

PARTNER INFORMATION FORM (PIF)

PIC	906049065
Legal name of the organisation	Associazione di Promozione sociale LINK
Legal name of the organisation in Latin characters (if applicable)	Associazione di Promozione sociale LINK
Acronym/Organisation's short name	LINK
National ID (if applicable)	
Department (if applicable)	
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Profile

Type of organization	Non-governmental organisation
Is the partner organization a public body?	No
Is the partner organization a non-profit?	Yes

Has the organisation received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?

Accreditation Type	Accreditation reference
SE-HO-CO EVS organisation under Erasmus+	2014-1-EL02-KA110-001694 2017-1-EL02-KA110-002895

Background and Experience

Please briefly present the partner organisation.

LINK is a social promotion association founded in Monreale on 20 November 2010 by a group of young people from Monreale with diverse associative experiences.

Right from the start, the association has joined ARCI (Italian Recreational and Cultural Association), the most important federation of associations in Italy, which has more than 5,000 other affiliations like LINK's throughout the peninsula.

The association is autonomous, pluralist and non-profit. The aim of LINK is to promote critical thinking in all its forms and expressions, with the awareness of the importance of active participation and the need to network between associations and people.

The members of the association differ according to age, culture, religion, nationality and gender, but they all believe in clearly defined values and a clear and transparent mode of action based on respect for the freedom and dignity of every human being.

Thanks to the heterogeneity of its membership base, LINK focuses as much on environmental and social issues as on artistic and cultural ones.

The association's priority areas of initiative are the promotion of culture and its forms of expression, as well as the recognition of cultural rights and access to education; the valorisation of work as an instrument of human fulfilment and freedom; the affirmation of the culture of legality and the fight against the mafia, also through the social use of confiscated property; the commitment to the creation of an eco-compatible society that places the defence and protection of the environment at its centre; the development of forms of prevention and the fight against exclusion, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discomfort, marginalisation and loneliness; and, more generally, the promotion of policies to defend and support the weakest.

In order to achieve its goals, LINK adopts the logic of "participatory project planning" implementing the OST design methodology to directly involve stakeholders.

LINK believes that the way in which any activity is carried out and involved is as important as the subject it deals with. For this reason, through continuous project management, the association aims very much at improving the quality of the projects and interventions proposed within the context in which they are to operate.

The association has a centre in which it conducts its main activities of aggregation and support for young people, especially those at risk of social isolation, which is fostering the active participation and thus the exchange of knowledge and skills among the association's members who now need to break new ground by taking part in mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ and VET.

For this purpose, the association is making use of the experience of new members, cooperation with other associations (also within the ARCI federation), and reserving the right to fulfil the necessary accreditations.

What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?

LINK is an ARCI circle founded on 20 November 2010 by a group of young people from Monreale. The aim of the association is to promote critical thinking in all its forms and expressions.

The selected activities are:

January 2011. Presentation of the association and its activities, with a photo exhibition and a concert of Sicilian and Ottoman-Turkish music.

April 2011. Concert by the Plectrum Orchestra of the Conservatorio Vincenzo Bellini in Palermo. This orchestra is a type of formation that is rather unusual today, but was widespread throughout Italy until the first half of the 20th century, when, like the village bands, it played an important social role and spread the musical repertoire.

April 2012. Presentation of the book "Breve storia della Sicilia" (A Brief History of Sicily) by Amelia Crisantino, in which the history of Sicily is traced starting from some important historiographical categories.

June 2012. Theatre performance "Zo chi non po' lu corpu. Una vita di Antonio Veneziano". A **theatrical performance**, staged by young amateur actors from Monreale, created to pay tribute to the life and works of one of Sicily's most illustrious poets.

June 2013. "**World Environment Day 2013**" in Monreale. Event in collaboration with Officine Ricerca association and the Comitato Pioppo Comune which, in connection with the 2013 theme "ThinK.Eat.Save", have organised this initiative whose aim is to inform and raise public awareness of environmental and sustainability issues, through a fair of local organic farming products, fair trade products, products for the production of alternative energy; workshops, information stands and debates on issues concerning the Oreto River in Monreale.

July 2013. "Percorsi - Fontana Grande and Fontana Lupo". Guided tour of two of the main resurgences of the Oreto river in collaboration with the **WWF** Palermo association and the Comitato Pioppo Comune

December 2013. "Between **Music and Words**". **Presentation of the book** "Fiabe siciliane" from the collection of Sicilian poet Giuseppe Pitre by Amelia Crisantino. An event organised with the collaboration of the theatre company "Compagnia dei Normanni" developed through a chat

between the presenter and the author of the book and interspersed with the interpretation of some Monreale fairy tales translated with the background notes of a mandolin.

