



Capizzi has neither ever experienced something similar to the URBACT Good Practice like the one of Athienou, nor there was a clear attempt to design and implement such an approach: it is just through its joining this Transfer Network that Capizzi will start with assimilating, adapting and testing the Good Practice coming from Athienou.

All the ULG members agreed that the Municipal Council of Volunteerism (MCV) would be a significant and so interesting good practice to be transferred from Athienou to Capizzi, not only because of the many similarities that the two cities share from the socioeconomic point of view, but also because such strategic instrument would be able to:

- spread the idea of voluntary service among kids and youngsters, in kindergartens and schools as an educational policy to be launched;*
- promote a more concrete exchange of experience and information on volunteering in the city as a communication policy to be launched;*
- create a public-private arena for debate, comparison and mutual exchange of needs and resources as a communication policy to be launched;*
- stimulate public-private initiatives and investments in a strong socio-economically depressed area like the one of Capizzi, thus giving new opportunities to long-term unemployed youngsters as economic development policy to be promoted;*
- create a better coordination of all voluntary initiatives and activities in the city as innovative social policy;*
- sensitise, attract and take people willing to help as a communication policy to be launched.*

The main goal of the ULG in Capizzi is, thus, establishing the Municipal Council of Volunteerism in the city and foster a sort of public-private control room that coordinates and feeds social and voluntary activities and services in the city in a permanent manner.



WHAT HAS CHANGED



INDIVIDUALS

1st January 2019

-Little involvement and participatory process limited to the design of the city SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan)

-3 meetings of the ULG made during the project 1st phase

31st March 2020

-STRENGTHENED: involvement of individuals fostered and boosted in the city's participatory democracy

-STRENGTHENED: ULG that meets regularly, with 12 meetings made so far

COMMUNITY

1st January 2019

-There was no section of Caritas existing in the city, despite the repeated suggestions of the ULG members

-Being inexistent a MCV in the city, there were neither a draft of a statute, nor of an internal regulation for its most correct functioning

31st March 2020

-INNOVATION: opening a new section of Caritas in the city: finally, the ULG proposal became a reality!

-INNOVATION: MCV statute designed and approved

-INNOVATION: internal regulation of the MCV designed and approved

ORGANISATIONS

1st January 2019

-The governance processes of voluntary activities were very weak, with schools and associations depending on the (financial) stimulation of the City

-A no-profit entity deputed to valorise the territory from the cultural and tourist point of view did not exist, as well as a polyphonic choir giving value to the relevant and recognised artistic music assets already present in the city

31st March 2020

- STRENGTHENED: governance processes of voluntary activities between schools and associations

-INNOVATION: inauguration of the *Pro Loco* association

-INNOVATION: constitution of a city polyphonic choir

KEY LEARNINGS



INDIVIDUALS

DIARY FEEDS

Sergio Campanella, ULG coordinator, 21/03/2020
The vitality in implementing volunteering activities, furthermore in this so complicated and unexpected period of emergency due to an as cruel as unknown enemy, like Covid-19 is, gives the measure of how much energy, resilience, determination volunteerism can release and deliver even to such a small community like Capizzi is: extraordinary the spirit of renewed solidarity, of mutual help that rises from a tragedy with world dimensions, up to the heroic gesture of putting one's own life at risk in order to help others in need, I believe that here is the truest and deepest essence of volunteering which should be spread through URBACT and Capizzi ULG and citizenship are giving all of us a great lesson in this direction!

Miriam Zuccarà, Red Cross activist, 25/03/2019
Being part of various voluntary-based associations, I found the meeting that was held today March 25th, very interesting because I saw put in value the activity that the volunteer performs especially in a community like Capizzi where the youth unemployment rate is very high. Knowing that through volunteering activities there may also be an opportunity for economic retribution, for instance through social enterprise start-ups, can do nothing but encourage those who, for years, have offered their help to the community for free.

Santina Fascetto, businesswoman, 25/03/2019
During this meeting I was able to observe above all the young people present who, living in a small centre like Capizzi, are often unmotivated and without stimulations. To participate, therefore in important projects, is to become protagonists of the change of one's own future. But this is not enough, we need: commitment, perseverance and determination, but above all to believe because "THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE".

