



**The impact of EU participation and information policies  
on local-based civic organizations in Italy**

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## Introduction

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The involvement of civil society in the European Union's democratic life constitutes one of the main path followed by the EU institutions in order to achieve the objectives and the principles on which the Union itself is founded.. What just mentioned is clearly reflected in the *White Paper on the European Governance*<sup>1</sup>, where the European Commission states that “the quality, relevance and effectiveness of EU policies depend on ensuring wide participation throughout the policy chain – from conception to implementation”, in more recent official documents, such as the *Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate*<sup>2</sup> and the *White Paper on a European Communication Policy*<sup>3</sup>, in which the active role of civil society organisations, operating at the EU, national and local level, is recognized to be relevant both in the communication processes and in the participation to the policy making, realized by the Union and, in Italy, in the dialogue and collaboration program for civil society, promoted by the Representation of the EC since 2006.

In this framework, the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 has represented a significant stage for a further recognition of the role played by the citizens and the civil society organisations in the participation processes at the EU level.. Specifically, the Treaty acknowledges the importance of an enhanced dialogue between the EU and civil society organisations (art. 11.1, 11.2, 11.3), introducing also the European Citizen Initiative, by virtue of which one million citizens coming from a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the European Commission to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required (art. 11.4).

Although it results as of the utmost importance, assessing the impact of the participation principles and policies mentioned above represents a quite difficult question, especially referring to the civil society organisations that operate at the *local* level, being those more “distant”, not only by definition, from the European Union<sup>4</sup>. The question seems much more problematic noting that, according to the results of the research on the EU communication processes, carried out in Italy in 2006 by FONDACA<sup>5</sup>, the main form of involvement of local associations in such processes was the participation in calls for financing projects rather than in the debate on the future of Europe and in the consultation procedures on norms or policies.

In this context the Representation of the European Commission in Italy committed FONDACA, Active Citizenship Foundation, to carry out a research aimed at assessing the level of knowledge and the actual or potential degree of involvement of local civic organisations in the European participation and information processes.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2001) 428

<sup>2</sup> COM(2005) 494

<sup>3</sup> COM(2006)35

<sup>4</sup> Not surprisingly, one of the objectives of the Plan D is to connect the local dimension to the EU institutions.

<sup>5</sup> Il ruolo delle organizzazioni civiche nei processi di comunicazione della Unione europea (FONDACA, 2006)

This report, which concludes the survey, is made up by three parts. The first describes the principal features of the survey; the second analyses the data emerging from the interviews to the local associations and the third contains the conclusion and some recommendations addressed to the EU institutions.

## 1. The survey

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### 1.1 Object and objectives

The survey consisted of the gathering of information about the level of knowledge, the degree of involvement and, in general, the attitude of the civic organisations operating at local level in Italy, towards two main issues: the information processes and the participation policies promoted by the European Union. These two research fields result as being of the utmost relevance in relation to the recent coming into effect of the Lisbon Treaty which, as noted in the Introduction, qualifies the participation principle as being a basic factor for the functioning of the European Union (Title 2- art. 11).

The objectives of the survey can be summarised as follows:

- Verifying the level of knowledge and the actual or potential impact of the main new matters on participation introduced by the Lisbon Treaty on civic organizations operating at local level in Italy;
- Verifying the level of involvement and the attitude of those organisations towards the initiatives for civil society promoted by the Representation of European Commission in Italy;
- Identifying any strengths or weaknesses in the informative processes delivered by the EU towards local organisations and possible improvement measures.

### 1.2. Methodology and implementation

The main methodological choices used for the conducting of the survey concerned:

- An analytical approach to citizens organisations<sup>6</sup>, considered as a relevant interlocutor of the European Union, acting autonomously in the public realm in order to face questions of public interest;
- The subdivision of the sample of the organisations on the basis of the belonging to, the affiliation to or the autonomy from other bodies, specifically: umbrella

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<sup>6</sup> Following the methodological choices of the research conducted in 2006, in this study the term *civic organisations* is used meaning “Autonomous Citizens Organisations (ACOs) [which] are created and managed by citizens. They achieve civic participation contributing to the protection of fundamental rights and to the enhancement of democratic life. They work for the protection of citizens’ rights and / or the preservation of common goods through advocacy activities, delivery of services and the empowerment of citizens. They operate in the general interest through democratic structures, without seeking profit”(ACN, FONDACA 2006).

organisations<sup>7</sup> and national associations with a European relevance<sup>8</sup>. This choice was useful not only to have a fairly realistic picture of the nature of the existing local organisations in Italy, but also to verify if the results which emerged from the survey can be ascribed to the link between the respondents and other bodies. In Table 1, the umbrella organisations and the national associations of European relevance, to which some of the organisations of the sample are linked, are listed here below:

**Table 1: Umbrella organisations and national associations used to make the sample**

UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS	NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associazione Ong Italiane</li> <li>• Cilap</li> <li>• Confcooperative</li> <li>• Csv.net</li> <li>• Forum del Terzo Settore</li> <li>• Forum delle Associazioni familiari</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amnesty International</li> <li>• Arci</li> <li>• Cittadinanzattiva</li> <li>• Fish</li> <li>• Gruppo Abele</li> <li>• Legambiente</li> </ul>

In closer detail, the research was conducted on a sample of 50 organisations that were part of that one used in the research on the EU communication processes, carried out by FONDACA in 2006, and envisaged the use of a questionnaire administered by email or telephone interviews to collect the information (see Annex 1). It was structured following the two key-issues, which are the object of this survey: the participation policies and initiatives promoted at Community level and the information processes and services carried out and provided by the European Union.

Specifically, the first and the third section of the questionnaire, relating to the participation issue, focused on:

- an evaluation of the rules and principles on participation contained in the Lisbon Treaty and on the degree of self-perception of the surveyed organisations as a relevant subject in the Union architecture as well;
- the knowledge and degree of involvement of the respondents in the initiatives for civil society promoted by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy, and on an evaluation of some initiatives that the Representation could or should undertake in order to support local-based organisations.

The second section of the questionnaire, referring to the information process, aimed at gathering information on:

- the existence, modalities and impact of EU information flows on the local civic organisations;
- relevant themes which, according to the sample, should be the object of EU information policies;

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<sup>7</sup> *Umbrella organisation* means: any civic organization whose members are pre-existing organizations with their own identity, which have a formal membership. They have a nongovernmental nature and there may be a minor participation of public and private bodies (from FONDACA 2006)

<sup>8</sup> *National association with European relevance* means: any civic organization operating both at national and European levels and organized at local level by bodies belonging or affiliated to the same organization. (ibid.)

- actions, strategies and initiatives that, according to the respondents, should be undertaken both by the EU and by the organisations themselves in order to improve the quality and the effectiveness of the information;
- the knowledge and the utilisation of the Europe Direct service.

### **1.3. Limits and value of the survey**

This study presents two main limits that should be mentioned in order to clarify the value of the information emerging from the research.

The first limit concerns the narrowness of the sample used in the survey. The 50 interviewed units evidently cannot constitute a representative sample of the universe of local-based organisations operating in Italy but, within this statistical limit, they represent a target that can account for the different aspects (such as the nature, the field of activity, the legal form, the geographical location, the affiliation to other organisations etc.) characterizing such a universe.

Moreover, the gathering of information was based on the structured interviews through the questionnaire, excluding other tools, such as the analysis of documents, non-structured interviews with the organisations responsible etc. even if a section devoted to open comments was inserted at the end of the questionnaire.

Finally, as the survey specifically addressed the Italian context, its results cannot be used to refer to the general relationship between the European Union and local-based civic organisations, operating for example in other Member States, even if they could be useful for comparative analysis.

