

STARTING PARTNERSHIPS ON INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN JENDOUBA AND SARDINIA TERRITORIES FOCUSING ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

By Maria Cristina Zuddas

In the first months of 2017, the decentralized cooperation project between the Governorate of Jendouba (Tunisia) and the Sardinia Region (Italy) was officially launched.



The project is framed by the main political orientations of the Tunisian government for the next 5 years. These policies identify, among the priorities, support for social and solidarity economy approaches in programming and implementation of local and national development actions.

Funded by the Italian Cooperation, the project involves the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (RAS) and the AUSI Consortium of Sardinia, with the support of the KIP International School.

In April 2017, the first mission of the Sardinia delegation in Tunisia took place, in order to identify with the Tunisian actors the first activities of the project and its action plan.



After the first official meetings in Tunis with the Ministry of Development and International Cooperation and the Italian Embassy, a technical meeting was held at the Governorate of Jendouba with over 30 local stakeholders: cooperatives, *sociétés mutuelles*, agri-food chains representatives, SPA centers, institutional representatives.



Some interesting points emerged from the presentation of the territory and the various projects.

Attention to Social and Solidarity Economy SSE is increasingly marked, and there is an important presence of cooperatives. The territory of Jendouba, extremely rich in natural resources, presents a differentiated regional economy: the main sector is agriculture, followed by cork production and processing, tourism - all year round -, and fishing.

Agriculture and beekeeping sectors are increasingly interested by organic production. The conversion from traditional to organic production can be easily achieved, with a support in the phases of analysis and substitution of pesticide. Beekeeping is kept in particular regard and many investments are dedicated to this sector, with a good percentage of organic production.



The breeding of chickens, sheep, cattle and goats, is particularly significant, and is aimed at the production of milk and derivatives.

Particular attention was dedicated to fishing, underlining the low export rates: specific attention must be dedicated to the development of transformation chain, cold chain, and consequent export.

Finally, cultural tourism keeps a strategic role. Three major sites, Bellarigia, Chemtou and the Tabarka Fort, and the SPA Center need to be better promoted, and local stakeholders need training for the organization of the tourist office and the formation of tourist guides.

A forthcoming technical mission, scheduled for May 2017, will enable the production of the Action Plan for exchanging experiences between the actors operating in the priority areas of the endogenous development of the two territories, with methods focusing on sustainability and social economy.