Jessica Calandra, volunteering activist, 04/02/2020
"Stimulating meeting with the very young citizens so that they can become more and more interested in the life of the city by collaborating from an early age with local associations".

COMMUNITY

DIARY FEEDS

Erminia Mancuso, deputy mayor, 19/06/2019
The large number of participants at today's ULG encourages me on the real, widespread desire to go ahead with this project, to really believe in it and to appreciate its contents, which show that volunteering is really very important and is a strong attraction also for young people.

TREASURE BOX ENTRIES

Aurelia Torregrossa, elected politician, on TNM1:
In the meeting held in Arcos de Valdevez among the various things we saw, of particular importance was the incubator. Capizzi has a high unemployment rate and I saw in "Incubo" an opportunity for my country to fight unemployment. Furthermore, I was particularly struck by the fact that for the first two years they help the nascent companies with heavy bureaucracy. I was very impressed and I would like my city to create a structure like "Incubo".

ORGANISATIONS

TREASURE BOX ENTRIES

Miriam Zuccarà, Red Cross member, on TNM2:
Thanks to the Altea meeting, I could ascertain the different facets of Volunteering. The most incredible thing I heard from other transnational partner cities was to know that, in Portugal, there is a shortage of volunteers. Everybody are dedicated themselves to their work and because of this, they can't find time to contribute to useful activities for the society. The reality in my city is completely the opposite, we young people commit ourselves and dedicate in free volunteering because we suffer the lack of work and thanks to that, we try not to be overwhelmed by the melancholy of a lack of employment. In Altea, I was quite impressed by the work that Spanish Red Cross volunteers carry out in collaboration with the Naval Police. The way they explained their work, the way to emphasize the importance of continuing education, the organisation of work shifts, in order to alternate one's work with the voluntary activity did nothing but confirm their desire to dedicate themselves to others without asking nothing in return. In conclusion, I also think that, seeing the happiness in the face of the person who at that moment needs your help, satisfies more than anything..

Jessica Calandra, volunteering association member, on TNM4:
My experience at Pregrada has been entirely satisfactory. In the visit of the Kindergarten, I was able to notice all the affection shown by the collaborators in carrying out their work with the little ones (from 9 months to 13 years, more or less). The thing that struck me most was a room (created for those who even have delays in learning), where inside there were tools that could stimulate children's senses. It's great to see this. And at the same time I believe that the operators of the structure have a personal and psychological gratification in seeing the improvements of children. Because good generates good and makes people better. The collaboration between citizens, volunteers and those who have a political responsibility is surprising...

KEY LEARNINGS



INDIVIDUALS

Giuseppina Ferraro, businesswoman, 21/03/2020
Currently all the projects started with URBACT go on with a continuous and immense voluntary work. In a coronavirus emergency period, everyone's problems and concerns are perfectly understood. We thought that we could also help staying at home, as well as making ourselves available as volunteers. We noticed the difficulties that families have in managing their children at home all day long and as volunteers we thought of simple initiatives to be implemented at home. Proposals that Capizzi's families have welcomed and shared, especially in an emergency situation we are experiencing by now. We are happy when we can help someone even if it is a small thing, our life is more active and we are more satisfied with ourselves. Capizzi is there and reacts in the best way. No need to stand by and watch and mumble.

Antonio Fascetto, volunteering activist, 21/03/2020
Volunteering in Capizzi, in the last two years and through the URBACT project, has greatly increased, with various initiatives of various kinds, where we have worked in the best way and as hard as possible. Today, as never before, in this period of real war against an invisible enemy, COVID-19, the presence of volunteers becomes so crucial; several people are involved and applying, belonging or not to the various associations. I would like to point out some examples of how work is being done to try to support the current bad situation: the Italian Red Cross has activated a home service for the delivery of basic necessities and medicines; the Pro-Loco is committed to stimulating the creativity of children forced to stay at home, asking them to produce and collecting the drawings they create; other associations and groups of citizens have created a fundraising activity to donate to the Basilotta Hospital of Nicosia, which also serves the territory of Capizzi; several ladies of the town, together with the younger girls, are making protective masks to distribute them to those who work in contact with the public and the families of the town. In short, even at the time of the Coronavirus, URBACT is stimulating the Capizzi community to try to do everything possible in order to support, through volunteerism, one another.

