



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FRAME OF SOCIAL ECONOMY

Social **ENT**repreneurship for **IM**migrants

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State of the Art – Social Economy, entrepreneurship and immigration

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Foreward

This report has been made in the frame of Sentim, Social Entrepreneurship for Immigrants, an Erasmus+ project, and provides an overview of the state of the art concerning social economy and immigrants in the involved countries and, especially, in the involved locations.

The current situation of crisis and unemployment is hitting hard the immigrants who suffer long periods of inactivity. Therefore it is more difficult for them to take part in social life. These situations increase their sensation of personal fail and come along with problems and new emotional needs related to frustration and loose of self-esteem. It is necessary to find new options in order to discover new opportunities of employ to fight against social disadvantage situations and to promote social cohesion.

Taking into account those situations and the huge potential of social economy and its contributions to the local development, the main goal of SENTIM is to explore and to take advantage of the potential of social economy considering the needs of the immigrants and by extension the needs of any other people who face labour market discrimination and social exclusion.

Self employment and other social economy initiatives, could be considered not only as an answer to the current situation of unemployment but as an opportunity that immigrant people should take advantage of too.

The report is the first step of Sentim and offers a general overview at national level and reflects the differences among the involved partners concerning the development of social economy, included the employment creation, especially for the immigrant people or/and people at risk of social exclusion. The study tries to point out the situation at local level and offers a short collection of best practices in each of the involved locations. Finally, the report describes some possibilities to develop new social enterprises at local level and suggest new methods to identify opportunities for the development of projects in the frame of social economy.

Our aim is to know the local reality in order to foster entrepreneurship and develop new social enterprises in the involved cities, taking into consideration the especial situation of the immigrant people.

The involved partners

The information used has been provide for all the involved partners and it is based on own knowledge, the interviews of some stakeholders and the information collected from secondary sources. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein.

Social Entrepreneurship

Despite the lack of a universal definition of the term, in Europe the concept of social enterprise is increasingly used to identify a different way of doing business, which occurs when enterprises are created specifically to pursue social goals. The European Commission gives the term social enterprise the following meaning: "an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders. It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities."¹

Slovenia

Slovenia's specific political and economic transition path from a one-party state and planned economy to parliamentary democracy and the market economy reflects also in the specific characteristics of its social economy. In Slovenia state holds a dominant role in the provision of public goods and social entrepreneurship services and the economy has one of highest levels of state control in the EU. Social protection system relies strongly on welfare subsidies that contribute to lowering general social differentiation and high levels of social security. In Slovenia a clear-cut division between privileged and non-privileged categories in the labour market, such as disabled, young, elderly, and low-qualified workers still exists. Institutional and structural changes aimed at promoting "flexicurity" have not been fully implemented and the number of the economically inactive population is still high.

Slovenia accounts for over 23.600 civil society organisations, including: societies and associations, foundations, private institutes and religious organisations. There are also 385 cooperatives in Slovenia, perceived as a type of organisation mostly relevant in two sectors: repair and maintenance of motor vehicles (109) and agriculture and forestry (87). Some of the mentioned organisations and cooperatives are organised as social enterprises. Companies for the disabled - public schemes aimed at supporting companies for the disabled – are the most developed in Slovenia when compared to other social economy entities. Companies for the disabled are eligible for permanent incentives from the government. They are not-for-profit, given their primary goal of integrating disabled people to work. In Slovenia, social entrepreneurships can be perceived as mechanisms of supported employment that facilitate the full integration of different vulnerable groups.

There are some national incentives and projects aimed at encouraging social entrepreneurship. Slovenia doesn't have an official unified record of all social entrepreneurships. However, some register does exist and according to this register, in December 2015 there were 110 registered social enterprises in Slovenia.

Social entrepreneurships arranged according to their activities:

Social entrepreneurship services, day care, social care: 15

¹ Social Business Initiative, October 2011. http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/social_business/docs/COM2011_682_en (7. 1. 2016).

