



KARA BOBOWSKI
SOCIAL COOPERATIVE onlus

diversity is richness

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ABOUT US

The history of the cooperative, named Kara Bobowski in memory of a girl with disabilities, began in 1992 thanks to a small group of mothers and fathers of "special" children, eager to do something concrete for their children and for all boys and girls with problems living in their community. In 1987 these families founded a **voluntary association GAD** (Parents and Friends of the Disabled), which aimed to provide other families with psychological support and information.

Thanks to the initiative of some young women, who were members of the GAD association, it was decided to establish the Kara Bobowski Social Cooperative, a real social enterprise, which wanted to guarantee continuity and professionalism to the already developed services and to remain closely linked to the territory.

Besides the services provided to people with disabilities, at home, in schools, in the modern daily and residential center "The Dragonfly" and in the socio-occupational laboratory "The Ladybird", the Kara Bobowski has contributed to:

- launch additional services for children in the towns of Tredozio and Portico, with the aim of supporting young families with children;
- create youth information centers where young people can find not only information but also a place where they can be together, share their interests, as well as receive support and advice to take part in mobility projects, active citizenship and European voluntary services;
- establish, in collaboration with the Cooperative Sadurano, a new Type B Cooperative called "Green Embrace" which is active in the field of social tourism and green, and in which some disadvantaged young people have been integrated.

Moreover, since 1997, thanks to the initiative of her President, the Kara Bobowski has opened its doors to Europe in the belief that the best ideas always arise from the comparison with others.