COMMUNITY

ORGANISATIONS

TREASURE BOX ENTRIES

...And in my opinion it is all that an urban nucleus needs, to live peacefully and without conflicts. There was a calm atmosphere, and it was visible in the expressions of the citizens' faces. I believe we can take an example from a similar town.

Giuseppina Ferraro, businesswoman, on TNM5:
Participating in Altena's TNM made me realise that involvement only takes place if there is an interest in wanting to donate your time and put your skills at the service of others within the limits of your roles. From the experience shared with the working group, I admired the remarkable way of working constructively to promote voluntary work, starting from the territory and people. I certainly bring with me a lot of positivity, interesting topics and an important charge of enthusiasm to continue this project, in addition to the hope of continuing solidarity-sharing projects in collaboration with other local companies and associations, and in synergy with the municipal administration, thus establishing in Capizzi the new Pro Loco association.



The new section of Caritas in Capizzi established thanks the ULG and distributing food to less well-off



Representatives of the Mini-City Council working in the ULG



The City Polyphonic Choir created thanks ULG meetings

KEY LEARNINGS



INDIVIDUALS

Rosanna Mancuso, businesswoman, 04/02/2020
Growing opportunity for companies to invest in a healthy project that gives prestige to our territory such as the creation of the wool company.

Monia Spagna, volunteering activist, 11/09/2019
We are very keen to move forward to achieve increasingly important results. Even more important, I believe is the implementation of the Urbact Action Plan with the hope that it can be implemented in the coming years.

TREASURE BOX ENTRIES

Sergio Campanella, ULG coordinator about TNM4:
It was truly amazing to see the kindergarten with such advanced educational programs, placed in European network with other kindergartens from across the EU and which has in its staff a technician specifically responsible for EU projects. But what makes Pregrada's kindergarten unique as a magnificent example for all of the URBACT city network and what I think to bring home is the "Little Volunteers" project that educates children about volunteering from an early age, so highlighting how crucial and strategic schools can be to promote volunteerism in a concrete way.

Rosanna Mancuso, businesswoman, about TNM5:
During the TNM the difficulties faced by a town like Altona were highlighted and I was very impressed by the fact that the same issues concern the local reality of my town. As an entrepreneur, I reviewed the difficulties that are experienced every day in my small town and I was particularly struck by the various solutions that have been proposed to cope with it. What I will bring back to Italy will be the high level of professionalism with which the difficulties of the partner city delegations being present at the meeting have been addressed, which has made possible to find innovative solutions, aimed at increasing and improving various forms of volunteering.

COMMUNITY

ORGANISATIONS



Governance process being developed through ULG meetings



ULG members sharing contents of Statute and Internal regulation of the new MCV for Capizzi

PRO LOCO[®]
CAPIZZI

The new Pro Loco of Capizzi established among members of the ULG



WHAT HAS CHANGED



M2
Increase
Intergenerationality

INDIVIDUALS

1st January 2019

-The preparation activities of the renowned Carnival events in Capizzi did not involve a huge number of children and elderly people, but rather adults and youngsters

-The FAI Days, where volunteer citizens showed and guided visitors to discover our cultural goods, were managed by adults only

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: Carnival events and their preparation activities now involving all age citizens: children, adults, young and elderly people

STRENGTHENED: FAI days since last spring are managed also by children (and youngsters), who guide and show visitors the most important cultural goods and museums in the city

COMMUNITY

1st January 2019

-A locally famous Spring Festival, Know-how and flavours from the tradition, gathered elderly people and adults with youngsters and children, in order to teach traditional crafts based on the local identity

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: *Saperi e sapori della tradizione* (Know-how and flavours from the tradition) is a festival which can count from last Spring on bigger numbers of participants from all ages, so reviving and giving a rescue to ancient crafts

ORGANISATIONS

1st January 2019

-An activity of know-how transfer from elderly women to young girls about traditional embroidery did not exist in Capizzi

-As well, a similar activity of transfer of know-how concerning traditional cookies from elderly to children was non-existent

31st March 2020

INNOVATION: since last Spring, embroidery courses from elderly women to young girls are run in Capizzi

INNOVATION: since last Spring, preparation of traditional cookies is transferred to children by elderly people



WHAT HAS CHANGED



M3
Increase
Volunteering
Actions

ORGANISATIONS

INDIVIDUALS

1st January 2019

-FAI Days, where volunteer citizens showed and guided visitors to discover our cultural goods, were managed by adults only

-In Capizzi there was not a diffused culture aiming to keep clean common goods, as gardens, parks, flower beds, etc.

