

Local Resilience Teams as platforms for engagement of citizens building community resilience



Gorizia, Italy

Gorizia is an Italian town located in the north-eastern Region of Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia), at the border with the Republic of Slovenia, with a population of a little over 34.000 intensely engaged in **cross-border cooperation** and focused on building community resilience. The Municipality of Gorizia is part of a cross-border area composed of 3 communities: Gorizia (ITA), Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba (SLO). In 2011, the three municipalities founded **EGTC GO**, an Italian public authority with legal personality, as per the Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and Council, with the aim of identifying and tackling the shared challenges to make the cross-border area more competitive and attractive. EGTC GO has jurisdiction over the territory of the three cities, having the power to reach across the border and, for the first time, plan and carry out actions as a single cross-border city. Cooperation and engagement of citizens in building resilience has thus become a part of the governance culture and is being further developed through unique initiatives.

Main critical infrastructures in the municipality of Gorizia are the transport network (local roads, streets, highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, heliports, harbours), the electricity network, power plants and transformation stations; the water network; the waste delivery platforms; the oil pipeline, gas and liquid fuel transport networks; the water purification plants.

Gorizia is one of the 4 pilot communities involved in the **RESILOC project** (Gorizia, Catania, West Achaia - Greece, Tetovo - Bulgaria), funded by the Research and Innovation Programme Horizon2020, that focuses on identifying new strategies for improving the processes of preparedness of local communities against any kind of hazards, deploying new tools and activating social capital through pilot local resilience teams.

The pandemic has shown that building resilience is key to more sustainable and prepared communities. In this framework, the local community of Gorizia has created a **Local Resilience Team (LRT)**, an informal group of diverse local stakeholders (civil society organizations representatives, experts, private citizens, local authorities representatives, among others), with the aim of linking the new strategies and project generated tools to the community, engaging citizens in building new and more inclusive resilience strategies and raising awareness on risk and resilience-related challenges among the community.

Thanks to the close collaboration of **ISIG – Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia** and the **Municipality of Gorizia**, together with the **Civil Protection Service**, Gorizia has witnessed that community resilience can only be built through the close cooperation of local communities, local authorities and experts. The Local Resilience Team (LRT), marks the beginning of a journey that is intended to outlive the project itself, and the participatory approach implemented in this process assures a higher level of social and political sustainability of the decisions taken by the LRT.

The LRT of Gorizia is composed by different stakeholders clustered around four main areas of activity and intervention: technical, cultural, social and youth cluster.



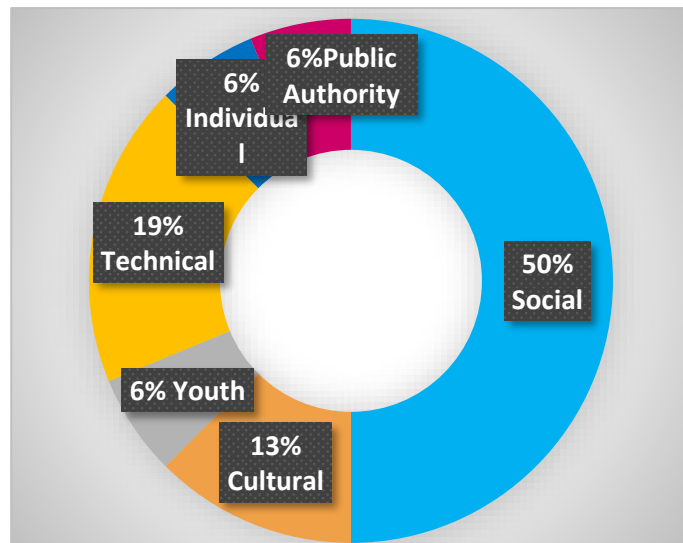
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The Local Resilience Team (LRT) played a fundamental role for the Gorizia Trial preparation, execution, and validation activities, seeking to assess local resilience in Gorizia and carrying out awareness raising activities on resilience.

The strong participation of local stakeholders active on **diversity and inclusion** issues, enabled the Community of Gorizia to identify and focus on community-specific «**vulnerabilities**» which were not previously considered in emergency planning.

Through the Field Trial, 4 RESILOC Tools were tested in Gorizia:



- The **Dimensions, Indicators, Proxies (DIP) Framework**: RESILOC developed a framework composed of 6 dimensions that allows local communities to assess their resilience (governance, social, economic, networks and infrastructures, DRR, environment).
- **RESILOC Platform**: a software tool that allows communities to systematize data collected to assess resilience level for a specific scenario.
- **RESILOC survey platform**: to administer online surveys for data collection purposes.
- The **LRT**, as a tool to mainstream participation and representation in the decision-making process on resilience, consolidate a shared understanding & terminology on resilience, ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are considered in resilience building.

The resilience assessment allowed the LRT to develop a thorough analysis of strengths and weaknesses of resilience in Gorizia, and provided the momentum to develop an integrated **Local Resilience Strategy**, which identifies 6 main objectives to increase resilience in Gorizia.

This model of citizen engagement in safety, security and resilience-related community governance schemes will hopefully inspire many to follow.

Find out more:

<https://www.resilocproject.eu/>

<https://isig.it/it/resiloc-lrt-go/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LRTGorizia.RESILOC/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ET0ywpafUY&list=PLXSpVygpQCSX02_E4I0DvDPDMKQUIPTLU

