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Economic and social integration of asylum seekers in rural areas: the example of Malles Venosta and Ortisei

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Agenda

1. Introduction
   - The project idea “Rural Areas for Refugees – Refugees for Rural Areas”
   - Selection of the cases (PP)
   - Project implementation
2. Methods
3. The example of Malles Venosta and Ortisei
   1. Set concrete actions
   2. Knowlegde building
4. Conclusion

1. The project idea

"RURAL AREAS FOR REFUGEES – REFUGEES FOR RURAL AREAS"

Project idea presented at the ARGE ALP competition 2016

(Main) Research Questions:

- What measures and actions should be taken / are missing to support socio-economic inclusion? *(set concrete actions)*
- How does labor integration of asylum seekers in rural areas work? *(knowledge building)*

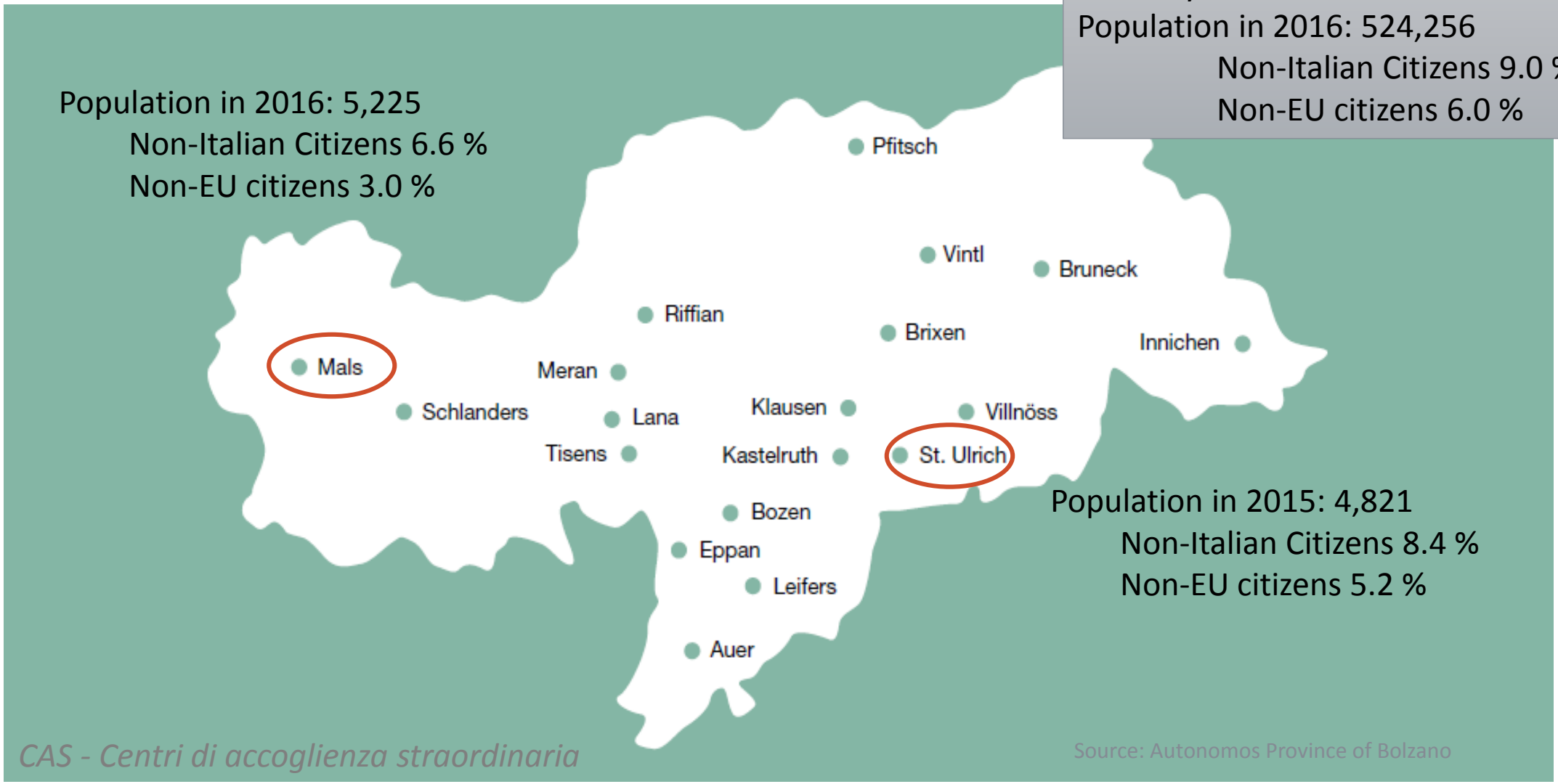
Central scopes:

1. To promote and sustain labour integration of asylum seekers in rural areas through local collaborations.
2. To support the approximation of enterprises and asylum seekers.

