

Newsletter Research, Network and Support Facility



The small world of informal economy in Capachica, Peru

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From Nairobi with workshop!

By RNSF Team

The RNSF team wishes you all a happy new year. May 2017 bring you happiness and exciting professional challenges! We are also glad to announce that the regional workshop on social Protection from the Perspective of Informal Economy is starting next week in Kenya. 25 participants from various background (international organizations such as EU and ILO, ministries, universities, and NGOs) will work 5 days together to draft a book on the topic! If you want to know more on the workshop, its agenda, and its outputs, do not hesitate to:

- Visit the page of the workshop on the IESF Group website
- Watch the two introductory video briefs of the RNSF expert Prof Jacques Charnes on social protection and social safety nets on the IESF blog
- Read the summary of RNSF paper on social protection in the Special Focus section of this newsletter
- Contact us for any question on p.carlini@arsprogetti.com



Not enough resolutions?

And if you had not had enough new year resolutions this year, we have 3 more to suggest:

- **Connect!** Follow us on Facebook (InformalEco), Twitter (@informal_eco) and Youtube (Informal Economy Support Facility)
- **Share!** Invite your network to join the IESF Group on capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf
- **Act!** You have a project, a comment you would like to share with the IESF Group? Let us know!

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Special Focus on

Social Protection from the perspective of informal economy

Why does social protection matter and what can it do for informal workers?

By RNSF Team

According to a recent ILO (2013) on 47 countries, “the proportion of people in informal employment in non-agricultural activities is significant in most of the reporting countries”. Furthermore, RNSF research (2016) shows that the informal economy accounts for 74 % of non-agricultural employment in sub-Saharan Africa, 65 % in Asia, 57 % in Latin America, 48 % in Middle East North Africa and 25 % in transition countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

People dependent on the informal economy (IE) are particularly vulnerable to social risks such as health (illness and disabilities), accidents, extreme poverty, unemployment, old age and natural disasters. They are generally excluded from or without access to social security mechanisms and rely on other programmes targeting vulnerable groups depending on the willingness and political commitment of governments towards poor and vulnerable groups.

In its workshop on social protection from the perspective of informal economy, RNSF addresses the use of social protection mechanisms as tools for promoting social inclusion through 3 key issues:

Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks on Social Protection to Reach the Informal Economy

As early as the 1970s, the ILO took measures and/or adopted recommendations for the design of policies to address the informal sector as a source of jobs in a period when unemployment was on the rise. Thus, the negative concept of informality started to transform into the more positive view of “decent work” with positive criteria, including the benefits of the various dimensions of social protection (ILO, 1999).

Since the adoption of the ILO Recommendation 202 on social protection floors in 2012, and of the ILO Recommendation 204 on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy in 2015, many countries have given more emphasis to their social policies in a context of existing formal systems of social

protection facing financial unsustainability due to the expansion of the informal economy and aging populations.

The expansion of social protection is key for policies aimed at encouraging the transition from the informal to the formal economy across all countries. The African Union adopted a Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK) as early as 2011, in which it acknowledges that social protection (...) has the potential to be the backbone of any strategy towards the modernization or (...) formalisation of the informal economy” (African Union, 2011).

Depending on the level of development and the structure of the economy, a variety of situations characterises legal frameworks for social protection. Countries with a large agricultural sector and a broad informal economy necessarily have a different approach from countries with a wide social security system based on contributions collected on salaries and labour income. Civil society organisations play an important advocacy role with government—and other social protection providers—to ensure that appropriate legal and policy frameworks on social protection adequately cover people dependent on the IE.

Ensuring that People Dependent on the IE access Social Protection

Many people dependent on the IE still do not access the available types of social protection that are open to them. Service providers—whether government, private or subsidised micro-financing and micro-insurance—are unable to reach all IE workers for many reasons, such as the inability to identify the numerous urban and rural IE workers and a lack of human, transport and other resources to do so.