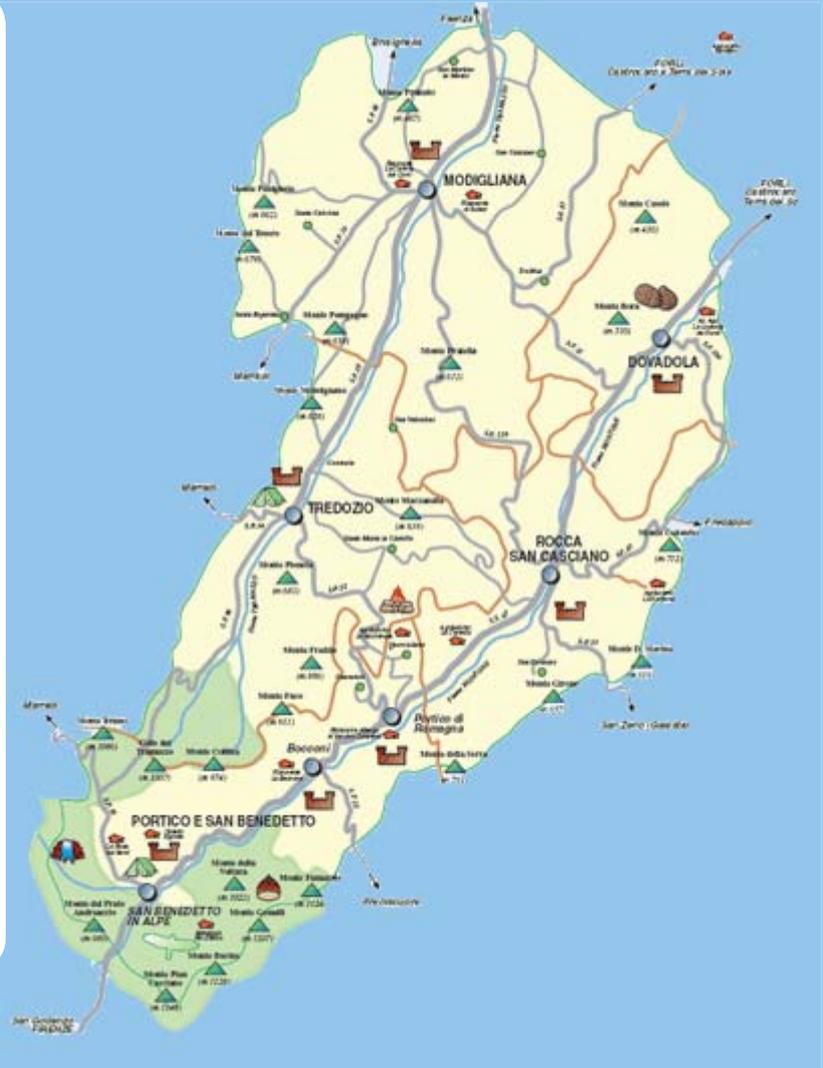
OUR VALUES

- the centrality of the person;
- the promotion of social inclusion;
- the enhancement of the positive elements of person and of each group
- the enhancement of individuals, families and organized forms of solidarity considered as a resource in their community;
- the promotion of the diversity thanks to exchanges and intercultural contacts;
- the support of initiatives of active citizenship by young people and adults;
- the creation of opportunities for the personal development and training in formal and informal contexts for youths and adults;
- the education to a culture of peace and solidarity;
- the development of a European awareness;
- the enhancement of the human, historical, cultural and environmental features of the territory;
- the acknowledgment of the role played by the local authority meeting the social needs;
- the principle of subsidiarity.

OUR TERRITORY

Kara Bobowski is active mainly in the territory of the **Mountain Community "Acquacheta"**, which includes the municipalities of Modigliana (where the cooperatives has its registered office), Tredozio, Rocca San Casciano, Dovadola and Portico and San Benedetto. This is a hilly and mountainous area, largely rural, with a total population of just over 10,000 inhabitants.

The choice to remain rooted in our territory, especially in the field of social services and education, reflects the desire to be a real asset for the community and for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. The proximity allows us to understand the specific needs expressed by the local territory and then evaluate and design targeted responses in collaboration with the local authorities and the representatives of the third sector.



QUALITY

The Cooperative has obtained the Quality Management System Certification according to UNI EN ISO 9001:2008 for the following fields of activity:

- daily and residential social rehabilitation assistance for disabled minors, youths and adults;
- educational service for minors and early childhood;
- scholastic assistance;
- domiciliary assistance service for disabled and disadvantaged minors, youths and adults
- planning and provision of a work centre for people with physical and mental disabilities and/or social disadvantages.



KARA in short

Year of foundation: 1992

Number of members: 12

Composition of the board of directors:

- Franca Soglia - President
- Alessandra Montefiori - vice president
- Michela Petrini - advisor

Number of employees: 33
(of which 31 women and 2 men)

Number of collaborators: 4

Services for people with disabilities

“the Dragonfly” daily and residential social rehabilitation centre

The modern social rehabilitation centre “The Dragonfly” is located in the centre of Modigliana in a two-floor building with a beautiful indoor garden. The Residential Centre can accommodate 10 young people/adults with moderate and severe disability, while the Daily Centre can accommodate 7 people.

Guests are accommodated in a comfortable and friendly environment.

In addition, in order to meet the basic needs of the guests, the qualified staff tries to help the guest to become more independent in carrying out their daily activities and to strengthen their abilities.

The guests of the center are involved in manipulative and expressive workshops and have many opportunities for socialization and entertainment.

*excursions in the area

*moments in the swimming pool

*holiday at the seaside /in the hills / in the mountains

*participation in “intercultural exchanges” in Italy and abroad

The structure is accredited under the D.G.R.
(Decree of the Regional Government) No. 514/2009.

domiciliary assistance

Support and help for people with disabilities in their daily activities in order to guarantee them a good quality of life and at the same time to give relief to the families which take care of them.

This service, in agreement with the municipality of Forlì, is accredited under D.G.R. No. 514/2009.

scholastic assistance

Assistance and educational support to children with disabilities during the school hours.

The service is provided in the comprehensive schools of Modigliana/Tredozio, Rocca San Casciano and Dovadola, in agreement with each municipality.

“the ladybird”, social and working laboratory

Opened in 2003, the social and working center “The ladybird” is a service created to accommodate disadvantaged young people from the community of Modigliana, who would have difficulties to find a job in the traditional labour market. The young people working in the laboratory produce original handicrafts as leather key rings, fabric bags, beauty cases, glasses cases, wardrobe scented sachets and, on request, fancy sweet-boxes are manufactured for special occasions. In 2009 three hundred fancy sweet-boxes were sent to Spain for a wedding.