Taking these limits into account, it is important to underline the fact that the value of this study is linked to the possibility of identifying some significant trends, some strengths and weaknesses in the relationship between the EU and the civic organisations that carry out their activities at local level, increasing awareness about this topic and, most of all, stimulating further and more in-depth researches and studies on it.

In more general terms, this study could be useful in shedding some light on a less well investigated dimension within the European governance system, as the main “civil society interlocutors” of the Union seem to be the Brussels-based organisations or, in any case, big organisations, also providing further elements on which the EU institutions could reflect in order to define or redefine policies and tools for the involvement of local organizations in the Community life.

## **2. Main Findings**

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The results which emerged from the survey are presented in relation to the two areas, identified as subject of the research:

- A. Participation principles and initiatives promoted by the EU;
- B. Information processes promoted and realized by the Union.

*The surveyed organizations*

The 50 organizations belonging to the sample are distributed in Northern Italy in 38% of cases, in the central regions in 36% and in the south in 26% and they operate in the fields of activity described in Table 2 below:

**Table 2: Fields of activity in which the surveyed organizations operate**

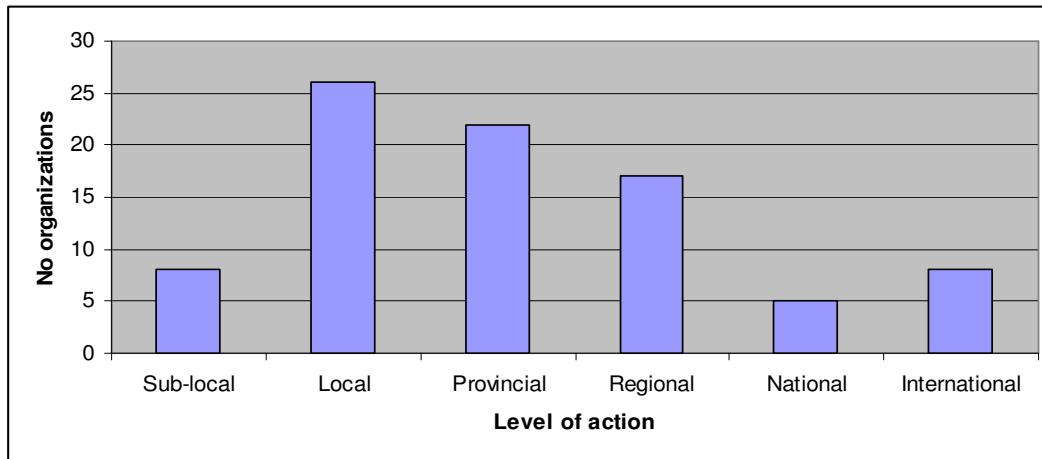
Activities	No. org.	%
Social work	19	38
Training and culture	9	18
Promotion and support of voluntary work	6	12
Social advancement	6	12
Protection of the environment	5	10
Protection of Consumers	4	8
Development cooperation	3	6

*The total is more than 100% because some organisations carried out more than one activity*

18 organizations are affiliated to umbrella organisations, 18 belong to national associations and 14 are autonomous;

The organizations carry out their activities mainly at local level (in 52% of cases), at provincial level (44%) and at regional level (34%). Moreover 16% of them operate at sub-local level and the same percentage at international level as illustrated in Figure 1 below:

**Figure 1: Level of action of the surveyed organizations**



*Organizations could operate on more than one level*

70% of the organizations (the equivalent of 35 units) declare to have a website. According to the information contained in the websites of these organizations, three of them publish a periodical, while none of them utilize other media, such as radio or television.

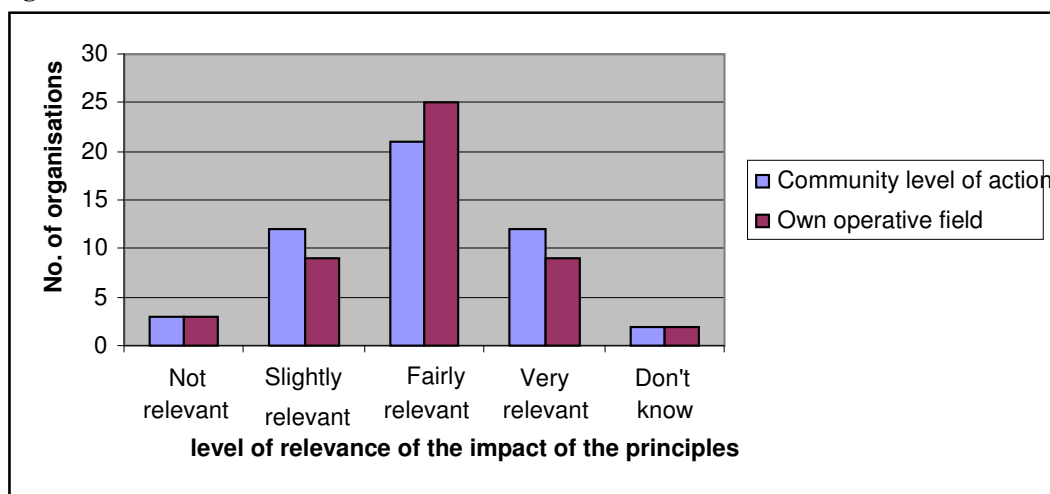
## A. Participation principles and initiatives promoted by the European Union

### 2.1 The impact of the Lisbon Treaty's norms on participation

Concerning the principles on participation contained in art.11 (paragraph 1 and 2) of the Lisbon Treaty, which establish that the European institutions “shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action” maintaining “an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society”, most organisations consider the norms as being “fairly relevant” both in the Community and in their own field of activities (respectively 50%, and 42%).

It should be mentioned, however, that respondents consider these rules as being of little relevance within the Community field in 24% of cases, and in their own operative field in 18%. Conversely, they evaluate them as being “very relevant” within the EU in 24% of cases and within their operative field in 18%: therefore there is no single opinion about the impact of the participation principles contained in the above-mentioned Treaty. In addition, no significant differences in assessing the impact of those rules in the Community and in the organisations’ operative fields were found: respondents consider them relevant or not in similar percentages in both fields (see Figure 2 below).

**Figure 2: The impact of the Lisbon Treaty principles on participation according to the 50 organisations interviewed**



With regard to the European citizens’ initiative, a major novelty introduced by the Lisbon Treaty (multiple answers were allowed) was that 46% of organisations declare that they are willing to go about actively acquiring more knowledge about this right and the same percentage that they would participate and support the initiative if it was taken up by other subjects. 4% declare that they will not take this opportunity at all because they have no time or because they consider it to be of little use, while 26% affirm that they can take the initiative by working in different directions (looking for partners and resources and identifying relevant topics).



**Table 3: Local organisations' attitude towards the ECI**

	<b>No. org.</b>	<b>%</b>
We are willing to acquire more knowledge about this right	23	46
We are willing to support the initiative if it is taken up by others	23	46
We are willing to take the initiative	13	26
We are willing to take the initiative not today, but in the future	11	22
We are not willing to take the initiative because it is of little use	2	4
We are not willing to take the initiative because we have no time	2	4
We don't know	3	6

*The total is more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed*

A positive and proactive attitude towards the ECI results is prevalent among the surveyed units (only 4 of them exclude taking the initiative): this is not a predictable piece of data considering the “distance” of the local organisations from the EU.

## **2.2 The local-based organisations' role in the European Union framework**

In answer to the question as to whether in their own experience these organisations find a verification of the utmost importance of civic organisations for the achievement of EU objectives and policies, 48% declare that such a response cannot be noted while 46% answer positively. As in the case of the participation principles, the answers of the respondents fall into opposite judgements in almost equal measure. Only 3 organisations out of 50 declare that they cannot answer this question.