February 2014. Projection of the documentary "Jesus Christum" by Alessandro Spinnato. A documentary filmed entirely with the aid of a drone, which made it possible to film the mosaics of Monreale Cathedral from a short distance.

June 2014. "**World Environment Day 2014**" in Monreale. With the collaboration of numerous associations in the area, 21 artists and many local artisans, the spaces of Monreale's main street were used for the local art exhibition.

June 2015. "**World Environment Day 2015**" in Monreale. With the collaboration of the "Istituto D'Arte per il Mosaico M. D'Aleo" (M. D'Aleo Mosaic Art Institute), the Monreale municipal council for **education and culture**, and numerous local associations, numerous activities were organised on the theme of the environment through local craftsmen. These included an "open-air" mosaic workshop by the "M. D'Aleo Mosaic Art Institute"; a photography course; a screening of the documentary "Lo Zucco. Il vino del figlio del Re dei Francesi" ("Lo zucco. The wine of the son of the King of the French"); recreational activities for children; a capoeira show and debates.

June - July 2016. Thanks to our collaboration with the association "Il Quartiere", a historical social promotion association, we hosted and collaborated with a Swiss school. 20 high school students participated in our activities, including the creation of a mural on via B. Manfredi at the above-mentioned association's headquarters.

September 2016. "Lo sfincione per un mattone". Thanks to the cooperation and contribution of several bakeries in Monreale, a series of **workshops related to the production of sfincione (typical food in sicily)** was organised. The products of the workshops were sold for a fund-raising campaign to be donated to the areas affected by the earthquake in central Italy.

November 2016 - March 2017. Thanks to our collaboration with the association "Il Quartiere", we host a Swiss student with whom we carried out after-school activities at the association's facility and fundraising activities to purchase toys for the children of the Bavera quarter, a poor district of the city. We also organised activities with which we made the local traditions and the landscapes and architectural beauty of Monreale known.

December 2017. A migrant boy of **Guinean nationality** joins the association, with whom we have started **an intensive cultural exchange activity** (cuisine, religion, language, traditional festivals, etc.).

January 2018. Participatory project planning activities with Monreale craftsmen and the local shop owners' association, as well as other associations, for the **valorisation of popular traditions for an intergenerational project**.

April 2018. Our youngest members attending the "E. Basile Classical and Scientific lyceum" in Monreale hosted a delegation of students from Spanish schools as part of a school **project on interculturalism**.

September 2018. Start of playroom activities for children and young people, such as a **theatre workshop**, an example of a space for growth and recreation aimed at teaching respect for others and for the common good, with a focus on local knowledge through guided tours and respect for the environment through recycling workshops.

October 2018. First among the weekly appointments of the "Ordine Del Giorno" initiative that lasted for more than a year in which participants discussed, in **seminar** form, current topics such as: **immigration, politics and economics**. The initiative took place at the association's centre and at local high school "Liceo Classico e Scientifico E. Basile."

November 2018. **Arbor Day** in cooperation with "Agrisocial" and "Il Quartiere". Activities such as planting trees were aimed at raising awareness on environmental issues.

November 2018. First of the weekly appointments of the "Cavalieri inesistenti" (Inexistent Knights) initiative, which lasted for more than a year, in which participants discussed about **literature, art and cultural topics** in general.

November 2018. End-of-summer party: recreational moment between association members and citizens in collaboration with the associations "Il Quartiere", "Agrisocial" and the local chess club.

December 2018. Start of a series of **meetings on foreign policy** issues with a focus on the situations in **Congo and Sierra Leone**.

February 2019. Theatre show "Lumen in fabula" on the occasion of **International Energy Saving Day** in cooperation with the theatre company "Senza Con-fine".

March 2019. **Art exhibition**, in collaboration with mosaicist Daniela Coppola, for the valorisation of Monreale mosaic techniques.

April 2019. Spring Festival: fun and recreational activities between association members, citizens and children in cooperation with the associations "Il Quartiere" and "Comitato Il Pioppo Comune". Part of the initiative was dedicated to the creation of murals with social themes.

April 2019. Cultural activity "Reading the Odyssey".

April 2019. LINK hosted the associations **HRYO** Human Rights Youth Organisation, "Biderbost, Boscan & Rochin", "Gurises Unido", CEPAG, part of the UCivic project. The associations experienced a moment of sharing and dialogue on their experiences aimed at exchanging good practices and know-how.