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: FAI days since last Spring are managed also by youngsters (and children), who guide and show visitors the most important cultural goods and museums in the city

INNOVATION: since last Spring, with the new event "Clean up forests", groups of youngsters have done cleaning in the park, in the flower beds, in the gardens inside and at the margins of the city

COMMUNITY

1st January 2019

-There were few occasions to get youngsters visit elderly people

-Involvement of the city in volunteering activities was reduced to a role of financial stimulation to local associations

-As the rest of the cities in the world, Capizzi never tested the emergency situation imposed by the Covid19 pandemic, but a fruitful cooperation of the Municipality with the Italian Red Cross and the Civil Protection has been established since March 2020

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: visits to the elderly have been boosted thanks the creation of special events by the municipality

STRENGTHENED: increased involvement of the municipality in volunteering activities, above all through a direct participation to a series of special events during Christmas period

INNOVATION: coronavirus emergency activities have seen a strict and fruitful cooperation among the city, red cross and civil protection, so that food and medicines are being delivered at home to elderly and/or needy people, avoiding them to leave home in a so difficult period

1st January 2019

In Capizzi there was a weak cooperation among schools, parish, city and volunteering associations which involve children and youngsters, especially during Summer

31st March 2020

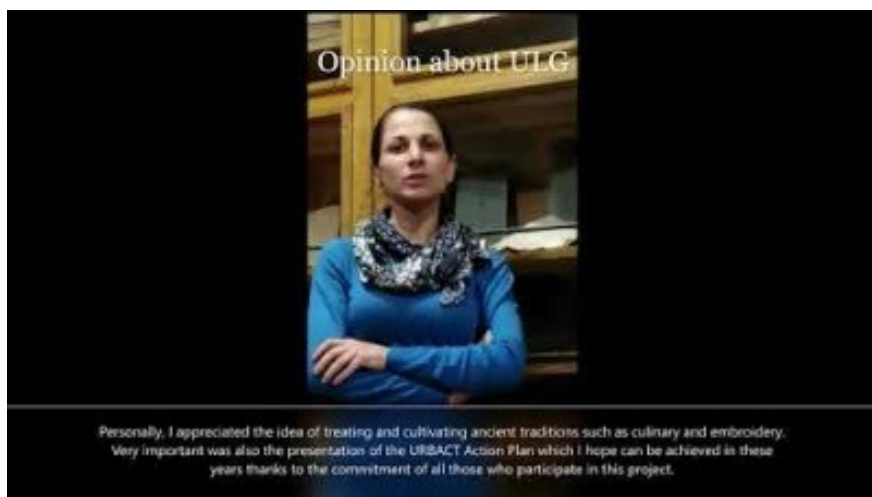
STRENGTHENED: GREST is a recreational activity organised between volunteering associations, schools, the parish and the city, that last Summer involved children and adolescents aged 6 to 14 and brought them closer to the world of volunteering; the Grest takes place in Summer and involves elementary school children and secondary school teenagers who meet for two weeks to play, dance, laugh, sing, eat... sharing a meaningful experience of life and friendship together with young volunteers. All this, with young volunteers acting as animators, aged 18 and over, who put themselves at the service of the little ones, not only for the two weeks in which the Grest takes place, but spending over the previous months and weeks to design, create and organise the games and various animation activities. The preparation of the Grest is a moment of personal growth, in which to get involved and bring out their talents to share with others. Since Summer 2019, the cooperation activities among organisations have been boosted

KEY LEARNINGS

M3 Increase Volunteering Actions

INDIVIDUALS

COMMUNITY



Voxpop activist Monia Spagna



[VOXPOP ACTIVIST ANTONIO FASCETTO](#)

ORGANISATIONS



Elementary school children and secondary school teenagers who meet during the GRESt event



