



The EU Xploit Learning Communities conference



INTRO

Why this conference?

The conference will present the results of the 3 years Xploit project, funded by the European Commission, and working with the challenges of improving the community's capacity to exploit innovative European resources, especially in the field of lifelong learning and social inclusion.

The conference will present valuable learning community experience from very different communities across Europe and will invite you to *learn with us how to take important learning community steps in your community.*

Who should participate?

The conference first of all addresses people, persons and professionals working in their community to improve the collaboration between different stakeholders, institutions and sectors in favor of offering citizens direct involvement and in support of meeting serious challenges in the community as joint partnerships.

Local decision-makers and policy-makers will also find the conference valuable, as the local authorities are deeply involved in creating new resources and taking steps towards community partnerships and becoming a learning community.

The perspectives

The Xploit project is one of the first EU projects to directly address the strong link between exploiting European resources and developing a learning community.

The project has come to see the learning community, including new patterns of collaborations, as the strongest and most sustainable way of capturing and exploiting European lifelong learning and social resources, based on the needs and interests of the community.

The Xploit project and similar initiatives are, however, only the first steps. Many strong initiatives on learning communities - including creativity, entrepreneurship and new cross-sector partnerships - will be needed in Europe over the next 5-10 years.

By participating in the conference, you and your community can join future initiatives and networks at European level, addressing the upcoming European 2020 Agenda and funding schemes.

A working conference

Part of the conference will be about sharing the experience of learning communities across Europe. But the conference is very focused on offering participants and their communities new perspectives and to join new European initiatives. Your are invited to join the creation of such new perspectives - and to start taking the first or further steps in your community, based on the energies created during the conference.

What can Xploit offer?

The Xploit project and partners offer dialogues and services linked to developing learning communities.

Most collaborations start as informal dialogues aiming to find a mutual understanding of the needs, interests and resources of your community.

Then, you or your community might wish to establish a more formal collaboration with the Xploit resources. There are many ways to establish a formal collaboration, and the collaboration should be jointly designed by the Xploit partner and the community involved in each special case.

What kind of services can Xploit and the partners offer?

Let's list the most typical ones:



CONSULTANCY

Xploit and its partners can offer highly qualified consultancy to communities or partnerships wishing to take steps towards a learning community on short-term or long-term basis



DIRECT INVOLVEMENT

Xploit and its partners can offer to be direct involved in the team or network taking steps towards a learning community - or planning how to prepare such steps



INSPIRATION

Xploit and its partners can offer to organize or participate in a series of workshops in the community aiming to inspire different stakeholders



TRAINING

Xploit and its partners can offer to organize or participate in the training of community teams, public staff or managers aiming to empower them to be able to design, plan and put into action steps towards a learning community



DECISION-MAKERS

Xploit and its partners can offer to establish dialogues with decision-makers in the community to ensure good policy support to emerging learning community and partnerships initiatives



FUNDING

Xploit and its partners can offer guidance and counselling on the funding of learning community initiatives - at local and European levels



PARTNERING

Xploit and its partners can offer your community counselling on future collaboration with other communities in a joint mission



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Program

The program offers you a mix of community experience, debates on learning communities and working sessions in which we hope you will take active part.

Xploit partners will follow the working sessions closely and draw conclusions on future initiatives from the sessions.

In parallel to the formal conference structures, you will have the opportunity to dialogue with people from the different communities and establish informal dialogues on learning communities and the specific interests of *your* community.

If your community needs further dialogues, such dialogues can be arranged after the conference.

Key players and speakers

At the conference you will not meet political speeches or long theoretical presentations.

You will meet and work with community practitioners with a wide range of community experience from the UK, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Italy, Israel and Denmark. Some of the communities have 20 years of learning community experience, others have just started!

You will also meet people who are active in the debates on learning communities and cities at European and global levels.

Open spaces for dialogues

Like all conferences the Xploit conference has a formal structure, offering input and working sessions.

However, prior to, during and after the conference, open spaces of dialogues can and will be established. *The aim is to ensure that conference participants are inspired and motivated to take action when they return to their communities.*

Some participants simply wish to join the conference and listen, while others might see the conference and the networking opportunities as a lever for starting to take action in their community.

The open spaces for dialogues will be created for these participants and in support of their capacity to take such actions.



WHAT'S THE CONFERENCE ABOUT?

The conference is strongly focused on the following three dimensions:

Xploit and exploitation

- › Sharing the experience from the project's five practice communities working for more than three years with exploitation, new partnerships and learning communities
- › Sharing lessons learned on how to better exploit innovative European resources (projects, funding and other resources) for the benefit of the community needs

Learning communities

- › Discussions on how to establish learning communities and new partnerships in the community in support of better addressing the community needs
- › Discussions on how to establish learning communities and to base such initiatives on strong values and criteria

2014-20 perspectives

- › Offering participants to join European networks and initiatives addressing the funding opportunities and policies of the 2014-20 program period
- › Offering participants and their communities to exploit the Xploit services



WHY SHOULD U PARTICIPATE?

