

Description of the social enterprise – information sheet

La Coccinella Social cooperative enterprise



A. Identification data	
1. Name of the enterprise	 La Coccinella
2. Location/Address of the enterprise	Via De Gasperi, 19 - CLES (TN) 38023
3. Website of the enterprise	www.lacoccinella.coop/
4. Legal organisational form	Social cooperative enterprise – social sector type A
B. Good practice of the social enterprise	
Aspects that recommend the social enterprise as a good practice in the particular sector.	La Coccinella is a success story of kindergartens, as it shows how a small group of people got together in order to solve a very specific need in a small village, managed to build up an entire network of services, now spread all over the region, gaining competences that are now recognized at national level. Moreover, even if it has grown significantly in size and people, La Coccinella has kept its territorial feature, remaining strongly rooted in local communities, providing services to small villages that would otherwise be in serious lack of early childhood care structures.
C. Context:	
1. Year of Founding	1995
2. Context of start-up – problem that the enterprise was set up to solve, economic social rationale	A group of full time working parents felt the lack of support in their children’s early-childhood management and education. With a group of childhood workers, they decided to set up a cooperative that could take care of children under 3 years old, and started to manage their first nursery school in Cles.
3. What are the Main Activities of the entity?	Nursery schools, parental support activities (best practice sharing, group meetings, etc), summer camps and leisure activities, housework assistance, laboratories for artistic communications, cultural activities (exhibitions, theatrical plays, events, etc.).
4. Who are the Main stakeholders (i.e. members, clients, producers, etc.)?	Children, parents, teachers, local communities, public administrations.
5. Geographic coverage with respect to: i) to production of services and/or goods and ii) market/consumers or beneficiaries, clients, etc.	La Coccinella’s nursery schools are spread all over the western part of the province of Trento. Moreover, La Coccinella provides consulting and advice to other similar organizations in the rest of Italy.

D. Ownership Structure	
1. What is the ownership structure of the entity: i.e., does the entity have shareholders, owners/members, donors, trustees, investors, etc.?	Members have the ownership.
2. If membership, is membership open or closed? Is exclusivity required?	Open to an unlimited number of members. Members can be workers, volunteers, natural or legal entities. Financing members are admitted too.
3. Is a capital contribution required? If so, how much? Is equity capital unallocated or individualised?	Equity is unallocated and cannot be shared among members, not even in the case of the cooperative's closure. In case of liquidation, social capital must be allocated to mutual funds promoting and supporting the cooperative movement.
4. Describe in a few words the voting distribution (e.g. one member-one vote; proportional to equity contribution; proportional to use, etc.).	One member-one vote. Financing members' votes cannot exceed one-third of all other members' votes.
5. Describe in a few words the main benefits for members or owners.	Working opportunities for the members, answering to the social needs of the community.
6. Indicate any <u>main changes</u> in ownership over the lifetime of the entity.	Increase in the number of members and workers.
E. Governance	
1. Describe the governance structure of the entity (board, management, committees, etc.), number of members and method of selection (appointed or elected and by whom).	Governance bodies are the members' assembly and the management board. Statutory auditors are provided by the charter, but there is no obligation to appoint them. Board members are elected by the members' general assembly by relative majority or eventually by unanimous vote.
2. Is there an entity or process for oversight of the board?	No
3. Are there external independent board members?	There could be non-members, provided that their number does not exceed that of the members.
4. Are there term limits for board members?	The board composition can vary between a minimum of 3 members to a maximum of 7 (president, vice-president and 1 to 5 council members). Board members are elected every 3 years and can be re-elected, but only for 3 consecutive mandates.

5. What is the gender composition of the board?	100% women
6. Describe management and board salary/ compensation policies and how they are decided/determined?	The administrators' compensation is determined by the general meeting. For administrators with specific tasks, their salary is determined by the board.
F. Profit/ benefits/ surplus distribution policies	
1. Describe briefly the distribution policies and procedures for profits / benefits / surplus	The members' general assembly decides on how to distribute the earnings among members, if in terms of direct distribution or by increasing each member' equity.
2. Are members/owners liable for losses of entity? Describe how liability is shared.	Members are liable for losses only with their capital stock. Conditions are foreseen in the coop statute and Civil Code.
G. Strategy: highlight approaches adopted to address the identified challenges	
1. Describe briefly the business strategy looking at aspects like: main products/services, market niche, market share, quality and pricing/costs and <u>main changes</u> occurred in time.	La Coccinella's services are all related to early childhood care and family needs. Market share is mainly the western part of the region (Val di Non, Valle dell'Adige, Alto Garda).
2. Describe briefly the relation between the business strategy and the social mission of the enterprise.	La Coccinella's social mission is to take care of children and their rights first, helping parents to maintain a balance between parenthood and personal life and career, paying attention to workers' needs, in harmony with local communities and public administrations. Services are all oriented towards high quality and being a strong, clear reference for the local community. La Coccinella is deeply rooted in the local community, having the support of the public administration. Moreover, La Coccinella actively involves children's parents in training activities and also for small maintenance works, in order to empower the ownership.
3. Please describe briefly the strategic partners or alliances that the enterprise has.	La Coccinella acts in close coordination with the local municipality: in order to apply for a place in their nurseries, parents must first obtain the voucher for social services issued by the municipality. La Coccinella is also member of the consortium CON.SOLIDA and of the Trentino Federation of Cooperatives for representation at local level, and takes part in the National Consortium Gino Matterelli and in Confcooperative-Federsolidarietà at national level. It will participate in Expo 2015 in the exhibition area for all national cooperative enterprises.
4. Innovation and key performance factors	Innovative pedagogical methodology which has been in great demand both nationally and abroad.

5. Human resources - personnel	
- No. of employees	205 workers
- No. of volunteers	
- No. of members	22 members

H. Outcomes: results achieved and lessons learned

- Assets (raw numbers)	2.845€
- Capital (raw numbers)	16.188€
- Production	5.567.703€
- Turnover /sales	5.545.167€
- Profit/loss	7.706€

Contact info

Address

Via De Gasperi, 19 - CLES (TN) 38023

Email

www.lacoccinella.coop/

Webpage

Contact person