.

Università di Roma 2 Tor Vergata - Scuola IaD

IaD, a distance learning school, is an educational, projectual, and scientific institution of Rome University Tor Vergata campus, initiated in 1999.

IaD provides distance learning for all courses of study offered through the university system. It provides vocational training for qualified personnel specialised in methodology and technology of distance learning, and promotes knowledge and practice of the distance learning-teaching model through research activities on methods and tools of educational communication.

The course method and implementation assess the students' experience and abilities, setting the teaching method after analysis of each student's competence and ability.

IaD participation in Refine is based on the belief that it is necessary to use and spread sensible tools at a European and multi-sectorial level to give value to personal experience.

Vocational training

Coop-Form

Coop-Form is a national organization dealing with vocational training and environment; its members are the national representatives of cooperative movements (Agci, Confcooperative and Legacoop) and the worker's trade unions (Cigl, Cisl and Uil).

Coop-Form is a no-profit organization aimed at developing research on the training needs of firms and their workers (members of the cooperatives and employees).

In particular it deals with new job opportunities generated by the new productive and organizational systems. Moreover, Coop-Form experiments with new multimedia, didactic technologies allowing flexible formative paths based on each person's learning abilities, skills and background.

Refine project and its network offer the possibility to test some useful tools for the exchange of knowledge and training, within the European work world in order to create a common evaluation system.

Cnos-Fap

The national federation CNOS/FAP (National Salesian Work Centre/Professional Update Training) is an association, started December 9, 1977 which coordinates working Salesians in Italy to promote a public service interested in the field of orientation, training, and professional updating in the education style of Don Bosco. The CNOS-FAP federation is a non-profit organization.

Associates of the federation are Salesian Institutions and local and regional CNOS-FAP associations/federations providing initiatives and actions for professional orientation and training, mainly through multi-functional centres for professional training.

The federation has offices in almost all regions and has at its disposal more than 60 operative centres.

Creating professional courses, we often need to give to our trainees credits earned both in formal and non formal activities.

CVs are important tools that trainees in our professional courses learn to create for future job interviews. Normally trainees who have successfully completed the course will receive, together with a certificate of qualification, a document describing the course structure.

All the above justifies our interest in the Refine project, in order to test and improve these tools and to give them European recognition.

Third sector

Sol.co. Roma

The Sol.Co. consortium promotes people's social potential, i.e. social integration and inclusion, and self-organization.

To do this, the consortium offers global assistance to people and assures the continuation of the service provided. It encourages participation and conscious support of people and their families and finalizes rehabilitation services and reinsertion into the working world for emancipation and social inclusion.

The Sol.Co consortium is strongly interested in the Refine project because there is an area of knowledge and competence which is not easily framed by traditional categories.

The life experience and knowledge of an employee, a supervisor, and a manager in the social cooperation system is based on specific technical and professional knowledge and on "something" taken from personal and professional experience.

Asvi

ASVI is a non profit, non governmental, independent organization. Asvi's strategy aims to reinforce and network the individual worker and the collective agents of change and social development at the international level through the formation and implementation of competence in managerial and strategic planning.

Main objective: To supply the instruments for management growth, for the development of the managerial class (non profit, profit and administration field), ethically oriented to produce goods in terms of responsibility, social development, governance. Non profit organizations and employees and managers are our preferential candidates.

The strategic activities: Vocational training course, with the e-learning method (used by us in Italy since 1998), in the non profit sector; our training courses are focused on: Fund Raising, Communication, Euro-project Management, Experts in Planning vocational

training courses, Entrepreneurial Planning, General Organization, Management, and Human Resource Management, based on an “ethical career”.

AVSI is strongly motivated to participate in the Refine project because it is consistent with our commitment to improve procedures of surveying and enhancing competence and the tools involved. These tools are not only for entrance into the work world, but also for self-improvement.

Ceis

CeIS (Italian Centre for Solidarity) in Rome was founded at the end of the 1960s, as a Volunteer group, to help people in trouble, particularly young people, outcasts, and disintegrating families.

The mission of CeIS is the attention to the human person in his integrity, dignity, and liberty.

The employees of CeIS are social workers, educators, teachers, psychologists, sociologists, cultural promoters. All the personnel are continuously training to acquire specialistic competence.

CeIS is committed to offering a wide range of vocational training, preventive and informative intervention, aid and promotion of other volunteer centres in Italy and abroad, and international cooperative projects.

CeIS greatly values informal and non formal learning. In our experience, this kind of learning (particularly in professions operating in the social field) is the bearer of great richness that need to be enhanced.

Youth organisation

Giovani delle Acli Roma

The Acli (Christian Association of Italian Labourers) youth group of Rome promotes solidarity and responsibility aiming to a new quality of work and civil living based on coexistence and participation between different cultures.

It is based on the Gospel message and the catholic values to support workers and to ensure the development of everyone in a just and democratic society.

Acli youth group is composed of youths under the age of 28.