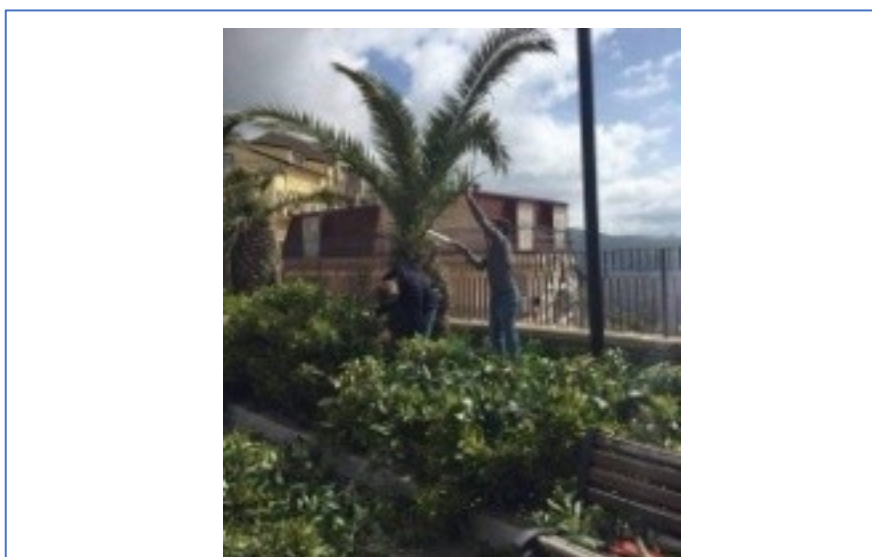
Visits of youngsters to the elderly during Christmas period



FAI days managed by children, who guide and show visitors the most important cultural goods and museums in the city



Cooperation of the Municipality with the Italian Red Cross and the Civil Protection during the first Covid-19 wave through the activism of our ULG members



Youngsters during the new event "Clean up forests", cleaning in the flower beds and gardens inside and at the margins of the city



Food and medicines being delivered at home to elderly and/or needy people by our ULG activists



WHAT HAS CHANGED



INDIVIDUALS

1st January 2019

-APENNINES BIKE TOUR is a yearly event where bikers making a long tour of the Italian Apennines Mountains make a stop at Capizzi and single enterprises offer their food and beverage products as free sponsors of the event

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: Apennines Bike Tour, where entrepreneurs offer their products during this renowned event, has registered an increased number of free sponsors, thanks to an increased awareness of the importance of corporate citizenship stimulated by the ULG

COMMUNITY

1st January 2019

-In Capizzi there were not so many events where businesses put at disposal their products for free in order to cooperate with the city and volunteering associations

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: the municipality involves local entrepreneurs in many more volunteering activities (truffle festival, Apennines bike tour, knowledge and flavours of the tradition, Christmas events, etc.) than in the past

ORGANISATIONS

1st January 2019

-The Truffle Festival is the most important Autumn event in Capizzi, attracting a huge number of people coming from very different places, also outside Sicily

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: Truffle festival has registered last autumn the hugest number of enterprises cooperating with the municipality for the success of the event and giving also their products for free in order to animate the event with games and awards

KEY LEARNINGS



M4
Corporate
Citizenship

INDIVIDUALS



Food offered by our agri-food entrepreneurs during the Apennines Bike Tour



Food offered by our agri-food entrepreneurs during the Apennines Bike Tour

COMMUNITY



The entrepreneurs belonging to the Capizzi Food Producers Association who give their products for free to the neediest families

ORGANISATIONS



Enterprises cooperating with the municipality for the success of the Truffle Festival and giving also their products for free



Enterprises cooperating with the municipality for the success of the Truffle Festival and giving also their products for free



WHAT HAS CHANGED



INDIVIDUALS

1st January 2019

-As a result of the ULG suggestions a new activity could be built up by rescuing the ancient wool manufacturing process, starting from identifying people who have got the know-how and are disposed to transfer it to youngsters in order to create a new start-up as social enterprise

31st March 2020

INNOVATION: on February 2020, the ULG members had identified elderly volunteers who know the wool manufacturing process and can transfer it to young generations, in order to create a new start-up conceived as a social enterprise that gives work to weak categories and unemployed women and young people

CITY

1st January 2019

-The role of the city in fostering start-ups has been very weak so far, also for lack of proposals by the potential entrepreneurs

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: since last Summer, there is a stronger involvement by municipality to support start-ups, mainly due to the ULG proposals and the possibility to cooperate with other two Urbact cities, like Arcos and Athy, for the creation of social enterprises

