



COOPERATIVA SOCIALE KARA BOBOWSKI

Modigliana, ITALY

The Organisation

The history

The history of the cooperative, named Kara Bobowski in memory of a girl with disabilities, began **in 1992** thanks to a small group of mothers and fathers of “special” children, eager to do something concrete for their children and for all boys and girls with problems living in their community. In 1987 these families founded a **voluntary association G.A.D. – Genitori e Amici dei Disabili** (Parents and Friends of the Disabled), which aimed to provide other families with psychological support and information.

Thanks to the initiative of some young women, who were members of the G.A.D. association, it was decided to establish the Kara Bobowski¹ Social Cooperative, a real social enterprise, which wanted to guarantee continuity and professionalism to the already developed services and to remain closely linked to the territory.

Besides the **services provided to people with disabilities**, at home, in schools, in the modern daily and residential centre “The Dragonfly” and in the socio-occupational laboratory “The Ladybird”, the Kara Bobowski has contributed to:

- launch additional **services for children** in the towns of Tredozio and Portico, with the aim of supporting young families with children;
- create **youth information centers** where young people can find not only information but also a place where they can be together, share their interests, as well as receive support and advice to take part in mobility projects, active citizenship and European voluntary services;
- establish, in collaboration with the Cooperative Sadurano, **a new Type B Cooperative² called Abbraccio Verde³ (“Green Embrace”)** which is active in the field of social tourism and green, and in which some disadvantaged young people have been integrated.

Moreover, **since 1997**, thanks to the initiative of its President, the **Kara Bobowski has opened its doors to Europe** in the belief that the best ideas always arise from the comparison with others.

Diversity is Richness

¹ Find out who were Kara Bobowski: <https://www.karabobowski.org/en/who-is-kara/>

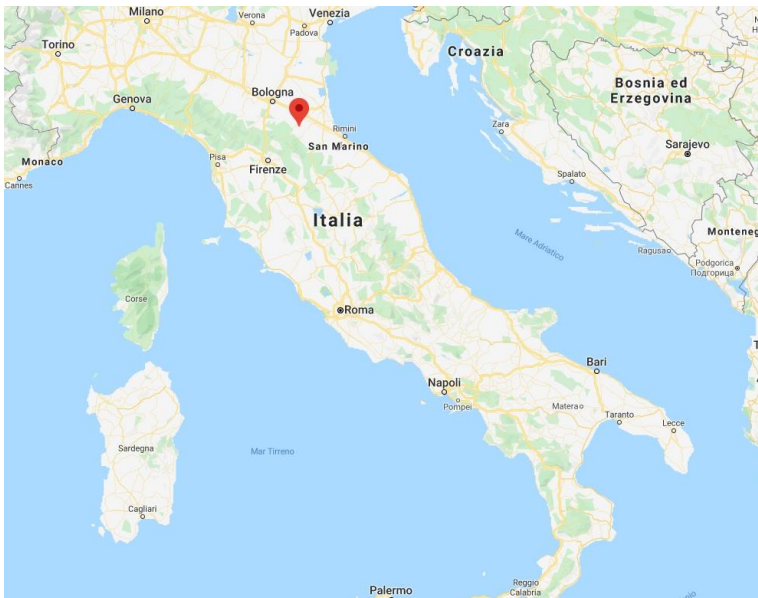
² In Italy, there are 2 types of Cooperatives: type A that provides assistance and type B that provides workplacement to people in disadvantaged situations.

³ Abbraccio Verde website: <http://www.abbraccioverde.it/>

Our territory

Kara Bobowski is active mainly in the territory of the **Mountain Community “Acquacheta”**, which includes the municipalities of Modigliana (where the cooperatives has its registered office), Tredozio, Rocca San Casciano, Dovadola and Portico e San Benedetto. This is a hilly and mountainous area, largely rural, with a total population of just over 10,000 inhabitants, being Modigliana the biggest one, with about 4,500 inhabitants.

The choice to remain rooted in our territory, especially in the field of social services and education, reflects **the desire to be a real asset for the community** and for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. The proximity allows us to understand the specific needs expressed by the local territory and then evaluate and design targeted responses in collaboration with the local authorities and the representatives of the third sector.



Modigliana

*Forlì-Cesena Province
Emilia-Romagna Region*

Video of [Modigliana](#)



Tredozio



Dovadola

Click in the town's name and see the video.



Rocca San Casciano



Portico e San Benedetto

Our Services

Domiciliary assistance

Support and help for people with disabilities in their daily activities in order to guarantee them a good quality of life and at the same time to give relief to the families which take care of them.

