

RODA - Social Innovation: From Civic Engagement to Social Entrepreneurship



Roda- Social innovation

Founded in 2001 as 'parents' voice' in the context of reductions of family benefits

Started as spontaneous movement of parents

Over years has developed into a self-sustainable association, moreover getting engaged in the social economy, incorporating social, economic and environmental goals

Innovative aspect: their activities and mission resulted in a shift of family matters from private to public sphere; they have created a public space for giving voice to nuclear, urban families, without support of a wider family network

Ways of addressing users

Dominantly representing urban, nuclear families, without support from wider family networks

Serves as a "union of parents"

Mutual learning and support among members

Context of family policy

Dominance of transfers, e.g. child allowance

Undeveloped services, lack of placements in kindergartens

Issue of quality of services



Interaction with the local welfare system

Roda is acknowledged by other stakeholders as important actor in policy-making

Holds a recognizable position in governance arrangements at the city level

Has put on the agenda question of quality of child care services



Internal organisation

Importance of volunteer work and enthusiasm of members

Horizontal networks of governance

Main organizing principle: association is managed as a household

Administering a web forum as a platform for wider involvement

High levels of trust and support among members

Prominent example of social entrepreneurship

Conclusion: Importance of RODA

Example of self-organizations and wider mobilization

Civil society as a space of mobilization of the middle-class, well-off citizens advocating for their common interest

Significant role of social capital

Risk of fragmentation of civil society

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RODA INFO

<http://www.roda.hr/>



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Welfare innovations
at the local level
in favour of cohesion