1. Selection of the cases

South Tyrol:
Population in 2016: 524,256
Non-Italian Citizens 9.0 %
Non-EU citizens 6.0 %

Population in 2016: 5,225
Non-Italian Citizens 6.6 %
Non-EU citizens 3.0 %



Population in 2015: 4,821
Non-Italian Citizens 8.4 %
Non-EU citizens 5.2 %

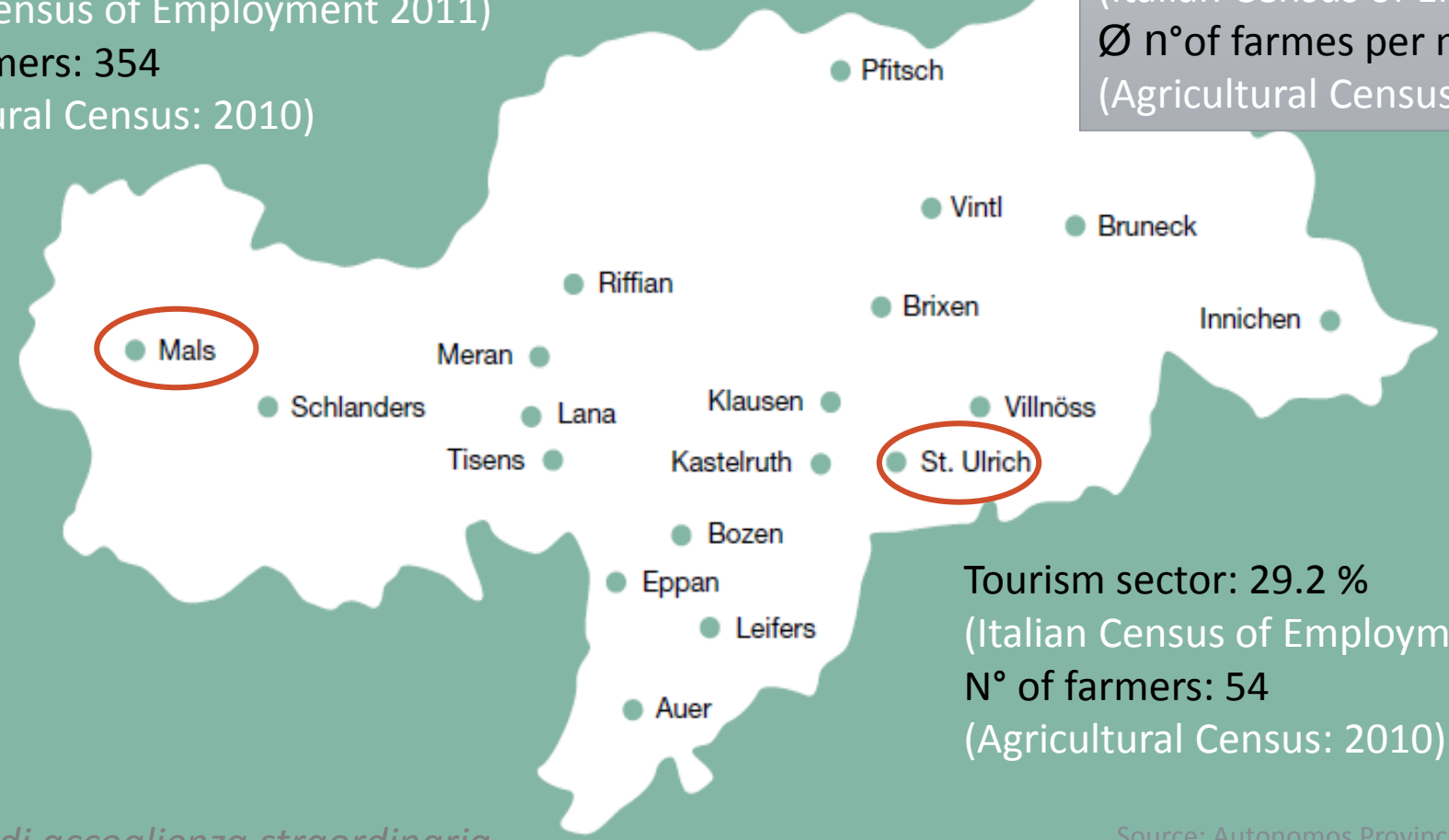
CAS - Centri di accoglienza straordinaria

Source: Autonomos Province of Bolzano

1. Selection of the cases

South Tyrol:
Tourism sector: 18.9%
(Italian Census of Employment 2011)
Ø n°of farmes per municipality: 175
(Agricultural Census: 2010)

Tourism sector: 24.3 %
(Italian Census of Employment 2011)
N° of farmers: 354
(Agricultural Census: 2010)



Tourism sector: 29.2 %
(Italian Census of Employment 2011)
N° of farmers: 54
(Agricultural Census: 2010)

CAS - Centri di accoglienza straordinaria

Source: Autonomos Province of Bolzano

1. Selection of the cases

South Tyrol:
About 1,400 asylums seekers
1 to 375 inhabitants

With prior experience during the Yugoslaw War (1992):
300-400 refugees

N° of asylum seekers: 50
1 to 103 inhabitants

Without prior experience

N° of asylum seekers: 25
1 to 191 inhabitants

CAS - Centri di accoglienza straordinaria

Source: Autonomos Province of Bolzano

1. Project implementation

Close collaboration with local realities:

- The municipalities **Malles Venosta** and **Ortisei**
- Responsible NGO's **Caritas** and **Volontarius Onlus**
- **Eurac Research**

Objectives:

1. **To set concrete actions:** Identification of **individual needs of the communities regarding early labor integration of refugees,** i.e. asylum seekers.
2. **To expand knowledge:** Contribution to a better understanding of labor integration in rural areas and the role of social networks

2. Methods

Participatory research:

- Workshops, (monthly) meetings

Data collection:

- 5 semi-structured interviews with responsible persons
- documentation of observations (minutes of meetings, verbal remarks)
- quantitative data of the reception facilities
- Newspaper, online news
- secondary data of official sources (ASTAT, ISTAT)

Data analysis:

- Qualitative analysis of the interviews
- Social Network Analysis (SNA)
- Software: UCINET & NetDraw

3. The example of Malles Venosta and Ortisei

FIRST RESULTS

What measures and actions should be taken / are missing to support socio-economic inclusion?

1. Set concrete actions

- Identify needs
- Define activities
- Implementation

How does labor integration of asylum seekers in rural areas work?

2. Knowledge building

- Data collection
- Data analysis

Which are the central actors in the field of labor integration at a municipal level?

1st Exchange and collaboration

2nd Awareness raising of local enterprises

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VOLONTARIUS onlus

Chemun de Urtijëi
Gemeinde St. Ulrich
Comune di Ortisei

Muciadives sciche lauranc

Sëira de nfurmazion per firmes

11 de auril 2017 – dala 20:30

Cësa de cultura de Urtijëi – pitla sala

Asylsuchende als Arbeitskräfte

Informationsveranstaltung für Unternehmen

11. April 2017 – 20:30 Uhr

Kulturhaus St. Ulrich – Kleiner Saal

I richiedenti asilo come risorsa lavorativa

Serata informativa per le imprese

11 aprile 2017 – ore 20:30

Casa della Cultura di Ortisei – sala piccola

2nd Awareness raising of local enterprises

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Caritas
Diözese Bozen-Brixen
Diocesi Bolzano-Bressanone
Diocejs Balsan-Porsenù

978 m
1.738

Marktgemeinde **Mals**
Comune di **Malles Venosta**

Asylsuchende als Arbeitskräfte

Informationsveranstaltung für Unternehmen

20. April 2017 – 20:00 Uhr

Martinsheim in Mals

I richiedenti asilo come risorsa lavorativa

Serata informativa per le imprese

20 aprile 2017 – ore 20:00

Fondazione Martinsheim – Malles

3rd Concrete actions

Ortisei: Implementation of **specific courses** to reduce the barriers for asylum seekers to enter the labour market

End of March: **16 h course on work safety** (high risk) & certificate for 14 asylum seekers (out of 25)

Malles: Implementation of the **pilot project "Jobcoach"** as local counsellor for enterprises and asylum seekers/refugees

START PILOT: **18th April 2017 – 30th July 2017** *(final evaluation)*

3. Knowledge building

January 2016	Malles	Ortisei
Opening centre	September 2015	January 2016
N° of asylum seekers	40	25
General information	31 male – 9 female	23 male – 2 female
	58 % younger than 30 years	80 % younger than 30 years
	100% Sub-Sahara Africa	100% Sub-Sahara Africa
	Ø 6.4 years of school	Ø 2 years of school
Increase n° (Aug.'16)	+ 10 asylum seekers	*no increase*
	41 male – 9 female	
	92 % Sub-Sahara Africa 8 % Pakistan	
Volunteers	36	20
First decisions in April/May 2017:	8 humanitarian protection 28 with neg. answer (appeals) 14 without decision	10 humanitarian protection 1 subsidiary protection 14 with neg. answer (appeals)

Working experiences in Italy

Malles

- April 2017:
  - 43 of 50 asylum seekers could gain working experience during their stay in South Tyrol
  - 19 were working
- Main areas:
  - Agriculture (seasonal harvester, gardener)
  - Voluntary work (municipality)
  - Tourism (kitchen assistant, cleaner, barkeeper)
  - Industry (factory worker)
  - Handicraft (carpenter, welder)

„Most of our house guests found a job thanks to the commitment of our volunteers.“

Coodinator reception centre Malles

Ortisei

- March 2017:
  - 24 of 25 asylum seekers could gain working experience during their stay in South Tyrol
- Main areas:
  - Tourism (kitchen assistant, cleaner, dishwasher, receptionist)
  - Agriculture (seasonal harvester, gardener)
  - Voluntary work (municipality, retirement home)
  - Services (Babysitter, supervisor)

„The job search occures through the coordinator and the staff of the house.“

Integration Adivisor Ortisei

Actor's constellation – local networks

Central actors

Top-down (CAS-System):

- Province, Social office, Employment office, Education
- NGO's (> coordinator and staff of the reception facilities)

Bottom up:

- Municipality, Social/integration advisor, mayor
- Volunteers, population, associations, enterprises, trade associations