ORGANISATIONS

1st January 2019

-The activity of know-how transfer for the creation of the "Cannistri", wicker baskets of ancient tradition, has never been used, so far, in order to create a new start-up as social enterprise

31st March 2020

STRENGTHENED: *Cannistri* are being considered by local associations as possible identity products on which to focus the creation of a new start-up conceived as a social enterprise that gives work to weak categories and unemployed young people

KEY LEARNINGS



INDIVIDUALS

PREGRADA/ALTENA TNM MEETING MINUTES AND ULG MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2019, DECEMBER 2019 AND FEBRUARY 2020

- TNM PREGRADA, it was established to start a strict PEER-REVIEW cooperation between Athy and Capizzi on the O1 Module, "Social enterprises to tackle unemployment", under the guidance of Arcos.

- TNM ALTENA: "Mr. Campanella referred to the possibility of creating a European Social Cooperative between the Social Cooperatives of Capizzi and Athy, under the tutorship of Arcos. The LE recommended to first contact the NUPs informing that this initiative is running and that this can be a thematic team at the NUPs events. The Secretariat can also support this initiative-synergie and coordinate the NUPs."

- ULG OCT 2019: "It continues with the description of the Peer Review that has been decided at Pregrada: Arcos will show Capizzi and Athy how they have created jobs from the experience of the social enterprise "Fruta Feia". The activists try to understand how Capizzi can take advantage of the experience of Arcos and what can be treasured for the social enterprise activity that the ULG intends to undertake, for example in the sector of the revaluation of wool processing activities, possibly in cooperation with Athy, e.g. creating a European social cooperative that deals with the joint international marketing of the products of this activity."

- ULG DEC 2019: "...the Portuguese partners did send both a power point presentation in English and a series of videos in Portuguese and Spanish, in which were shown the Arcos social business incubator, "InCubo" and a series of interviews with the owners of a series of social enterprises created in the area. Both the presentation and many of the videos sent by Arcos were screened by the ULG coordinator and also commented by the city councillor Aurelia Torregrossa, who participated in the Arcos TNM and was able to visit the incubator. For their part, the members of the Capizzi ULG are carrying out research on the territory of people-resources who could explain and transmit the various processes of wool processing to the young people of Capizzi."

- ULG FEB 2020: "After a short break for lunch, the work of the ULG begins again with the fourth point in the Agenda, that is, the progress for the establishment of the wool enterprise. People have been identified who will be part of this company and who have knowledge of the primary material that we are going to work with and experience in its processing; in addition, the companies that will supply us with wool are being identified and the Municipality is well available, since now, to make available a property in the historic centre, with a view to circular sustainable reuse, aimed at creating jobs and the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups."

COMMUNITY

3.1. PREGRADA/ALTENA TNM MEETING MINUTES AND ULG MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2019, DECEMBER 2019 AND FEBRUARY 2020

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- ULG DEC 2019: The Mayor of Capizzi took personally part at the ULG meeting in order to participate to the Skype conference call, with the representatives of Athy, Arcos and the Lead expert. But "The third point could not be treated adequately due to the absence of all the interlocutors who should have been connected via Skype: in fact, the Lead expert and the city of Athy did not send their Skype addresses in time, despite numerous reminders sent by email starting from the previous month and, of the other cities that should have participated in the video conference, only Arcos de Valdevez justified his absence in time, having to host the archbishop of Viana do Castelo on the same date as the ULG meeting: in any case, the Portuguese partners did send both a power point presentation in English and a series of videos in Portuguese and Spanish, in which were shown the Arcos social business incubator, "InCubo" and a series of interviews with the owners of a series of social enterprises created in the area. Both the presentation and many of the videos sent by Arcos were screened by the ULG coordinator and also commented by the city councillor Aurelia Torregrossa, who participated in the Arcos TNM and was able to visit the incubator. For their part, the members of the Capizzi ULG are carrying out research on the territory of people-resources who could explain and transmit the various processes of wool processing to the young people of Capizzi."

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Know-how transfer for the creation of the "Cannistri", wicker baskets of ancient tradition, from elderly to young people and from youngsters to children



ULG meetings (Capizzi) and TNMs (Pregrada and Altona) where an effort of strict cooperation has been made to create new start-ups conceived as social enterprises giving work to weak categories and unemployed women and young people