Scholastic assistance

Assistance and educational support to children with disabilities during the school hours. The service is provided in the comprehensive schools of Modigliana/Tredozio, Rocca San Casciano and Dovadola, in agreement with each municipality.

“La Libellula” - The Dragonfly

The modern social rehabilitation centre “The Dragonfly” is located in the centre of Modigliana in a two-floor building with a beautiful indoor garden. The Residential Centre can accommodate 11 young people/adults with moderate and severe disability, while the Daily Centre can accommodate 7 people.

Guests are accommodated in a comfortable and friendly environment.

In addition, in order to meet the basic needs of the guests, the qualified staff tries to help the guest to become more independent in carrying out their daily activities and to strengthen their abilities.

The guests of the centre are involved in manipulative and expressive workshops and have many opportunities for socialization and entertainment.

- excursions in the area,
- moments in the swimming pool,
- holiday at the seaside /in the hills / in the mountains,
- participation in “intercultural exchanges” in Italy and abroad.

Domus Kara

Three little accessible flats with living room/kitchen, bedroom and bathroom are available for hosting a maximum of 10 people with disabilities/disadvantage. The flats are at the second and third floor of the same building as “The Dragonfly” centre and in the building attached.

“La Coccinella” - The ladybird laboratory

Opened in 2003, the social and working centre “The ladybird” is a service created to accommodate disadvantaged young people from the community of Modigliana, who would have difficulties to find a job in the traditional labour market. The people working in the laboratory produce original handicrafts as leather key rings, fabric bags, beauty cases, glasses cases, wardrobe scented sachets and, on request, fancy sweet-boxes are manufactured for special occasions.

Those objects can be sell online through the website: <https://www.laboratoriococcinella.it/>

In 2018 a little shop was opened in the centre of Modigliana so locals can go, choose and buy directly the creations. This was also an opportunity to develop social, professional and communication skills in the users, since they welcome clients and learn how to manage the shop.

Nursery for children

In the town of Tredozio, the nursery “Il Millepiedi” (the wireworm) welcomes **children aged between 12 and 36 months**.

Here they can find colourful spaces that appeal to the five senses and they feel at ease in a friendly environment.

To allow children to come into contact with people from other cultures, when possible, the staff of the nursery is assisted by young European volunteers and/or Erasmus trainees.

“Punto X” – educational service

It is addressed to children aged between 6 and 14 years who live in the municipality of Modigliana. "Punto X" offers support to children in carrying out their school homework and also leisure and manipulative activities. It opens five afternoons a week.

Summer activities

In summer time we organise leisure time camps/activities for children aged 6-14 living in Modigliana and in the Montone Valley (municipalities of Dovadola, Rocca San Casciano and Portico e San Benedetto).

La Casa di Gaia

This service is addressed to women who are facing difficult situations with their little children.

We host them in one apartment in the town of Tredozio (“Gaia”) and in a restructured building in the centre of Modigliana “La Casa di Gaia” for a maximum of 18 users.

Alma

This educational and residential centre is addressed to young people between 6 and 17 years old took apart from the original family. It is in Rocca San Casciano and a maximum of 6 users can be hosted.

Informagiovani

Is an information centre for young people in Rocca San Casciano.

Here, young people can inform about education and training, job market, free time and European opportunities.

European Sector

Since **1997**, Kara Bobowski opened its doors to Europe and began to promote initiatives in the framework of the main European programs addressed mainly at young people. In particular the cooperative:

- promotes and carries out projects addressed at young people and adults in the context of European programs such as ERASMUS+, EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS and EUROPE FOR CITIZENS;
- promotes the knowledge about European programmes which are of interest to young people through information sessions, trainings and seminars;
- provides public bodies and third sector organisations which want to take action within these programmes with advice and technical support.

The projects carried out by Kara Bobowski deal mainly with international solidarity, vocational training, lifelong learning, social inclusion and also disadvantaged /disabled young people can participate.

*Our heart in our community,
our eyes towards Europe*

Networking

The Kara Bobowski works together with several European organizations and is a member of the following international networks: [Caravan 2000](#) (a network among organizations promoting projects addressed to disadvantaged young people), [ERY- European Regions for Youth](#) (cooperation between the Emilia Romagna Region and other European Regions in order to cooperate in promoting and organizing projects addressed to young people), [SERN](#) (a cooperation network between Sweden and Emilia Romagna).

European Volunteer

European Voluntary Service (EVS) was our first love.

In **1998** our European activity began just with EVS and the first hosting of young people from abroad.

Now Europe is a concrete opportunity for us and for all the young people of our area (and not only them!).