Services for children

nurseries for children

In the territory of the Mountain Community "Acquacheta" the Cooperative runs two small nurseries: "Il Millepiedi" (the wireworm) in Tredozio and "La cicogna" (the stork) in Portico San Benedetto.

Both are opened for children aged between 12 and 36 months. Here they can find colourful spaces that appeal to the five senses and they feel at ease in a friendly environment.

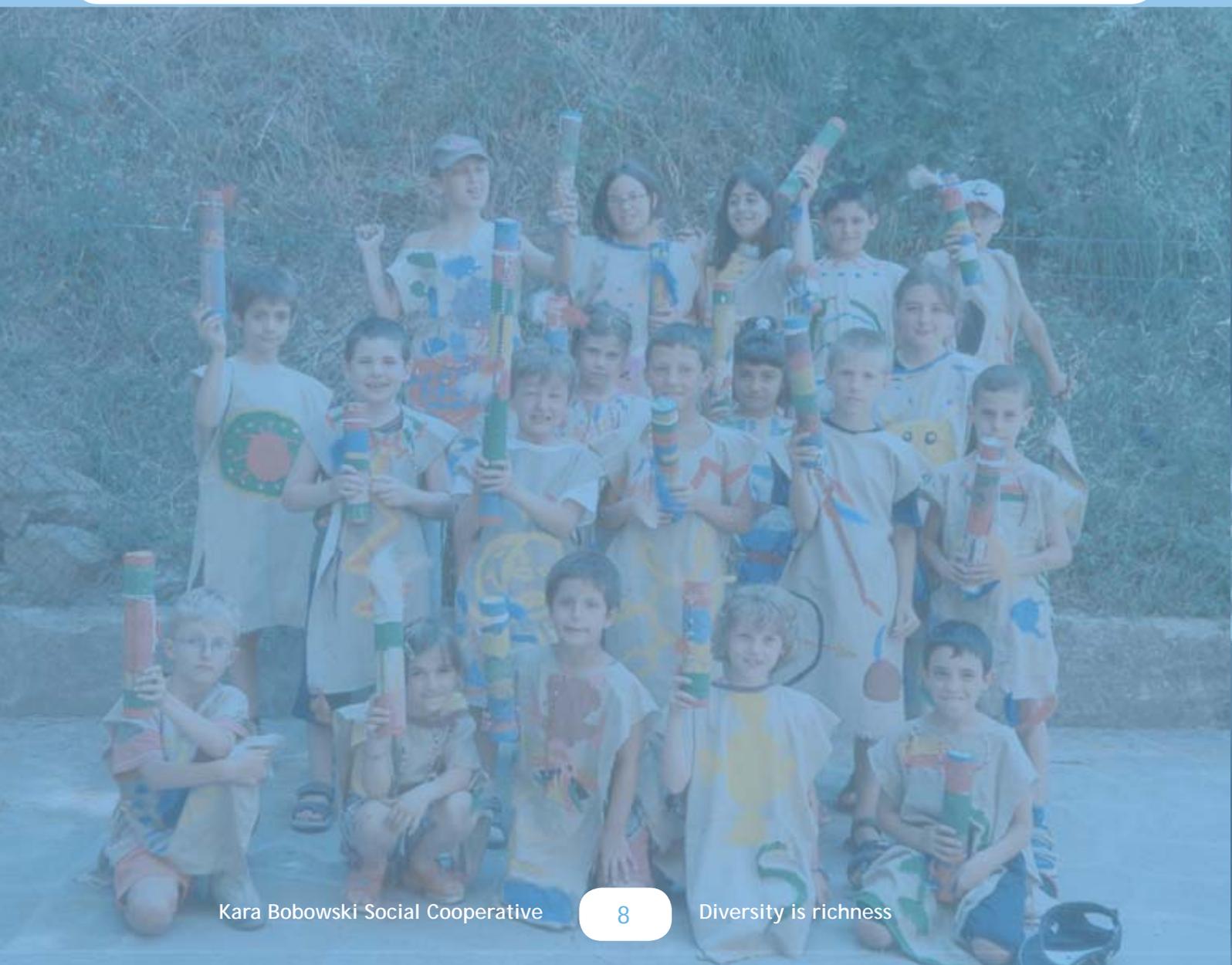
To allow children to come into contact with people from other cultures, when possible, the staff of the nurseries is assisted by young European volunteers and / or Erasmus trainees.