## **2.3 Participation in the initiatives promoted by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy**

62% of the respondents declare that they have no knowledge about the initiatives for civil society which have been promoted by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy since 2006, compared to 38% (the equivalent of 19 organisations) that declare that they are acquainted with at least one of them. These initiatives are:

- the EU- civil society Coordination table
- the civil society forum about the future of participatory democracy in Europe (Florence, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February 2009)
- the civil society forum about the integration between Europe and the Mediterranean (Genova, March 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2009 ),
- the civil society forum on poverty and social exclusion (Naples, November 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2009).

**Table 4: No. of local organisations acquainted with the initiatives for civil society promoted by the Representation of the EC in Italy**

<b>Initiatives promoted by the Representation</b>	<b>No. org.</b>	<b>%</b>
Naples Forum	13	26
Genova Forum	6	12
Florence Forum	5	10
Coordination Table	1	2

*The total is more than 19 because multiple answers were allowed*

The organisations acquainted with at least one of the initiatives promoted by the Representation declare to have been informed but not to have taken part in them (13 respondents); in three cases the respondents affirm that they took part in one or more initiatives but no organisation actively participated in them (for example, involving other organisations, presenting documents, asking for a preliminary meeting with the Representation etc.)

**Table 5: Kind of involvement in the initiatives promoted by the Representation of the EC in Italy by the organisations acquainted with at least one of them**

	No. org.	%
Received information on the initiatives but did not take part in them	13	68.4
Took part in one or more initiatives	3	15.8
Were not involved in any initiatives	1	5.2
Do not remember	2	10.6
Took part in one or more initiatives, playing an active role	0	
<i>Total</i>	19	100

The low percentage of organisations taking part in the initiatives might have to do with the deficiency of the information activities in conveying and supporting the participation of local organisations.

Concerning the initiatives that the Representation should or could undertake to support organisations operating at local level, the answers of the respondents are presented in the Table 6 below:

**Table 6: Evaluation of some initiatives that the Representation of the EC could undertake to support local-based organisations**

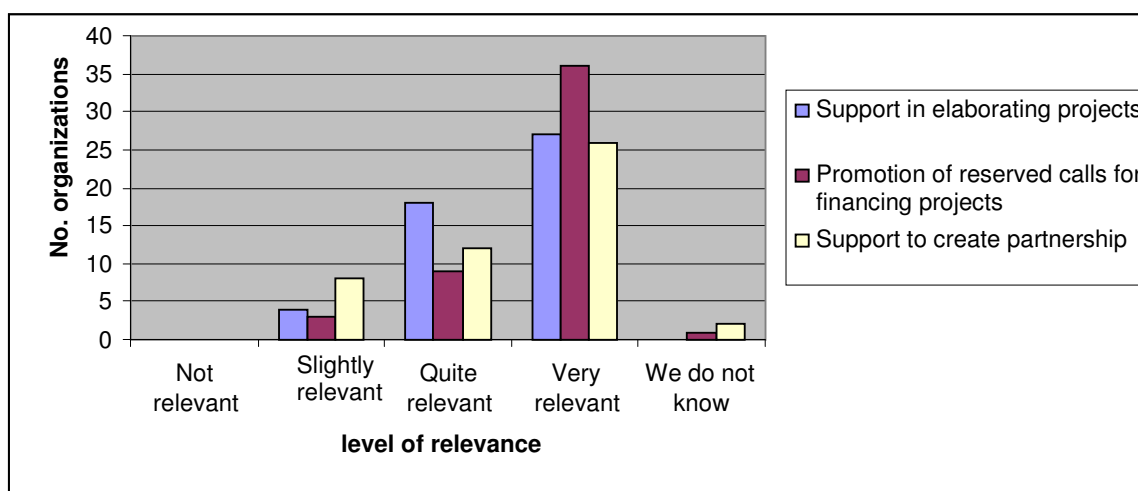
	Not relevant	Slightly relevant	Quite relevant	Very relevant	Don't know
Training activities	0	3	24	22	1
Forum and discussion tables with local organizations	0	9	22	16	1
Inclusion of local organizations in consultation processes	0	7	22	18	1
Support in elaborating projects to submit to the European Commission	0	4	18	27	0
Promotion of calls for the financing of projects specifically reserved to local organizations	0	3	9	36	1
Support to create partnerships	0	8	12	26	2
Promotion of local organizations' participation in Community events	0	9	16	20	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		43		288	

More general categories can be identified taking the answers presented above into account. They are:

1. the support in finding resources;
2. training initiatives
3. the participation in the “civil dialogue”.

As for the first cluster, the support in finding resources, 72% of the respondents consider the promotion of calls to be very relevant for financing projects reserved for local organisations, followed by the support in elaborating projects to submit to the EC and in creating partnerships (considered very relevant, respectively, by 54% and 52% of respondents).

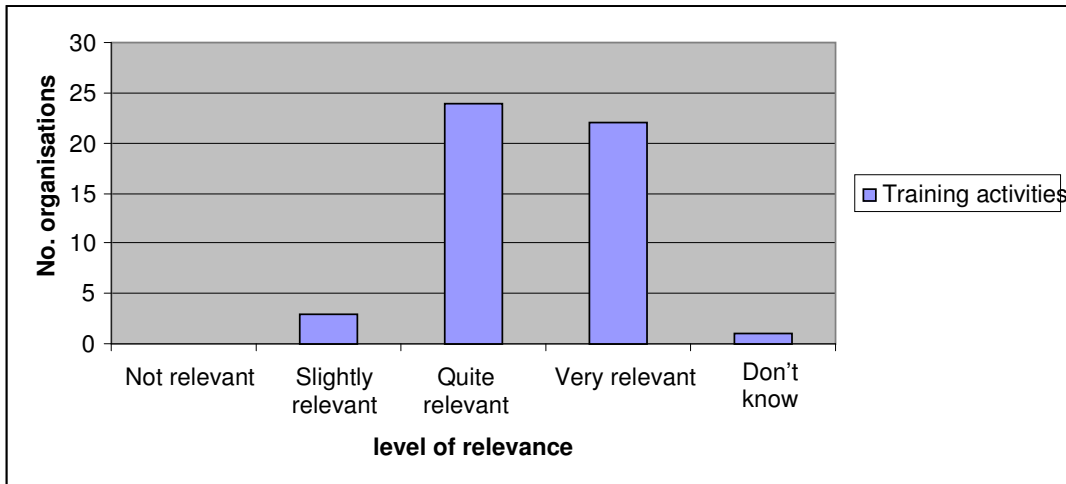
**Figure 3: Local organizations’ evaluation of initiatives concerning the finding of resources**



As shown by Figure 3 above these are quite univocal positions that, in this case, are not counterbalanced by opposite trends: only 6% of the surveyed units considers slightly relevant the promotion of calls reserved to them, 8% the support in elaborating projects and 16% in creating partnerships. Three units declare they are unsure about how to express an opinion in relation to the initiatives belonging to this cluster.

Concerning the second cluster, 48% of organisations express a positive evaluation of training initiatives that the Representation could undertake to support local-based organisations, while 44% consider them very relevant.

