Presenting: ARCO 2020

Research that makes the difference
ARCO
Action Research for CO-development

ARCO is a University centre founded in 2008 at PIN s.c.r.l., Prato (Italy). It offers research, qualified consulting, and training services in social economy, local development, inclusive development, M&E and impact evaluation and circular innovation.

ARCO relies on the expertise of a multidisciplinary team and operates both at national and international level.

ARCO supports the Yunus Social Business Centre University of Florence, the first Italian centre accredited by the Yunus Centre in Dhaka [Bangladesh], founded by the Noble Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

"We combine scientific rigour and practical solutions"
ARCO provides scientific and operational support to organizations by designing activities to satisfy their needs in term of research, qualified consultancy and training.
We handle all phases of the research process:

- Methodology design
- Project design
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Policy recommendations
- Presentation and communication of results
Since 2009, we support organizations that want to have a positive impact on society

ARCO IN THE WORLD

33 COUNTRIES

130 CLIENTS

280 PROJECTS
Social Economy
• Social Reports and Sustainability accounting
• Social Impact Assessment
• Design of corporate social responsibility strategies (CSR)
• Research, consultancy and training in social economy and social business

Inclusive Development
• Quantitative and qualitative research on vulnerability, resilience and multidimensional poverty
• Support in the creation of policies concerning groups at risk of marginalization
• Simulation of the impact of policies, programmes and social protection policies
• Elaboration and implementation of Emancipatory Research processes.

Local Development
• Support in strategic planning and policy design for sustainable human development
• Territorial and sectoral diagnosis and needs assessment
• Measurement of multidimensional wellbeing and sustainable development
• Creation of ethical and environmental labels

Circular Innovation & Sustainable Commodity
• Support for the definition of policies for the circular transition at urban level
• Need analysis and product characterization for the sustainability of supply chains and organizations
• Implementation of innovative procedures and integrated management systems

M&E and Impact Evaluation
• Monitoring & Evaluation
• Impact Evaluation
• Design of statistical investigation tools
• Data collection and analysis with qualitative and quantitative methods
• Evaluation of communication and awareness campaign
We support companies and organizations that want to have a positive impact on society

• Research, consultancy and training in social economy and social business

• Market analysis and business plan elaboration

• Social Impact Evaluation

• Capacity Building and training for non-profit organizations

• Design of CSR strategies, social accounting and sustainability reporting
Yunus Social Business Centre
University of Florence

ARCO Supports the YSBCUF, the first centre accredited by the Yunus Centre in Dhaka (Bangladesh), a prominent organization founded by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

The centre works in order to spread theories of social business and offers strategic support to private individuals and Institutions setting up a Social Business both in Italy and abroad.

The centre also acts as intermediary between the Yunus Centre in Dhaka and Italian organizations and entrepreneurs wishing to be in contact with this organization.
Inclusive society as a starting point for true and shared development

- Quantitative and qualitative research on vulnerability, resilience and inclusive processes
- Support in policy elaboration for groups at risk of marginalization
- Simulation of the impact of policies, programmes and social protection policies
- Implementation of Emancipatory Research processes
Emancipatory Research.
Fostering the empowerment of men and women with disabilities in Mozambique, Palestine, Tanzania and Italy through processes of emancipatory research.

Gender Budgeting.
Assessing the differentiated impact local public policies on women and men in the multidimensional space of wellbeing.

Simulation of the impact of fiscal and social protection policies on the well-being of children in low income countries.
Simulation of the impact of public spending by adapting the OECD Tax-Benefit Model to the cases of Bolivia South Africa, India, Vietnam and China.
Encouraging sustainable human development by valuing local resources

- Support local authorities in strategic planning and policy design for sustainable human development
- Territorial, sectoral and industrial diagnostic and need analysis level need analysis
- Measurement of multidimensional wellbeing and sustainable development
- Creation of ethical and environmental labels
Agenda 2030 and SDGs localization
Comparative analysis of local strategies for sustainable development. Scientific support for the definition of the metropolitan agenda for sustainable development of the Metropolitan City of Florence.

Fostering ecotourism in Vayots Dzor, Armenia
Diagnostic assessment of the ecotouristic sector, with particular attention to the needs of accommodation facilities and development of ecotouristic paths in community-based tourism perspective.

Programme for Participatory Democracy and Local Development in Algeria.
Fostering governance decentralization and participatory democracy; strengthening the dialogue between local authorities, civil society and citizen for a better social cohesion.

