



**Building Capacities of
the Next Generation
of Community-Based
Participatory
Researchers**

**New Delhi
April 10th 2015**

Andrea Vargiu
Università di Sassari

**Teaching
Participatory
Research:
Issues and
Challenges**

Andrea Vargiu
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Teaching Participatory Research: Issues and Challenges



Laboratorio Foist
per le Politiche Sociali e i
Processi Formativi



A short intro on institutional architecture

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Engagement

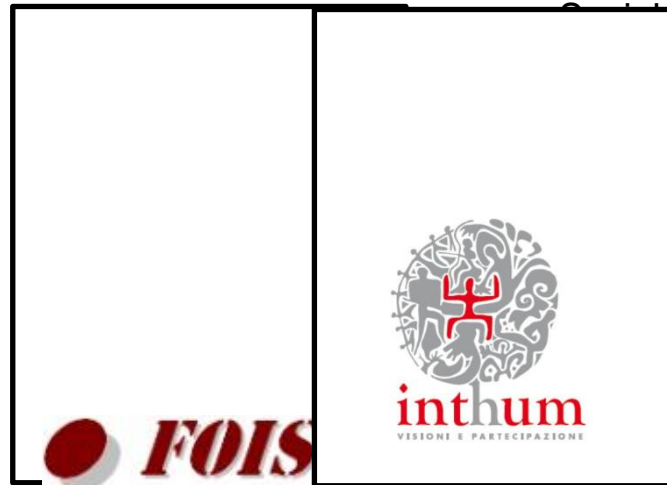
Chart of Sassari for a Community-University alliance

Teaching

Formerly BA and MA in Professional Education
Presently BA, MA and PhD in Social Work, Social Policies, Social Sciences

Research

Social Policies, Migrations, Exclusion, Third Social Economy, Development, Social Inclusion, Citizen Participation, Science with Community Development, CBR, PAR, Evaluation



Structural cooperation with CSOs

Enhanced flexibility, Multiplication



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People we meet

Frame 1.

Action research and community advocacy in a disadvantaged and marginalized neighborhood

Valeria Works as a pharmacist in neighborhood with social exclusion, high delinquency rates, violence, segregation. Strong personality: slowly but surely became highly respected. Precious informant and influent community member.

Don Franco Is the old parson of the local parish. Very pessimistic about situation. A weak person, he is tapped and menaced by some neighbors. Does not understand why most of his parishioners prefer going to a nearby church and why youngsters are not interested in the facilities he proposes them for leisure and sport.

Stefania Social worker. Her office is located in the nearby neighborhood but knows a lot less about the local human and social history and geography than Valeria does. She's studying to get her MA in Social work and social policies at the University of Trieste. Final dissertation is on project management and social programming. Fellow colleague asked me to help him supervise her work.

People we meet

Frame 2.

Consumption behaviors and use of public services of poor and marginalized people

Vincenzo Suffers of a light form of schizophrenia and is under treatment for alcohol addiction. Lives with other five mental suffering people in a “high density therapeutic community”, as defined by one of the law provisions that have been set up after the – official – shutting down of asylums in Italy.

Carlo Is the social worker who is in charge of Vincenzo’s Case. He set up the structure where Vincenzo and his fellows live. Carlo has been teaching for several years in our BA course in Social work.

Alice Comes from Nigeria and has been forced to prostitution ever since she arrived in Italy. She has a daughter from a Nigerian man who left her alone. Has probably paid her entire debt to her exploiters, but cannot run free because she is clandestine.

Silvia Volunteers as street unit operator in the organization that is trying to help Alice find her way out. Silvia got her degree in Professional Education with us, then did her PhD in Social sciences and now is studying to get her BA in Social work.



EUROPEAN
SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
RN27 – REGIONAL
NETWORK ON
SOUTHERN
EUROPEAN
SOCIETIES

CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE
MEDITERRANEAN
AREA: SOCIETAL
ROLE, CHALLENGES,
DYNAMICS

Sassari 1-2 october 2012

Andrea Vargiu
Università di Sassari



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PERARES Project
Public Engagement with
Research and Research
Engagement with Society
(FP7/2007-2013)
g. a. n° 244264



What do they have in common?

1. They are people

Not just “poor”, “precarious”, “mad”, “excluded”, “social worker”, “student”. They are not categories: they are human beings.

And that’s exactly where their potential resides.

2. They are different one from the other

As to sex, age, education, residence, family, culture, status, role, social, cultural, economic capital etc...

... but also (very important for PAR and CBR)
socio-relational position in the community, needs, expectations, skills, capacities...

