

# SENTINEL - CE985

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## O.T3.2 - Policy recommendations targeted at national level

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*Executive summary in English*

## POLAND

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## National context/environment of social economy and description of the challenge/problem which the recommendations aim to tackle

Over the past several years in Poland (also in the Podkarpackie Voivodship) a number of actions have been taken for the social economy sector, which have improved the situation of Social Economy Entities. However, there is still a need to streamline these activities and adapt them to the needs of social economy entities and the changing situation in the region. One of the main problems is the unadjusted support path offered by social economy support centres. Lack of flexibility in the support system due to the fact that it is based on the cyclical projects co-financed by EU. Another problem identified in the document is the lack of properly organized social economy networks in the region. Since 2016, a project has been implemented in the region to create a network of cooperation between social economy entities, but there is still a need to connect social economy entities with other entities from open market and budget institutions so that supply chains can be created to enable the flow of products, services and human resources. The social economy sector in Poland also needs appropriate marketing activities. Actions such as social economy fairs, education of young people in schools, cooperation with universities are needed to change the negative attitude of the society towards services, products and employees of social enterprises. Secondly, reducing formalities in the process of supporting social enterprises and obtaining subsidies is of key importance. Finally, social economy support organizations should help in choosing the right leader of social enterprises, because without such a person the survival of the company is doubtful.

## Main SENTINEL activities and results leading to the recommendations

The main activities of the SENTINEL project that led to the development of recommendations:

- D.T1.1.2 Country reports on SE support services and networking initiatives,
- D.T1.2.2 Local/regional needs analyses with regard to support needs and networking facilitation,
- D.T1.3.3 Final Handbook, incl. finalized country cases for the creation/operation of managed networks of SEs,
- D.T1.4.3 Final Toolbox for SBMS to be set up in less developed regions of CE,
- D. T1.5.1 Statutory meeting of the transnational SE advocacy network,
- D. T1.5.2 Vision definition and Working Programme,
- D.T2.1.4 Summary reports on pilot actions,
- D.T2.3.1 Training on pilot implementation,
- D.T3.2.2 Roundtables to facilitate SE networking set up,
- D.T3.3.1 Common framework for the action plans,
- D.T3.3.2 Action plans on the partner level (including provisions for financial sustainability),
- D.T3.4.2 Policy recommendations on national level (aiming at tailored funding programmes),

## Summary of policy recommendations formulated

Policy recommendations (PR) is a document addressed to all institutions and organizations in the Podkarpackie Voivodship which have a direct and indirect influence on shaping and development of the social economy sector in the Podkarpackie Voivodship as well as which create legal regulations in this area. To the above mentioned institutions belong: Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodship, Regional Labour Office in Rzeszow and Social Economy Support Centres.



1. Recommendations for improving support:

- implementation of a new support path created and tested during the pilot action;
- implementation of a new tools and methodologies elaborated and tested by all partners and included in the Toolbox;
- implementation of a new support tool - Accelerator of Social Change tested in the Czech pilot action;
- assistance of support organizations in choosing a proper leader of social enterprises;
- reduction of the red tape for social enterprises applying for grants and subsidies.

2. Recommendations for improving cooperation:

- implementation of a Handbook by organizations creating social enterprises networks;
- creation of a regular Stakeholders Roundtable where representatives of the sector would exchange knowledge and look for solutions to ongoing challenges.

3. Recommendations for improving sectors image:

- organization of events such as social economy fairs;
- education of young people at schools;
- cooperation with universities (study visits of students in social enterprises);
- positive common marketing campaign of the sector;
- promotion of social economy products and services.