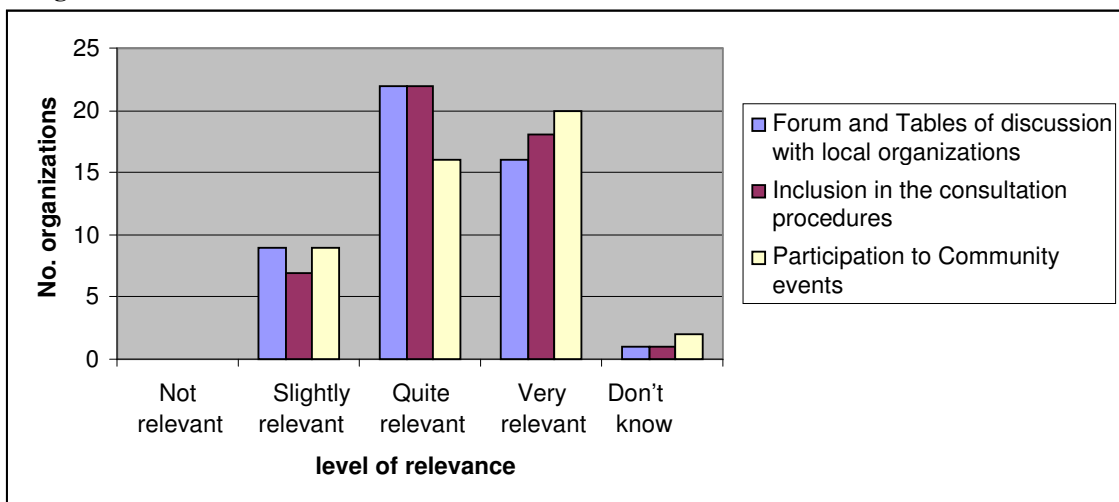
**Figure 4: Local organizations' evaluation of training activities that the Representation of the EC in Italy could undertake to support them**



As seen in Figure 4, three units do not recognize their relevance and just one organization does not express an opinion about this initiative. As in the previous case, opinions are not polarized.

As for the third cluster, regarding the participation in the “civil dialogue”, 40% of respondents consider the participation in Community events to be very relevant, 36% the inclusion in the consultation procedures and 32% the participation in forums and table discussions. Nine organisations consider the latter initiative and the participation in Community events to be less relevant instead and seven of them the inclusion in the consultation procedures. Four organizations do not express an opinion about this.

**Figure 5: Local organizations' evaluation of initiatives related to the participation to the “civil dialogue”**



In this case the results show the willingness of a significant number of organisations to be involved in the more “political” dimension of EU life.

Regardless of the clusters, and considering the initiatives in reference to the higher level of appreciation given to them by the respondents, it results that the participation in call for financing projects collects the highest number of mentions (in detail 36) as a very relevant activity, followed by the support for the development of projects considered very important by 27 organizations. The list concludes with tables and participation in forums for debate and discussion considered very important by 16 of the organizations interviewed (see Table 7).

**Table 7: Support initiatives for local organizations considered very relevant by the sample**

<b>Initiatives that the Representation could undertake to support local civic organizations</b>	<b>No. of mentions as “a very relevant activity”</b>
Promotion of calls for the financing of projects specifically reserved to local organizations	36
Support in elaborating projects to submit to the European Commission	27
Support for the creation of partnerships	26
Training activities	22
Promotion of local organizations’ participation in Community events	20
Inclusion of local organizations in consultation processes	18
Forum and discussion tables with local organizations	16

The datum which emerges shows how the surveyed organisations clearly favour activities and initiatives aimed at finding resources rather than those related to the participation in “civil dialogue”. However it is important to underline the relevance that a large number of units assign to training activities.

## **B. Information processes promoted and achieved by the Union.**

### **2.4 EU information flows**

In the last three years only 8 out of 50 organisations (16% of those interviewed) received information directly from the European Union on:

- the reform process of the Union (Nice Treaty, Constitution, Plan D on communication, Lisbon Treaty, Green Paper on the European Citizen Initiative),
- the consultation procedures regarding decisions, acts, regulations, norms on specific policies;
- the funding opportunities for activities linked to EU policies (see Table 8).

**Table 8: no. of organizations that receive information on the EU reform process, the consultation procedures and funding opportunities directly from the European Union**

<b>Topics</b>	<b>No. org.</b>	<b>%</b>
EU reform process	1	2
Consultation procedures	2	4
Funding opportunities	6	12

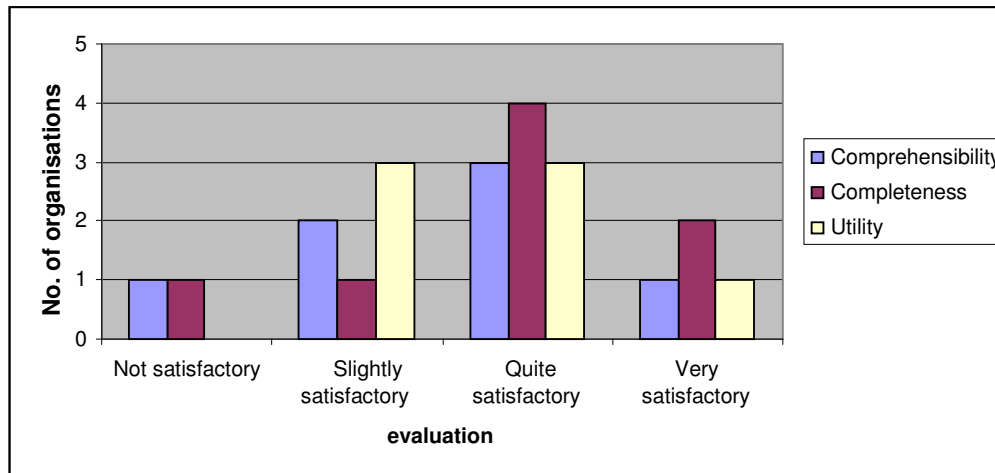
*Multiple answered were allowed*

The website Europa.eu resulted as being the main channel of information, used by 6 organisations, followed by communications through mailing list and calls (2 organisations) and newsletters, communication during conferences or communications

in journals and periodicals (1 organisation for each). As resulted from the research conducted in 2006, local organizations acquired the information mostly indirectly, through the above mentioned website.

The 8 organisations that received information directly from the EU mainly consider it to be “quite satisfactory” in terms of comprehensibility, completeness and usefulness. As shown by Figure 6, however, a substantial proportion of replies focus on “less satisfactory”.

**Figure 6: Evaluation of EU information by the 8 local organisations who received them**



In fact 6 organizations in total consider the information less than satisfactory in relation to the 3 indicators mentioned above. In particular, polarization is visible in reference to the usefulness of the information received from the EU: 3 units assess them as being less than satisfactory, compared to the same number that consider them quite satisfactory. A similar situation is found in the case of the comprehensibility of the information: they are assessed as being not satisfactory at all and very satisfactory in one case, in two cases less than satisfactory and in 3 quite satisfactory. Instead, the assessment of the completeness of the information is rather homogeneous: 4 units consider it quite satisfactory, 2 very satisfactory, compared to 1 case in which it is considered not satisfactory at all and less than satisfactory. The most noteworthy datum that emerges concerns the usefulness of the EU information: half of the organizations that received them, consider them to be of little use.

50% of the respondents (the equivalent of 25 organisations) received information on the above mentioned topics but from third parties, as displayed in Table 9 below:

**Table 9: Other sources from which 25 organisations received information on the reform process, consultation procedures and funding opportunities**

Other sources of information	No. of mentions	%
Reference organizations	10	20
Websites	7	14
Private consultants	5	10
Public administrations	4	8

19 of these 25 organizations are those affiliated to umbrella organizations or belonging to national associations. The datum that therefore emerged is that in 9 cases (corresponding to 47.4% of the affiliated organizations that received information from third parties) the source from which they received information were not their reference organizations. The latter, however, informed their local bodies about the EU reform process, the consultation procedures and the funding opportunities in more than half of the cases (52.6%).

The 6 autonomous organizations received information from websites in 3 cases, from the public administrations and private consultants in one case each (one case of no answer occurred). Therefore their access to information resulted as being indirect and linked to the willingness of the organisations to search for information on websites which do not usually include the Europa one.

In a total of 9 cases private consultants and public administrations result as being relevant sources for the access to the information on the 3 topics considered, in a larger scale for the affiliated organizations than the non affiliated.