Education, training: 13
Environment, ecology: 9
Agriculture, farming and growing of crops and fruit: 8
Tourism and sport: 8
Food (processing, sale, restaurants & bars): 7
Retail and wholesale trade, agents involved in the sale (of textiles, clothing, food and other materials/goods): 7

Social entrepreneurs arranged according to their legal status:

societies and associations: 36
companies (ltd): 12
cooperatives: 25
private institutes: 35

Spain

Spain was the first European country to adopt a law on Social Economy, identifying not only the legal concept but the main legal forms for social enterprises to operate.

The 2011 Law on Social Economy (No. 5/2011) defines social enterprise as part of social economy and not as a distinctive institutional form. According to this law, social enterprises should be guided by the following **principles**: (1) primacy of mutual or public benefit (social) statutory goals over generating profits; (2) democratic, transparent and participatory governance; (3) benefits generated from the organization's economic activity principally distributed based on the work performed and services rendered by their members, or based on public benefit (social) goal of the organization, where appropriate; (4) independence from public authorities (i.e. voluntary, private legal entities); (5) commitment to internal and external solidarity, local development, social cohesion, inclusion and sustainability;

The law refers (art 5) some of the organizations that are part of social economy: cooperatives, "mutualidades" friendly societies, non profit organisations that develop any economic activity, labor insertion companies, especial centres of employment (disability people), public benefit organizations,

Social Economy Enterprises in Spain

- **10%** of Spanish GDP
- **12.5%** of employment
- **42.8%** of the population is linked to the Social Economy

Some figures²

Cooperatives: 20.206

Jobs: 277.390

Owned companies / labor societies: 10.471

Jobs 64,491

Definition: In the labor society most of the capital is owned by the workers.

Insertion companies 206

Workers in integration 2,646

Definition: Integration enterprises born as an instrument to fight poverty and social exclusion. They are business initiatives combining business logic with methodologies employment.

Special employment centres: 450

Workers with disabilities 105,694

Definition: Companies whose primary objective is to promote employment for workers with disabilities

Regional level

Related to the development of social economy in Spain, there are evident disparities among regions. The most developed regions in this frame are Cataluña, País Vasco y Andalucía. This unequal development is not only due the number of inhabitants neither to the legal framework, there are another reasons more linked to the social and communitarian development and to the public support.

At local level, in the city of Burgos, there are a good number of social economy initiatives: cooperatives, labor societies, special centres of employ (handicap people), non profit organisations and insertion enterprises. In the frame of social and employment services, there are some interesting initiatives promoted by non profit organisation usually to provide employment to the people they are working with. We are talking about handicap people and people in risk or at social exclusion situation.

Greece

Greece presents a rich and deep social economy past, with most of the conventional social economy organizations being prominently active into the nation-building processes of the 19th and the social development visions of the 20th century. Nevertheless, social economy has only recently (2011) been institutionally recognized and this in an extremely inadequate and vague manner, inconsistent with the European conceptual tradition.

Notwithstanding many administrative and legal deficiencies, social economy in Greece today at least possesses firm ground to surpass long standing underdevelopment and proceed to meet future challenges, now heavily burdened by the dramatic fiscal crisis erupted in 2010.

There are three institutionalized forms of social enterprise in Greece:

- Women's agro-tourist cooperatives, most of them already established since the 1980s, under Law 1541/1985;
- Cooperatives of Limited Liability" (Koi.S.P.E.) for people with mental health problems, established on the basis of Law 2716/1999; and
- Social Cooperative Enterprises set up under Law 4019/2011 (Koin.S.Ep.).

Employment creation

According to Eurostat Data (2010, working population aged between 16 and 65 years old) an average of about 6.5% of the working population of Europe is in the social economy (14.5 million employees). In Greece the employees in social economy are 117,12 thousands in comparison with 4.388,60 thousands of the total employment.