The management of the nurseries is entrusted within specific municipal tenders.

"SayMakePlay" - educational service

It is addressed to children aged between 6 and 11 years who live in the municipality of Modigliana. Open three afternoons a week, "SayMakePlay" offers support to children in carrying out their school homework and also leisure and manipulative activities.

The service is included in the programme of the Social Area Plan, whose leader is the Municipality of Forlì.



European sector

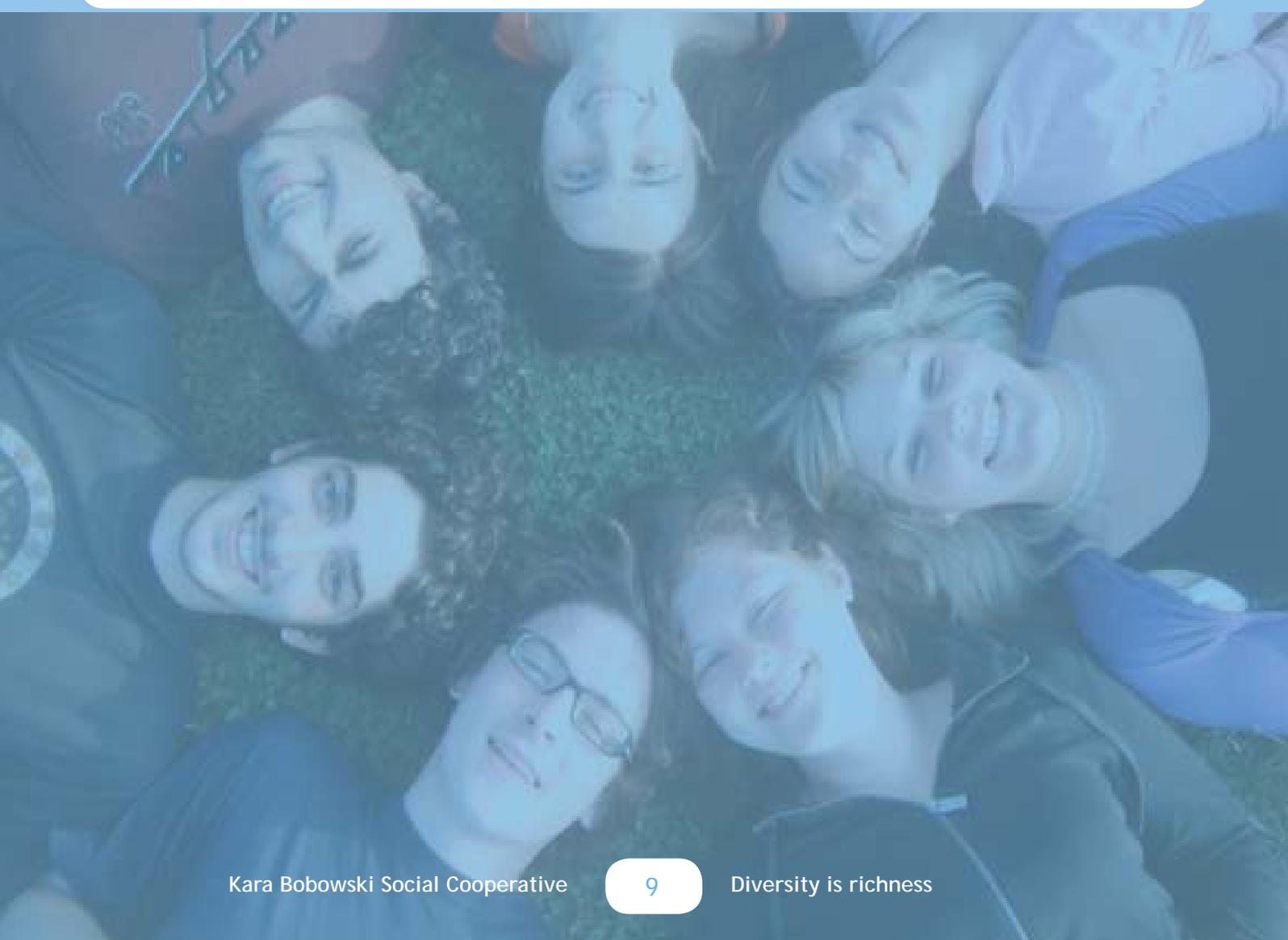
Since 1997, Kara Bobowski opened its doors to Europe and began to promote initiatives in the framework of the main European programs addressed mainly at young people. In particular the cooperative:

