

LUXEMBURG

Local development

Location
Betzdorf

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Priority
P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure
M19 – LEADER/CLLD

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 223 400
EAFRD 158 614
National/Regional 64 786

Project duration
2016 – 2019

Project promoter
Yolande asbl

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www.beimlis.lu/lu

Summary

The NGO 'Yolande asbl' belongs to the 'Elisabeth' group, which is the main provider of social care in Luxembourg. The NGO acquired a building in the municipality of Betzdorf which is located opposite the Roodt-Syre railway station. There, the NGO set up apartments for people with an intellectual disability on the upper floors and a village shop on the ground floor.



The grocery store was created in 2017 to allow trainees or employees with an intellectual disability to enter the job market and become more independent. In part of the grocery store, a social café has been set up where local people can meet and socialise. LEADER measure support was used for the creation of a small support team with two part-time employees.

Results

Inclusive workshops in the community café and in the residential care centre in Betzdorf are carried out on a regular basis; workshop material is published online and in a little booklet which is distributed four times every year;

Some people with an intellectual disability became associate teachers in the soap and candle workshops;

Two jobs were created for people with special needs;

Approximately 40 workshops have been organised with more than 500 participants;

In cooperation with Fairtrade Luxembourg, a tea brand with bio label certification was created. The packaging is made during a workshop for people with special needs.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The project requires hard work, constantly adapting to changes, liaising with local authorities and stakeholders, as well as developing inclusive events and workshops which cater to the interests of the inhabitants.
- ❑ The 'Beim Lis' initiative led to the identification of new needs in the field of health and ageing. Elderly people, who need more care, should also have the possibility to stay at home and not in a care centre. Local problems can only be solved locally.

Context

The NGO 'Yolande asbl' belongs to the 'Elisabeth' group, which is the main provider of social care in Luxembourg. The NGO acquired a building in the municipality of Betzdorf. The building is located opposite the Roodt-Syre railway station. There, the NGO set up apartments for people with an intellectual disability on the upper floors and a village shop on the ground floor.

The NGO supports an average of 188 persons with special needs a day. This support is provided at the two residential care centres (Betzdorf and Mondorf-les-Bains) and in two supervised homes in Roodt-Syre and Niederanven.

Objectives

The Yolande residential centre of Betzdorf is located in the rural area covered by the Miselerland Local Action Group. LEADER Miselerland started in 2003. At present, it gathers 48 members - 14 communities and 34 organisations. Its local development strategy is very much geared towards social development (see also the '[World City Miselerland](#)' project).

Activities

The grocery store was created in 2017 to allow trainees or employees with an intellectual disability to enter the job market and become more independent. Being in direct contact with clients and working with the other members of staff helps people to build confidence and develop new skills.

In a part of the grocery store, a social café has also been set up where local people can meet and socialise. It is called 'Beim Lis' from the anagram 'Léiwer Inklusiv Schaffen' which means 'Preferring to work inclusively'.

LEADER support was used to fund a small support team of two part-time employees who have been assigned the following tasks:

- Design the social café concept;
- Develop guidelines for transferring knowledge to other interested villages and communities;
- Coordinate a Local Exchange Trade System (LETS) for the community;
- Plan activities and workshops for all in the social café (e.g. knitting, pottery, reading groups, etc.);
- Host and manage volunteers;
- Communicate the aim and successes of the project (e.g. university, social authorities, web design);
- Carry out community surveys.

The project also involved the purchase of various equipment and training; the staff attended training sessions at the Cactus supermarket headquarters and two retired managers of this food company provided advisory services for organising the premises' layout to ensure that everything was set up according to best practice.



Main results

- Several inclusive workshops in the community café and in the residential care centre in Betzdorf are carried out on a regular basis; workshop materials are published online and in a little booklet which is distributed four times every year;
- Some people with an intellectual disability became associate teachers in the soap and candle workshops;
- Two jobs were created for people with special needs;
- In 2017, the first Christmas market was organised together with the scouts and the local youth centre. The local community was responsible for financial support;
- People who use the community café often shop in the grocery store too;
- About 12 elderly people come regularly to the weekly workshop 'LIS CAFÉ';
- Approximately 40 workshops have been organised with more than 500 participants;
- In cooperation with Fairtrade Luxembourg, a tea brand with bio label certification was created. The packaging is made during a workshop for people with special needs.
- The 11th European Congress for mental health in intellectual disability was held in September 2017 in Luxembourg city. The project promoter participated with a poster presentation 'Duerfbuttek & Duerftreff, an inclusive solution to small town desires' and contributed to a workshop on psychological and behavioural disorders.

Key lessons

This socially innovative initiative paves the ground for further bottom-up participative projects, particularly in relation to the 'silver' economy and health. Seniors are active and still looking for new activities and workshops.

This type of project requires hard work, constantly adapting to changing needs, liaison with local political authorities and stakeholders, as well as developing inclusive events and workshops which cater to the interests of the inhabitants. A guide is being prepared (which will be finished end 2019) on how community cafés can be developed.

A vision of an inclusive community is what the project promoter is working towards. The 'Beim Lis' initiative led to the identification of new needs in the field of health and ageing. Elderly people, who need more care, should also have the possibility to stay at home and not in a care centre. Local problems can only be solved locally. A training program for voluntary senior-helpers living in the neighbourhood is currently under development.

Organisers are hoping to purchase an electric vehicle to transport people with reduced mobility in future.

"As the biggest organisation for social welfare in Luxembourg we are proud that so many people supported our idea to install a grocery with working places for disabled people and a meeting-point for the inhabitants of the village. Heartfelt thanks to our supporters, the local community, Cactus S.A. and LEADER Miselerland."

Willy de Jong General Director of Elisabeth group

Additional sources of information

www.facebook.com/beimlis/

<http://leader-miselerland-moselfranken.eu/2018/08/30/duerfbuttek-beim-lis-in-roodt-syre/>