Economic activities of these enterprises

If we put aside the associations, whose enormous estimated number (50 000 units) and wide range of activities and objectives makes it controversial to hypothesize that they all belong to the social economy as internationally understood, the agricultural cooperatives (6,376) appear to be the main category, followed by housing cooperatives (545) and cooperative banks (25). A substantial amount is made up of cooperatives of small enterprises (plumbers, electricians, agro-tourism). The limited liability social cooperatives (actually social cooperatives integrating people with mental disease) were reportedly only 16.

Disparity between regions

Social Enterprises are established all over Greece, from a mountainous region to a remote island. This means that there are not significant disparities regarding the development of social enterprises in Greece. Nevertheless, some agricultural cooperatives are most developed in areas where the raw materials are in abundance. These regions are Thessaly and Peloponnesus.

At local level

In Thessaly, which is a big region of Greece there are some social economy enterprises. Most of them have the legal form of Women's (Agro-Tourist) Cooperatives. Women's Agro-Tourist Cooperatives were supported in the early 1980s by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Development in order for the role of women in rural areas to be redefined.

Women's agro-tourist cooperatives constituted a pioneering initiative at the time, proposing a new way to meet social needs, upgrade the social status of women living in rural areas and offer new employment opportunities, generating income not only for the members themselves, but also for the local community, supporting local development. Agro-tourism was viewed as a way to secure complementary income for rural families, to improve their standard of living and, in the long run, as a way to counter rural-urban migration. The main activities of the cooperatives are the production of home handicraft products, like, jams, conserves and traditional delights, processing of farm products, catering, as well as handicrafts like jewelry or even carpets.

Larissa which is situated in the center of Thessaly is a rural region with developed agriculture where this kind of social economy can bloom. This is the reason why most of the women's cooperatives are established in this region.

The last three years, in Larissa as well as in Thessaly, we can see the establishment of some Social Cooperative Enterprises (Koin.S.Ep.). This legal form has three categories of enterprises: 1) Work Integration 2) Social Care and 3) Koin.S.Ep. with a collective and productive purpose. The criteria for establishing this type of social enterprise (categories 2 and 3) include: at least five people coming together to create the social cooperative enterprise, within a broad range of fields of economic activity allowed to them. The main target groups served by the Koin.S.Ep. social enterprises set up under the Law 2011 in Greece, include:

1. People with disabilities
2. Individuals residing in rural/ remote communities
3. Older people
4. Young people
5. Unemployed individuals
6. Other groups, such as parents, ex-substance abusers etc.

Unfortunately, the social enterprises which include or have been established by immigrants do not exist in the region of Thessaly.

Italy

“The term social enterprise was first used in Italy in the 1980s. The term referred to the innovative private initiatives established by volunteer groups with the aim of delivering social services or facilitating the integration of disadvantaged people in the labour market”³.

The specific law to introduce the legal category “social enterprise” was introduced in 2005 and adopted by Italian Parliament on 2006 (Law no. 155/2006⁴).

The result of the first Italian law on social enterprise cannot be considered satisfactory because of different structural weakness points showed in terms of:

- number of social enterprises;
- organizational level;
- social and economic performances;
- innovation.

On 25 may 2016, the Italian Parliament approved the "Reform of the third sector, social enterprise and for the discipline of the universal civil service". It represents the first step to redefine the third sector.

The new Reform aims at supporting the social enterprise spread by:

- clearly define and differentiate the social enterprise model from other no-profit models;
- provide specific laws and requirements;
- facilitate administrative and legal step for social enterprises' start up.

