

Territorial Kick-off events in Slovakia

Report on 3 kick-off events/activities:

Festival of Social Innovation

DATE: 7.11.2018

PLACE: Košice

Pro Educo 2018 – Educational Fair

DATE: 6.12.2018

PLACE: Košice

Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship

DATE: 12.12.2018

PLACE: Rožňava

1. Festival of Social Innovation

The second week of November 2018 can be named as Week of social entrepreneurship, as in Kosice were held several workshops focused on various aspects of the topic. Our team from the Technical University of Kosice were also actively participating and presented the aims and planned activities of the InnoSchool project.

The topic of social innovation and social entrepreneurship is becoming more and more attractive in Slovakia and proof of this is a series of workshops that took place from 5.-8. November 2018 in the Eastern Slovakia - Kosice, under the leadership of the Pontis Foundation, as the Slovak partner in the Social (i) Makers project, implemented with the support of Interreg Central Europe Programme. More information about the project you can find on the following website:

[https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Social\(i\)Makers.html](https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Social(i)Makers.html)

The events were thematically divided into a number of important topics directly related to social innovations. Discussed was active citizenship and motivation to engage in designing, testing and implementation of social innovation, cooperation of various stakeholders of quadruple helix, design thinking as approach in social innovation development etc.

One of the main topic was also social entrepreneurship, explaining different phases of social business, from the initial motivation and the preparatory phase, to its launch. Presented were various models of social business and how they differ from the classical ones.

Almost 30 people from various fields were very actively discussing the future of social entrepreneurship in Slovakia and possible tools to support that and make it more popular. Presented were e.g. Regional center of social economy, representatives of towns and villages willing to found social enterprise to help people who have not been able to find a job for a long time, people operating enterprise where work disabled and many other enthusiastic people, young, middle-aged and seniors, willing to help our society to face current social challenges.

The audience has positively commented the InnoSchool project and its planned activities. All the participants agreed that there is a great need to raise awareness about the necessary solutions to social problems for young people who are able to find exceptional solutions for their creativity and thus have a great potential in the field of social entrepreneurship. Several attendees also showed an active interest in providing assistance in design and implementation of future activities or disseminating information.

Thanks to the workshops we met also other active team in the field of social innovations in our region. One of them operating under Agency for Regional Development in Košice, implementing the project ELDORA supported by the programme Erasmus+. The aim of the project is to strengthen the key competences and skills of young people in vocational education and training institutions and universities, unemployed young people and leaders in rural areas to help them set up a social enterprise to make better use of local natural and human resources; economic development of rural areas and prevent brain drain. More information about the activities of this project you can find on <https://www.facebook.com/eldoraproject/>.

2. Pro Educo 2018 – Educational Fair

The Pro Educo 2018 educational fair consists of 3-day programme, which is attended by more than 80 exhibitors and 8000 visitors (<http://www.proeducu.sk>)

The event started with the thematic conference called “Východ nie je EXIT” – more information at: <http://vychodniejeexit.sk/> This was followed by 2 days of booth exhibitions and presentations of secondary schools (relevant for InnoSchool project), universities and employers. This year, the exhibition venue was held in Steel Arena, ice-hockey stadium and multifunctional hall in the centre of Košice city.

Within the event, the main aim was to inform the secondary schools about the planned activities of InnoSchool project, and to attract them for pilot testing phase. Second goal was to search for the future member of advisory groups.

3. Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship

In Rožňava on December 12th, the information seminar was held to provide practical information on purpose of social entrepreneurship and possibilities emerging from newly adopted Act Nr. 112/2018 Code on Social Economy and Social Enterprises. The event was organized by Agency for Support of Regional Development Kosice within national project funded by Government Office of the Slovak Republic.

After the presentation of the act by representatives of Agency for Support of Regional Development Kosice the presentations on how to apply the concept of social entrepreneurship in real life took place by well-known speakers, like mayor of village Spissky Hrhov, successfully coping with unemployment for more than 15 years especially thanks to social municipal companies. The seminar was also addressing the need of education of future generations where project InnoShool and project ELDORA were introduced.