Disseminating information on social protection resources that may be available to people dependent on the IE brings more effectiveness and acceptance in revenue collection and mana-



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gement systems (Zegers, 2016) as people better understand what they are likely to gain from the changes. Various means can be employed to reach out to inform and support them to access available formal and informal means of social protection. They may be provided direct support to accompany them to access services. Some community members may also receive practical training to share their knowledge with their peers. Training local leaders and ensuring that they have full knowledge of available social protection mechanisms and updating them on changes in services and contact details is vital in this regard.

The usual means of communications can further be employed such as pamphlets, brochures and radio and television as well as digital services where possible to indicate available services. Creative approaches using mobile phone messaging and telephone hotlines to ask for and receive information may be developed.

Community-based Safety Nets and Linkages with Formal Social Protection Systems

Safety nets are diverse. In 2015, the World Bank assessed the state of social safety nets at world level (World Bank, 2015). They may include price subsidies on basic goods or cash transfers that have sometimes become conditional to infants' vaccination and children's schooling (behavioural conditions) or subject to several criteria (such as income levels or demographic or socio-economic characteristics). They may also include provision of a number of workdays through labour intensive public works. The most well-known and successful of these conditional cash transfers programmes is the Brazilian "Bolsa Familia" that dramatically lowered the national poverty rate. Such schemes are, however, often criticised for their deficient targeting, especially when non-conditional.

It is admitted that the typical cash transfers programs in lower income countries do not provide adequate income support and cover only about 10% of the average consumption of the poor. The beneficiaries of public works programs that provide workdays during special periods of the year cannot be considered as having decent jobs and social protection coverage. These types of programs are not a means of transitioning from the informal to the formal economy.

In the absence of state support, vulnerable populations may quasi-exclusively rely on self-help groups that can provide assistance to their members in need. Such self-help groups may

be organised with the support of development projects. Older traditional community structures do also still provide support systems today. Moreover, extended families provide support to cover health expenditures, unemployment, and other benefits and allowances. As Charmes (2003) has shown, in sub-Saharan Africa in the 1980'-1990s for instance, monetary and in-kind transfers between households – including remittances—represented as much as 25% of the average household income, that is a share equivalent to social expenditures or public transfers in European countries.

Self-help community-based saving and lending groups are also widespread in traditional societies in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (Vuarin, 1993 and 2000; Oduro, 2010). They represent an important aspect of microfinance. Through these groups, members are led to save and can use their right to borrow to meet their consumption or investment needs. An increasing trend in micro-finance institutions is to offer micro-insurance—including protection against the impact of crop failures, death of relatives, or chronic health issues.

Perspectives on Social Protection

It is time for social protection to be given the highest priority and with provision of a range of nationally appropriate mechanisms to reach all. Informal workers should be integrated, wherever possible, into formal schemes, rather than being covered through short-term safety nets inadequate to address their needs. One should move from targeting to universal coverage, from conditional to non-conditional transfers, and from fragmented to more comprehensive approaches.

Social protection for informal workers must thus be mainstreamed and be a long-term commitment. Good practices and lessons learned from projects still have a role to play in the implementation of national policies. Policy-makers can play an implementation coordination role. Inefficient bureaucracies, immersed in clientelist practices and cronyism and devoid of resources, need to be sensitised and incentivised. Grassroots organisations should accompany them in their work to reach out and building a bridge to local communities.

We want you!

In the last newsletter we had Oxfam UK Kenya in the spotlight. This time it is Progetto MondoMlal. Who wants to collaborate with us for the next newsletters? Please let us know!

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Reporting

Café Correcto: Fair coffee tastes better with decent work

By staff, Progetto MondoMlal

Café Correcto project aims to contribute to the rural poverty reduction in coffee-producing areas in Peru and Bolivia, with a specific focus on vulnerable female and young informal workers depend directly or indirectly from this production.

To that end, the project promotes initiatives facilitating the access of small producers to certification, in the perspective of supporting business development and the improvement of living conditions. In that sense, the activities of the project, the improvement of the quality of production and coffee yield as well as of the access to markets and the overall competitiveness of the value chain.