In 10 years, with the previous law, only 365 enterprises have formally assumed the title of “social enterprise”. A number that is lower than what stated by the first edition of the Iris Network Report which counted 700 requests activating the procedure for the legal registration. This incongruity is due to the slowness of the activation procedure and to the confusing bureaucracy that led the law as it did not clearly differentiated social enterprise from other no profit models like social cooperatives.⁵

Furthermore, there are around 400 enterprises that have in their name the word ‘social enterprise’ but are not yet recorded in the Business Register of social enterprises. This confusion is confirmed by the fact that the majority of social entrepreneurs give up their social enterprise start up during the first administrative steps. Although the number of social enterprises is constantly growing, it still represents an irrelevant dimension in the national economic context. Another reason for the lack of spread is also the lack of incentives to the constitution as, up to now, the only benefits appear in term of image. Thus, the procedures proposed by this law have not been considered by enterprises that are already well identified on the social front.

At the end of 2010, about 383.000 workers were employed in social enterprises

At the sectorial level there was a much higher than average trend in “health and welfare”, which expanded its significant majority, rising from 64% to account 69% of total employees in the sector.

During 2011 the social cooperatives have employed 30.534 disadvantaged workers, the 27,1% of the social cooperatives workers.⁶

3 ¹ A map of social enterprises and their eco-systems in Europe, Country Report: Italy, European Commission, 2014

4 ¹ <http://www.camera.it/parlam/leggi/deleghe/06155dl.htm>

5 ¹ Venturi, P. Zandonai, F., 2012. L'impresa sociale in Italia. Pluralità dei modelli e contributo alla ripresa

6 ¹ Venturi, P. Zandonai, F., 2014. L'impresa sociale in Italia. Identità e sviluppo in un quadro di riforma.

Social enterprises' sectors

Social enterprises activities mainly concern the “education” (38,8% during 2010; 36,9% in 2011; 31,7% in 2012) and the “health and social assistance” (29,3% during 2010; 30,5% in 2011; 31,5% in 2012).

Regional differences

In the north of Italy there is a greater presence of no-profit institution with a market orientation, in line with the highest rate of entrepreneurship that exists in this area of the Country (Istat, 2014).

The social enterprises ex lege⁷ have a significant presence in the regions of the south, where is located the 40% of the total, thanks to the Campania region where there are 170 social enterprises, the 22% of the national total. This phenomenon is linked to the diffusion of educative structures (nurseries and kindergartens) who have assumed that category to obtain public funds for the private school.⁸

Self employment, social economy and immigration

The central objective of the European employment policy is to increase the labour participation (employment rate) of the disadvantaged groups that are currently strongly underrepresented on the labour market (in particular, people with a different ethnic origin, older people, people with disabilities and the low-skilled).

But immigrant people are not considered people as risk of social exclusion (except refugees) so there are not specific aids to foster social economy initiatives promoted by immigrant people in the involved countries.

There are not specific data about the connection between migrants and social enterprises. Relatively little has been written about the efficacy of Social Economy approaches to immigrant and refugee settlement and integration. A recent search of internet resources and academic databases turned up very little information beyond organizational profiles of a select number of cooperatives and social enterprises.

Italy Migrants and self-employment in Italy

As described before, social enterprise is not already widespread as business model in Italy. We have no data about the connection between migrants and social enterprises. Anyway, the situation described below on the traditional enterprises sector could give an idea about the opportunity that the new Reform on social enterprise could represent also for migrant people in Italy.

The total number of enterprises in Italy is decreasing in the last 5 years (31.000 less than 2014, 31.000 less than 2013, 69.000 less than 2011). In this scenario, enterprises driven by immigrant entrepreneurs are distinguished by the opposite trend. It continues to grow even in these years of prolonged difficulties. The increase reached around 28,000 units in 2014 (+ 5.6%) and 71.000

7 ¹ registered following Law no. 155/2006

8 ¹ *ibidem*

compared to the end of 2011 (+ 15.6%)⁹. The choice of self-entrepreneurial work, in any case, especially at this stage of persistent problems, continues to be shown for immigrant workers in Italy primarily as a way of emancipation from the increased difficulties of integration into the employment world.

It is confirmed, therefore, the growing importance of the contribution of migrants to the national enterprise system, their remarkable dynamism and structural role.