Network measures

Density

- Number of possible relations (0-1) between the actors and/or group of actors

Reciprocity

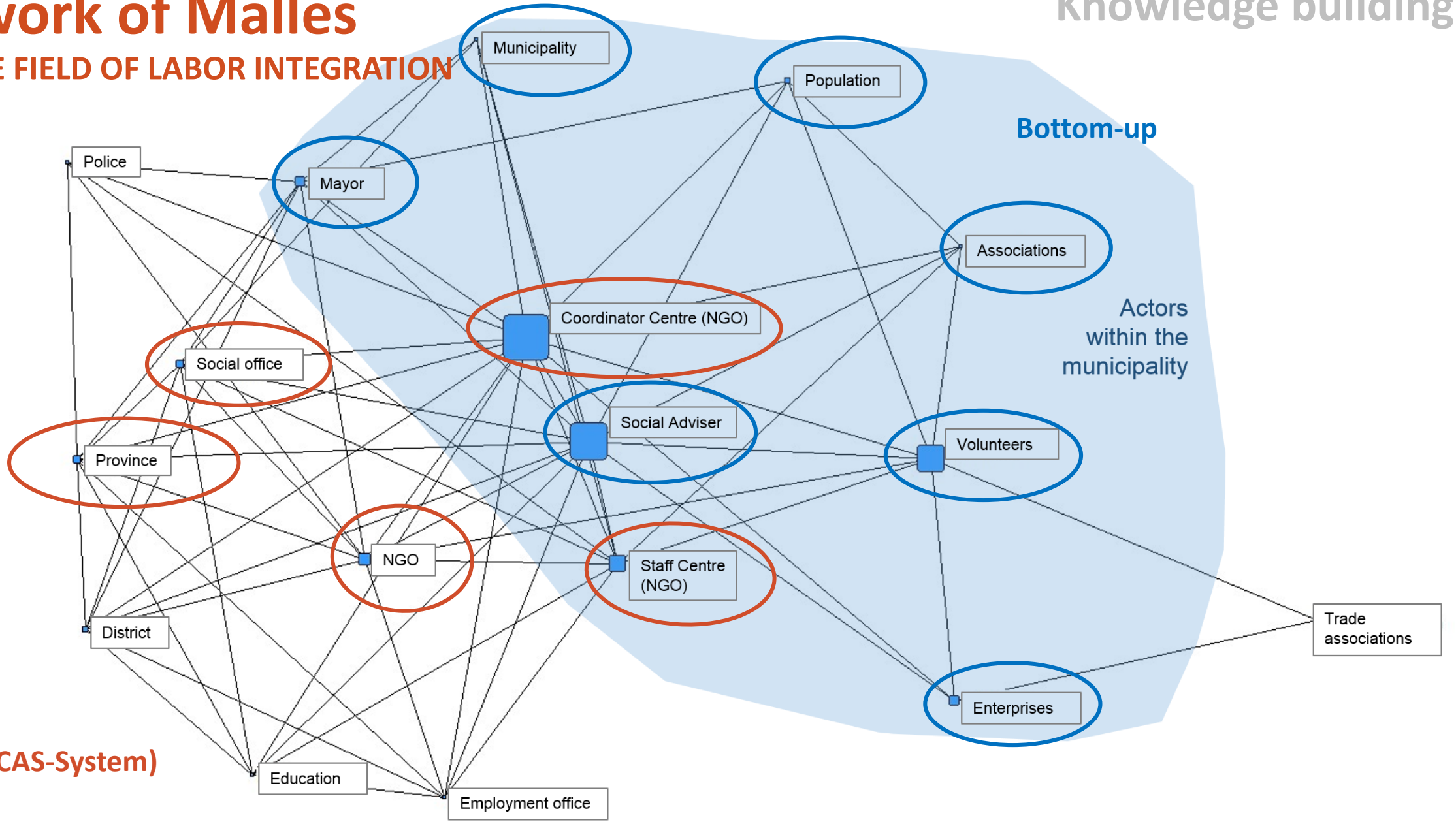
- Assumption: symmetric network, mutual relationships

Centrality

- Average degree: Ø n° of relations of each node (=actor/group of actors)

Network of Malles

IN THE FIELD OF LABOR INTEGRATION



Top-down (CAS-System)