In collaboration with specialized state bodies, the Café Correcto project is currently working on setting the standard in the evaluation and certification of key competencies. Three priorities have been defined: technical skills related to coffee production, marketing skills and governance of producers' groups. The project is also recognized by the Peruvian State which has also initiated similar programs such as "Agorrural", in partnership with international agencies like the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The strengthening of family farming in coffee-producing areas is also part of a wider vision which aims at promoting a rural world of "open knowledge" and at capitalizing on rural talents, and thus accompanying generational change and reducing rural depopulation, with the perspective of a possible replication in other kinds of production such as cocoa, fiber and dairy products.

One of the great challenges of the Café Correcto project is to strengthen the mechanisms of the Peruvian producers' cooperatives to reduce social vulnerability and generate sustainable mechanisms. What the project is trying to create now since almost two years, as highlighted by the President of the Junta Nacional del Café in Peru Tomás Córdova Marchena, "is to change the mindset of the coffee producers gathered today in cooperatives to improve the quality of their lives", to



Coffee producing. Credit: Progetto MondoMlal

generate a strengthened rural associative model based on a self-sustainable mechanism through the tools provided by the project. These tools aim at accompanying them towards new forms of access to public services (in priority health services) and social security coverage. In the coming months a new training program will be initiated. It is intended for around 180 young people and women affiliated to 18 unions participating in the project. At the end of this course, the course participants will have the opportunity to propose an initiative related to productive agroforestry in association with the coffee cooperative activities. The best initiatives will be supported by Café Correcto, including through specific credit financing.

Another key challenge for the Café Correcto project is to support the Junta Nacional de Café in Peru, representing 56 organizations a total of 70,000 producers, in its advocacy activities related to the drafting of the new law on cooperatives. In a country marked by economic policies dominated by the free market, they look forward to promoting mechanisms to support and finance some of the major issues addressed by the project such as the need for adequate healthcare and social security in rural areas.

ProgettoMondo Mlal, established in 1966 in Italy, is a non-governmental organization operating in Latin America, Africa and Italy in the field of protection of human rights and child development.


progettomondo.mlal

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10 Good Practices you should know on

Occupational Health & Safety

By RNSF Team

The following RNSF recommendations are extracted from Volume 2 – Recommendations Based on Analysis of a Range of Development Agencies on Support to People Dependent on the Informal Economy (IE). This volume of research findings is the latest work of the RNSF and is based on the analysis of 202 projects and documents financed and implemented by agencies other than the EC.

The article is based in particular on the 2013 evaluation of the ILO's strategy on occupational safety conducted by Francisco Guzman, Lothar Lissner and Réka Zayzon (<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf/document/independent-evaluation-i-lo%E2%80%99s-strategy-occupational-safety-and-health-2013>), who studied workers and enterprises benefit from improved safety and health conditions at work. The document is available in the library of the IESF Group in the OSH section (<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf/documents>).

Promoting and advocating for OSH

- 1) Promote the development of Codes of Practice providing detailed guidance for IE groups/ associations/ cooperatives on occupational safety and health, possibly following a sectorial approach like in ILO's SafeWork codes of practice on OSH in Agriculture (2011, together with SECTOR) and in the Use of Machinery (2012).
- 2) Promote the use of guidelines and tools for OSH in the IE such as ILO tools on Work Improvement in Neighbourhood Development (WIND), Work Improvement in Small Construction Sites (WISCON), Work Improvement for Safe Home for domestic workers (WISH), Work Improvement in Small Enterprises (WISE+).
- 3) Consult ILO SafeWork's Computer Information Systems

Documents (CISDOC) database for further details bearing in mind the need to search for tools and materials appropriate to a developing country informal economy's settings.

4) Promote the use of OSH risk assessments of IE types work to help define improved approaches and OSH conditions through the establishment of priorities and the setting of standards at plant level. For example, risk assessments of conditions in home-based weaving identified very unventilated, dusty and dark rooms, very unhealthy physical working positions, and excessive working hours as critical points (Zeigers, Mei, 2016, *Independent Final Evaluation of USDOL E-Face Ethiopians fighting against Child Exploitive Labor programme*)

5) Support knowledge-based behaviour-changing approaches with tools such as the ILO Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health & Safety

6) Support the improvement of data collection as well as the development of monitoring systems and their related value chain partners such as inspections.

