

META SOCIAL COOPERATIVE

Meta Social Cooperative Onlus, born in 1980, is particularly careful about its territory needs, and from this it receives motivation and information for a constant process of confrontation, development of solutions and creation of new ones. Its main aim is in fact to contrast any form of disadvantage, promoting people wellness and dignity, and protecting their citizenship rights. Through its operative philosophy, the Cooperative, rooted in the territory, looks for a strong collaboration with institutions, by supporting the service network and by planning actions to create a better life quality. Through the refuse of merely charitable welfare approaches, it prefers the active involvement of citizens, cooperating for a community that is bond in doing, and in which sense of belonging and solidarity bonds naturally strengthen. What is realized goes through institutions and then comes back in the territory to obtain legitimacy, modifications and new incitement for further projects.

The Cooperative deals with a big metropolis, Rome, social reality, which requires the activation of human resources constantly aware of the expressed needs complexity. This approach leads to a diversification of Cooperative's actions, enlarging its vision on social issues.

Meta Social Cooperative Onlus answers are grouped into five thematic areas:

- Minors
- Elderly people
- Disabled
- Social Inclusion
- Psychiatry

Every user of one of the areas, refers to a network of fundamental relations for the general project of the Cooperative. Working with people means to work with their family, relational network and with the local institutions. The deriving flux of information offers a total vision of the social texture. Every action is therefore planned in order to create positive effects on the territory as a whole, considering planet's global priorities, acting for citizens' consciousness growth in relation to crucial factors such as immigration, new and ancient poverty, environmental conservation. These are all sectors on which everyone can and has to operate, also at a local level.

For Meta Social Cooperative Onlus, to face this challenge means continue the already ongoing process of people active involvement and positive energy mobilitation.

The services given by Social Cooperative Meta, are based on these fundamental principles.

1. Equality
2. Impartiality
3. Continuity
4. Discretion
5. Right to choose
6. Participation and information
7. Efficiency and Efficacy

MINORS

Every minor, kid or adolescent, is a universe of relationships, dreams and hopes, who lives in the present and looks at the future. Their choices and experiences of today reveal the city as it will be, that is why in the everyday work with minors the active methodology of doing is chosen.

All the activities are created as a tool to improve personal qualities, to actively involve families and foster a social and intercultural integration based on solidarity, respect and mutual trust. These elements and relationships together facilitate the principal goal of producing wellness and fostering the prevention of any form of psycho-social difficulty.

The actions involve educative and recreational services dedicated to infantry, pre-adolescence, adolescence, managed in agreement with Public Authority and therefore free for the users.

ELDERLY PEOPLE

Meta Social Cooperative experience in the field of elderly people assistance begins in 1980, the year the Cooperative was born. During the years this kind of services increased and every action is integrated with

all the others, in order to create a widespread social network that considers territorial resources and public services to prevent solitude and any other occasion of discomfort, to support the elderly citizen as a vital and active part of the social context, to give value to his baggage of human experiences and knowledge. The services offered go from home assistance to recreational and cultural activities, from the experimental service of protected dismissal to individualized assistance and the innovative service center for elderly citizens orientation and wellness.

DISABLED

Cooperative's philosophy considers any kind of diversity as a mutual enriching factor. Anyone is a person you can create a relation with. This is particularly valid in the disability area, an area destined to the support and development of particularly fragile persons, but at the same time extremely rich at a human and emotional level.

Activities are differentiated and cover cultural and school assistance, home assistance and support to individuals and families.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Meta Cooperative social inclusion area first goal is the reintegration of people in the social context. People that, for different reasons, are excluded from it or risk to be.

Actions are planned to face very different situations, from exclusion and chronic auto-exclusion to psychophysical and economic problems connected to social issues.

SOCIAL SECRETARIAT

Since 2009 the former Municipality IX of the City of Rome committed to Meta Cooperative the Social Secretariat Service project, already active since 2005. The Secretariat answers to one of the fundamental rights of people, that is the right to be informed. This way, a precious contribution to the improvement of social living is given. Secretariat is pointed from law 328/2000, as an essential level of the integrated system of social actions and services, because it is strongly connected to the exercise of citizenship rights.