Network of Malles

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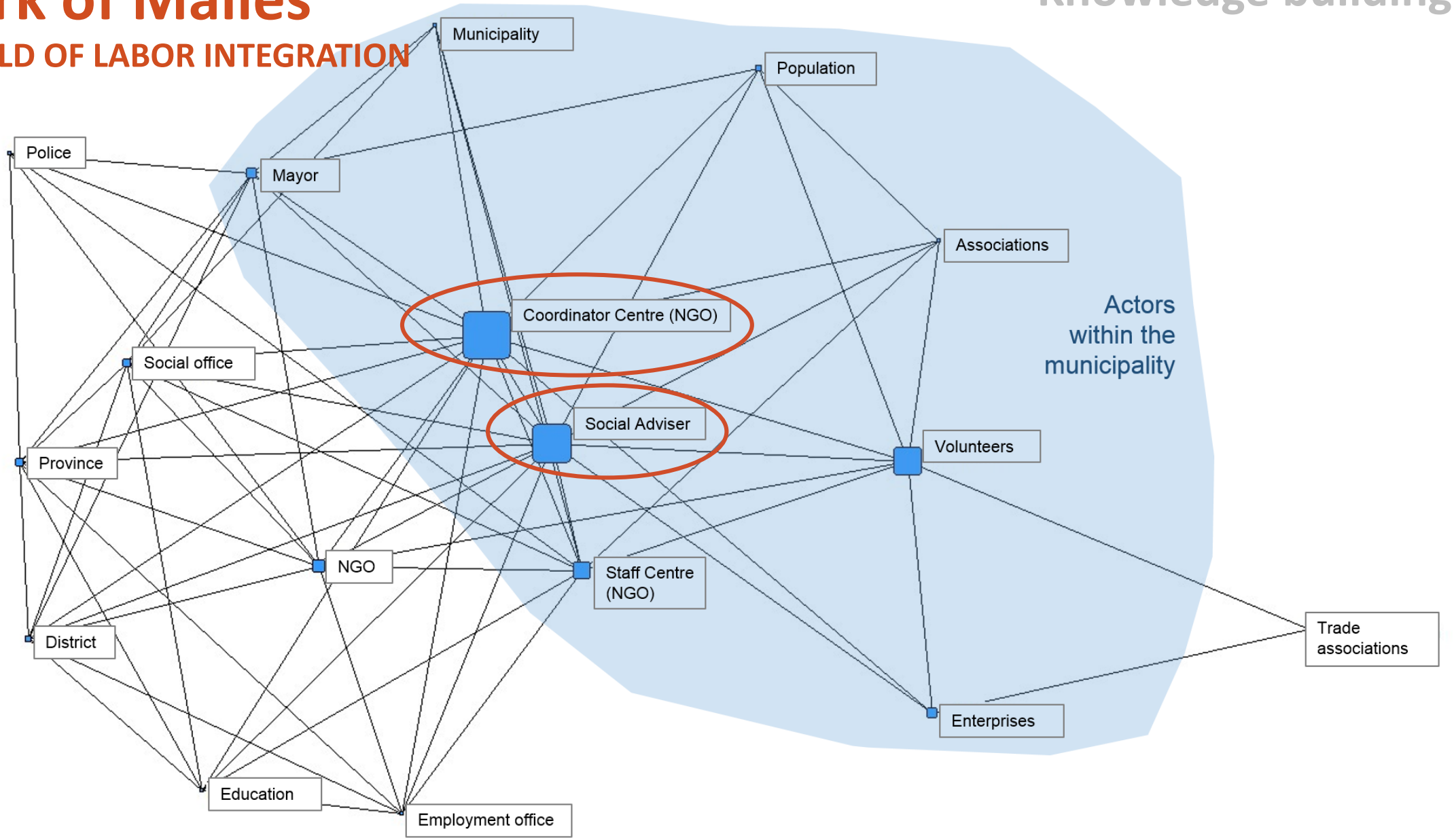