Greece

There is no further information about the percentage of entrepreneur immigrant people in Greece. Nevertheless, if someone in Greece takes a walk to the cities where immigrants are staying, he can see that most of enterprises are very small selling food and drinks by the immigrant's countries. At the region of Thessaly and specifically in Larissa, most of the immigrants are employees or unemployed. The economic environment of Greece nowadays does not allow them, even if they want to, start their business. Unfortunately, the initiatives to help immigrants to entrepreneurship are very few or none

Spain

In Spain, as in the rest of the countries, immigrant people are not considered people as risk of social exclusion (except refugees) and there are not general data about the presence of the immigrant people in social economy enterprises. But this presence has been growing up last years. For example, in the Basque Country one in three workers of these enterprises has immigrant background¹⁰. So even though there are not official data we can conclude that social enterprises are a consolidate and sustainable tool to fight against social disadvantages, included those that affect most vulnerable immigrants.

Immigration and self-employment

The rate of self employment in Spain has been increased in last years due to the economical and social crisis, not because the entrepreneurial spirit has been increased but because self employment is considered a way to find and maintain a job.

Concerning self employment, immigrants decide to start their own enterprise less than the rest of the population. In Spain about the 18% of the working people are self employed, two points over the rate of the self employed immigrants¹¹.

There are some differences in the rate of self employment between the immigrants from the European Union and the rest of the immigrants. The self employment rate is higher (2 points) in the case of immigrants from EU. In case of immigrant people from non-EU countries, the average is that the 14% are self employed. That's means that there is a scope to increase the rates of self employment of the immigrant people, according to the general rate of self employment in Spain.

If we consider the country of origin, people from Germany and the United kingdom have the highest rates of self employment, over the 35%. And in case of non-EU countries the winners came from China (50%) followed by the people from Pakistan (21%).

9 ¹ Rapporto immigrazione e imprenditoria 2015, a cura di IDOS, Roma, 2014

10 "La Economía Social y Solidaria como motor de integración social a través del empleo del colectivo de inmigrantes más vulnerable en el Territorio Histórico de Bizkaia" María Esther Aretxabala (Coord.) María Luisa Setién Antonia Caro y Carlos Askunze. <http://www.bizkailab.deusto.es/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/5764-Report-01-Econom%C3%ADa-Social.pdf>

11 Statistics of Self employers affiliated to Social Security. Ministry of Employment and Social Security

Main activities developed **by immigrant self employed people** are related to commerce and/or retail, more of the 30 per cent, following by hostelry (18%) and construction (11,5%).

The non communitarian immigrants are over the arithmetic mean in activities related to trade / commerce / retail and hostelry.

Best practices

Greece

Gh Thessalis (Land of Thessaly)

Place / city: Thessaly/ Larisa

Legal status: Social cooperative

Economic activity: Cultivation of agricultural products and sell them to the market directly without intermediaries' intervention.

The cooperative was formed at the end of a national project. The main objective of the project was to activate and mobilize local actors and the Municipality of Larissa and Kileler to ensure the creation of jobs for unemployed vulnerable social groups as a result of the diagnosis of specialized local needs and the promotion of development opportunities in the areas of intervention.

The project "Be a producer" was being addressed to the following groups:

- Long-term unemployed aged over 45 with low qualifications
- Single Parent families
- Immigrants, refugees
- Persons in poverty / threatened by poverty

The result was the creation of the Social Cooperative with the participation of 46 persons of the aforementioned project.

The enterprise "Gh Thessalis" is a social cooperative enterprise which aim is the cultivation of agricultural products and sale to the market directly without intermediaries' intervention. The sale of products, except for the cooperatives' stores, can be made electronically through e-shop, e-mail, telephone or by fax. Thus, the consumers can order fruits, vegetables and all the other available products they want, directly from the farm producer, without extra charges.