PSYCHIATRY

The service given by the Cooperative has the aim of offering people with psycho-social problems and with no family support, a personalized social rehabilitation plan, finalized to social reinsertion, or to a preliminary phase of a reinsertion, of the person in difficulty. It tries to improve social relations, personal and social autonomy, to grant psychophysical wellness and personal care and autonomy.

The Cooperative's staff is composed by an administrative staff and by several professionals, coordinators and psychologists divided in operative teams, each one dedicated to one of the services provided.

WHY TO HOST A VOLUNTEER

The Meta Social Cooperative Onlus has always been careful about its territory and citizen needs. The whole organization is planned to give flexible and concrete answers, fitting a complex and constantly changing social reality. If institutions set priorities and state resources, it is the territory and its citizens, with their real needs, that factually show the efficiency of an organization made to give concrete answers to real needs.

This is the active citizenship which the Cooperative relates to: a community asking for transparency and that participates first-hand to the resolution of its problems. Looking at your own territory considering planet's global priorities, is no doubt one of the future challenges everyone working in the social field is called to face. To look at the world also means acting for citizens' consciousness growth in relation to crucial factors such as immigration, new and ancient poverty, environmental conservation. These are all sectors on which everyone can and has to operate, also at a local level.

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is an international mobility tool, focused on personal development and youngsters' active participation (active citizenship).

The contribution to the local development of a EVS project and youngsters' personal development fits perfectly in Meta's vision, which refuses merely charitable approach to welfare, preferring the active

involvement of citizens, cooperating for a community that is bond in doing, and in which sense of belonging and solidarity bonds naturally strengthen.

These are the motivations pushing the Cooperative to open up to EVS volunteers hosting.

The collaboration between Meta Social Cooperative and CEMEA del Mezzogiorno onlus, the organization chosen for EVS coordination, has been going on for years, through local activities, involving their own Youth Centers, and national and international educational activities.

More recently, the collaboration has been enriched by the hosting of Leonardo Da Vinci trainees coordinated by Cemea in Meta's adolescent centre. The positive impact coming from the increased collaboration between the two associations and from the involvement of foreign trainees, bearer of a European dimension, increase the interest towards international opportunities, such as international exchanges, bringing some of the users of the cooperative to take part to different projects.

Meta Social Cooperative Onlus, given the positive results of these experiences, both from the organization's point of view, and from users personal development's point of view, intends continuing enforcing its collaboration with CEMEA del Mezzogiorno and participating to the programme, regularly hosting EVS volunteers, using its experience in favor of new and still unknown social realities, in order to give life to a rich and fertile exchange.

WHICH ACTIVITIES

The social Cooperative META onlus operates through a variety of services that cover the territory of various municipalities in Rome. Meta has as varied view on the social context of the capital. Each structure of the cooperative tries to answer to problems and needs related to a particular target group, in coordination with the local insitutional network. Each activity is co-planned with the users and their families and it doesn't represent only a simple recreational moment, but it is also an opportunity to strenghten relationships and connections among users, familiars and local public institutions. Therefore, each action contributes to the realisation of a bigger and more complex project of a city where "being" and "acting" act as antidote to the fragmentation and the insecurity, promoting identity and belonging.

The offer of services supplied by the social cooperative involves various groups of users within the same areas of intervensions, the proposed projects and paths are further diversified for answering to the users' needs.

The European volunteers will partecipate in one or more of the following activities of the cooperative Meta, depending on the individualized plan of learning that will be built with the volunteer. Volunteers will always integrated in the various teams and they will profit from the support and guidance of a supervisor inside the service, which respond to their training and informative needs and which would welcome their feedback and proposals for innovative and original contributions that may arise during the service.

The Coccodillo spazio Be.Bi. (Benessere Bimbi), founded on 2004 in agreement with the 11th Department of the Municipality of Rome, borns in the territory of the VII Municipality (former IX). Coccodillo is a service that responds to educational and social needs, designed to promote the harmonious development of children and the birth and growth of meaningful relationships between children and adults and among children. The services offered are intended for girls and boys aged between 18 and 36 months, who are on the waiting list for the nurseries of the Municipality VII (former IX); indirect beneficiaries, but equally important, of this service are the parents and families of children attending the space. The service is accessible through the nurseries office of the Municipality VII (former IX). The working team consists of a coordinator psychologist with functions including supervision of educational psychology in the project, 2 professional educators and 1 supporting educator dealing with the care of children in relation to their physical and emotional needs and designing and offering different activities that dot the day at the nursery. The ratio of educators/child is 1 to 8.

