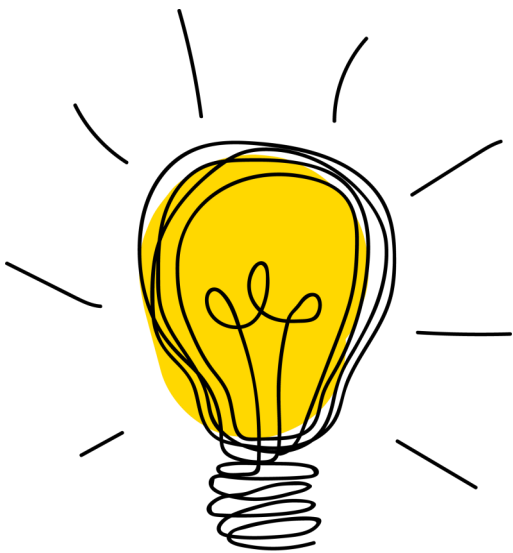


Welcome to the next newsletter of IDEA project. The overall objective of the project is to "Improve cross border capacity to support entrepreneurship, business survival and competitiveness" regarding the social entrepreneurship sector.

IDEA Project moving to next step...

After the steering committee meeting, IDEA partners decided to approve the business ideas presented by the candidates who took part in the application with their business ideas. The steering committee decided that for Albanian part to approve 5 ideas.

From now on, in the upcoming newsletter editions we are going to present shortly this ideas of potential Social Enterprises.



Ecopots

The idea of a social business "eco pots" is to create a small workshop for the production of small-size flower vases. The vases will be artfully crafted with a modern design tailored to the times. They will be used for interiors such as houses, offices etc.

The purpose of a wood vase is to reduce as much as possible the use of plastic containers and to gradually replace them with wood vases that consist of easily biodegradable ecological material like the plastic used in the pots.

In the city of Vlora about 500 plastic vases are sold each year, the need to market eco-friendly wood vases is indispensable for reducing the plastic sold in the market and thus protecting the environment.

Employees from the Roma community who are among the most disadvantaged in the city of Vlora, who are discriminated against and left behind by state institutions with low and unemployed assistance, will be trained and hired. The goal is to have at least three people employed, by the end of the project, two of whom are from the Roma community, maintaining the gender balance.

**the photo is an example of how the wooden pots look like*





It's Time to Talk about Social Entrepreneurship in Greece

Social economy in Greece was first institutionalized in 2011 and according to the "Social Economy Register", 908 social enterprises were active until October 2016 (among the total of 1221 entries at the time). Additionally, 390 such enterprises have been established since October 2016 when (a new) law came into effect".

Over 150 co-operatives and social enterprises are leading the social entrepreneurship in Greece that gives a strong social impact. Their activities range between culture, education, media, health and the environment among others, and all the sectors of economy, particularly manufacturing and trade.

The Greek island of Tinos, in Cyclades, suffers from waste disposal. More specifically, from the lack of it. The problem becomes intense in the summer, when Tinos is visited by hordes of tourists. Some people had the idea to pick up the garbage that can be recycled and sell it to companies in Greece that are interested in reusing it. Establishing a social enterprise gave them the means to facilitate their effort.



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Social enterprises often battle problems of social inclusion. For former prisoners, finding a job when re-entering society can be extremely tough. People who had been imprisoned and wouldn't be offered the second chance they are entitled to, decided to claim it themselves.

With the assistance of the organisation "Epanodos", which provides the ex-convicts with vocational training, among other things, and the Greek Ministry of Justice, the social enterprise "New horizons" was launched by former prisoners to offer services of cleaning and gardening.

While it is not the primary purpose of the social economy sector to reduce general unemployment, it can provide a workplace for people who would have less chances to get hired. It has a positive effect, it is a space for people that cannot enter the job market easily, such as people with disabilities or the unemployed over the age of 50, who have not worked for a long time".

Regarding the financial support towards social enterprises, Greece government has allocated 150.000.000 Euros by the EU and specifically the European Social Fund, for the period 2014-2020. According to the Ministry of Social Care and Employment schedule, funding will support not only the part of the labour cost but also payments for rent and equipment that need to be purchased.

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"The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries and the Managing Authority".

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