Prasini Alepou (Green Fox)

Place / city : Thessaly/ Skiathos

Legal status: Social cooperative

Economic activity: Waste management

The "Green Fox" started in January 2011. It was an initiative of the International Women's club Skiathos. The purpose was to raise awareness about the environment in general and to make a start with recycling. The "Green Fox" started with volunteer work and a very limited budget and managed until today to collect, press and send for recycling over 120 tons of plastic bottles and 2 tons of aluminum cans. Translated into volume, this is a massive mountain of waste that did not land in the landfill.



Because of the water situation on the island of Skiathos the habitants are forced to use bottled water which results in an enormous amount of plastic bottles going to the landfill every day. Soon after they started collecting and sending for recycling also aluminum cans. In the near future they want to expand with other recyclable items. After 2 years under the umbrella of the International Women's club Skiathos, the "Green Fox" became independent and became a Social Cooperative Enterprise.

In present days waste management is a very important issue. Compared to the past we produce a lot more and much more harmful to the environment waste. On a small island like Skiathos there is only limited space for landfills. Therefore whatever is harmful but also whatever can be recycled, should not stay on the island. But because it is an island, it presents with extra difficulties regarding recycling. For example the cost of transport to the mainland is high. The separation of the waste has to be done before it is sent away. Therefore the social enterprise was formed to assist this effort and solve the problem. At the moment the "Green Fox SCE" has 43 members and collect for recycling 40 tons of PET plastic bottles and 1 ton Aluminum (2014).

Italy. Good practices in Umbria

Multiplex Cinema "Postmodernissimo" (<http://www.postmodernissimo.com/il-progetto/>)

Anonima impresa sociale is a social enterprise founded in the 2014 by four young people with the cultural aim to retrain an historical cinema of Perugia city closed by 14 years. The citizens' participation at the project and the involvement path has transforming them from viewers to funders and members of the social enterprise.

The sharing of this cultural project and the enterprise project to a great part of Perugia city has favoured the cooperative and cinema Postmodernissimo start-up and the market access of the new enterprise's funds.

The cooperative has made an investment of 300.000 euros for the renovation of the spaces of the cinema and to buy new equipment. The financing of investment took place using the sharing capital contributed by the supporting shareholders, the financial resources of citizen who have become members of the cooperative or who have made donation to the project, the loans granted by Banca Etica and a low-interest loan disbursed by the Umbria region.

The involvement of the citizens was strength in the creation of the social enterprise, and to promote this participation they used different ways: during the renovation works the promoters set up a temporary office where was possible host people who wanted to learn more about the project or visit the construction site. It was offered the possibility to became financing partner of the project (now Anonima Impresa Sociale has more than 50 members), by offering to citizens the possibility to support the start-up phase with donations, with a crowdfunding campaign to finance the renovation of the cinema (more than 700 people were involved).

In the end was created a virtual community and now there are more than 5.000 people who share the cultural project giving a social and communitarian dimension to the Postmodernissimo cinema.

The "Social start ups" project (www.socialstartups.eu)

Social Start Ups is an Erasmus + KA2 project led by the Italian NGO Tamat.

Thanks to this project Tamat involved local community in starting an Ethical Purchasing Group (E.P.G.) in the historical centre of Perugia.

EPG is a group of people who decide to purchase products together choosing common ethical criteria (eg. local product, organic, small producers, etc) to create a producers network from whom buy their products. The principal interest of EPGs is represented by the products

purchase, paying attention to the equal and sustainable side of economy, nearer to the real needs of human beings and of environment, so creating a new critic consumer's ethic.

The EPG started by Tamat is developing a new sustainable model by creating a social enterprise linked to it without changing its ethical component (direct sell and equal price).

