Seenet Program brief description
Seenet: a trans local network for cooperation between Italy and South East Europe.

Premise
In 2007, the Region of Tuscany has promoted an initiative named Seenet Bridge - A network of cooperation among local governments for development and dialogue in South Eastern Europe with the aim to follow the important results obtained with the first phase of the Seenet program, finished in the summer of 2006. The successful conclusion of Seenet, in fact, has highlighted the contribution that the decentralized cooperation can give to post-conflict reconstruction and peace processes. The project has been able to create moments of dialogue and aggregation, in a network among communities separated by war, through the involvement of local authorities in concrete actions for the development. These results and developments that may arise are now more than ever, an important starting point for achieving an effective integration of the Balkan countries in the European Union.

Through the initiative Seenet Bridge it was possible to identify a project that we could name Seenet 2, which was submitted to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in early 2008 and approved by the same on 31st July 2008 with Document No. 100. This proposal, whose synthesis is illustrated in the following pages, has seen the involvement of many Italian institutions (Regions Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Piedmont, Marche, Veneto, the Autonomous Province of Trento, ANCI, ERVET, INFORMEST, CeSPI, Observatory on the Balkans, ALDA, OXFAM ITALIA) and local authorities from South-Eastern Europe (46 authorities from 7 different countries). The core strategy of this new Program is to give continuity to the territorial partnerships built by one part of the the Italian system of decentralized cooperation with the aim to support the Western Balkans countries’ integration into European Union.

Objectives
The Program aims to foster dialogue among states, institutions and local communities in the South East Europe for the effective development of the territories involved in the Programme and in a long-term partnership at regional level and with the Italian system of decentralized cooperation. Within the new partnership, actors in the network will be asked to try on the evolution of administrative decentralization to support local development, offering concrete opportunities to work on specific areas of intervention in line with European standards.

The support to Balkan partners will decline in a double-headed:
1. Favour the South East European Programme partners’ territories access to European Union pre-accession funds and to national and international funds for local development;
2. Encourage the adoption and development of innovative programs and services on territorial valorisation and management, economic development and social and territorial and social planning by the institutional and territorial subjects from South East Europe as Programme partners.

Partner

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<th><strong>Italian partners</strong></th>
<th><strong>Local partners</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Albania</strong></td>
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<td>Region Emilia Romagna and ERVET</td>
<td>Skadar district, municipalities of Skadar, Elbasan and Valona</td>
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<td>Region Friuli Venezia</td>
<td><strong>Bosnia and Herzegovina</strong></td>
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co-financed by Oxfam Italia
lead partner
in partnership with
Italian partners | Local partners
---|---
Giulia and INFORMEST | Cantons of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Herzegovina Neretva, Zenica-Doboj; municipalities of Livno, Nevesinje, Prijedor, Sanski Most, Trebinje, Tuzla, Zavidovići, Hadžići, Pale, Travnik, Trnovo, Rep. Srpska Trnovo, Zenica, Stari Grad (Sarajevo); cities of Sarajevo and Mostar
Region Marche | Serbia
Region Piedmont | Cities of Kragujevac, Nis and Novi Sad; Municipality of Lazarevac (Belgrade), Pancevo, Smederevo; Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
Region Veneto | Croatia
Autonomous Province of Trento | Regions Istria, Vukovarsko-srijemska, Osiječko-baranjska, Dubrovačko-neretvanska; cities of Pazin, Rovinj, Varaždin, town of Brtonigla/Verteneglio
ANC | Kosovo
Non-institutional actors | Municipalities of Pec/Peja and Pristina
CeSPI | Macedonia
ALDA | City of Skopje
Balkans Observatory | Montenegro
OXFAM ITALIA | Municipalities of Niksic, Budva, Kotor

Overview of activities
Programme working strategy is based on the network work among Italian and Balkan institutions in the complex process of South Eastern Europe countries integration into European Union. In particular, the network will focus on supporting the government capacities of partner public administrations, offering concrete opportunities to work on specific topics following the EU standards. At the same time, initiative aims to create a permanent system of cooperation between Italian regional cooperation subjects trying to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions, increase their ability to impact the local priorities and make sustainable the territorial partnerships.

This process will be developed through two different types of actions, which are complementary and synergic:

- **Horizontal actions**, that are a set of activities, closely integrated with the other actions of the Program, that will benefit all local partners who are going to work on components such as:
  - **Action A - Institutional Building** to promote the use of EU funds through technical assistance in the project designing and development of multilevel governance processes, active citizenship and public-private partnership.
  - **Action B - Information and dissemination** for carrying out and deepening information on thematic areas in which the Program works.
  - **Action C - Research** to implement policy oriented action-research activities, to disseminate knowledge and to valorise experiences of governance for local development.
  - **Action D - Partnerships between South East Europe Local Authorities** to strengthen the role of municipalities’ associations in the Balkans looking at the ongoing decentralization process and the European integration.

- **Vertical actions**, organized in main thematic sectors to develop networking between many partners / territories with direct effect in the areas of Southeast Europe. The vertical actions constitute a tool available to partners in order to affect the dynamics of the territory, focusing on the work in the network with other subjects on a priority topic. Within these actions, Balkan partners, together with other actors of their own territory, will be asked to work on the formulation and implementation of local policies about specific issues.
Interventions in territories will have a high integration with Programme horizontal actions. Nine territorial initiatives have been identified that will focus on the following topics:

- Action 1 - Valorisation of cultural tourism;
- Action 2 - Valorisation of rural areas and natural environment;
- Action 3 – SME support and cross-border entrepreneurial cooperation;
- Action 4 – Territorial planning and social services.

