



SOCIAL SEEDS

Interreg Europe



„7 regions, 1 goal: Enhancing the social enterprise eco-systems in European regions through government-run measurement and labelling scheme”

Recent years have seen a burgeoning interest in social enterprises (SEs) across Europe, strongly driven by a growing recognition of the role social enterprises can play in tackling emerging challenges.

Social enterprises in the European Union provide:

- 10 per cent of the European economy (GDP),
- more than 11 millions of workers, 4.5 % of the active EU population,
- 1 out of 4 new enterprise set-up every year in the European Union, and up to 1 out of 3 in Finland, France and Belgium.

Motivated by the above facts, SOCIAL SEEDS brings together regional and national policymakers committed to drive social change in their respective regions and countries, by improving policy instruments (within regional and national Operational Programmes).

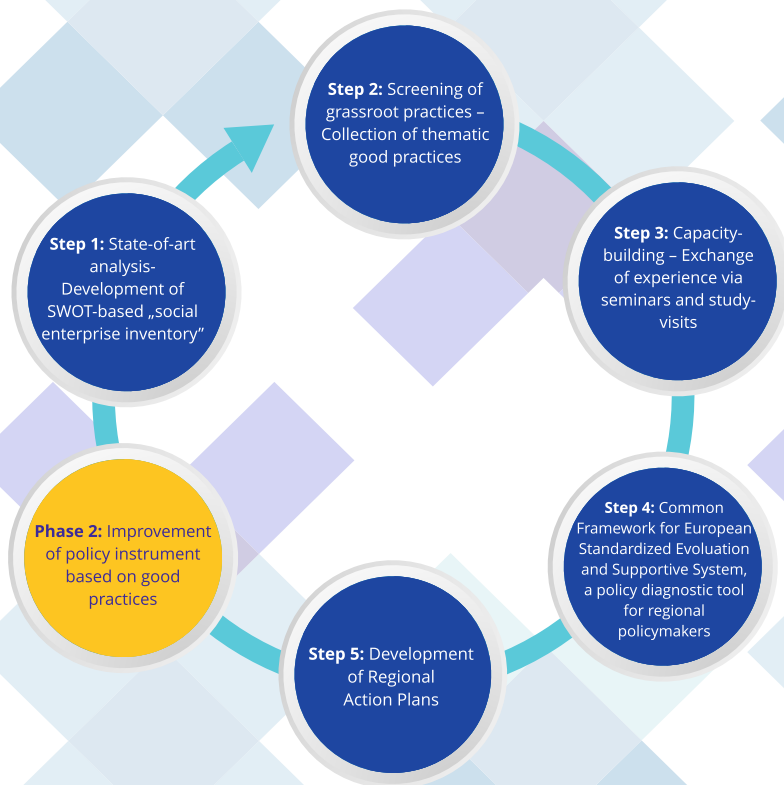


SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND SOCIAL INNOVATIONS

SOCIAL SEEDS aims to **equip policymakers with evidence-based policy diagnostic tool** that increases the effectiveness of local and regional policies and instruments **for stimulation of growth and employment (preferably of vulnerable social groups) in social enterprises (SE)** including their ecosystems in European cities and regions. To this end, regional and local government-run measurement and labelling scheme addressed to social enterprises (SE) will be established in order **to help policymakers' concrete actions towards creating the right conditions to allow the sector to thrive**. The project also aims to prepare Regional Action Plans to prepare ground for the follow-up as well as to enable the policy enhancement of SEs.



HOW TO IMPROVE POLICY INSTRUMENTS?



WHAT ADVANTAGES IMPROVED POLICIES DELIVER?

- ✓ Social enterprises are able to bring innovative solutions for social cohesion and inclusion, **job creation**, growth and the promotion of active citizenship. Social enterprises contribute to smart growth by responding with **social innovation** to needs that have not yet been met.
- ✓ SEs encourage **workers to learn and update their skills**. They also create **sustainable growth** by taking into account their environmental impact and by their long-term vision and often develop efficient ways to reduce emissions and waste or use natural resources.
- ✓ In addition social enterprises are at the heart of **inclusive growth** due to their emphasis on people and social cohesion: they create sustainable jobs for women, young people and elderly. It is precisely the positive impact of social enterprises on society, the environment and communities which can contribute to implementing the Europe 2020 strategy and the aim of the Single Market Act for a **“highly competitive social market economy”**.

HOW TO JOIN SOCIAL SEEDS REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER GROUPS?

