

Families_Share Project

Concept note

Call	ICT – 11- 2017
Topic	Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation
Type of action	Innovation Action Grant Agreement n° 780783
Duration	34 months

Background & specific context

The specific challenge that led to the conception of the proposed project is of **socio-economic** nature: **Balancing work and family life** has become increasingly challenging in the last decade in Europe. In many cities, the public offering of **childcare services** is insufficient, putting families with children under significant pressure. **After-school activities** have also become a luxury that low and medium-income families can rarely afford. At the same time, members of neighborhoods and communities are often isolated.

The multicultural dimension of urban milieu is more and more challenging: migrant families are often part of the lowest income population and especially when single income have less child care and educational opportunities, ending up often in increasing isolation or segregation in close ethnic communities.

However, the digital tools that we have available today make new collective intelligence models and participatory methods possible. **Digital Social Innovation** can be a solution to better cope with the challenges of restricted access to childcare, after-school activities and learning opportunities.

Project Scope and Objectives

Families_Share aims to offer a **bottom-up solution** to work/life balance by supporting families with **childcare, parenting advice and after-school activities**—with a particular focus on low-income families. To achieve this objective the project will borrow and integrate concepts from the Time Banks and Social Streets models, and seek to harness the potential of **ICT networks** and mobile technologies to increase the effectiveness of **participatory innovation** in the sense of **self-organizing neighborhoods**.

The project will be developed in **7 Pilot Cities** in 5 countries and will **involve parents of children aged 3–11 that live in the same neighborhoods in the 7 Pilot cities** (Bologna, Budapest, Kortrijk, Hamburg, Thessaloniki, Trento, Venice). Though, they often already participate in parents' groups, parents often fail to formulate organized motivated communities that share knowledge and services. The Families_Share project will enable them to meet locally and co-design internationally the Families_Share Share Platform that will allow them to post challenges, share learning sources, meet up, match their needs and profiles and agree **on timesharing schemes for mutual support in childcare and after-school**

activities to improve their work/life balance and increase the quality of learning opportunities for their kids.

In accordance with the EC call and the identified need, the specific objectives of the CareShare project are:

- To **exploit the powerful effects of ICT networks** towards the creation of a bottom-up childcare and learning sharing solution in order to address the needs of thousands of families hit by the economic crisis and welfare cuts around Europe.
- **Formulate motivated community of citizens**, foster collaboration, promote innovative models for the society and the economy
- **Explore specific needs of parents to foster innovative behaviours** and raise awareness on new time-sharing models and their potential to support work/life balance in open and desegregated neighborhoods. Explore and exploit intercultural communication aspects to make sure Families_Share functions also as a driver of migrant families integration in their neighborhood to overcome ethnic segregation.
- Co-design, develop and test an **Open Source Collective Awareness Platform**, that will allow transnational participation through posting of parenting challenges and a system calculating time credits
- **Support the sharing of caring services, learning** via open source, parenting consultation services etc
- **Assess the impact** of time-sharing activities and of grassroots digital and social innovation on work/life balance and gender policies, as well as local welfare policies.
- **Seek mass participation and global effects**
- **Foster exploitation** of the Families_Share solution through specific scalability and replication activities.

Planned activities

The activities will develop around the core of the project: the online participatory platform and the City Pilots.

The Pilots will run as **CityLabs** or as coordinated Participatory Action Research Laboratories that will explore user needs and **co-create services** to inform the design and engineering process of a Families_Share Platform and its web-mobile applications. The CityLabs will also be **offline sites** at which new socialisation and networking models based on sharing childcare and learning tasks will be tested. This will also allow adaptation of the technology to user feedback.

