Using ESF funds for Capacity Building: the Italian Social Partners' case

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# Capacity building



"To encourage adequate participation of the social partners in actions supported by the ESF, the managing authorities of an operational programme" in less developed and in transition regions "shall ensure that, according to the needs, an appropriate amount of ESF resources is allocated to capacity building activities, in the form of training, networking measures, and strengthening of the social dialogue, and to activities jointly undertaken by the social partners" (EU Regulation 1304/2013 art.

#### The Italian case



- \*Italian social partners, also thanks to Eu funding, are seriously engaged in capacity building actions, in order to adapt their structures to the challenges of a new economic and social context and to strengthen their ability to represent companies' and workers' interests and proposals.
- \*12 Employers' associations, 4 Trade Unions and 2 NGOs are working together for improving their capacity building.

#### The Italian case (2)



- ★The first projects on technical assistance to social partners were financed in Italy by the ERDF during the 2000-2006 programming period of Eu Funds.
- \*In the 2007-2013 programming period of Eu Funds, social partners participated in the negotiations with the Ministry of Labour on the National Operational Programme (OP) "Governance and Systems Actions", financed by the ESF, asking and obtaining some resources for social partners' capacity building.

## The Italian case (3)



\* In April 2014, a public notice on social dialogue has been published by the Ministry of Labour, using the resources provided by this OP, as requested by social partners, who have given a fundamental contribution on the contents of the public notice.

## The Italian case (4)



 Last February, the Ministry of Labour has announced the results of the public notice. 11 training and information projects, presented by Trade Unions and employers' associations have been approved, with a total funding of around five million euro. These are the last resources for improving the capacity building of social partners coming from the ESF for the 2007-2013 programming period.

The projects will be implemented in 4 regions of Italy:

**☑** Calabria

**☑** Campania

**Puglia** 

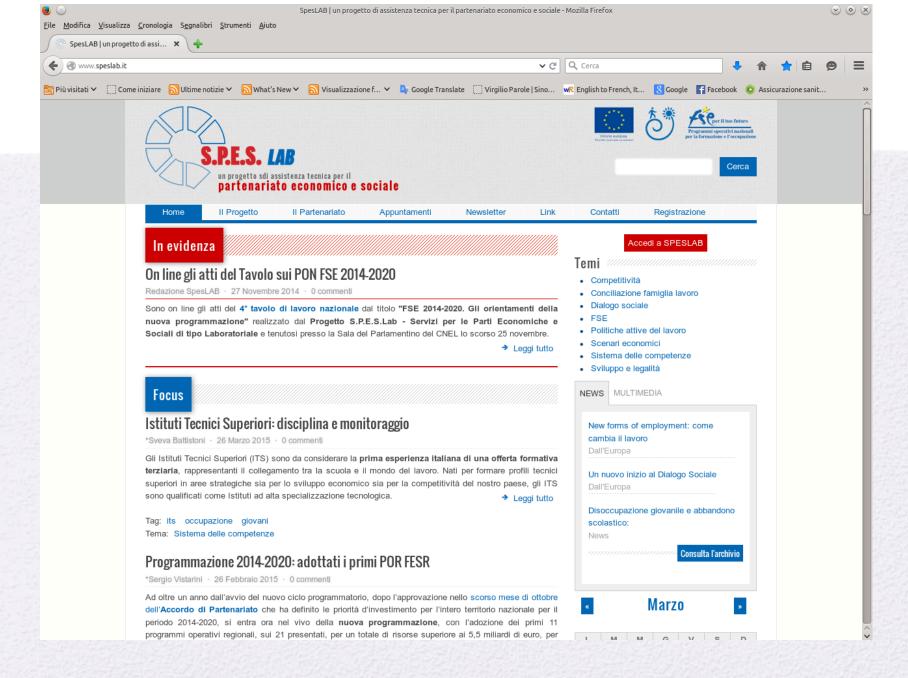
**☑** Sicily



## The Italian case (5)



- One of these projects, called Discover, proposed by the three Italian Trade Unions CGIL, CISL and UIL, will inform and train by September 252 shop stewards and Trade Unions' officers.
- Another of these projects, called Smedis, proposed by the Employers' association Confindustria, will inform and train 70 operators of this association by September. Innovation workshops and group and individual project works will also be organised.



#### What next?

• For the 2014-2020 programming period of Eu funds, the national OP "Systems for Active Labour Policies" provides for resources for social partners' capacity building, for a total amount of 10 million euros. This amount is double the amount provided for that purpose by the 2007-2013 programming period of Eu funds.

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