- promotes and carries out projects addressed at young people and adults in the context of European programs such as **YOUTH IN ACTION**, **LIFELONG LEARNING** (Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig) and **Europe for Citizens**;
- promotes the knowledge about Europeans programmes which are of interest to young people through information sessions, seminars and the publication of the **newsletter Kara Europe**;
- **provides public bodies** and third sector organizations which want to take action within these programs with advice and technical support.

The projects carried out by Kara Bobowski deal mainly with international solidarity, vocational training, lifelong learning, social inclusion and also disadvantaged /disabled young people can participate.

European Voluntary Service (EVS), **Leonardo da Vinci training** and **youth exchanges** are the main poles of attraction for young people, while the Senior Volunteering, only for people over 50, is catching on. Since 2010, the Cooperative has been collaborating with partners from the Balkans, experimenting the IPA projects.

The Kara Bobowski works together with several European organizations and is a member of the following international networks: Eurodesk (a network which aims to provide information and counselling to young people about European programmes addressed to them), AVSO (an umbrella organization of agencies that deal with volunteers), SERN (a cooperation network between Sweden and Emilia Romagna).



Publications

2011

- EVS: a choice that changes your life
- The sharing of experience and skills of volunteers from the Emilia-Romagna and Aquitaine (bilingual version EN-FR)
- K.A.Sa in Albania: Resources and potential of the Albanian social welfare sector
- Volunteering without borders: stories of European Voluntary Service (second edition)

2010

Social Report 2009

2009

Senior Volunteering (accounts of the experience made by senior volunteers between the Community of Hofbieber and the Mountain Community "Acquacheta")

2006

Volunteering without borders: stories of European Voluntary Service (first edition)

Awards

2012

Award "Marco Biagi" by Resto del Carlino, received for having granted three scholarships to young people with disabilities within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci Project, "YOUrope".

Award "Lottery of Solidarity" by Sadurano. The prize was awarded for the project GAIA to support single mothers with children.

2011

The Leonardo project "Genius II" was selected by the Leonardo da Vinci national Agency - ISFOL as an example of good practice and presented at the Festival of Europe held in Florence from the 6th to the 10th of May 2011.

OPTA Prize (Opportunity by Technology Adoption) awarded by the Emilia Romagna Region and ASTER to support the use of new technologies in women's businesses.

2010

Competition "Tell me about Grundtvig" - poetry section, organized by the National Agency of the Lifelong Learning Programme to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Grundtvig programme.

2006

Award "Innovative Woman Entrepreneur" by the Chamber of Commerce Industry, Handicraft and Agriculture of Forlì-Cesena and the Committee for the Promotion of Women's Entrepreneurship of Forlì-Cesena.

Award by the Municipality of Tredozio on the occasion of the "Labour Day".

2004

Award "Bank of the Lottery of Solidarity" by the Consortium of Social Solidarity of Forlì and by the voluntary association "Friends of Sadurano" of Sadurano (FC).

2002

Certificate of merit for the 49 th Provincial Competition "Economic Progress" by the Chamber of Commerce for Industry, Handicraft and Agriculture of Forlì-Cesena.

2001

Award "Economic Progress 2001" by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Handicraft and Agriculture of Forlì-Cesena.

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