



Who are we?

The Cooperative K-Pax was established on the 27th June 2008 and is currently based at Number 7, Via XXVIII Aprile, in Breno.

K-PAX is a project born from a group of operators and guests of first and second-stage reception.

Thanks to experience gained in **projects of assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and adults (as well as with minors)** in difficulty, the operators adopt a work ethic characterized by operational pragmatism and shared values of **social solidarity and cosmopolitanism**.

It's for these reasons that our cooperative refers to the visionary film "K-Pax", whose protagonist is "... a man, an alien, a wise man." These three words summarize our wager, despite it still being in its infancy: to give hospitality to human beings, recognising the wisdom in their experiences, despite their being often treated as aliens in our society.

We are also sure that giving hospitality, is at the same time, also always about being received.

Mission

The mission of the Cooperative "K-pax" is to support individuals and families in difficult socio-economic situations, by using a range of transversal actions developed in synergy with other bodies and local services in the territory.

The interventions developed by the Social Cooperative K-pax are realised with the aim of preventing social exclusion and isolation from social networks, and by promoting the integration of those who are most socially vulnerable: single women and women with children, un-waged/low-waged families, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.



What do we do?

OUR MAIN AREAS OF WORK ARE:

- **Promotion of social housing for vulnerable groups:** managing residential apartments and / or social emergency housing; related services of care, education, entertainment, physical and social rehabilitation; as well as the development of autonomy of individuals with psycho-social / mental health needs;
- **Activities to promote the social and cultural integration of foreign nationals, refugees** and marginalized persons through Italian language courses, social support, job placements and housing support;
- **Training activities, prevention and counselling** for the cooperatives' staff and service providers of health-care, social services, assistance, education, as well as to the users of health and social services, educational services, and other parties that have an interest in such services;
- **Initiatives and reception services, assistance, and communities of cohabitation** realised in such a way as to promote social well-being;
- **Awareness-raising activities and entertainment in local communities** within which the cooperative operates, in order to make local people more knowledgeable and willing to welcome into their communities those people who are in need.



Cooperativa Sociale K-pax
ONLUS
codice fiscale 03018010987

Professional profiles of the operators of K-Pax

The Cooperative K-PAX includes amongst its founders and employees, operators and ex-guests of the SPRAR structure.

Among the founders there are foreign names, travelling companions in this journey, guests who are by now fully integrated, by now 'Italian', who are still connected and sensitive to the situation for refugees far from their land, but who are also grateful to those who have welcomed them here.

- Professional Educator, graduated in Education Sciences, trained in the management of social services and immigration services, trained as a legal support worker in the field of asylum and immigration, with over ten years of experience in the field of asylum / immigration.
- Social Worker, undertaking a degree in Philosophy and psycho-pedagogy, participant in the School of Counselling Training, trained in the management of immigration and asylum services, with eight years of experience in the field of asylum / immigration.
- Psycho-pedagogy Consultant, graduated in Philosophy and psycho-pedagogy, intercultural counsellor for adults, trainer for minors and adults, trained in counselling for adults, immigration / interculturality, with more than ten years of experience in immigration.
- Social and health-care Operator, trained in primary health-care, trained in assistance specialized for the disabled, on immigration and marginalization, with five years of experience in asylum / immigration.
- Professional Educator, graduated in Education Sciences and specialized in pedagogy consultancy and educational research, with five years of experience in the field of asylum / immigration, with particular tasks in the area of the world of work, project design work of connection with the world of work and to support the design and accountability.
- Reception and Integration Operator, specialised in logistics, training and recreation activities.
- Social Worker with training abroad, specialized in linguistic mediation (English).
- Reception and Integration Operator, participant at the School of Counselling Training, with previous voluntary experience in social assistance and the management of the social housing facilities.
- Operator with a Bachelor's Degree in Education Sciences, and undertaking a Masters in Human Rights and the Ethics of International Cooperation, with the tasks of legal advice, contact person for communication, and ancillary tasks in project management.

- Social Worker, linguistic and cultural mediator specializing in Hindi and Urdu languages, with ancillary tasks of accountability and project design.
- Operator graduated in Economics, specializing in business management in the third / non-profit sector, with project management tasks.
- Social Worker graduated in Sciences and Techniques of Interpersonal Relations and Social Organizations (Psychology).
- Operator with Bachelors in Economic Studies with specific training in administrative and business management, with duties for accountability and project management.
- Italian Language Teacher, specialized with a Masters in teacher L2 Italian.
- Operator with duties in cleaning and the preparation of the rooms of the Hotel Giardino.
- Intern responsible for the reception and care-taking of the hotel.
- SPRAR guest, categorised vulnerable, working as an intern with duties in preparing the rooms of the Hotel Giardino.