The center Officina Tempo Libero, founded in 1999, is an educational and reacreational center that uses game and creativity as the key tool for supporting the growth and harmonious development of its little "guests." The teamwork in a non-competitive context, together with the ability of listening and mediating of the educators, makes this service particularly effective in supporting the development of individual's self-esteem, so important to the future children's well-being. The offered services can be divided into winter and summer activities. Winter activities, starting from October until May, include: thematic workshops divided by age groups for children and also for parents (workshop involving 3-5 years old children and parents); parenting center, the individual meetings for parents and thematic group meetings for parents (on Friday afternoon); parties and outdoor visits. Summer activities (Summer Center), starting from June until September, aim, through role-play, team games, adventure games, discovery games, to stimulate situations

in which game and physical activities become an tool of cooperation and cohesiveness of the group. The service is free and intended for 3 to 11 years old girls and boys living in the territory or enrolled in schools in the Municipality VII (former IX), or with parents working in the district. The working staff includes a coordinator, a educational-psychological supervisor, professional educators, trainees from universities and volunteers of the Civil Service.

Operative since 1998, Meta il centro has, as its objective, the promotion of the well-being of adolescents and the prevention of any type of psychosocial distress. The programming is agreed with the social worker of the Municipality VII (former IX) responsible for the service and provides a direct comparison with all the parties involved: adolescents, parents, educators, social services, local health authorities, associations; particularly important are the functions of counselling point and social observatory, which allows the center to give current answers to the needs of young people and the community. The service, addressed to youngsters from 11 to 18 years and to young adults, is granted by the Municipality VII former IX) (provisions of law 285/97 and 328 of the Act) and therefore it is free for users.

The project for the aggregation and youth empowerment has three operational dimensions.

Youth center

An area of about 200 square meters, near Parco della Caffarella. Within the Centre a free space for socializing, a space-time protected for studying and a consulting and listening point are available. Furthermore a multimedia station, soundproofed rehearsal room, table tennis, table football, Playstation 2 and 3; materials for painting, drawing, etc.. are also available.

Social Animation on the territory

The territorial activities provide visibility to youth primary role and creativity. In particular, over the past years performances by musical groups, theatrical performances, exhibitions and painting, creative activities, sports and projection of self-produced videos have been organized. Many events foresaw the integration with similar active projects in various municipal territories.

Interventions in schools

In collaboration with all the junior high schools and some high schools of the area, a counselling point was activated and interventions aiming to the discovery of the territory, school guidance have been conducted as well as training modules about listening addressed to teachers and laboratories about intercultural learning addressed to students.

The staff is composed of highly qualified and motivated for working in social field with adolescents and preadolescents. There are psychologists, educators, sociologists and experts in entertainment media activities, the supervision conducted by an external supervisor psychology is foreseen. Each staff member also has a professional profile particularly suitable for the kind of intervention required (experts in sports activities, role-playing games, music experts, etc.). For special activities and workshops, Meta il Centro uses external consultants and professionals (directors, writers, videographers, etc.). The young participants are asked for an active participation: each project, as planned, will be reconsidered and possibly modified on the base of suggestions and needs from them. Workshops (music, role-playing games, juggling, video, theater, web design, etc.), tours, excursions and vacations, events and special events in collaboration with other associations of the territory.

ViaTerninove is an innovative project that aims to involve all the organizations in the area of Municipality VII (former IX): on one hand plays a preventive action, providing concrete answers to the needs of the elderly population of the territory, on a second hand, through its data bank it is the point of collection and dissemination of all relevant information to the citizens, to make best use of available resources and jointly find solutions to small and big problems of everyday life. ViaTerninove is a space where people can meet to enhance the social network and encourage good neighbourhood relations, to produce ideas and collaborate on the project of a friendly city, able to give support and security.