... and (very very important for PAR and CBR)

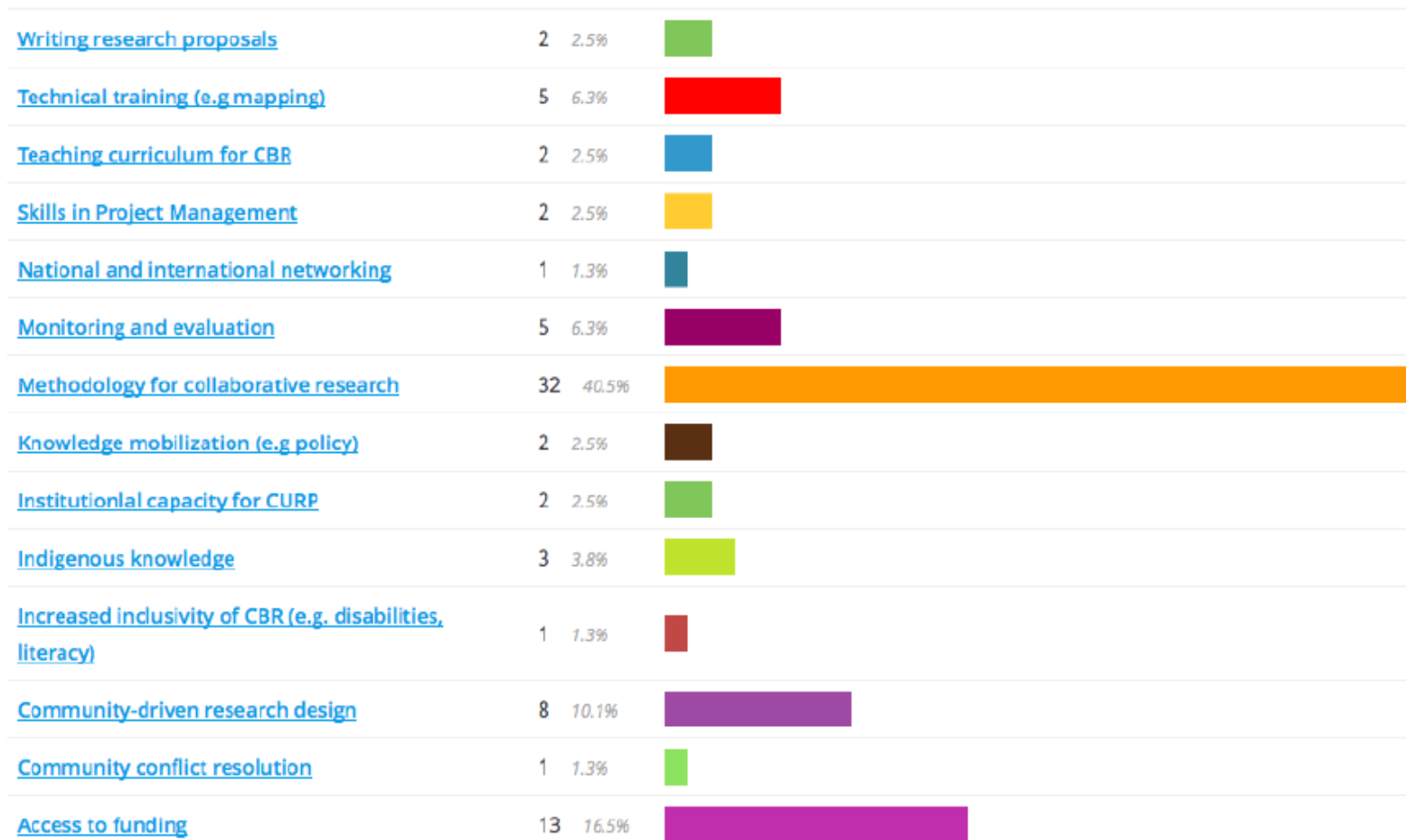
Power

Knowledge/epistemology

Interests

What training is needed to deal with that?

Table 24. Training needs in collaborative research.



Source: Global Trends in Support Structures for Community University Research Partnerships. Survey Results -September 2014. Page 25.

Meet another friend



Antonio Was an Italian violin maker who brought the craft of violin-making to its highest pitch of perfection. He was still a pupil of Nicolò Amati in 1666 when he began to place his own label on violins of his making.

His method of violin making created a standard for subsequent times.

It was long thought that the secret of his acoustically perfect violins lay in their varnish, the formula of which, though much debated, has never been discovered. However, modern research has isolated certain factors that influence the beauty of a violin's tone.

(Source: Encyclopædia Britannica)

Antonio Stradivari died in Cremona on December 18 1737, taking most of his secrets with him.



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The craftsman's lab (Conviviality 1)

The lab as a social space

- Create ties among people through rites and collective practices

The lab as a community of practices

- Informal learning and (tacit and explicit) knowledge exchange through mentoring, peer relationships, imitation, impregnation.
- Cooperation rather than competition
- Collective achievements rather than individual excellence

The lab as a place for autonomy, awareness and significance

- Appropriation of the work process as a meaningful whole
- Fixing and maintenance. Not just innovation or originality
- Authoritativeness based on wisdom and experience

The democratic CBR lab (Conviviality 2)

Expertise

- Sociable experts (enabling experts) vs Unsociable experts (disabling experts)

Autonomy

- Holistic view and (shared) control and significance of the research process vs originality/individuality
- Possible conflict between autonomy and authority

Altervision

- Reflexivity as a specific feature of scientific knowledge, amplified through collective mindfulness building

Food for thought

- Collective reading and critical sharing of literature. Different forms of reading in the “video age”: from “voces paginorum” (orality) to the “liber” (vision) (1100-1200).

Challenges for the democratic CBR lab

Internal

- Democraticity
- Replicability
- Sustainability
- Scalability

External

- State
- Market
- System rigidity,
bureaucracy and NPM
- Funding and rewarding
system

Copying strategy

- Alliances
- Partnership
- Mutual support within and outside the academia