

	SOPHIA SRLS
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OID	E10291365

PROFILE

Type of organization:

SME

Is the partner organization a public body?

NO

Is the partner organization a non-profit?

NO

ACCREDITATION

Have you participated in a European Union granted project in the 3 years preceding this application?

NO

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Please briefly present the partner organization.

SOPHIA (SO) is a SRL operating in the north of Bari, an area characterized by environmental, social and cultural problems of a certain importance. SO was born from a winning project of the PIN-Puglia Region call with the aim of creating a coworking space to
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develop skills, increase the possibility of collaboration, grow your business and share values and ideas. SO provides support and training services to 2 main categories of learners: Adults at risk of social exclusion, NEETs, teachers and trainers in public and private schools. Since 2018 we have been organizing: training courses for the development of basic skills (computer literacy, language courses) training programs to improve the key competences of adults; professional development courses for teachers. SO is made up of 3 founding members, 8 members of the teaching staff and 15 volunteer collaborators. We have working contacts with various NGOs, schools, regional and national organizations and companies.

The staff of SO, thanks to past experiences in associations, institutions and schools, involves a wide range of subjects from the most vulnerable groups in its activities: Single parents; early school leaving (16+); unemployed and NEETs (18-50); senior (50-70); special needs; immigrants with low school attendance (20-50). The percentage of learners from disadvantaged sections of the population is therefore particularly high. The northern area of Bari is one of the most depressed areas in Italy with regard to the lack of job prospects, crime and social stability. Here too the migratory waves of the last 20 years have outlined a marked multiethnic physiognomy. SO, on the strength of synergies with local authorities and bodies, has undertaken a communication path with local SPRARs since 2021 to involve immigrants whose families have a low level of education and literacy in training activities.

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

SO is a young company made up of professionals with previous experience in the design and management of projects financed with national and regional funds. Although this is the first attempt to approach Erasmus +, we are fully aware of the potential inherent in the program (many collaborators are teachers who have already taken part in mobility in the school sector). We believe that nowadays even the smallest provincial businesses can reap enormous benefits from the internationalization process. Over the last few years, starting from the year of foundation, we have conceived, proposed and implemented a good range of projects, both by organizing internal activities and by joining initiatives of local authorities. Failure to participate in the previous CALLs is ultimately not due to little interest, but mainly to the fact that our staff has focused mainly on territorial tenders. During the year 2021, these activities led us to collaborate with trainers already experienced in the program, who helped us in the designing process of this project. We firmly believe that knowing and having the opportunity to deepen the recent developments in the methodology of teaching adults would contribute significantly to placing our educational offer in a framework that is not only regional but European. Our learners, historically isolated in a context with few alternatives, have the right to access a truly European dimension of learning thanks to a renewed attitude of trainers and new methods and techniques. They are already European citizens on paper, but often do not perceive themselves as such. GOALS. We intend to strengthen in our trainers, staff and people involved in the project: the sense of belonging to Europe; foreign language skills and competences; knowledge of new educational systems; the use of the ePale platform and the School Education Gateway. We also want to encourage them to visit other EU countries as part of a mobility project. We will strive to put in place a system of continuous feedback on mobility experiences and refresher courses, making sure that the knowledge and skills acquired are disseminated within and outside the SO. Our staff: will benefit from a general introduction on working methods in open learning environments; will work on developing motivation and self-learning; it will receive indirect benefits in terms of networking and strengthening of knowledge and skills. As it is easy to guess, this project

constitutes for all of us a precious opportunity for training, comparison, and overcoming of cultural and professional barriers, nourishment, not infrequently, of prejudice and self-referentiality. Trusting in the collaboration of all components, we will strive to return the results of the experience to the community.

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

Our members who are working on social enterprise, human rights, education and training are professionals in their majors and they have a wide network. That's why they will be key persons of our project. Also, 5 of our members and key representatives -who are responsible for the running of the project- worked as volunteers or members with other NGOs.

They are active on social media,

They are active and sociable people and they can express themselves, come up with solution offers and take responsibility of leadership.

Mr Giuseppe Torchetti is the Director. He's a certified Project Manager professional whose work experience lies in various projects on education, women employment, refugees, immigrant, coaching and skills development. He speaks fluent English and Spanish.

Mrs Anna Sciacca is a Project manager of international research, training and innovation projects with particular referent of the areas of the integration and social inclusion, pedagogical development, education with vulnerable groups of people, didactic methods and training with teachers/trainers and parents. She speaks fluent English.

Mr Ettore de Toma is Team Leader and Project Manager. He graduated from University Aldo Moro in Bari. He works in the field of European project management and implementation of learning experiences targeting youth, immigrants, disadvantaged groups and adults, through non formal education. He manages projects of youth education and training mobility, and strategic partnership for youth and adult education, dealing in all project phases, from writing proposals to implementation. He speaks fluent English and French.

Mrs Anna Attanasio is an experienced teacher and trainer, expert in the fields of art and inclusion.

Mrs Cristiana Lucarini is a language teacher and IT expert.

Legal representative

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