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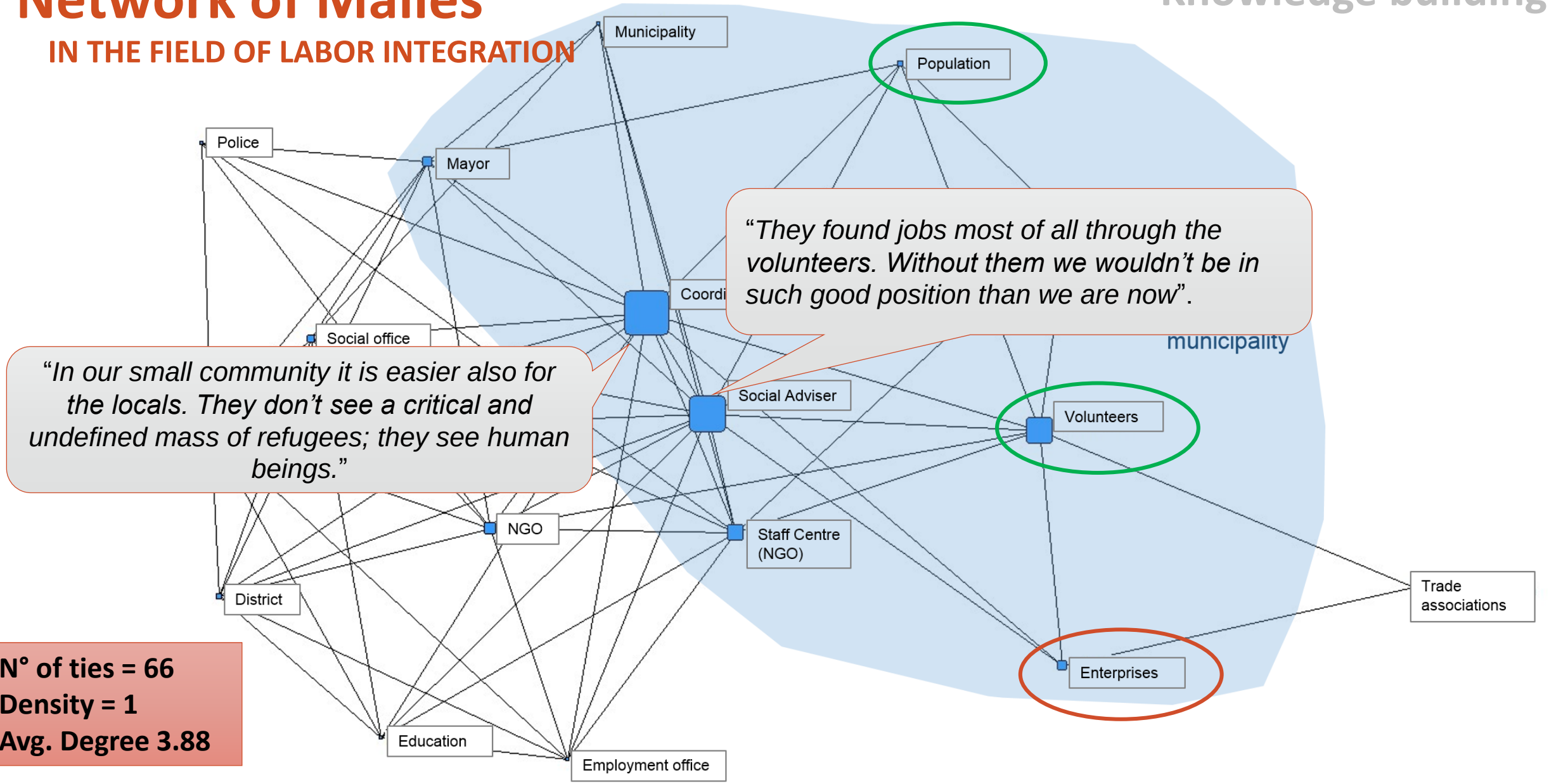

"*They found jobs most of all through the volunteers. Without them we wouldn't be in such good position than we are now*".

"*In our small community it is easier also for the locals. They don't see a critical and undefined mass of refugees; they see human beings.*"

N° of ties = 66
Density = 1
Avg. Degree 3.88

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Network of Ortisei

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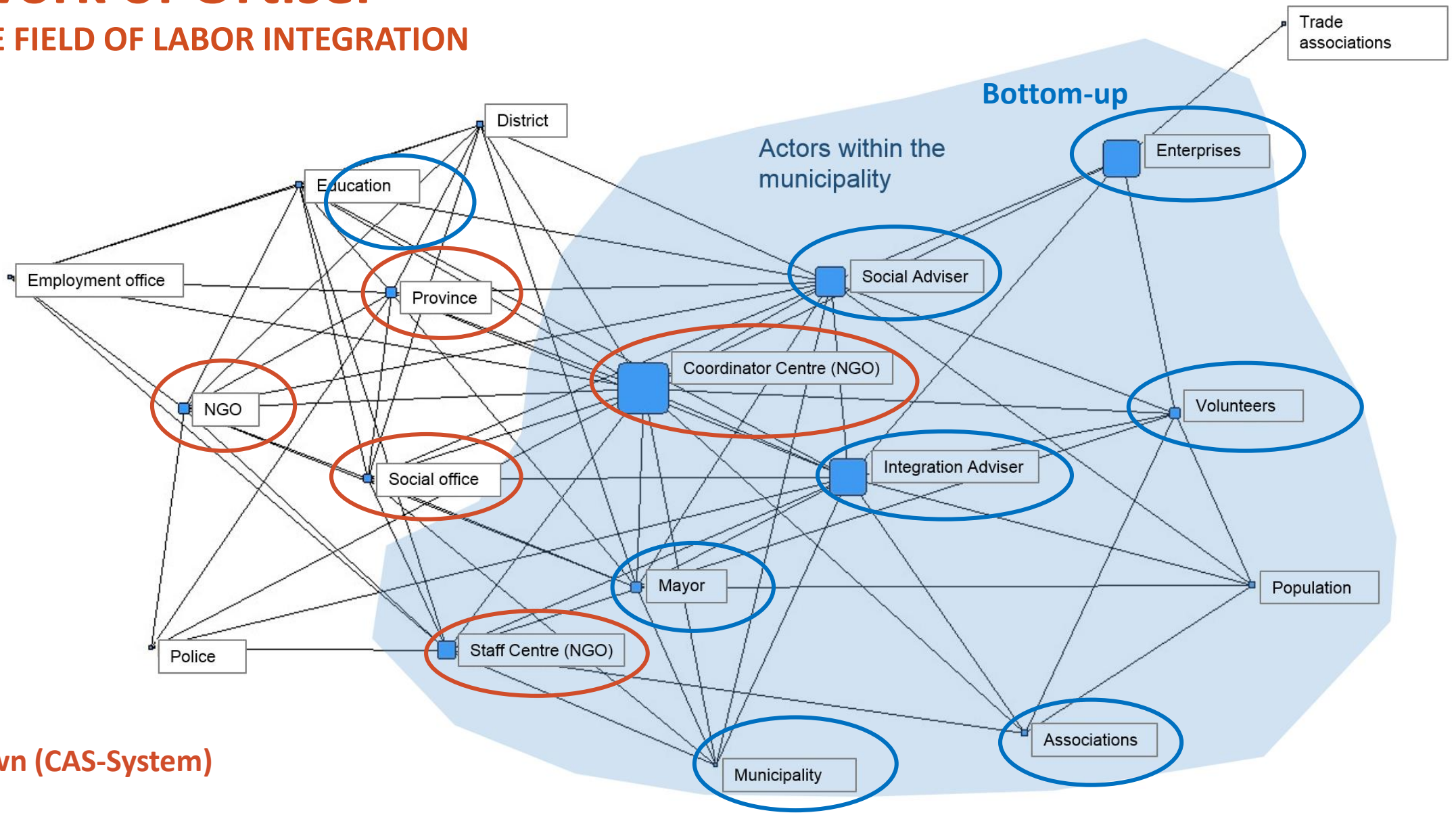