Supporting your community towards a learning community

No matter if you are a professional in an educational institution, in an NGO, in the local government or in a private organisation, or a volunteer community worker or youth worker, you might wish to empower yourself to take steps to *change your community!*

The same is true, if you are a policy-maker, local or regional.

You would like to contribute to creating new partnerships and new resources in your community, and you wish to use the Xploit conference and dialogues to do this...

Developing your competences and networks

At the same time, you wish to enhance your learning community competences and create useful networks in support of your work in the community.

And this is precisely what the Xploit conference is about and can offer...

You might even wish to be an innovator in your community, an expert in European funding - or the driver of community changes.

Xploit cannot offer all this during a single event, but we can offer you to support your first steps and initiatives... and work with you along the way, if you would like that.

Qualifying your engagement in the 2014-20 funding programs

You might also wish to link your community work and initiatives to opportunities in the European 2014-20 funding programs.

You would like your organisation and your community to benefit more from the funding opportunities, and the Xploit conference and dialogues are perfect for setting out in that direction.

⇒ You should Xploit the conference! ❤



CONFERENCE VENUE

Location of the conference

Xploit does not offer you a five star conference venue - or fashionable hotels or shopping centers.

In line with the project's bottom up approaches to community work and learning communities, we wish to offer you a living and working community as venue - *smelling real community workers at work!*

Therefore we organize the Xploit conference in the community of Salt in Catalonia - a neighboring Girona community.

The community has 30.000 inhabitants, most of them migrants from numerous countries and cultures and a community facing dramatic educational, social and labour market challenges. Youth unemployment in Salt is close to 50%.

Salt Catalonia is one of the Xploit working communities and welcomes you to a community, in which new networks and partnerships are being built to face the many problems.

The Salt community will not offer you fairy-tales but social realities.
The conference will be held in the very heart of Salt: at the *Comacross Community Centre* - more information on the venue later on.

If you wish to know more about the Salt community, the partnerships, the projects or the community itself, a group of Salt community workers is at your disposal!

Travel and accommodation

The Xploit conference is a low-budget conference for you.

The conference is free of charges.

From most parts of Europe you can fly low fare directly to Girona Airport, offering easy and quick transportation to Girona city centre.

Girona and Salt offers many nice and fair-priced hotels, such as:

Holiday Inn in Salt - 5 minutes from the conference venue

Peninsula in Girona

Condal in Girona

Gran Ultoria in Girona

And a little more fashionable:

Carlemany in Girona

All these Girona hotels are located in the very centre of Girona.

Girona, Barcelona, Camp Nou, Costa Brava, Figueres, The Pyrenees

The conference is taking place on a Thursday and Friday, allowing you to plan to exploit the many possibilities in Catalonia in the weekend:

-  Enjoy vibrating and multicultural Salt or the Old Town in Girona
-  Enjoy metropolis Barcelona only 1½ hour by train from Girona
-  Enjoy famous Camp Nou: the most creative football in the world
-  Enjoy the beautiful Pyrenees a 1 hour drive from Girona
-  Enjoy Figueres and Dali ½ an hour by train from Girona
-  Or enjoy wonderful Costa Brava ½ an hour drive from Girona



CONFERENCE MATERIAL

We aim to offer you to work with all the final results of the Xploit project prior to the conference.

First round (available now)

The first material is available from the project website:

www.xploit-eu.com

Second round (announced, available later)

From early March you will be able to access the full Xploit learning communities' material from the project website, including:

- › Material from all the working communities in the project
- › Interviews with key players in the working communities
- › Powerful papers on exploitation, learning communities and new community partnerships
- › Policy recommendations on supporting learning communities
- › Value-based common criteria for learning communities



HOW CAN

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CONTRIBUTE?



Participate

First of all we invite you and your community colleagues to join the conference - we will benefit from that and so will you!



Critical input before and during the conference

Give us critical input before and during the conference - on mail, face-to-face, whatever...



Discuss the event and its mission with colleagues

Talk to your community colleagues and decision-makers about the conference, its mission and how you can exploit the conference in support of your community



Propose themes or activities for the conference

Have we forgotten or left out important themes or topics at the conference?

You might wish to propose a new theme or workshop - and if we agree, we will try to make that happen!



Join post-conference networks

Prepare to join the future networks and initiatives on learning communities in Europe!

If you develop ideas for such initiatives prior to or during the conference - let us know!



CONTACT

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R E G I S T R A T I O N

→ Download the registration form from
www.xploit-eu.com;
fill it in and send it by mail to Enara Zabaleta on
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