Authors

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Walter Lorenz was professor of Social Work at the University College, Cork in Ireland (1978–2001) and at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano in Italy (2001–2017), where he also served two 4-year terms as Rector. He is currently contract professor at Charles University, Prague. A native of Germany, he qualified as a social worker at the London School of Economics and practised

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within academic circles and public administrations, and to promote social innovation in favour of a civil economy.

Roberta Nicolodi is a sociologist and has worked as a long-time practitioner in the field of women's and children's migration in South Tyrol, Northern Italy. Currently, she is working as a public servant in the health care sector. She received her PhD from the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. Her research focuses on space-based approaches in social work, inter-organizational networks and social innovation.

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Alessandra Piccoli is a post-doc researcher at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. She holds a Master in Social Economy Management and a PhD in Social Pedagogy with a dissertation about community supported agriculture. Her research interests are: local food networks, food sovereignty, participatory action research, and social and solidarity economy. She has 15 years of experience in European project writing and management in the field of community building and social activities.

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Franca Zadra is a post-doc researcher at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano where she on the creation of collaborative networks to prevent the exploitation of agricultural labor in Northern Italy. She has research and teaching experiences in the areas of migration policy, sociology of communication, and the social innovation of public services for a better inclusion of disadvantaged groups, especially in the areas of education and healthcare. After years of experience in South American countries, she has contributed to research projects for Museo Storico in Trento and EURAC Research, and has recently spent research periods at Gent and Bielefeld University, and at the Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy in Munich.

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