May 2019. **Theatrical performance** "We are all foreigners" in collaboration with the school "ICS Mareadolce" and the volunteers of "SOS MEDITERRANEE" in order to raise awareness on the issue of immigration.

May 2019. **Presentation of the book** "Si chiamava Palestina. Storia di un popolo dalla Nakba a oggi" ("It was called Palestina. History of a people from the Nakba to today") with the author Cecilia della Negra, journalist, independent author, deputy director of the online publication Osservatorio Iraq- Medio Oriente e Nord africa, Middle East scholar and Palestine expert, and the publishing house Aut Aut Edizioni.

June 2019. "In cammino verso l'Oreto": **nature walk to rediscover the flora and fauna** of the Oreto river. Activities in collaboration with the associations: "Comitato Pioppo Comune", "il Quartiere" and "Agrisocial".

June 2019. **Presentation of the book** "Bambini. Un manifesto politico" ("Children. A political manifesto") and meeting with the author Matteo Meschiari, poet and writer, professor of anthropology and geography at the University of Palermo, Co-founder of the "Studio Italiano di Geopolitica", affiliated with the "Istitut International de Géopoétique".

July 2019. Presentation of the book "Libri in azione" ("Books in Action") by Salvo Laneri.

August 2019. Camp organised by the association for aggregative, social and environmental awareness purposes.

August 2019. **Sit-in** to raise awareness **of environmental issues** following a forest fire in the Monreale area.

September 2019. **Readings of poetries** in the streets of the city in collaboration with the Municipality of Monreale on the occasion "Estate Monrealese" programme organized by the municipality.

September 2019. **Adhesion to the pact for the protection of the Oreto river** in a network with 25 associations in the area.

September 2019. **Environmental initiative** to clean the Oreto river in collaboration with local associations, including WWF Sicily.

September 2019. End-of-summer party: a playful and recreational initiative between the association's members, citizens and local children.

November 2019. **Fridays for the Future**. In cooperation with students from schools in Monreale, a large public area full of waste was cleaned up. The younger students were made aware of environmental issues.

December 2019. Presentation of the Manifesto of Intent: " "Un fiume in comune: l'Oreto, la sua valle, la costa da Sant'Erasmus alla Bandita" ("A river in common: the Oreto, its valley, the coast from Sant'Erasmus to the Bandita") in **collaboration with the Municipality of Palermo**

"Participated Companies - Network Services - Municipal Yard - Villas and Gardens", the Regional Department of Land and Environment, the Municipality of Altofonte, the Municipality of Monreale, the Superintendence of the Sea. The Manifesto is aimed at activating shared and participatory strategies and policies whose primary objectives are the usability of the area of reference, the total halt to the phenomena of illegal building, waste water spillage and the formation of illegal dumps, as well as an organic recovery activity, oriented towards the renaturalisation of the area of reference, compatible with the already existing anthropisation.

December 2019. **Theatre performance** "Sotto Pelle" by Giulia Vannozzi.

December 2019. **Adhesion to the national "Sunday at the Museum" day.** The association's volunteers guided children to historical buildings in the area.

March 2020. "At home with Link", first of a **series of weekly online activities**: aggregative, cultural, telematically held activities during the pandemic.

July 2020. Participation in the commemoration of the Via D'Amelio massacre, in collaboration with "Il Quartiere".

September 2020. **Participation in a film review** proposed by **Arci** Palermo, Ucca Arci and **Banca Etica**.

January 2021. **Study meetings about project planning** in order to join the call for Universal Civil Service.

November 2021. **Start of Universal Civil Service activities.** The association has been assigned four Universal Civil Service volunteers to provide after-school services to combat school drop-out and support students in difficulty.

November 2021. **Arbor Day** in cooperation "Il Quartiere". Activities such as planting trees were aimed at raising awareness on environmental issues.

May 2022. Start of daily after-school activities carried out by association members and volunteers obtained by the approval of the **universal civil service project** (duration: one year).

October 2022. Fun and recreational activities between association members, citizens and children in cooperation with "Il Quartiere".

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

LINK is made up of numerous members who have gained different experiences and skills over the years.

Alongside a group of young high school students, who every year carry out interchange projects with their own educational institutions with countries of the European Community and who have

therefore gained experience in the field as simple participants, there are more experienced members with heterogeneous university education and training.

The specific competences of the latter - necessary for the development and design of the various topics covered by the activities - are the result of humanistic (graduates in psychological, philosophical, sociological and historical subjects) and scientific (graduates in engineering, economics, but also naturalistic subjects) study paths.