40% of the interviewed units<sup>9</sup> declared, however, that they did not receive any information from anyone.

Aside from considering the different sources of information, it results that more than 72% of the units affiliated to the umbrella organisations received information on the 3 topics of European interest mentioned above. This percentage decreases considering those organisations belonging to the national associations, informed in 55.5% of cases and those autonomous that received information in 50% of cases. The latter datum is in line with the results of the research on the EU communication processes carried out in 2006: in general, the belonging to or the link with a national subject seems to increase the probability of a greater involvement in the Union informative flows. The latter datum exceeds the percentage resulting from the previous research by a few points, which stood at 27.8% of the organizations interviewed.

## **2.5. The outcome of the information flows**

19 organisations out the 30 who received information on the EU reform process, consultation procedures and funding opportunities, affirm that they undertook initiatives after receiving information. The same percentage (36.8%) of them independently completed further studies, distributed information to other subjects and followed up on what they had learnt from the information. In 2 cases they requested more information and/or meetings to discuss what they had learnt. One organisation produced informative brochures. On the other hand, 33.3% of the organisations that received information showed a passive attitude towards the inputs received, not undertaking any initiative.

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<sup>9</sup> The total of the organisations that received information from the EU, of those informed by third parties and those who did not receive any information is more than 50 because some of them have been informed both from the Union and from other subjects.

## 2.6 Relevant themes

The themes considered relevant and consequently likely to become object of the EU information flow are mainly specific themes that have to do with the activities of the singular organizations (see Table 10).

**Table 10: Topics considered relevant by the units of the sample**

	No. of mentions		No. of mentions
<b>Welfare</b>		<b>International cooperation</b>	
Social policies	8	Development cooperation	2
Disability policies	7	Development cooperation in the Southern Countries of the world	2
Rights of vulnerable groups	2		
Networks in the social area	1	<b>Culture</b>	
Rights of disadvantaged workers	1	Culture of differences	1
Facilitations for type B cooperatives	1	Cultural exchanges between European associations	1
		Sport and cultural	1
<b>Immigration</b>		Support of cultural and artistic activities	1
Immigration policies	11		
Migrations	2	<b>Voluntary work</b>	4
Multiculturalism	1		
Asylum rights	1	<b>Rights and general interest</b>	
Medical records for non Community people	1	Justice	1
Integration of non Community people in the EU	1	Human rights	1
		Anti-discrimination policies	1
<b>Employment</b>		Protection of ethnic minorities	1
Child labor	1	Right to education	1
Youth unemployment	1	Preserving common goods from acts of vandalism	1
Employment policies	1	Legality	1
		Rights and family	1
<b>Environment</b>		Risk prevention	1
Environmental protection	8		
Sustainable development	1	<b>Women and youth</b>	
Climatic changes	1	Equal opportunities	2
		Youth policies	2
<b>Europe</b>		Gender violence	1
Calls for proposals and calls for tender	3	Childhood and puberty policies	1
Participation rights	2	Woman and child protection	1
EU legislation	2	School truancy	1
EU informative policies	2		
European Citizens' Initiative	1	<b>International networks</b>	
EU norms with national impact	1	International mobility	1
EU participation policies	1	Partnerships with non EU Member States	1
EU integration process	1		
European citizenship	1	<b>Other</b>	
European active citizenship	1	Racism and marginalization	1



Consultation procedures	1	Using public services	1
European culture	1	Agriculture	1
		Administrative transparency	1
<b>Consumption</b>		Teacher training	1
Consumer protection	1		
Nutrition	1		
<b>Health</b>			
Health policies	9		
Care and rehabilitation models in Europe	1	<b>Total of topics mentioned</b>	115

*The surveyed organisations could indicate no more than 3 themes*

Table 11 illustrates the main thematic categories in which the answers of the organisations have been collocated.

**Table 11: Thematic categories encompassing the topics considered relevant by the respondents**

	<b>No. of mentions</b>
<b>Welfare</b>	20
<b>Europe</b>	17
<b>Immigration</b>	17
<b>Environment</b>	10
<b>Health</b>	10
<b>Rights and matters of public interest</b>	9
<b>Women and youth</b>	8
<b>International Cooperation</b>	4
<b>Culture</b>	4
<b>Voluntary work</b>	4
<b>Employment</b>	3
<b>International Networks</b>	2
<b>Consumption</b>	2
<b>Other</b>	5

As seen in Table 10 and Table 11, the interviewed units show a significant interest for Europe-related topics, about which they consider it important to receive information from the Union.

## 2.7 Improvement proposals for the EU informative processes

According to 62% of the respondents there is a need to increase information that is reserved for local organisations (i.e. dedicated newsletters, calendars of specific activities); 44% declare that the EU should use more direct information instruments (such as ad hoc communications, direct contacts), 42% respond that a simplification of the language used by the EU is necessary, while 36% think that the EU should ask for periodic information about the activities of local organisations and 34% think that the EU should develop the role of the Representation of the European Commission in Italy as a vehicle of information and liaison between the Union institutions and local organisations. Other proposals concern attention to feedback (12% of cases) and the identification of the different types of the public who will receive the EU information policies (10% of cases. (see Table 12).

**Table 12: Improvement proposals for the EU informative processes: the Union's role**

Improvement proposals	No. org.	%
Increasing the information reserved for local organizations	31	62
Using direct instruments of information	22	44
Simplifying the language	21	42
Periodically asking for information about the activities of local organizations	18	36
Developing the role of the Representation of the EC in Italy as a vehicle of information and liaison	17	34
Paying attention to the feedback	6	12
Identifying the different types of the public to receive the EU information policy	5	10
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating thematic websites</li> <li>• Developing more direct contacts with the national organizations</li> <li>• Making local organizations feel “more European”</li> <li>• Monitoring and assessing the results achieved by local organizations</li> </ul>	4	8
Don't know	3	6

*The total is more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed*

In conclusion, the proposals mentioned above have two purposes: on one hand rendering the local organisations a specific audience of the EU (which should reserve specific information and activities for them, also through the support of the Representation) and, on the other, facilitating the receipt and spread of information using simple language and favouring direct channels of information.

As the effectiveness and the quality of information also depends on the active role of the recipient of the information, 56% of respondents declare to be agreeable to actively collaborate with other civic organisations in order to identify common themes and matters on which the EU should focus information, 40% to use the EU website both more, and more effectively, 34% to have more direct and frequent contacts with the Representation of the European Commission in Italy, 28%

to strengthen their organisational and technical capacities to improve the reception and understanding of the information, and 20% to gather questions and requests for information from their reference targets.

**Table 13: Improvement proposals for the EU informative processes: the role of local organisations**

<b>Improvement proposals</b>	<b>No. org.</b>	<b>%</b>
Collaborating with other civic organisations in order to identify common themes and matters on which the EU should focus information	28	56
Using the EU website more, and more effectively	20	40
Having more direct and frequent contacts with the Representation of the European Commission in Italy	17	34
Strengthening organisational and technical capacities to improve the reception and understanding of the information	14	28
Gathering questions and requests for information from reference targets	10	20
Identifying the various targets to which the information has to be delivered	7	14
Paying more attention to the feedback	6	12
Don't know	6	12

*The total is more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed*

Comparing Table 12 and Table 13 it appears that the same percentage of respondents consider the Representation as a point of connection between EU institutions and local organisations in the European information processes.

## 2.8 Europe Direct service

84% of respondents declare that they are unaware of the Europe Direct service. Of the 8 organisations that do claim to know this service 6 used it mainly to receive technical information about calls for tender (see Table 12).

