

The SOLE project (**S**Ocial network for **L**ocal **E**mpowerment) was imagined to contribute to the construction of an active and living European citizenship. Although a number of opportunities are aimed at citizens or organisations sense of initiative, most of them are being kept away from these, by lack of information or tools. Our goal is to allow all kinds of organisations to take part to the development of an active citizenship on a European scale. For this purpose, SOLE will spread knowledge and tools about European transnational cooperation, especially within the frame of the Europe for Citizens Programme.

One of our priorities is to **allow local entities with few or without experience in this field to gain knowledge and tools** about it. Since 2009, the Lisbon Treaty has the duty to enhance European citizens' rights and empower people regarding participative democracy. 2013 will be the European Year of Citizens so a major participation and awareness by European citizens is expected. Since we believe that a lot of smart ideas and initiative only miss a little support to achieve great things, we don't want anyone to be stepped aside from the move !

We are sharing knowledge and experiences about projects development and management in the field of European cooperation, active citizenship, participation and what it implies for us as European citizens, the Europe for Citizens Programme and its characteristics and the use of Information and Communication Technologies with a focus on social networks.

We are also encouraging and supporting partner organisations in building and implementing their own transnational project.

We are creating a living network of organisations able to reach any other local authority or organisation, thus spreading the word about European cooperation opportunities. Our fondest wish is that SOLE will not only develop during the year of its realisation, but will live long again and produce cascade effects through all Europe.

SOLE project is : 10 countries, 11 organizations, 45 active participants, nearly 1500 persons (as indirect target and final beneficiaries expected), from Italy, Romania, UK, Latvia, Slovakia, France, Denmark, Slovenia, Germany, Macedonia.

#### **SOLE realisations :**

- A training course (July 1-7 2012) focusing on transnational cooperation and the Europe for Citizens program;
- The elaboration and realisation of transnational projects in every partner organizations;
- One information event in every partner city;
- One user's guide, providing advices and patterns to anyone willing to build and implement European cooperation projects (published in the beginning of 2013);
- A final event in Palermo (March 2013) presenting the results of the projects in a Final Conference, involving local community, citizens, local authorities representatives, civil society organizations.

May SOLE shine on the fostering of a living and active European citizenship !