Strengthening the economic development in Bolivia
Fostering social economy by strengthening productive and marketing capacities of local associations, active in the agricultural, livestock and crafts sectors.
Accelerating the transition to the circular economy is the current challenge for institutions, cities, production districts, organizations and people. Alongside the numerous virtuous initiatives at the micro level, there is a compelling need to develop and establish systemic and integrated circular models aimed at fostering sustainability.

The local urban dimension is where the transition process can be supported: the built-up area interpenetrates with production and commercial activities and services. In this context, local decision makers must promote policies of innovation, regeneration and cohesion.
Circular Transition at urban level

At urban level, we support local decision makers for the definition and implementation of innovation, regeneration and cohesion policies:

• **Innovating processes**: rethinking production processes in a circular way focusing on the product’s life cycle.

• **Regenerate the city**: abandoned or underused spaces and buildings must be destined to new productive, recreational and social functions.

• **Increase cohesion**: promoting participatory processes and active citizenship within the cities contributes to improving the quality of life and collaboration at all levels.
Sustainability of the production chains

Each step of a product’s life cycle, from the provision of raw materials and commodities to design, from production to distribution, must minimize the amount of resources and at the same time the waste produced.

Our primary activities include:

• Needs analysis
• Analysis of the relationships between local stakeholders and producers
• Analysis of international markets in relation of different commodities
• Product characterization
• Training on issues related to the sustainability of the supply chains and good manufacturing practices
Recently, a renewed attention to local and national production (also aiming at supporting the local economy) has paved the way to paying more attention at the quality of production, but also at the environment protection and fair labour. Increasing the circularity contributes to the active participation of stakeholders and to the valorisation of waste through innovative productions.

Our primary activities include:

• Implementation of integrated management system according to international standards
• Labelling and traceability
• Sustainability Report
• Academic lectures, vocational trainings, dissemination events
Evaluate results to help organizations enhance their programmes and projects

- Mid-term evaluation, final and ex-post evaluations of projects and programmes
- Impact evaluation
- Design of monitoring systems for project management
- Application of mixed quali-quantitative methodologies and participatory approach to evaluation
- Micro-simulation modeling for social policies, programmes and social protection schemes
- Fostering an approach to evaluation that includes training and capacity building for organizations

- Application of a complex methodology of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) that integrates surveys submitted by questionnaires and participatory methods.

Evaluation of projects to contrast children educational poverty

- Evaluation and Impact Evaluation of the projects promoted by the Fund to contrast children educational poverty fostered by the Social Enterprise Con I Bambini

- Application of mixed methodologies and of a participatory approach to evaluation (through the application of the EHD – Evaluating Human Development methodology)
Evaluation of the results of a project to strengthen the resilience to climate change of rural communities in Kenya

- Application of RIMA-II approach, development by FAO, to assess the degree of resilience of 10 communities beneficiary of the action. Data has been collected through household survey on field.

Evaluation of results of a project to support communities hit by earthquake in Central Italy

- Mixed approach that involved, in addition to surveys submitted online, application of participatory methods adapted to children and use of the CAPS scale to evaluate PTSDs.
- In depth analysis of the growth of gender based violence in areas hit by the earthquake, through emancipatory research processes.
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Carmela Nitti
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She works on assessing the social impact generated by organizations.

Silvia Sordi
Project Communication
She works on Marketing and Communication.

Camilla Guasti
Research Assistant
She works on market analysis for social enterprises and social impact assessment.

Vittoria Vineis
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She deals with political economy in particular she studies ecosystems that facilitate the creation of social enterprises in Palestine.

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INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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She works on gender, child poverty and social protection programmes.

Chiara Chimirri
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She works on training, disability and qualitative research methodologies.

Francesca D’Erasmo
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She works on youth, disability and project designing.

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She works on relation between public health and socio-economic development.
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

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He coordinates the Local Development Unit

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He works on migration, local development and evaluation.

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**M&I AND IMPACT EVALUATION TEAM**

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She coordinates the M&E and Impact Evaluation Unit.

**Linda Terenzi**  
M&E Specialist  
She works on the process of monitoring and evaluation of development projects.

**Tommaso Iannelli**  
M&E Specialist  
He works on the process of monitoring and evaluation of development projects.
COMMUNICATION & GRAPHICS TEAM

Barbara Palla
Coordinator
She works on front-end development of websites and coordinates online and offline communication.

Ilaria Corrieri
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Enrica Bianco
Local coordinator
She is ARCO’s reference for Senegal.
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