



Empowered Communities - Active EU Citizens

Short description of the project

The project aims at creating a common framework for community development (CD) focusing on defining CD, explaining its purpose, the methods its practitioners use to achieve the purpose, tools to support the engagement and mobilisation of communities and the key outcomes from this work.

CD is a democratic practice in as much as it plays a role in building participatory democracy and more democratically engaged citizens. It seeks to address the exclusion of marginalised communities from democratic participation and promotes political as well as economic equality. CD is concerned with participatory and integrative democracy and it thus strives to produce informed and engaged citizens, more able to engage with democratic levels - local, national and European.

The framework will be built with the contribution of civil society organisations coming from 10 different European countries thus ensuring its applicability to different organisations, countries, and contexts while acknowledging the differences associated with different sets of legislation and policies but recognising the key similarities in values and principles.

The main activities carried out in the project will be: common meeting involving all project partners, to clarify the purpose, structure and methodology for building up the common framework; meetings at the national level to discuss, analyse and synthesise important aspects of community development work; common workshop for building up the framework; production of a brief publication presenting the framework; production of a DVD highlighting specific examples and dimensions of good practice across a number of countries; national workshops for the dissemination of the framework and of the DVD; dissemination event.

Dissemination - the publication and the DVD produced will be distributed to CD practitioners, groups of citizens, academia, NGOs, think tanks and decision makers to inspire their work.

The project period:

September 2012 – February 2014

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