The choice of intervention topics and of local partners to develop vertical actions is closely related to the relationship between Italian and Balkan territories, and linked to the general framework of the intervention: an integrated programme in which the joint effort is focused on the work in network among partners and on the continuity of relations between the Italian and Balkan territories.

The following table presents actions that shall be implemented in collaboration among the Italian and Southeast Europe partners.

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<th>Italian partners</th>
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<td>Tuscany Region</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>OXFAM ITALIA</td>
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<td>A. Institutional building</td>
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<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td>B. Information and dissemination</td>
<td>Autonomous Province of Trento</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Observatory on Balkans</td>
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<td>C. Research</td>
<td>Tuscany Region</td>
<td>All (focusing on 7 territorial areas)</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>CeSPI</td>
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<td>D. Associationism among local and SEE institutions</td>
<td>Tuscany Region</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>ANCI</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vertical</strong></td>
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<td>1.Valorisation of cultural tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.A - Joint promotion and valorisation of cultural, environmental and historical goods between Istria and Varaždin</td>
<td>Veneto Region <strong>Thematic leader</strong></td>
<td>Region of Istria, Cities of Rovinj, Pisino, Varazdin and Verteneglio</td>
<td>Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Region Tuscany</td>
<td>INFORMEST</td>
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<td>1.B - Cultural tourism development in municipalities of Mostar, Sarajevo and Skopje</td>
<td>Tuscany Region</td>
<td>Sarajevo canton; Cities of Sarajevo, Mostar and Skopje; Municipality of Stari Grad (Sarajevo)</td>
<td>Region Piedmont</td>
<td>General directorate for economic development</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.Valorisation of rural areas and natural environment</td>
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<td>2.A - Valorisation of local resources for rural tourism development in the regions of Herzegovina and Dubrovnik</td>
<td>Tuscany Region</td>
<td>Municipalities of Trebinje, Nevesinje and Livno; Dubrovnik Region</td>
<td>Autonomus Province of Trento</td>
<td>Province of Acrezzo</td>
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<td>2.B - Agro-tourism development in mountain areas of B&amp;H</td>
<td>Piedmont Region <strong>Thematic leader</strong></td>
<td>Municipalities of Zenica, Trnovo RS, Trnovo FBiH, Sanski Most, Zavidovići, Hadžići, Pale and Travnik</td>
<td>Province of Turin, Municipality of Alba</td>
<td>Mountain community Valli Chisone e Germanesca</td>
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<td>2.C - Valorisation of environmental tourism in the territories of Skadar, Nis, Kraljevo, Niksic and Pejë/Peć</td>
<td>Autonomous Province of Trento</td>
<td>Municipalities of Scutari, Kraljevo, Niksic, Pejë/Peć, City of Nis</td>
<td>Region Friuli Venezia</td>
<td>Tavolo Trentino con il Kossovo, Progetto Prijedor, Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo</td>
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### 3. Support to SMEs and cross-border entrepreneurial cooperation

**3.A - “Transgrowth” – Entrepreneurial animation in favour of transnational increase of integrated local production systems**
- **Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region**
  - **Thematic leader**
  - **Involved SEE territories**
    - Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem Counties
    - Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
    - Tuzla canton
- **Italian partners**
  - Emilia-Romagna Region, Veneto Region, Marche Region
- **Implementing technical subject**
  - INFORMEST

**3.B – Reinforcement of SME system in the areas of Zenica-Doboj, Herzegovina-Neretva, Sumadia-Pomoravlje, metropolitan areas of Belgrade and Prijedor**
- **Tuscan Region**
- **Involved SEE territories**
  - Municipalities of Prijedor and Tuzla, Zenica-Doboj and Herzegovina-Neretva cantons
  - City of Kragujevac, Municipalities of Lazarevac
- **Italian partners**
  - Regions Piedmont, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Autonomous Province of Trento
- **Implementing technical subject**
  - Toscana Promozione

### 4. Territorial planning and social services

**4.A – Support to strategic planning: start of pilot initiatives in territorial and environmental planning**
- **Emilia-Romagna Region**
  - **Thematic leader**
  - **Involved SEE territories**
    - Municipalities of Pancevo, Kotor, Smederevo and Budva
  - **Italian partners**
    - Tuscany Region
- **Implementing technical subject**
  - ERVET

**4.B – Support to planning in social sector**
- **Emilia-Romagna Region**
- **Involved SEE territories**
  - Skadar region, Municipalities of Elbasan, Valona and city of Novi Sad
  - Marche Region, Tuscan Region
- **Implementing technical subject**
  - Municipality of Forli’

### Duration

For the implementation of horizontal and vertical actions, as foreseen by the intervention strategy, **36 months** of activities shall be needed.

### Management system

*Programme* foresees a Management System enabled to ensure continuous and constant involvement of different network subjects, at political as well as at technical level. In particular, following organisational structure is foreseen:

- **Direction Committee** is an organ that ensures direction and political policy of the *Programme*.
- **Pilotage Committee** is a technical organ that ensures *Programme* implementation according to the indications given by Direction Committee.
- **Trilateral Nucleus** is an organ that ensures accordance between political and administrative level of the *Programme*.
- **Operational Secretariat** is an operative organ that unifies implementing subjects who are responsible for operational management of horizontal and vertical actions. It shall work under the supervision of *Programme* Director.

*Tuscany Region shall be in charge* of the **general coordination of the *Programme***, while the Operational Secretariat task will be assigned to OXFAM ITALIA. Each involved Italian institution will be appointed for operational and financial management of the activities of its competence.