Acli youth group decided to invest in vocational training and communication, for example thematic summer camps (politics, happiness, work, communication, etc.) and cinema forums.

We have chosen to participate in the Refine project because:

- we are sure that working on a project is the perfect way to change reality. To design a project one needs to start with an adequate knowledge of territorial needs and take responsibility for it.
- we really believe in the importance of networking, which maximizes potentials and allows one to make a difference.
- we want to contribute concretely to create tools to simplify access to the working world.

2) Interviews: who and by whom

University

LUMSA

Interviewees

Four students applying for a first-level diploma in professional education and management for non profit organization will be interviewed: 2 men and 2 women; 2 aged 26-30, and 2 aged 31-up; 2 holding certifications from other universities, and 2 with no formal certification but only non formal and informal knowledge.

Interviewer

The tutor of the Apel program will act as interviewer.

Università di Roma 2 Tor Vergata Scuola IaD

Interviewees:

- Student taking part in a formal course of study both in the university and professional training aiming towards a certification.
- Adult student (working student) with past experience and knowledge coming from work, associations, and/or personal relations.
- University Professor/Teaching Assistant
- Tutor university graduate with educational, relational, and administrative competence supporting students designing their personal course of study.

Interviewer: Expert in the field of education qualified to evaluate the student's experience and to express it in credits.

Vocational training

Coop-Form

Interviewees:

- our local expert of professional qualifications;
- an expert of human resources management and analysis of organizational patterns;
- a member of ISFOL and of "Osservatorio nazionale delle figure professionali" (national observatory of professionals);
- a representative of privately owned employment agencies.

Interviewers:

- male, senior, expert in human resources management;
- female, senior, member of a trade union, expert in work policies and training.

Cnos-Fap

Interviewees:

Four people attending one of our professional training centres in Rome.

- young client in the initial professional training
- working adult attending a course of continuing education
- junior trainer having recently started as a professional trainer
- senior trainer having worked for at least 10 years as a professional trainer.

Interviewer: Female, staff member from the national headquarters, with a full time contract, a college graduate in psychology, having worked for over three years in the Cnos-Fap central office for research and survey activities in the field of orientation and professional training.

Third sector

Sol.Co. Roma

Interviewees:

- Female, 35 years old, college graduate, Sol.Co Roma employee, department head for social health projects, participates in European projects.
- Female, 33 years old, college graduate, employee of Consorzio IdeaLavoro-onlus private employment agency.
- Male, 39 years old, high school graduate, founder and president of XXI September cooperative, promoter of the starting and development of social enterprises, collaborates with Consorzio Sol.Co. Roma for the internal reorganization of Human Resources and for administrative management of projects.
- Female, 34 years old, college graduate, freelance worker, participates in European and local projects.

Interviewers:

- Male, 50 years old, college graduate, collaborator with Sol.Co Roma to design and manage vocational training activities and to design actions for the development of social enterprise.
- Male, 34 years old, college graduate, collaborator, participates in European projects.

Asvi

Interviewees:

- Manager, For Profit (2, female and male), willing to work in a Non Profit organization.
- Manager, Non Profit (2, female and male).

Interviewer: Female, psychologist with competence for training projects and experience with research and interviewing.

Ceis

Interviewees:

- client of Ceis in the fourth stage of the social and work reinsertion program.
- member of the therapeutic staff, has been working for some years in the Centre and has already participated in CeIS internal vocational training.
- psychologist or trainer trainee, who is attending or has completed the vocational training in one of CeIS centres not more than three months previous.
- volunteer in the civil service working in CeIS centres.

Interviewer: Male, psychologist, family therapist, therapeutic staff member in S.Carlo centre for drug co-dependence in Marino, participates in some international projects.

Youth organisation

Giovani delle Acli Roma

Interviewees:

- 29 year old male, university student, provincial point of reference for the group, with a temporary contract with Acli patronage.
- 24 year old female, volunteer in civil service, after her high school diploma, she has a lot of experience volunteering.
- 23 year old female, commercial school diploma, collaborator with Acli Service Srl, one of the Acli contracting services.
- 24 year old male, university student.
- 24 year old female, university student, has been actively engaged with Caritas for 7 years and now is a member of the Acli youth group.

Interviewer: Female, 30 years old, was one of the initial promoters of the GA group, an employee in one of the Acli companies, is actively committed to Acli in the provincial organization and in training for the national organization, has attended Acli vocational training programs and is currently enrolled in the university for a degree in Non-profit organizations expert.

3) Tools to be tested

Euro c.v.

Diploma supplement

ECTS (but final decision on this will be taken at the end of the first year, as most of the partners feel it is an oversimplification of knowledge which is not applicable to different sectors).

4) Timetable of activities for 2004

March 18th: first meeting of the Italian Network

End of March: definition of work-plan and budget

April-June: testing of tools

End of June: second meeting to discuss testing experience

July-September: single reports written by partners

October: comprehensive report written by Lumsa

November 4-6: meeting in Kaunas

December: meeting with Pat Davies in Rome.