Type of activities and accordance to the call

Objective	Related Activity	Accordance to the call
Offsite activities		
Explore specific needs of parents to foster innovative	1. Community building in min. 5 Pilot cities through existing	Demonstrate multidisciplinary collaboration by including

behaviours and raise awareness	communities (municipalities, schools, parents' groups)	entities whose main focus of interest is beyond the ICT domain
Co-design, develop and test an Open Source Collective Awareness Platform , that will allow transnational participation through posting of parenting challenges and a system calculating time credits	2. Community member meet-ups in each of the Pilot cities to identify the challenges at local level, design the platform, provide feedback about its functionality, assess the impact of the activities.	Include in consortia an existing and motivated community of citizens, to drive platform development
Form motivated communities of citizens , foster collaboration, promote innovative models for the society and the economy	3. Exchange of services at local level according to the skills the community can offer: Caring services for kids, after-school learning activities, including sports, music, art, languages...	Promote and develop new participatory innovation models for economy and society
Seek mass participation, scalability, replication	4. Showcase of best practices at international final event, including knowledge transfer workshops.	Achieve mass adoption and impact
Foster exploitation of the CareShare solution through specific scalability and replication activities.	5. Sustainability plan	Need for models and blue-prints....
Online activities via the platform		
To exploit the powerful effects of ICT networks towards the creation of a bottom-up childcare and learning sharing solution	1. Calculation of time-credits for the exchange of services 2. Weekly online posting of challenges on parenting by the international community. Members of the community will discuss the challenges and in monthly virtual meetups, the solutions will be assessed. Online urgency notification feature when for ex. a parent needs an urgent pick-up of their kid.	Exploit digital hyper-connectivity
Support the sharing of caring services & learning via open sources, parenting consultation services etc	3. Open access user-generated parenting consultation material	Exploit collaborative tools based on open data, open knowledge, open source software and open hardware
Seek mass adoption and global effects	4. Online showcasing of the best practices from the Pilot cities	Achieve critical mass and measurable global impact
Assess the impact of time-sharing activities and of grassroots digital and social	5. Online publication of the project's impact assessment and policy recommendation	

innovation on work/life balance and gender policies, as well as local welfare policies.		
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WP Sketch

WP1. Methodology for citizen engagement, needs analysis and co-design

- Bottom-up identification of the stakeholder needs via local meetups and mapping of the needs internationally.
- Analyse specific challenges related to trust and safety and map available and potential solutions
- Identification of open source material available at existing platforms.
- Active community engagement at a local level.

WP2. Platform Development

- To be designed and structured according to the needs identified in WP1
- Possibility to post challenges, also incl. an emergency feature for urgent needs
- Include a time credit feature

WP3. Piloting at the CityLabs

- Coordination of the five city labs
- Include world cafés and meetups
- Testing of the platform and re-design through user feedback

WP4. Impact assessment

- Research on behavioral change and social networks analysis
- Research on gender dimension and intercultural dimensions
- Self-assessment of the CityLabs
- KPI measurements

WP5. Dissemination Sustainability and policy recommendations

- Awareness-raising campaign
- Publication of recommendations
- Platform sustainability plan and business model
- Plan on how to maintain the communities active after the end of the project

WP6. Project Management

Coordination and reporting

WP7. Ethics

- Details must about the measures taken to prevent the risk of enhancing vulnerability/stigmatization of individuals/groups.

- Details on incidental findings policy.
- Copies of ethics approvals for the research with humans
- Copies of opinion or confirmation by the competent Institutional Data Protection Officer and/or authorization or notification by the National Data Protection Authority
- Justification in case of collection and/or processing of personal sensitive data.
- Detailed information on the procedures that will be implemented for data collection, storage, protection, retention and destruction and confirmation that they comply with national and EU legislation (this includes geolocation data).
- The Privacy Policy of the platform clarifying when and on what terms data sharing with third parties will take place.

Partnership

NAME	COUNTRY
Ca' Foscari Venezia	Italy
VILABS	Cyprus
Smart Venice	Italy
FBK	Italy
REC	Hungary
IMEC	Belgium
De Stuyverij	Belgium
Urbanista	Germany
Ergani	Greece