SOCIAL SEEDS invites prominent regional stakeholders, academia, policy-makers, social entrepreneurs with proven track records as well as (social) finance investors and social innovators to brainstorm on the project achievement in every semester.

Regional Stakeholder Groups are composed by permanent members committed to evidence-based policy improvements. The Stakeholder Group is actively involved in the review of good practices prepared by partners, monitoring and adjusting the achievements to the actual needs of the target group. Seats within the Regional Stakeholder Group are limited and varies between 7-12 members. Even though, Stakeholder Group members are supporting SOCIAL SEEDS implementation on a voluntary basis, they are invited to SOCIAL SEEDS seminars, study-visits in abroad as well as the official conferences of the project.










Should you be interested in changing the way how policies are prepared and implemented, **do not hesitate to register now! Let's shape tomorrow's social enterprise policies together, hands in hands!**

HOW TO IMPROVE POLICIES IN PRACTICE?

SOCIAL SEEDS improves regional and national policy instruments available within partners' Operational Programmes for the period of 2014-2020. **SOCIAL SEEDS** solely addressed ERDF European Regional Development Funds and ESF European Social Funds instruments. Managing Authorities are committed to apply the improved policy instruments once the Phase 1 is closed



Country	Policy	Method	Final achievement	Aims
 HUNGARY	<p>EDIOP Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme, Priority 5 NSO.10.2 Employment capacities of social enterprises will be strengthened (European Social Fund (ESF), Investment Priority 10: 1304/2013 (EU) ESF Regulation Article 3 (1) a) (i))</p> <p>EDIOP Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme, Priority 8, NSO 17.1, Improved access of enterprises – including social enterprises working for society – to external funding, which realize investments that stimulate employment. (European Regional Development Fund</p>	<p>improved government, structural change</p> <p>structural change</p>	<p>Number of social enterprises participating in the testing and validation of the policy diagnostic tool in Hungary: 80</p> <p>Total number of external finance providers (business angel, riskcapital investor, banks) increasing available portfolio of financial instruments: 1</p>	
 ITALY	<p>20142020 ERDF Operational Program of Abruzzo Region Thematic Objective 3 Investment Priority 3a & Thematic Objective 3 Investment Priority 3b</p>	<p>new projects</p>	<p>Number of measures focusing on social entrepreneurs startups: 2</p>	

Country	Policy	Method	Final achievement	Aims
 CZECH REPUBLIC	Operational Programme Employment (OP Emp), Priority axis 2. Social inclusion and combating poverty, Specific Objective 2.1.2: Development of the social economy sector, 2.1.2. : The creation and development of entrepreneurial activities in the field of social entrepreneurship, promoting and creating conditions for the emergence and development of social enterprises, raising awareness about social entrepreneurship and cooperation between all relevant actors.	new projects, improved government	No. of submitted projects by social enterprises: 50	 
 SLOVENIA	Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 20142020, Priority 9; Social inclusion and poverty reduction; NSO 9.6. Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment.	structural change	Share of participants in employment upon leaving (corresponding to OP result indicator 9.2.1.: share of participants in employment upon leaving): 30	 
 BELGIUM				 

Country	Policy	Method	Final achievement	Aims
 POLAND	Podkarpackie Region Operational Programme 20142020, Priority VIII Social integration, CT 9 Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and all forms of discrimination, 9v Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and social economy and solidarity in order to facilitate access to employment	new projects	Number of social enterprises receiving grants for increasing employability of disadvantaged social groups: 50	
 ESTONIA	Operational Programme for Cohesion Policy Funds 20142020 (OP CPF, European Social Fund) 2.1. "Qualifications and skills meeting the needs of society and the labour markets"	new projects, improved government	Number of open calls for projects focusing on social entrepreneurship: 1	

Legend:



Increasing job opportunities, employment, employment potential



Building a sustainable business model, training of employees



Development of social enterprise sector



Access to finance and market, development of social impact investment markets

**IFKA, Public Benefit NonProfit LTD
for the Development
of the Industry,
Hungary**



**EURADA
European Association
of Development
Agencies, Belgium**



**Rzeszow
Regional Development Agency, Poland**



Abruzzo Region, Italy



Estonian Advice Centre, Estonia



**BSC, Business support centre Ltd.,
Kranj, Slovenia**



**Regional Development Agency of South
Bohemia RERA Inc., Czech Republic**



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**European Union
European Regional
Development Fund**