Organisational chart of Cooperative K-Pax

The structure of the cooperative, despite having differentiated levels of responsibility, aims to facilitate continuous sharing of intentions and strategies thanks to the employment of various working groups, team meetings on a weekly basis and as well as other meetings together.



*www.hotelgiardinobreno.com

• SPRAR Project

The SPRAR system (Service of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Political Refugees) is established under Article 32 of Law no. 189/2002 and is made up of a network of local authorities who have been funded by the national fund for politics and asylum services, managed by ANCI for the Ministry of the Interior.

These local authorities make use of the valuable support of the third sector and, along with other local actors, form a structured network that ensures the delivery of services aimed at "integrated reception." This is based on the construction of individual pathways towards socio-economic development, through a series of specific measures involving information provision, literacy support, assistance and guidance.

The Cooperative K-Pax is part of the project Breno Open City, which accommodates 25 service-users, both men and woman (5 reported by the Central Service to have mental health conditions). Our project has experimented successfully with an approach which focuses on the development and realisation of refugees' personal journey towards integration into the worlds of training, work and living, within a clear and defined time-scale, in accordance with the SPRAR ministerial guidelines.



Integration Activities

Workshops

Workshops of the SPRAR project in the Municipality of Breno

The managing bodies of the SPRAR of Breno, since its beginning in 2004, manage a series of workshops which are realised periodically and which see the participation of the service-users, as well as those recognised as vulnerable service-users of the SPRAR project, whilst also involving people from outside of the project.

The workshop activities proposed are aimed at strengthening the abilities of the guests, making them an important support to the other services provided by the managing bodies. These activities tend to be run voluntarily and aim to strengthen various skills. In particular, it is the task of the educational staff, in collaboration with consultants (doctors, psychologists, educational psychologists, psychiatrists), to signpost and recommend to service-users the type of activity most suitable to them, given their past experiences and personal objectives for gaining greater autonomy. These activities are therefore not sporadic, but closely connected with the proposed and agreed-on training provided by the managing bodies, to be undertaken in specific educational environments in the territory, alongside the activity of looking for work, facilitating a non-traumatic insertion into the local community.



The ICF Code

The activities, with regards to the service-users who have been identified as vulnerable with mental health issues, are coded according to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), a recommended tool of the World Health Organisation (WHO). In particular, it aims to make possible the correlation between the individual profiles of vulnerable service-users and the proposed activities for self-development in a workshop setting. The workshops are therefore a tool with which we can follow and measure the improvement of the skills and competences of the service-users; by using qualifiers from the individuals' records it is indicated which workshops should be suggested. Specific checks during the period of stay of the vulnerable service-users allows for the recording of any individual progress in skills acquisition and development. The use of the ICF is in an experimental phase and its use and efficacy will be assessed during the course of the project, subject to modification and adaptation as an instrument.

THE PRINCIPAL WORKSHOPS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN RECENT YEARS:

- Physical training workshop
- Cooking course
- Course in professional cleaning
- Course in domestic painting
- Workshop in working with leather and hide
- Dressmaking and traditional decoration of fabrics workshop
- Intercultural theatre workshop
- Refurnishing furniture workshop
- Workshop in maintaining green and public spaces
- Course in laying parquet and laminate flooring
- Sorting used clothes workshop
- Course in carpentry and the restoration of doors and windows
- Course in cleaning and remaking hotel rooms
- Traditional carnival workshop



THE OPENING OF SPRAR PROJECT WORKSHOPS TO THE PARTICIPATION OF EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS

With the aim of encouraging the integration of our service-users and to increase their opportunities to come into contact with people in the local community, some of our workshops are also open to the participation of people outside of the SPRAR. The participation of people external to the SPRAR in the workshops is done either via direct access, after an evaluation by the working team, or in collaboration with the ATSP (the Territorial Enterprise for Peoples Services) through the "Workshop of Social Production".