**Table 12: Issues on which respondents requested information from the Europe Direct service**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>No. organizations</b>
Calls for financing projects	3
Policies linked to the activities carried out by the organisation	2
EU general policies	2
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Parliament 2149 Resolution</li> <li>• Youth in Action Program</li> </ul>	2

*The total is more than 6 because multiple answers were allowed.*

## 2.9 Local organizations' point of view

At the end of the interview, the respondents were invited to comment on the issues covered by the research. The organizations that submitted comments (10 in total) stressed the following:

- The need to make the participation policies and rules, concretely involving local associations more effective (3 organizations);
- The need for more direct contact with the Representation (1 organization);

- The need for news sheets and direct channels for the transmission of information (1 organization).

A respondent stressed the distance of the local organizations not only from the EU but also from the municipal administration and expressed skepticism about the calls (for tender?), always won by the same organizations. In relation to the last point 1 organization declared that the Union should clarify the criteria for selecting projects to be funded in order to dispel any suspicion of favoritism. Other comments focused on the need for the Union to have more contact with the provincial and regional reference organizations of local units (1 organization), which take into account those support initiatives deemed relevant by the respondents (1 organization) and to make available documentary evidence and experience on projects realized by local organizations, so they can be used as the basis for training initiatives (1 organization).

### 3. Conclusions

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#### 3.1 Executive summary

On the occasion of the Lisbon Treaty recently coming into effect, FONDACA carried out a research, commissioned by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy, aimed at gathering information on the actual or potential impact, as well as on the strengths and the weaknesses, of EU participation policies and information processes towards civic organisations that operate at the local level in Italy.

**The survey was conducted on a sample of 50 local organisations**, some autonomous or connected to umbrella organisations or to national associations of European relevance, and envisaged the use of a questionnaire (administered by email or through telephone interviews) to collect the information. Specifically, the survey involved 14 autonomous organisations, 18 affiliated to umbrella organisations and 18 belonging to national associations, operating in 38% of cases in Northern Italy, in 36% in the central regions and in 26% in the south. **They carry out their activities mainly at local level (in 52% of cases), at provincial level (44%) and at regional level (34%).** Moreover 16% of them operate at sub-local level and the same percentage at international level.

**Most organisations consider the principles on participation contained in the Lisbon Treaty (Title 2, art. 11) as being “fairly relevant” both in the Community and in their own activities field.** It should be mentioned, however, that respondents consider these rules as being of little relevance within the Community field in 24% of cases, and in their own operative field in 18%. Conversely, they evaluate them as being “very relevant” within the EU in 24% of cases and within their operative field in 18%: therefore there is not a unique opinion about the impact of the participation principles contained in the above-mentioned Treaty. In addition, no significant differences in assessing the impact of those rules in the Community and in the organisations’ operative fields were found: respondents consider them relevant or not in similar percentages in both fields.

With regard to the **European citizens’ initiative**, a major novelty introduced by the Lisbon Treaty (multiple answers were allowed) was that **46% of organisations declare that they are willing to set themselves up in order to acquire more knowledge**

**about this right and the same percentage that they would participate and support the initiative if it was taken up by other subjects.** 4% declare that they will not take this opportunity at all because they have no time or because they consider it to be of little use, while 26% affirm that they can take the initiative by working in different directions (looking for partners and resources and identifying relevant topics).

In answer to the question as to whether in their own experience these organisations find a verification of **the utmost importance of civic organisations for the achievement of EU objectives and policies**, 48% declare that such a response cannot be noted while 46% answer positively. As in the case of the participation principles, the answers of the respondents fall on opposite judgements in almost equal measure.

**38% of the respondents (the equivalent of 19 organisations) declare they are acquainted with at least one of the initiatives for civil society promoted by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy during 2009.** These initiatives are: the Naples forum on poverty and social exclusion (13 organisations), the Genoa forum about the integration between Europe and the Mediterranean (6 organisations), the Florence forum about participative democracy (5 organisations) and the Coordination table EU- civil society (1 organisation). In most cases the respondents received information but they did not take part in the initiative itself (specifically in 13 cases) while 3 out of 19 organisations did take part in them.

Regarding the question dealing with which **initiatives the Representation should or could undertake to support local civic organisations**, the answers can be organised into 3 clusters. The first regards **the support in finding resources (72% of the organisations considered the participation in calls for the financing of projects to be highly relevant and 54% upwards considered the support in elaborating projects to submit to the Commission also to be highly relevant as did 52% concerning the support to create partnerships).** The second cluster concerns **training initiatives**, which are **considered very relevant by 44% of the respondents.** The third cluster covers the **participation to the “civil dialogue” (40% consider highly relevant the participation by part of local organisations in Community events, 36% the inclusion in consultation processes and 32% forum and discussion tables).**

*Data on the informative processes realized by the EU*

**Only 8 out of 50 organisations received information directly from the European Union** (multiple answers were allowed) on the reform process (1 organisation), on the consultation procedures (2 organisations) and on funding opportunities (6 organisations) in the last three years. **50% of the respondents received information** on the above mentioned topics but **from third parties** (in 10 cases from the reference organisations, in 7 from news websites, in 5 from private consultants and in 4 cases from public administrations). **40% of the interviewed units declared, however, that they didn't receive any information from anyone.**

**Organisations that received information directly from the EU mainly consider it to be “quite satisfactory” in terms of comprehensibility, completeness and utility.** It should be added, however, that a substantial proportion of replies focus on “less satisfactory” and “very satisfactory”, that tend to be equivalent in reference to

comprehensibility and utility. Opinion is therefore polarized and, moreover, we find that half of the organisations that received information from the EU consider it to be of little use.

**19 organisations affirm that they undertook initiatives after receiving information.** In the same percentage (36,8%) they independently completed further studies, distributed information to other subjects and set themselves up to carry out the object of the information. In 2 cases they requested more information and/or meetings to discuss the object of the information. 1 organisation produced informative brochures.

The **themes considered relevant** and consequently susceptible to become object of the EU information flow are mainly specific themes that **have to do with the activities of the singular organisations**. The ones which were mentioned the most regard **welfare, Europe, immigration, the environment and health services**.

In answer to the question: "**What do you believe that the EU should do to provide complete information** that is useful for the objectives of your organisation?", (here multiple answers were allowed), **62%** of the respondents answer that there is a need **to increase information that is reserved for local organisations** (i.e. dedicated newsletters, calendars of specific activities); **44%** answer that the EU should use **more direct information instruments** (such as ad hoc communications, direct contacts), **42%** respond that a **simplification of the language used by the EU** is necessary, while **36%** think that the EU should ask for **periodic information about the activities of local organisations** and **34%** think that the EU should develop **the role of the Representation of the European Commission in Italy as a vehicle of information and liaison between the Union institutions and local organisations**.

In answer to the question regarding **what the organisations would be willing to do** in order to receive complete and useful information from the EU, **56%** declare to be **agreeable to actively collaborate with other civic organisations in order to identify common themes and matters on which the EU should focus information**, **40%** to **use the EU website more and more effectively**, **34%** to **have more direct and frequent contacts with the Representation of the European Commission in Italy**, **28%** to strengthen their organisational and technical capacities to improve the reception and understanding of the information, and **20%** to **gather questions and requests for information from their reference targets**.

**Lastly, 84% of respondents declare to be unaware of the Europe Direct service.** Of the 8 organisations that, instead, claim to know this service, 6 used it, in most cases, to receive technical information about calls for tender.

### **3.2. Conclusive remarks**

In light of the findings which emerge from the survey and taking into account its limits, it is possible to focus on some relevant elements that turn out to be distinguishing features of EU participative and informative processes towards civic organisations operating at the local level in Italy. The following aspects do not provide exhaustive and

complete information on the whole universe of the local civic organisations, but they are useful to shed light on some trends on which it would be appropriate to reflect.