The day-care center AttivaMente aims to the recovery and strengthen of senior citizens' psychological and emotional capacities, relief from loneliness and improvement of social autonomy. The service, opened to residents in Municipality VII (former IX) is intended for elderly in "fragile" (physical, mental or environmental) conditions, with particular attention to situations of partial self-sufficiency or in need of extra-familiar support. The day-care center AttivaMente aims to encourage social life and relationships of the senior citizens. The senior citizens who participate in the activities of the center are also asked to be active participants. Because everyone has qualities, experiences and useful knowledge, everyone can help the others, at any age. Being and feeling active again is a critical step to improve the quality of their lives. The proposed social activities vary from light exercise to parties, also with other realities present on the territory of the city; from walking activities to gaming and entertainment, from theatre or singing classes to outdoor visits for shows or visiting holy places or tourist attractions.

The Family Home for elderly Villa Luigia is a service of the Municipality V (former VI) active since June 2008, part of the complex system of services dedicated to large elderly resident population. It responds to the need to protect those old people who for family and socio – economic conditions are at risk of isolation and severe discomfort. The cooperative Meta took manage the structure from April 2011. The Family Home is intended to accommodate a maximum of 6 elderly people over 60 years old, self-sufficient and / or partially self-sufficient, coming from the municipal territory and it represents a real alternative to nursing homes. The overall objective of the project is to promote and maintain for the elderly guests the best level of health, well-being and social integration, on the basis of a customized project of intervention, strongly interrelated with the territory. The proposed idea of management intends to introduce new organizational processes and social intervention that can enable the person to use their own resources and the environment's ones, relying on available and potential resources, both individual user's ones and the ones of his natural network (family and friendship), and the community. The working team is composed of a psychologist (coordinator of the service), home health assistants, social workers, a family counselor and a professional educator.

Accademia Centro Adulti takes care of adults with medium - severe forms of disability, physical and or mental, aged from 18 years and older, residing in the territory of the Municipality V (former VI). The goal is to support individual growth through a policy of "small steps", which recognizes and supports the results achieved, even in the field of self-care and management of everyday life. Accademia relies on the professionalism and expertise of psychologists, educators, social workers, educators, carers and Masters of Art. Activities include trips, manual activities and educational and experiential workshops: painting, carpentry, crafts and environmental education. Workshops of art therapy are also organized, led by an art therapist at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

The Centro Sperimentale started on the 3rd of November 2005 with 4 groups of disabled people, divided by residential areas within the Municipality V (former VI). The groups are composed of 4 persons with disabilities and 4 operators. This service is addressed to a group of youngsters with severe mental disabilities and three groups of people with physical disability (either due to accidents or because of degenerative diseases). For the physically disabled ones the aim is to carry out activities (cinema, theater, visits, excursions, concerts ...) that promote socialization; concerning the serious mentally disabled ones, the intent is to create a space where they can play games and recreational activities for a few hours and at the same time giving relief to families. The Centro Sperimentale relies on professionalism and expertise of psychologists, educators, social workers, educators, carers and masters of art.

Both the structures of the Accademia and the Centro Sperimentale have plenty of space inside the Religious Recognized School "Julie Billiat" Sisters of Our Lady of Natur. This solution allows to operate in a particularly safe and quiet location while taking advantage of existing facilities and green spaces.

The Club di Socializzazione is a service of the Municipality V (former VI) was born on 1999 with the aim of accommodating a group of users with light mental disabilities. The idea underlying the management of the Club is to provide to youngsters activities and courses through which the working team (operators, masters of art and the coordinator) supports the development of the more complex emotional and social skills and to let the same youngsters fit better and more regularly in the context and in the activities of everyday life. The acquisition of these instruments can be realised through a constant confrontation with various real-life situations external to the Club together with non-disabled people, exchange in which youngsters should be encouraged to take responsibility in first place.

The family house Edelvaiss is a structure with the aim to offer to people with psycho-social problems and without the necessary family support a personalized social rehabilitation plan for social reinsertion or preparation to insertion and social reintegration to person in distress. The work carried out thus aims at the improvement of social relations, the improvement of personal and social, ensuring the mental and physical health and autonomy and personal care. The proposed activities will reinforce the objectives such as the ability to relate / socialization for social reintegration and for a good community living. The activities can be playful character (football tournaments, football, cards, play-station) or laboratories (theater, drama texts, short films) or external laboratories (music education). The presence of social workers and volunteers in the course of activities is an element that facilitates the achievement of goals. The work team is composed of 1 psychologist and manager of the facility, the first professional educator, social worker 1 and 3 social workers.