Promoting and advocating for OSH

7) Promote the implementation of suitable technologies and awareness raising on improving occupational safety and health in informal economy jobs, highlighting also any relevant associated business benefits. As the E-Face evaluation showed that efforts to improve hygiene in the workplace and use of appropriate technologies have increased the quality of products and/or the productivity of the workers.

8) While promoting the OSH implementation, develop a recognisable local icon to help during awareness raising campaigns, as shown in the 2013 Final evaluation of the "Improving safety and health at work through a Decent Work agenda" initiative by Lee-Nah Hsu.

9) Advocate for the ratification of OSH-related conventions in project countries as their number remain today comparatively low

10) Promote collaborative synergies at regional and national levels between agencies, especially between offices on OSH, that focused on pro-active and action-oriented approaches to OSH in IE, as there are several actors and programmes such as: IFC's, EHS guidelines, WHO's Plan of Action on Workers' Health and Better Work, ILO's Better Work, HIV/AIDS and the World of

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Allan in his Bajaj vehicle

Stories from the field: Allan

Driving his way up, changing lives through vocational training

By staff, Plan International UK Tanzania

IFAKARA, TANZANIA. At 23, Allan, a highschool graduate at Ifakara District in Morogoro region did not expect that he would one day wake up to find a free and clear path that would eventually change his life. After graduating from his o-level education in 2013 at Kibaoni secondary school, he wanted to be a heavy truck driver but had no means to pay the fees for driving lessons. He says his father died when he was just five years old and his mother, who was doing small businesses, had to take care of him and his three siblings struggling to ensure they all go to school. Although, the situation was tough, his mother could at least afford to pay the fees for the public school. In 2014, he went to live with his brother but he had to be a daily worker until September 2015. That is when Plan International Tanzania launched the Youth Economic Empowerment (YEE) project in his district in partnership with Voluntary Services Overseas, Vocational Education Training Authority, Community Development Relief Trust and Uhifadhi was Mazingira Kisarawe, and with the support of the European Union.

The former Vice President of Tanzania, Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, formally launched the YEE project in September 2015 which aims at improving and increasing opportunities for salaried work and self-employment among marginalized young men and women dependent on the informal sector in Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara regions.

The European Union has invested more than 3 million Euros in

Plan International UK is member of a global children's charity network supporting families and entire communities in 68 of the world's poorest countries to help them build a better future.



the project. It aims at benefiting 9,100 young men and women (53% young women and 47% young men), including at least 10% of people with disabilities. In this year. The project has so far reached 2,030 young people, out of which 45 youths have already reported to have started a new career path based on the vocational skills they have acquired.

Allan is part of this programme. He had enrolled in a free six months driving course, and is now employed as a Bajaj (tricycle) driver. "After getting my driving license and a certificate indicating that I have attended a course at VETA, everything changed completely as I was able to be trusted and given a Bajaj by my boss in last February". In their contract, Allan pays his boss a daily fee of 18000 TZS and the remaining profit is for him. He usually earns between 22,000 and 30,000 TZS per day. He further adds that his life has generally improved and he is now assured of fulfilling his basic needs and able to support his brother's family. Allan dreams of owning his own tricycle by 2017 and is saving money for further studies to get a truck driving license and maybe one day own his own fleet of trucks. Allan has become an active actor of change, advising other youth to effectively use the opportunities that come around their areas and find ways of self-employment. He urges them to invest the little that they earn to attend vocational training centres and obtain skills, which would enhance their employability and thereby give them a chance to enhance their life-style and follow their own dreams. Definitely, change is on the way.



Allan and his passengers ready for a new journey

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Working clay together

Stories from the field: Inatou

Tricycles for clay transport: supporting women's micro business through provision of equipment

By AVSI, staff

KATIOLA, IVORY COAST. "Today is a great day. For over 20 years I have been doing this job, we had never dreamed that someone could give us such equipment to help us. Our burden has diminished, we will be able to sleep well, be healthy and produce more, sell more and earn more money to look after our families." These are the words of Inatou Coulibaly, General Secretary of the potters' cooperative of Katiola, section Darakaha.

