

WP2.4

Dissemination Events and Participatory Planning Processes

PROJECT EXCOVER

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

PP13 – GAL MONTEFELTRO SVILUPPO

PREMISE

Gal Montefeltro Sviluppo entered the project in its third period, as a stand-in for another partner which left the project. Gal's participation started in the March 2020, the very same month of the Covid-19 crisis national widening with the establishment of all the security measures, including lockdown. This led to the early impossibility, for PP13, to carry out on-field activities as they were conceived, affecting in particular all participatory processes.

Therefore, PP13 had to face a “structural delay” due its late entering in the project. In the same time, EXCOVER was in a stage where some specific actions needed to be fulfilled within a couple of months: especially, WP3 needed to be carried out within May/June 2020. It must be taken into account that during the first months of the Covid-19 crisis there were not clear protocols for smart working or online instruments to go on with participatory activities. So PP13 had to somehow “invent” new methods in a very short time, in order to fulfill the established deadline for EXCOVER.

This task was successfully carried out. In particular, WP3 was successfully completed within June 2020: all the on-field activity was replaced by online surveys addressed to locals and stakeholders. Anyhow, this situation inevitably affected the participatory process in many ways, and its effects propagated (in some measure) throughout the whole project with regards to participatory activities.

Given these clarifications, we can report the following activities for the PPP.

Participatory planning process reporting

GAL Montefeltro led an intense and extended PPP since May 2021 throughout the ending of the project. As explained in the premise, the methods undertaken had to be adapted to the contingencies of an evolving and uncertain situation, so the activity modes were various. The following table shows an outline of the activities carried out in the frame of the PPP.

| # | Activity | Methodology |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | Offline forums (4) | <p>Three forums were organized between April and June 2021. A total of 15 people participated. The facilitators were Gianluca Sarti and Valerio Coppola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 20th 2021: in Lunano, 6 stakeholders involved - April 21st 2021: in Sassocorvaro Auditore, 5 stakeholders involved - June 9th 2021: in Belforte all'Isauro, 4 stakeholders involved <p><i>Attachments: Act. D.4.1.1 Report including description and list of participants, photos of the second forum</i></p> |
| | | <p>One offline final forum was held in Sassocorvaro Auditore on February 24th 2022. In this occasion, 11 local stakeholders attended the meeting, including public authorities. The facilitators were Valerio Coppola, Gianluca Sarti and Maria Celeste Clarembaux.</p> <p><i>Attachments: Minutes, list of participants, presentation, photos</i></p> |
| 2. | Online forums (1) | <p>One online forum was organized on February 17th 2022. 10 stakeholders attended the meeting, including 2 mayors 3 DMC operators. The facilitators were Valerio Coppola, Gianluca Sarti and Maria Celeste Clarembaux.</p> <p><i>Attachments: Screenshot of the meeting including list of participants, presentation</i></p> |
| 3. | Polls (1) | <p>One online survey was the main instrument to begin the PPP during the first months in which GAL Montefeltro participated the project. As already described, this period corresponded both to the beginning of the pandemic and the ending of WP3. The survey was conducted through Google Modules and spread through Whatsapp messages. 91 people took part in the survey, which represented the first information about the project brought to the locals. The Mayors had a relevant role in involving the locals to participate the survey.</p> <p><i>Attachments: module of survey, table of survey results</i></p> |
| <p>More meetings, both online and offline, were organized between June 2021 and May 2022. These meetings happened in an informal way and were not reported. Anyhow they must be considered as part of the whole PPP, as they strengthened the involvement of locals, stakeholders and public authorities in the EXCOVER participating process.</p> | | |

Focus group reporting

In the final weeks of the project, GAL Montefeltro organized 3 online seminars/focus groups to describe the work done with EXCOVER and receive a feedback from stakeholders and public authorities. Each one of these focus groups was addressed to one specific target:

Focus group with mayors

The May 3rd 2022 focus group was addressed to the three mayors of the three municipalities involved in the project by GAL Montefeltro. In this occasion GAL Montefeltro illustrated the outputs of the project. The mayors expressed their satisfaction and stressed the fact that EXCOVER was one of the very first occasions to make local people think about their self as a community with common problems and common opportunities in the field of tourism. The mayors also noted that through the whole EXCOVER process some critic issues clearly emerged about the territory: the identification of these issues must be considered as one positive outcome of the project, as they were recognized as priorities on which the community should work together in the next years.

Attachments: presentation

Focus group with local stakeholders

The May 17th 2022 focus group was addressed to the local stakeholders who already were involved in the participatory planning process. 6 participants attended the focus group and, as the mayors already did, appreciated the project results and stressed the fact that the critical issued emerged from the process, actually represent the priorities to work on on a community scale.

Attachments: presentation, screenshot of the meeting

Focus group with DMC operators

One final focus group was addressed to the DMC operators that already participated in the PPP. The focus group was led on June 23rd 2022. After the presentation of the project results, the operators shared their technical impressions: they appreciated that EXCOVER made possible to “read” the territory from a touristic perspective, valorizing less known or even unknown resources; they appreciated the fact that, through EXCOVER, local stakeholders had put together their views and efforts; they also stressed the weaknesses of this territory, both in terms of touristic supply and communication (brand communication). Such weaknesses also represent the priorities to work on: this observation was particularly welcome, as it matched the observations of both mayors and stakeholders.

Attachments: presentation, screenshot of the meeting