The first aspect that emerges from the survey concerns the **intrinsic distance of local organisations from the participation and information channels delivered by the EU**: local civic organisations find difficulties in perceiving themselves as relevant subjects for the European “mission” and, in general, in being considered as a specific “audience” of the Union which, in turn, succeeds in effectively reaching only a small minority of them. What just mentioned is testified, on one hand, by the low number of organisations informed by the EU on topics of European relevance as well as by the low percentage of those which took part in the initiatives promoted by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy and, on the other hand, by the need of targeted policies and initiatives devoted to local organisations both in the participation (i.e. reserved calls for proposal, Community events in which they could easily participate, forum and tables of discussion devoted to them) and in the information (i.e. reserved newsletter and activities) fields, expressed by most respondents.

Moreover, it is clear from the survey that there is a **significant interest on the part of the interviewed organisations in being involved in the EU dynamics**: this is testified by the high percentage of units that declared to be willing to take and support the European citizens’ Initiative and that assessed their involvement in training and “civil dialogue” initiatives, and in relevant events at the European level as of utmost importance. This is not an obvious fact if considered in light of the physical distance between local organisations and European Union.

Thirdly, the connection point between local organisations and EU seems to lie particularly in the economic opportunities that the former may derive from the latter. In fact, a **“pragmatic” approach** is apparent **which links local organisations to the EU**: it can be found in the considerable relevance that the sample ascribed to likely support initiatives by the Representation for the finding of resources and in the requests for technical information about calls for proposals from half of the units that turned to the Europe Direct service. It is important to underline that, in light of the general results of the research, and in particular of those related to the willingness of the local organisations to be part of the democratic process of the Union, this pragmatic attitude has not to be confused with an utilitarian approach to the EU.

Fourthly, the survey brings up some reflections regarding the **role of umbrella organisations and of national associations** as vehicles of information and involvement towards local organisations. Although greater chances of involvement in the EU informative processes can be found for those organisations that are linked to a national body, in a significant number of cases the interviewed organisations received the information from news websites, from private consultants and public administrations, and not from reference organisations. A similar problematic situation emerges considering the large number of local affiliates to umbrella organisations or belonging to national associations that are not aware of the participation initiatives promoted by the Representation.

Similar to the research conducted in 2006, **the European Union does not result as the main source of information about itself**. In this context the action of different actors, namely: reference organisations, news websites, private consultants and public administrations turns out to be significant. Those subjects played a crucial role in involving a large share of organisations in European issue.

Finally, the results highlights a significant proneness regarding **the improvement of the EU informative processes**, as **the surveyed organisations declared to be willing to collaborate with other organisations to identify relevant topics on which the EU should deliver information**, to use the Europa web site more accurately and to have more direct contacts with the Representation of the EC in Italy.

### 3.2 Recommendations

As for the recommendations it is necessary to proceed with some restraint, stemming from the limits and the nature of this survey. Considering this need for rigour and on the basis of the findings resulting from the research, it is appropriate to present some recommendations to be addressed to the EU institutions, in order to strengthen the presence of local civic organisations in the European dimension, thus making the participation principles contained in the Lisbon Treaty more effective.

1. Firstly, it seems necessary to **bridge the gap between the EU and local organisations recognizing the later as being a well defined audience and addressing specific policies and initiatives to them, involving them in European life through adequate tools and strategies**. It is appropriate, in this way, that European institutions recognize and make the value and the “European dimension” of the activities that local organisation deal with emerge, thus making their role visible in achieving the objectives and the principles on which the Union is founded. Referring to Italy, it would be useful, to this end, that the Representation of the EC in Italy envisages in the meetings and discussion tables with the civil society organisation that it promotes itself, the **presence of a significant number of local units** (e.g. the same number of local organisations as national ones could be foreseen to participate), moreover facilitating their participation with economic support for the costs they incurred in taking part in the event.

2. In addition, in order to make EU participative and informative policies appropriate for the local organisations that operate in our country, it seems necessary, on one hand, to **enhance the role of the Representation of the European Commission in Italy as the point of connection among European institutions, national organisations and local units** and, on the other, to **increase the visibility and to strengthen the role of Europe Direct points**, unknown to almost all the organisations interviewed even though they act as intermediaries between EU and citizens at local level. Europe Direct’s role, in fact, is essential due to its proximity and knowledge of the organisations operating on the local level.

3. Moreover, it seems necessary to **reconsider the role of the national organisations (whether umbrella organisations or national associations)**: in light of the findings of the research, their direct connection with the local affiliated units can not be taken for granted. Then, it seems appropriate to consider the an autonomous audience, more than



a liaison between the EU and the local organisations, who constitute their base. Connected to this point, it would be useful to elaborate and practice **a less ingenuous and simplistic approach to the representation and representativeness issues of the organisations operating at the Community and national level.**

4. Fourthly, as a broad participation in the call for financing projects emerged from the survey, it seems appropriate to reflect on the nature and function of these instruments, providing the opportunity to evaluate the results achieved and incorporating contents related to topics of EU relevance into them, such as the reform process and, also, considering, in any case, **the promotion of projects as a legitimate form of civic participation in EU policies.**

6. Finally, as a great percentage of local organizations shows a significant interest in being involved in training initiatives and in the “civil dialogue”, the Representation of the EC in Italy could **enhance the participative and bidirectional dimension of the consultation initiatives** that it promotes itself, by realising simultaneous information and training activities on the topics of discussion, in order to **strengthen the deliberative moment of the consultation processes** (that is linked to learning process of the participants) and to **facilitate**, moreover, the **feedback**. The consultation meetings could be set up at regional level, thus facilitating the involvement of local organisations of each region.

## ANNEX I: Questionnaire for the gathering of information

PERSONAL DATA
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1. Name of the organisation \_\_\_\_\_
2. Field of activity \_\_\_\_\_
3. On which level does your organization mainly operate? (multiple answers are allowed)
  - sub-local level
  - local level
  - provincial level
  - regional level
  - Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION 1- COMMUNITY NORMS ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY
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4. The Lisbon Treaty ratifies some principles on participation. It establishes that the European institutions “shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action” maintaining “an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society”. (artt. 11.1, 11.2).  
How do you evaluate the impact that this norm could have on the participation processes involving your organisation both at the Community level and in your own activity field?

	Not relevant	Slightly relevant	Fairly relevant	Very relevant	Don't know
<b>Community Level</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Your own activity field</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. The presence and action of civic organizations is commonly considered of the utmost importance to achieve the EU objectives and policies. Can you find a verification of this statement in the actual experience of your organisation?
  - definitely not
  - more likely not
  - more likely yes
  - decidedly yes
  - we do not know

**6. The Lisbon Treaty introduces the possibility for at least one million citizens coming from a significant number of Member States to propose a legislative initiative in any matter of EU competence (Article 11.4).**

**How do you think that your organization could use this norm? (you can give one or more replies)**

- we will not use it because we have no time
- we do not believe to exercise this right because we consider it useless
- we do not believe to exercise this right today but may in the future
- we could work to obtain more detailed and specific knowledge on the subject
- we could participate in and support the initiative whether it is taken up by others and / or civic organizations
- we could take the initiative and work in different directions (searching for partners, relevant topics, resources, etc..) in order to exercise this right.
- we do not know
- other \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION 2 - EUROPEAN INFORMATION PROCESSES
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**7. Regarding which issues did your organization receive information from the European Union during the last 3 years? (you can give one or more replies)**

- EU reform process (Nice Treaty, EU Constitution, Lisbon Treaty, Plan D on communication, Green Paper on the European Citizens Initiative etc)
- Consultation procedures on the formation of decisions, measures, regulations, norms on specific policies.
- Financing processes on activities related to EU policies
- we did not receive any information (go to question 11)
- we received information on one or more topics indicated in the first 3 answers, but by third parties (specify: national / umbrella reference, news websites, private consultants, public administrations) \_\_\_\_\_ (go to question 10)
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**8. What kind of tools did the EU use in order to inform your organization on these issues? (more answers are allowed)**