Inatou lives in the city of Katiola in North-Central Ivory Coast, famous for the craftsmanship of working clay. Inatou herself manufactures all kinds of pots and objects of pottery. She is a member of a cooperative with more than 300 Mangoro female potters. Unfortunately, behind the flashes of cameras in the exhibition halls and other city fairs of pottery objects, their living conditions remain very difficult. Their meagre savings are reinvested in the renting of motorcycles taxis, at an average cost of 3,000 FCFA for the transport of clay. For those who earn barely 30,000 FCFA per month, largely below the national guaranteed minimum wage (SMIG), it becomes difficult even to survive.

For this reason, in 2015 within the framework of the project, AVSI and the Regional Chamber of Commerce of Bouaké iden-

tified the "Coopérative des potières" (Cooperative of female potters) as a beneficiary organization. "For me, even if there were only one craft organization to choose, I would have proposed the potters' cooperative, because their commitment to work has no limit to meet the needs of their families. Worse, some are widows and have lost their husbands in the war that the country has experienced," declared Mr. Siaka Ouattara, President of the Regional Chamber of Commerce of Bouaké. With the support of the project, Inatou and her fellow potters received invaluable support, including training in operations management, simplified accounting and business literacy, which enhanced their capacity to run their activities more efficiently. Following the training, they set up and managed a Community Savings and Solidarity Group, to support each other. This contributed greatly to "bringing us closer and giving us confidence in our own ability to save, because before we worked, we did not see anything like money from our work, and when the school year was back it was always difficult to pay for school supplies for our children " proudly explained Inatou. The Community Savings and Solidarity Group (GESCO) make it possible for these potters to join a health insurance scheme which guarantees them a health coverage and a more decent life condition.

Moreover, since July, the cooperative has received three tricycles from the AVSI-UE project. This activity is a component of the framework of the reinforcement of the material capacities of Professional Craftsmanship Organizations to increase their professional capacities and incomes. The tricycles were received during an official event to whom took part the representatives of the traditional and administrative authorities of the region who all acknowledged the importance of the initiative. Indeed, this simple but useful support strongly alleviates the



Clay extraction at the quarry

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Transporting the materials for production

workload of potters by facilitating the transport of clay from the quarry to the workplace and the transport of pottery to their destination markets. On the financial side, the savings generated by the arrival of tricycles are significant, considering the overall business volume of the cooperative: in fact, it varies from 60,000 to 100,000 FCFA per year for the cooperative.

The project has contributed to move the women potters' cooperative toward a more structured and formal status which ensures better livelihood and decent work conditions, and creates the condition for a virtuous economic circle. As reported by the president of the Cooperative: "With AVSI and the project, our life will be extended because these tricycles considerably reduce our workload and our working time. Before we could do 10 to 15 rounds a day with bowls on our heads to get clay to the quarry. With the tricycle, a single turn is enough to make our clay stock for the week. In a few years, we potter, we will also be expanding our activities to the whole country".



Save the Children

Fondacion Save the Children is an not-for-profit, non-governmental organization which is part of the international Save the Children network, started in the United Kingdom in 1919.

It operates in more than 120 countries in the fields of child poverty, humanitarian aid, health and nutrition, education and child protection.

News from the projects



Proudly made in Peru - Credit : Capachica

Peru-Bolivia: CAPACHICA MUNICIPALITY

Saywa Project: Craftsmen & entrepreneurs of Capachica district mean business

Last December, more than 60 artisans and 20 entrepreneurs of the district of Capachica participated in an exhibition of business plans, oriented to tourism services in areas such as crafts, lodging, gastronomy and kayaks.

Jurors of the National University of the Altiplano (UNA) and the Provincial Municipality of Puno proceeded to the selection of the best business plans among these enterprises, coming from different communities of Capachica, with the mayor of the Municipality of Capachica, Vicente Zahúl Escalante Gutiérrez, and the president of the NGO Tamat - Italy, Patrizia Spada as well as other authorities of the district.