After the hosting and sending of more than 200 young volunteers, in 2017 we celebrated our first 20 years of EVS with the “**EVS 20-20**” Project⁴. It hosted 3 long-term volunteers (from Portugal, Spain and Franca) for 6 months and 8 short-term volunteers with disabilities and/or disadvantaged situations, from Portugal, Lithuania and Bulgaria that spent from 2 weeks to 40 days in Modigliana. It sent also 2 short-term volunteers in Bulgaria for 3 weeks.

Now we count on the European Solidarity Corps programme to host and send the next volunteers, always thinking on inclusion!

Trainingships

Since 2003, our organisation promotes projects in the frame of the Erasmus + KA1 – Mobility for individual learning.

In particular we:

- **send abroad Italian young people** for trainingships period lasting 12-14 weeks;
- **host young people** from abroad in our organisation **for trainingships in the social field** (target groups: people with disabilities, children, mothers in needs);

⁴ “EVS 20-20” video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKOLESGdB0k&t=1s>

- **coordinate the hosting of young trainees** from abroad in organisations/companies in the following sectors: **food and beverage, hospitality, mechanical, tourism**;
- **organise and participate into staff mobility projects**, in order to share experiences/competences/good practices, acquire new skills and find new partners.

Until now, we already sent and hosted almost 700 trainees.

Youth Exchanges

The main objective of Youth Exchanges is to allow groups of young people between 13 and 26, to join an **intercultural experience** together with young people from other Countries.

A Youth Exchange lasts **between 6 and 21 days**.

Thanks to a grant by the Erasmus+ Programme, the travel costs are covered. The other costs (board, lodging and activities) are in charge of the hosting organisation (with a co-financing by Erasmus+).

From 2000, we have organised and participated into many Youth Exchanges: **12 Hosting Exchanges** in our area and **27 Sending Exchanges** abroad, with more than 800 young people involved.

Our focus is inclusion, so we organised inclusive and mixed youth exchanges where people with disabilities could meet and exchange experiences with other youngsters, through arguments such as art, circus, theatre, dance, etc.

Senior Volunteers

Europa doesn't mean only young people. Each person can have opportunities, despite to his/her age.

That's why in 2009 we started with **Senior Volunteering Projects** (former "Lifelong Learning" Programme).

As a whole, we have **hosted and sent 30 over-50 volunteers** (from Germany, France and Italy) who spent abroad 2/3 weeks.

Their motivations? The desire to **meet new people**, stay in another Country **not as tourists**, the opportunity to **share their personal and professional experience** and **follow the "wind of change"**.

Other Projects

SuperMAN – Supermarkets Meet Accessibility Needs

SuperMAN is an European project between 3 Countries (Italy, France and Germany) that aims to train supermarket staff to be able to host people with intellectual disabilities while shopping.

See more details: [Website](#)

“Itinerari di Comunità”

Means “Community Paths” and is a local project that aims to promote the territory and the accessible tourism.

See more details: [Website](#) [Facebook](#)

STELLA – Staff’s European Lifelong Learning Academy

STELLA is a transnational, two-years project carried out in the frame of the ERASMUS+ Programme. Partners from ten different countries form a strategic partnership cooperating for innovation in the following fields: social inclusion, diversity and staff’s education.

See more details:

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

IDA – Inclusive Digital Academy

IDA is an **on-going** transnational, three-years project carried out in the frame of the ERASMUS+ Programme. Partners from nine different countries form a strategic partnership cooperating for innovation to promote the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the digital world.

See more details: [Website](#)

DCWW – Day Centres Without Walls

DCWW is an **on-going** transnational project carried out in the frame of ERASMUS+ Programme. Partners from 5 different Countries form a strategic partnership for the exchange of good practices on initiatives that promotes inclusion of people with disabilities through volunteering, occupation and civic participation.

See more details: [Website](#)

EDUValley

EDUValley is an **on-going** local three-year project carried out by a network of 10 local partners with the aim to contrast the educational poverty in our territory.

See more details: [Blog](#)

Our channels

Our **WEBSITE**: www.karabobowski.org/en/



<https://www.youtube.com/user/karabobowski/videos>



<https://www.facebook.com/coopKaraBobowski/>



https://www.instagram.com/kara_bobowski/



https://twitter.com/kbobowski_onlus

Our **CONTACTS**:

Address: Via Francesco Fanelli, 2 – 47015 Modigliana (FC), Italy Phone: +39 0546940259

Email: Administration: amministrazione@karabobowski.org

Communication: evs@karabobowski.org

European Office: progettazione@karabobowski.org europa@karabobowski.org