- Direct contacts
- Sending communications through newsletters and / or reports
- Sending communications via mailing list
- Sending letters / e-mail

- Sending documents
- Communications given during conferences and / or meetings
- Communications on magazines and periodicals
- Europa.eu web site
- Other tools (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**9. How do you evaluate the information in relation to the following indicators?**

	<b>Not satisfactory</b>	<b>Slightly satisfactory</b>	<b>Quite satisfactory</b>	<b>Very satisfactory</b>	<b>We do not know</b>
<b>Comprehensibility</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Completeness</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Utility</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**10. Did your organisation under take any initiative after receiving the information?**

- YES  NO (go to question 11)

**10.1 If yes, which kind of initiatives did your organisation undertake? (multiple answers are allowed)**

- we made independent further investigation and debated on the subject of the information
- we sent messages to the EU for further information and / or clarification.
- we sent comments and / or proposals to the EU
- we diffused the information to other organizations
- we requested additional information and / or meetings to the source of information
- we set ourselves to carry out the object of information
- other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Please indicate three topics which in your opinion should be object of the EU informative processes.**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**12. What do you believe that the EU should do to provide complete information that is useful for the objectives of your organizations? (multiple answers are allowed)**

- we do not know

- using more direct information instruments (such as ad hoc communications, direct contacts),
  - developing the role of the Representation of the European Commission in Italy as a vehicle of information and liaison between the Union institutions and local organisations
  - Simplifying the language
  - Increasing information that is reserved for local organisations (i.e. dedicated newsletters, calendars of specific activities)
  - Paying attention to the feedback
  - Identifying the various audiences of the EU information policy
  - Asking for periodic information about the activities of local organisations
  - other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**13. The active role of the recipient of information, from the beginning to the conclusion of an informative process, is certainly one of the relevant factors that enhances the quality and effectiveness of the information itself. From this perspective what will your organization be willing to do in order to receive more complete and useful information from the EU ? (multiple answers are allowed)**

- we have no time
  - we do not know
  - we could gather questions and requests for information from our reference targets
  - we could pay more attention to the feedback
  - we could strengthen our organisational and technical capacities to improve the reception and understanding of the information
  - we could use the EU website more and more effectively
  - we could have more direct and frequent contacts with the Representation of the European Commission in Italy
  - we could collaborate with other civic organisations in order to identify common themes and matters on which the EU should focus information
  - other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- 

**14. Is your organization acquainted with the informative service “Europe Direct”?**

- YES
- NO (go to question no 15)

**14.1 If you used the service, about which issues did you ask information? (multiple answers are allowed)**

- we do not remember
- general EU policies
- EU institutions
- technical information on different topics (i.e. calls for proposals)
- information on specific sources of information
- policies linked to the activities carried out by our organization
- other (specify)

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<b>SECTION 3- INITIATIVES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PROMOTED BY THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN ITALY</b>
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**15. Since 2006 the Representation of the European Commission in Italy has been promoting various initiatives to strengthen the dialogue between Italian civic organizations and European institutions. Which of the following initiatives does your organization know about? (multiple answers are allowed)**

- none (go to question 16)
- the Coordination Table EU- civil society in Italy
- Florence forum about participative democracy in Europe (February 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> 2009)
- Genoa forum about the integration between Europe and the Mediterranean (March 13<sup>rd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 2009)
- Naples forum on poverty and social exclusion (November 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 2009)
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**15.1 Has your organisation been involved in these initiatives?**

- we do not remember
- we received information but did not take part in the initiative itself
- we took part in one or more initiatives
- we actively took part in one or more initiatives (by involving other organisations, presenting documents, diffusing information etc.)
- other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**16. Which initiatives should or could the Representation undertake to support local civic organisations? For each activity please indicate the degree of relevance / usefulness.**

	<b>Not relevant</b>	<b>Slightly relevant</b>	<b>Quite relevant</b>	<b>Very relevant</b>	<b>We do not know</b>
<b>Training activities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Forum / Tables of debate, discussion with local organization</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Inclusion of local organizations in the consultation procedures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Support for the development of projects to be submitted to the European Commission</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Calls for financing projects reserved to local organizations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Support to create partnerships</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Participation by part of local organisations in Community events</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other (specify) _____</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Comments, proposals, remarks on the questionnaire**

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## ANNEX II: List of the surveyed organizations

Name	City	Reference Organization
Associazione Irpinia Solidale Onlus	Avellino	
Endas	Bologna	Forum del Terzo Settore
Associazione Mondo Donna	Bologna	Forum del Terzo Settore
Assemblea Territoriale Cittadinanzattiva Catanzaro	Catanzaro	Cittadinanzattiva
Due Mari CSV Catanzaro	Catanzaro	Csv.net
Csv Cosenza- Associazione Volontà Solidale	Cosenza	Csv.net
Proposta 80 Cooperativa Sociale	Cuneo	Confcooperative
Indipendent.l Cooperativa Sociale	Merano	
Acea Onlus	Milan	
Arci Corvetto	Milan	Arci
Assemblea Territoriale Cittadinanzattiva Milano	Milan	Cittadinanzattiva
Associazione Progetto Gaia	Milan	
Associazione Csv- Sportello di Monza e Brianza	Milan	Csv.net
Paloma 2000	Milan	
Varieazioni	Milan	Arci
Arcidonna Napoli	Naples	Arci
Associazione Onlus Maestri di Strada	Naples	Cilap
Circolo Legambiente Palma- Casale di Castello	Naples	Legambiente
Circolo Legambiente Napoli centro antico	Naples	Legambiente
Csv Napoli	Naples	
Circolo Legambiente G. Morrieri	Otranto	Legambiente
Associazione amici stato brasiliano dell'espírito santo	Padova	Associazione Ong Italiane
Associazione di Nuoto per Portatori di Handicap Onlus	Padova	
Cosep cooperativa sociale	Padova	Cilap
Aim- Associazione Mediatori Culturali	Palermo	
Ciss- Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud	Palermo	Associazione Ong Italiane
A.Ge.Di Onlus	Reggio Calabria	Fish
Assemblea Territoriale Cittadinanzattiva Roma IV Municipio	Rome	Cittadinanzattiva
Assemblea Territoriale Cittadinanzattiva Roma XI Municipio	Rome	Cittadinanzattiva



Associazione per la Ricerca, la Documentazione e il Lavoro Volontario nella Cooperazione Internazionale	Rome	Associazione Ong Italiane
Focus-Associazione Casa dei Diritti Sociali	Rome	Cilap
Gruppo 251 Amnesty International	Rome	Amnesty International
CESV Lazio Sportello Montopoli in Sabina	Rome	Csv.net
Centro di Iniziativa Culturale per l'Unità Europea	Rome	Forum del Terzo Settore
Avi Onlus	Rome	Fish
Apriti Sesamo Cooperativa Sociale	Rome	Confcooperative
Associazione Ricrea	Rome	Arci
Associazione Virtus Italia	Rome	Confcooperative
Il Filo dalla Torre	Rome	
Dideikon	Rome	
Associazione Culturale Gocce Verdi	Rome	Forum delle associazioni familiari
Associazione Culturale Humus	Rome	
Idea Prisma 82 Cooperativa Sociale	Rome	
Star Games Sport Onlus	Rome	
Anver Cooperativa Sociale	Rome	Forum delle associazioni familiari
Gruppo Italia 135 Amnesty International	Saronno	Amnesty International
Drop In	Torino	Gruppo Abele
Associazione Aliseo Onlus	Torino	Gruppo Abele
Piero e Gianni Cooperativa Sociale	Torino	Gruppo Abele
Associazione Religiosa Educativa e Culturale dello Sri Lanka	Varese	