The evaluation of the business plans was developed at 3 levels: The first level consists of the evaluation of the business plan document, which accounted for 70% of the score. The second level was the presentation of the business plan for 25%; The participation to the training and technical assistance workshops counted for 5%. The winners will receive an award of 5000 Peruvian soles.

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Tanzania: Plan International

Disability inclusion in the informal sector



To reduce social constraints among the marginalised and excluded groups in Tanzania, the disability component among others was added in the Youth Economic Empowerment project setup. This was to promote inclusion of these groups and challenge negative societal norms/beliefs of their capacity-that the disability means inability and value-that educating the disabled is a waste of resources). Of all project beneficiaries, 10% must be youth with disabilities. However during the first batch of the project implementation, their turn up to enrol for courses was rather a challenge, as majority of their parents/guardians never believed it was a viable and profitable venture to end their misfortunes.

The disability inclusion has now produced results by one increasing enrolment in the subsequent batches, making the project popular in the communities especially on seeing the disabled youth breaking through the ranks. The disabled are now accepted, recognised and respected, unlike before when they were just isolated and shelved, if not dumped. They are connected to government services on completion for also more materials and financial support. Plan International communication team in late November 2016 trailed testimonies for their take on the project, each had a different story to tell.

Loveness Nyingi, 20, (on the left) from Dar es Salaam project region. Despite being a primary school dropout, she got an opportunity to join the project- cookery and decoration course after some years of hopelessness. She got a chance to join Tiffany Diamond Hotel in Dar es Salaam for training, which she never thought over before because of her disability. "I applied for practical training at Tiffany and Diamond Hotel in Dar es Salaam for training, which she never thought over before because of her disability. "I applied for practical training at Tiffany

and Diamond Hotel; they accepted me, contrary to my previous imaginations that I would be discriminated due to my disability. They accepted me whole heartedly. I am so indebted to Plan International for where I am now."

Paul John Ngonyani (on the right) with special needs disability studied up to highschool in Dar es Salaam, but results were not good enough to take him to higher education. With YEE project he studied metal welding and fabrication. "My expectation is mastering this course very well, so that I can show the society that even us are able for self-sustainability and contribute to national income through work. It's because in African society people with special needs are seen as a burden and of no value, but we can do things even better if empowered."

Maroc: INSAF

2 new Studies on Single Mothers

INSAF relies on sharing and networking to better fight the exclusion of single mothers. As part of the project for the empowerment of single mothers and their children funded by the European Union, INSAF has established several partnerships with:

- Associations working with the same target in Morocco: meetings were organized to create the conditions for sharing good practices between INSAF and Solidarité Féminine, 100% Mamans, Insat Beni Mellal, ESPOD, EFE Maroc, Solidarités Féminines, Sam-Caritas, Wydad of Marrakech, IPDF of Fez, AIBI, Rita Zniber Foundation, SOS Villages, Voices of Moroccan Women, Ousraty, Kafaat, Law and Justice, Orphans of the world, As-sayedda alhorra, Samu social, ALCS;

- Partner associations provided with certified training centres: LIKAA Association, ESPOD Casablanca;

- Public bodies or institutions: civil registry officers, National Mutual Aid, Casablanca Hospitals / Maternities, Ministry of Health, Prefectures and Arrondissements.

Last June, INSAF presented the results of two studies carried out to update the data about single mothers and job opportunities for single mothers. It was also the occasion to share the "Memorandum of demand for a better social and professional integration of the mother and her child", realized following the advocacy workshop held on 19 February 2016.



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Future entrepreneurs

Bolivia: ANTIOQUIA GOVERNMENT

Reaching 10 000 beneficiaries

The government of Antioquia is currently implementing a capacity building programme to access employment and entrepreneurship with four components: training informal workers, promoting the culture of entrepreneurship, strengthening labour law and developing decent work and entrepreneurship.

The project reached at the end of 2016 the number of 10,000 trained people (through formal training, apprenticeship, conferences, and forums). It has also completed the training of its 15th batch of entrepreneurs. Congratulations!



RESEARCH, NETWORK
& SUPPORT FACILITY

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<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/iesf>

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