Social cooperative
for work integration
An **Italian social cooperative** is a particularly successful form of multi-stakeholder cooperative

- a "type A" social cooperative brings together providers and beneficiaries of a social service as members.
- a "type B" social cooperative brings together permanent workers and previously unemployed people who wish to integrate into the labour market.

Social co-operatives are legally defined as follows:

**the objective is the general benefit of the community and the social integration of citizens**

- type A provide health, social or educational services
- type B integrate disadvantaged people into the labour market.

The categories of disadvantage may include physical and mental disability, drug and alcohol addiction, mental disorders and problems with the law.
various categories of stakeholder may become members, including paid employees, beneficiaries, volunteers (up to 50% of members), financial investors and public institutions.

**In type B co-operatives:**

- at least 30% of the members must be from the disadvantaged target groups
- the co-operative has legal personality and limited liability
- voting is: one person, one vote
- assets may not be distributed
- the co-operative doesn’t pay social contributions for disadvantaged people
- the local authorities can give some work directly to the type B social co-operatives (max 206.000€) with a social agreement.
Recycling

Rubbish is big business. And with all of us throwing out increasing numbers of cans, bottles and newspapers each week – not to mention furniture, fridges and a whole host of other unwanted items – it has also become a huge social and environmental challenge.

And so the rubbish, and the whole issue of how we can recycle as much of it as possible, has become our social business. In certain parts of our province, if someone runs a door-to-door recycling service, there’s a fair chance that the contractor making the collection is a social enterprise.
This mix of social/environmental problem, the public sectors inability to deal with it and the growing consensus amongst the population and government that action must be taken, shows all the signs of a classic a growth market for social enterprise. More than any other sector, social enterprises have proved their unique ability to embrace such challenges and turn them into business opportunities in the same of social and environmental change.

We hope that many local authorities prefer to let contracts to community enterprises that offer spin-off benefits like training opportunities for the long-term unemployed rather than opt for what may appear in the short term to be the cheaper, private sector option.
Cauto Cantiere Autolimitazione (the meaning is “WORK FOR THE AUTOLIMITATION”) is a social cooperative, born in 1995, type B, that has the purpose to socially promote the integration on the job of disadvantaged subjects, with particular attention to people that are found under conditions of serious social problems (ex-alcoholics, homeless, without abode, mentally ills) so every man can learn new abilities and to repurchase a dignity.

For every person it is anticipated a project of reintegration and rehabilitation to the working appointment.

Cauto operates in the environmental sector.

The social purposes are:
- reduction of the waste and of the consumerism
- respect for the nature;
- exploitation of the recycle and riuse of materials and manufactured articles;

We believe in a sustainable development where every citizen and social aggregation (families, districts, groups, corporate body) they are protagonists of the ecological equilibrium.

Cauto proposes services for firms, public corporations, single citizens, and it coordinates its own action with associations, community and groups of volunteers.
In these years we tried to reach the following purposes:

- to create work opportunities for disadvantaged people
- to activate actions tied to the re-use and recovery of the goods
- to be a subject ready to offer services for the local community
SOME ACTIVITIES ABOUT WASTE PREVENTION

1) Integrated management of the waste produced from the Fruits & Vegetable Wholesale Market

2) Door to door collection of different materials and users, by a contract signed with the local authority

3) Management of the waste produced from the centers trades (medium and big distribution); companies

4) Organization of the withdrawal of the meal not consumed from the scholastic caterings of the municipality of Brescia

5) Moves for the domestic users with the recovery of the assets for the store of used materials “Spigolandia” (furniture; lamps; dresses; books; shoes)

6) Management of a social distribution service for poor people with the recovered food commodities (this is a complementary service, not paid, linked with p.3)
Waste Island at the Fruits & Vegetable Wholesale Market
TRADE CENTERS
MEDIUM AND BIG SUPERMARKETS
SCHOLASTIC CATERINGS

Served schools 16
Involved communities 13
Meal recovered 15,000/year
Weight of not sent organic refusals to destruction 25 ton/year
MOVING SERVICES AND OUR STORE

“SPIGOLANDIA”

Customers ➔ Private people Companies Stores

Goods recovered ➔ furnitures, garments, books etc..

Recovered materials ➔ wood, paper, plastics, iron, electronic products, about 1200/ton year
SOCIAL DISTRIBUTION

Activities:
• recovery of the commodities by the productive units
• Selection
• Distribution to social agencies and local associations
Other examples of social cooperatives for work integration in Brescia (Italy)

- INDUSTRIAL CLEANING
- INDUSTRIAL LAUNDRY
- CARPENTRY
- DATA ENTRY
- RECOVERY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DISUSED
- INSTALLATION PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS
- MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARKS
INDUSTRIAL CLEANING
- Female staff used
- Simple work by the customers (banks, offices, factories, schools)
- Few capital investment
- Flexible working hours

INDUSTRIAL LAUNDRY
- Female staff used, with high social discomfort
- Simple work in a factory
- Work very protected
- High capital investments
CARPENTRY
- Simple and standard work
- High investments
- Private customers
- Work in a factory
- Male work

DATA ENTRY/CALL CENTER
- Few capital investments
- Male and female work
- Good for people with physical problems
- Protected work, in a office
- Technical skills (different levels)