Top-down (CAS-System)

Network of Ortisei

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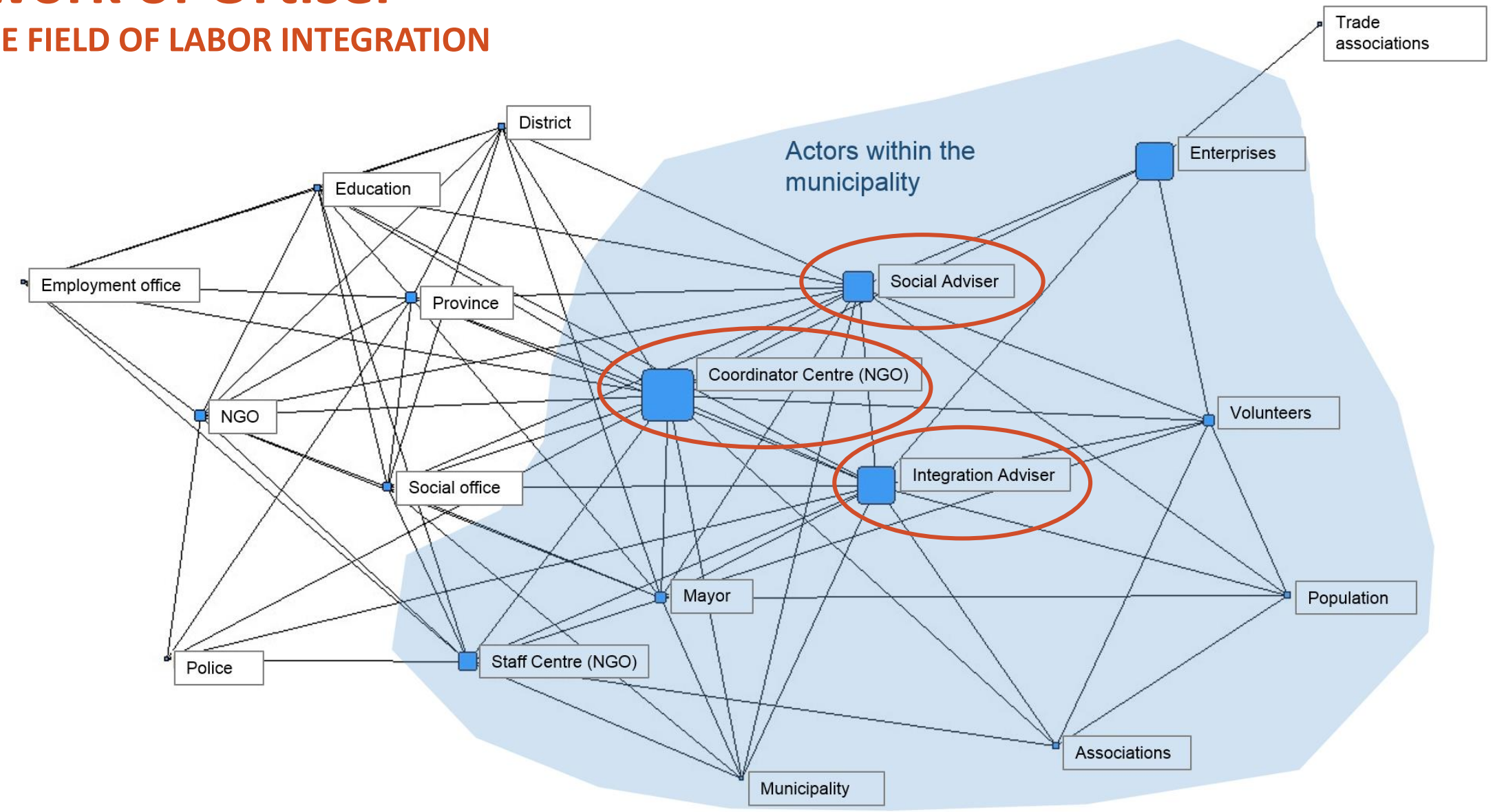
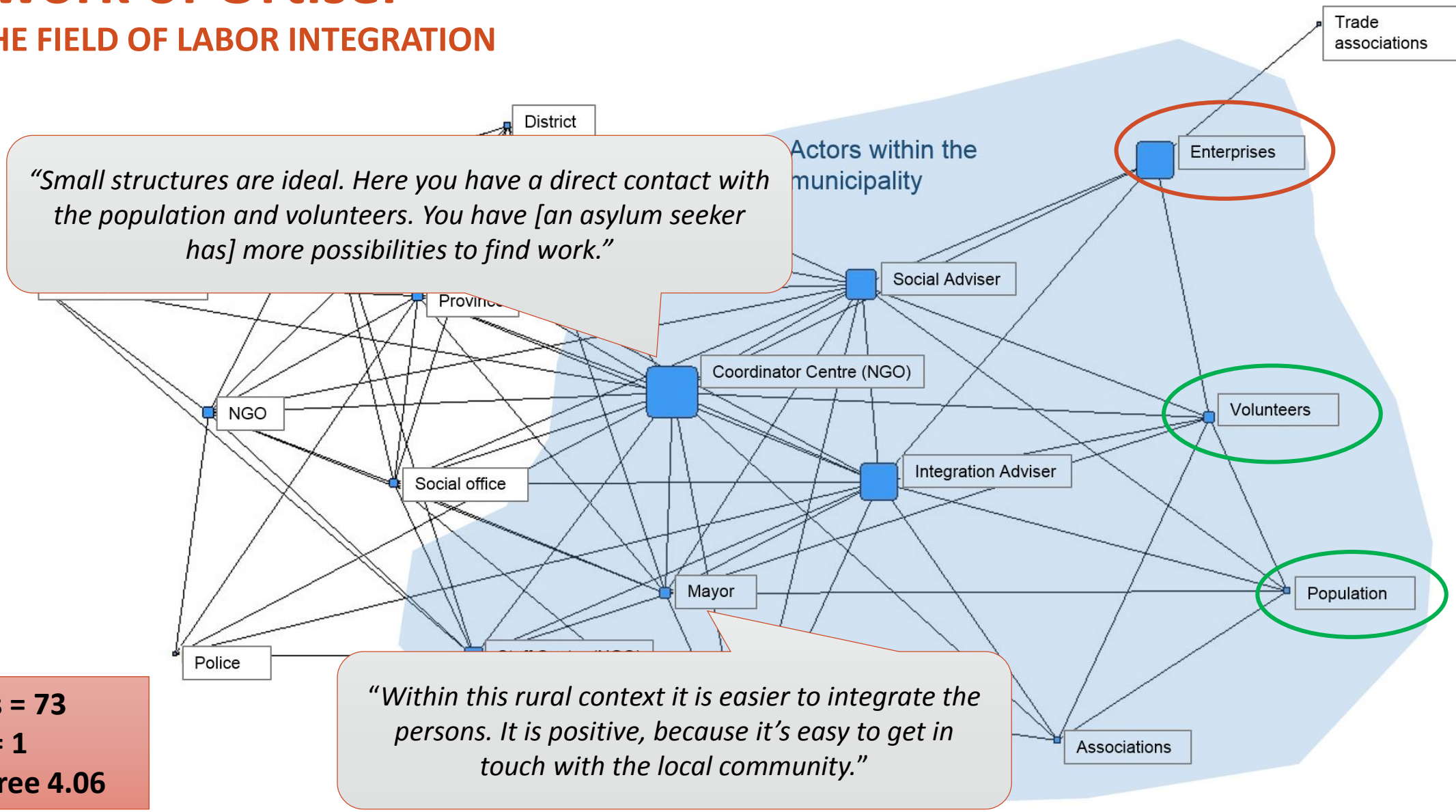


Network of Ortisei

IN THE FIELD OF LABOR INTEGRATION



"Small structures are ideal. Here you have a direct contact with the population and volunteers. You have [an asylum seeker has] more possibilities to find work."

"Within this rural context it is easier to integrate the persons. It is positive, because it's easy to get in touch with the local community."

N° of ties = 73
Density = 1
Avg. Degree 4.06

3. Conclusion

- Both realities are interlinked with diverse governance levels
- The connection of the houses (NGO) with the local reality is crucial
- Asylum seekers depent strongly on the local (social) network and engagement of diverse municipal actors (i.e. volunteers)

- Social networks **help to enter the labor market**
  - Social capital as a potential to reduce inequalities
  - Access to social capital can also create inequalities inside the target group „asylum seekers“ , f.e. courses on work safety.
- Additional advantage in APoB: good situation on the labor market > demand for labor force

→ Prior involvement (early integration) and access to the labor market reduce the burdens after getting a positive status

3. Conclusion

Social capital depends on the actors / group of actors:

- Potentials
- Competences
- Resources
- Ties / relations

Diverse environment:

- Spatial proximity
- Culture
- Values
- Norms

How can we manage a (potential) network to support the labor integration of asylum seekers (LT rec. refugees, immigrants)?

Thank you!