The Service **WORKSHOP OF SOCIAL PRODUCTION** was born in the territory of Breno in response to the need to create safe routes into social life for disadvantaged people. Service-users are struggling adults with a working capacity of less than 50% and living in one of the municipalities of the District Valle Camonica-Sebino. The project is aimed at people who today are not able to follow a route into work or undertake a work placement, but who express a desire and a motivation to work and are not considered incapable of working "productively." The people involved are mentally independent. The workshop has at its disposal educational staff, entertainment staff and operators. The Service S.T.I.L.E. of the Territorial Enterprise for Peoples Services establishes in accordance with the management bodies of the SPRAR a project of integration for the people involved, and it agrees the contents and timings of implementation, verifying on a six month basis the results of the programme. Some of the service-users categorised as having mental health needs in the SPRAR project in Breno have participated in this programme.



Intercultural Activities

Intercultural Activities in schools

The Cooperative promotes numerous initiatives designed to **raise-awareness in the local community** on the issue of political asylum, as well as migration in general. One of the most powerful of these activities is the direct testimonies of the children in the schools, in which they talk about their experiences and what they have lived through while the operators confront the subjects of Italian law, the rights of all, and the activities that address these issues in this territory.

During 2012 the Cooperative participated in various experiences of this kind, including THE COLOURS OF OTHERS in lower secondary schools of Angolo and Malegno (12-13 March), during which operators and the school children were inspired to make an art exhibition for their stories, which was then presented on the **Opening Night** of the Intercultural Festival "Abbracciamondo".

Another event was on 4 April; "Foreigners, Fellow Citizens, Visitors" organised for the Day with the Institutions by the Foundation Cocchetti. It brought together the Lycee of Cemmo of Capo di Ponte with representatives of different realities that work with migrants in an action lead by K-Pax, aimed at disseminating information about the Right to Asylum and International Protection.

Moving away from the Camuno territory, a representative of the Cooperative and two ex-guests of the accommodation structure Monte Campione gave their testimony of reception in Italy and how it has changed with the project "Microaccoglienza Diffusa" at the University of Verona. The event took place in July and addressed the institutional abandonment of refugees, from when they arrived from Libya up to a year after their arrival.



Theatre Workshops

Since 2010 K-Pax has been collaborating with the Italian-Moroccan actor Abderrahim El Hadiri and together they have created a **intercultural theatre workshop** which is carried out every year and involves guests of the SPRAR as well as anyone else who wants to take part.

It is an open improvisation workshop based on studying; group work, communication skills, creativity and adaptation to unexpected situations. All these features allow the development of a warm and friendly environment where participants can express themselves and open up to the next, even when this is diametrically opposed to usual daily life.

This experience has led to the production of the following performances:

- **"ATTESA"** (WAIT) presented in Breno in 2011 and visible on the Vimeo channel of the Cooperative.
- **"DIVIETO DI SOSTA"** (NO PARKING) presented during the intercultural festival **ABBRACCIAMONDO 2012**, in which actors found themselves in a network of situations linked by the common thread of a bench lost - or made to disappear - a subject through which the different cultures of the protagonists were recounted, as many small worlds come together and create a single, big and magical Abbracciamondo.
- **"MONTE CAMPIONE: UN PARADISO FORZATO"** which recounts the experiences of the refugees planted in the mountain hotel of 1800metres above sea level. As part of the programme **ABBRACCIAMONDO 2013**.

After the success of these experiences we would like to present these shows in other locations, an **easy-to-use form** explains how to organise an event including one of these performances.



Art: A Bridge between cultures

The idea of the project "Art: A Bridge between Cultures" was founded by the Friends of FAI of Brescia in 2008 on the occasion of the Day of the FAI.

This project idea has also been transferred to the territory of Valle Camonica. This innovative project aims to raise awareness of the cultural heritage of the region for all foreign nationals who find themselves living in the territory.

To realise this, groups of linguistic-cultural mediators were formed, who through their own culture and the culture of the place that has welcomed them, worked to engage their fellow countrymen and communicate the concepts learned in their language of origin.

The different events had the objective of leading new citizens in their discovery of the beauty of the land, even for those who come from distant countries, from different ethnic groups, to understand and know the area where they now live and where they decided to raise their children; a cultural heritage from Roman times.

Abbracciamondo Festival

Now in its seventh year, this intercultural festival saw the involvement of numerous bodies of Valle Camonica that operate on different levels, including the Cooperative K-Pax which actively encourages its guests to get involved in the various initiatives.

It is a travelling festival that usually lasts a month, visiting different towns and offering in every place a different event, all with the theme of integration and multicultural dialogue.

From theatre to dance, from football tournaments to concerts, the events are varied and for all tastes. The dinner of the people ("la cena dei popoli") organised by the **City of Malegno** is unmissable, every year bringing delights with dishes from all over the world.

For more information, visit www.abbracciamondofestival.it