Finally, within the association there are members - graduates in pedagogical and political science subjects - who have already collaborated in the realisation of intercultural exchange projects with other realities within the framework of Erasmus+ projects, developing skills in the field of planning and management of organised groups.

LINK has also decided to invest in the field of Europlanning, allowing its members to attend a specific Master's course, which will be useful to further improve the quality of project drafting and implementation.

The association's Erasmus+ working group is coordinated by:

Pietro Gambino, Project manager junior. A law student, he attended and successfully completed the specialised training course on European planning: "Dica Europa! - Dialogue, Integration, Skills and Abilities in the New Third Sector" funded through PON SPAO. As a member of the ARCI Link association since 2016 and a member of the board since 2018, he has tested his aptitudes in the realisation of cultural and social activities often in collaboration with other third sector bodies and local institutions during his association career. He collaborated with the local newspaper "Monreale News", developing journalistic skills such as synthesis and clarity of presentation, the ability to meet tight deadlines and objectives set by the editor of the newspaper, the ability to work in a team, drafting news articles and press releases. He attended the theatre school "La Traccia", performing in classical and contemporary spectacles.

Giovanni Tinervia, Project manager junior. Graduated in Political Science and International Relations, currently studying Statistics, he joined LINK in 2016. He attended and successfully completed the specialised training course on European planning: "Dica Europa! - Dialogue, Integration, Skills and Abilities in the New Third Sector" funded through PON SPAO.

Francesca Miceli, Project manager junior. A student in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage at the University of Palermo, where she focuses her studies mainly on scientific analyses and the restoration of cultural artefacts. She has carried out internships at UNESCO Cultural Heritage sites (Monreale Cathedral, Palatine Chapel) and also abroad (Yerevan in Armenia) that have enabled her to understand the importance of work applied to contexts of international value. In 2017, she completed a head of business course, and since then has been actively collaborating in the management of the agro-pastoral family business "Delle Scale", which is committed to sustainable animal husbandry and the production of zero kilometer dairy products. This experience has given her expertise in the world of agriculture, animal husbandry and cheese-making. She has been a member of LINK since 2016, and has been its vice-president since 2018. The association's path has allowed her to develop skills of aggregation

and involvement between people of different ages, ethnicities and religions, as well as giving her the opportunity to become passionate about and explore environmental, cultural and social issues.

Antonino Renda, president of the association. A graduate in Philosophical Sciences with a thesis on pedagogy, he is currently involved in scriptwriting and theatre direction. During his experience in the third sector, he has gained skills in coordinating groups of volunteers and group work activities. He directed two plays, later staged, between 2011 and 2015. He has been LINK president since 2012. He coordinated student groups in the 2014 legality camps organised by the cooperative "Lavoro e non solo" in Corleone. He coordinated activities with Swiss school students for a collaborative project with the association "Il Quartiere". He collaborated with a director, as assistant director, in a PON project at the "E. Basile high school". He coordinated the association network research action in the social project of Fondazione con il sud "I play with the bully". He has worked as an actor with several directors in the theatrical field. He continues to collaborate with the Deaf theatre company "il Ciclope", for whom he wrote a play that was later adapted into sign language and staged under the name "Sentieri in rosa" (Paths in Pink), and to this day he looks after the stage lighting for the shows. In the last year, he has undertaken a collaboration with a circus artist and started a theatre project in the Monreale area. To date, he is president of the Arci Link association.

Fabrizio Lo Verso, Project manager. Graduated in Law, specialized in Public Institutions. He coordinated an association of university students of the University of Palermo; he worked at the Guidance and Tutoring Center of the University of Palermo as tutor for groups of high school and university students. He has attended a European Master's Degree in planning for direct funds and the acquisition of knowledge of European funding sources management systems; to the development of new techniques, tools and methods of work and planning. Currently a freelance project manager and consultant for public bodies and companies in the non-profit sector.

Cristina Pipitone, Coordinator of intercultural activities. Graduated in social psychology of work and organisations, currently psychotherapist at the individual and group psychoanalytic psychotherapy school. She has participated as an observer of experiential groups and focus groups of master classes in Psychology at the University of Palermo; she has worked as a coordinator for training groups of students from various university contexts; she has worked as a coordinator of information and training groups and focus groups at the association "il Quartiere" di Monreale formed by children of developmental age and childhood and as a coordinator of experiential groups at LINK formed by adults and adolescents. She has a good knowledge of English and Italian sign language (communication assistant).

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