

# **FWA**

### Social innovation in Milan

# **Development of FWA**

The "Fondazione Welfare Ambrosiano" (FWA) was created in 2009 by heterogeneous institutional and associative stakeholders, and operates since 2011.

It has the mission to support individuals and families in need who either live or work in the city of Milan, disregarding their place of origin and their previous or current type of working contract, and who are not protected by existing (category-based) social protection measures.

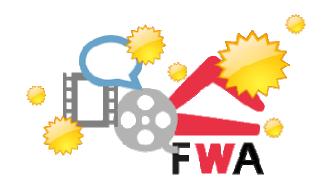
The aim is not to overlap to existing institutions assisting long-term situations of need, but to intercept short-term risks of workers or jobless people who experience exceptional economic problems to prevent serious long-lasting negative impacts.

**Current core activity: Micro-credit** 

#### The innovation

Two main innovative features:

- active approach, reflected in the slogan: "we help you to help yourself", which underlines that the commitment of the recipients to project their own path to solve their problem is understood as necessary.
- rotation in use of the funds, in order to create an economic capital for the city that can last in time. It is obtained by privileging intervention tools such as micro-credit, as opposed to non-repayable financing.





### **Local partners**

### Founding members:

- Municipality of Milan;
- Province of Milan;
- Milan Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Handcraft and Agriculture;
- the three main trade unions (CGIL, CISL, UIL)

# Other stakeholders:

- banks
- social cooperatives, associations: ACLI, Legacoop
- PerMicro, company specialised in micro-credit targeted at entrepreneurship
- Rete VoBiS, association of bank volunteers for social initiatives

### **Local mode of governance**

### In the micro-credit project:

A network of selected local bodies that operate as territorial "front-desks" intercepting existing needs. Managed, with a "light accreditation system", by trade unions, social cooperatives and associations that already deal with poverty and vulnerability, and that became the FWA "working branches".

These bodies carry out screening, orientation and counseling, and stand "moral surety" for the families that they introduce to the foundation.

If the project is approved, FWA issues a guarantee of 80 per cent of the capital, with which applicants can make a request for credit to one of the banks that have signed the agreement with the foundation.

### Results

### Micro-credit:

In the first year, 772 applications received:

- 73% for social credit, 27% for self-employment
- 30% received the credit, 54% got a negative evaluation; 9% were reoriented to other social services; the remaining were under evaluation Only 9% of those sent to banks were refused.

# Other projects:

- Anticipation of payments of social security benefits
- Mutual-based health care
- Support to young entrepreneurs
- Funds for university research