



**PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 38**

**Solidal Economy District in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy: the knowledge needs for commons management**

DES (Distretto di Economia Solidale) “Pan e Farine dal Friûl di Mieç” is a community cooperative in Friuli Venezia Giulia region (Italy) whose aims are to manage common land, improve the use of natural resources and suggest examples of innovative and sustainable value chains. In 2016, DES launched an initiative involving not only common land managers, but also farmers, part-time farmers and hobby farmers as well as a mill, bakeries and local citizens in a wheat-flower-bread value chain. To reach the initiative's goals, a combination of several innovations had to be implemented: a) organic management of farmland; b) use of best adapted varieties of wheat and evolutionary breeding materials; c) crop diversification.

To implement the innovations, constant advisory support is needed. There are no experiences in advisory schemes for part-time and hobby farmers and which tools to use to efficiently share knowledge. DES experience highlights that best results are still constant direct one-to-one contact between a farmer and an advisor, and workshops where advisors bring information and stimulate sharing. Online tools or remote meetings, or newsletters do not allow to reach the desired impact. The constant support of advisors is still needed, and since it is not economically feasible within the value chain budget, it needs to be financially supported from Rural Development Plans or other project funds.

DES is a Living Lab within the Agrilink project:

<https://www.agrilink2020.eu/our-work/living-labs/>

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**COUNTRY/REGION:**

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In the last 2 years the initiative further developed involving an increasing number of local backers and citizens, willing to support the initiative through the purchase of flour and bread. Also schools in the area join the initiative, including educational activity related to local agriculture, food habits and health and landscape preservation, but also including the bread produced with the locally produced wheat in their menu.

To support the development of such a complex multi-actor initiative different skills are needed, from agronomic to processing, from nutritional to educational. It is very hard to find all the competences in one person and often not in a classical rural adviser. It is a real example of the new "kind of advisers" to be developed in order to fulfill the local community needs.

More info on DES "Medio Friuli": [www.des-mediofriuli.it](http://www.des-mediofriuli.it)



## ABOUT AGRILINK

Agrilink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

### DISCLAIMER:

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the Agrilink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>