The members of the EPG are organizing activities as:

- cooking show (showing and teaching how to cook products that people find in the vegetables box purchased by the group)
- social tourism (organising mini-tour for those who want to visit and spend some days working with the producers that provide products to the group)
- cooking at home activity (using products purchased by the group)

Casale Forabosco (<http://www.casaleforabosco.com>)

AURAP foundation, ONLUS enterprise, La Fondazione AURAP social enterprise onlus acts in the territory of Perugia and Bastia Umbra. "Casale Forabosco" is the name of the place where they host 9 young people with Autism Spectre Disorder.

The parents and closest relatives of the youngsters directly take part to the rehabilitation path. The services are coordinated by psychiatric direction and put in act by specialized and formed operators in autism who create a targeted path after an attitude and psychiatric evaluation.

The youngsters are directly involved in the farmhouse activities in order to let them to take responsibilities, to enforce their self-esteem and to reduce anxiety and inappropriate behaviour. The working activities at the Farmhouse are: hospitality guests, service for catering, organic horticulture, distribution of BIO products, caring of donkeys and birds, creative workshop (ceramics, decorations, packaging), cleaning and maintenance indoor and outdoor spaces.

All the activities are organized at the Foundation directly or together with business entities through specific agreement.

Slovenia. Best practices

SIMBIOZA GENESIS, social enterprise

Place / city: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Legal status: social enterprise

Economic activity: education and training, intergenerational cooperation and activities

Web, blogs, internet information, etc.:

- <http://www.simbioza.eu/en>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Simbioza.eu/?fref=ts>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYIfVqKJpPU>

People involved:

Employees: 2

Volunteers: 2 – 20 / year

Employees – public work: 2

Part-time workers: 4

Involvement of participants with fewer opportunities:

Elderly:

- intergenerational center: 800 individuals/year
- national project "Symbiosis Moves": 10.000 individuals/project
- national project "Symbiosis School": 900 individuals/project

Simbioza Genesis, social enterprise was born from Symbiosis project. This project is the biggest national project based on intergenerational cooperation, solidarity and promotion of lifelong learning. Simbioza managed to bring together more than 50.000 people from all over Slovenia in 5 years. The story of digital literacy transformed into more sustainable form and today Simbioza includes Intergenerational Center, Symbiosis Schools, Symbiosis Moves, Symbiosis International and project e-Simbioz@.

The aim is to improve the life of today's and future generations and to promote intergenerational cooperation and solidarity. Main goals are to raise awareness of the importance of volunteering, responsibility and proactive attitude towards society and social issues among younger generations, to improve the e-literacy of the specified target groups (mostly elderly) and to make an important step towards bridging the intergenerational gap within a wider international society. Intergenerational center is a center where elderly get the chance to learn from younger generation and improve their digital skills, knowledge of foreign languages and be active (sport and recreation). Young individuals get the chance to share their knowledge, improve different skills (teaching, working with people, digital skills...) and gain experience for working with elderly.

Core values promoted in Simbioza are intergenerational cooperation, lifelong learning, e-skills, ICT, social inclusion, solidarity, responsibility, empowerment, equality and innovation. Simbioza became the synonym and hallmark of intergenerational cooperation in Slovenia and they have the vision to spread intergenerational symbiosis, activities and projects in other countries across Europe and world.

Zavod GLOBAL, Institute for global learning and project development – SKUHNA project – world cuisine Slovenian style

Place / city: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Legal status: Zavod GLOBAL is a private institute, Skuhna is a project of the institute

Economic activity: education and training, food and catering business

Web, blogs, internet information, etc.:

- <http://www.skuhna.si/>
- <http://www.zavodglobal.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Skuhna/?fref=ts>

People involved in Skuhna:

Employees: 4

Volunteers: 6 from Slovenia, 3 foreign volunteers

Employees – public work: 2

Contractual workers: 5

Skuhna was developed in Zavod Global, where the team brought together social entrepreneurship with rich culinary knowledge and skills of migrants from Africa, Asia and South America. In the restaurant individuals (volunteers, employees and other workers) are preparing authentic food from Tunisia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Gambia, Morocco, India, Bangladesh, Algeria, Philippines and Egypt. Skuhna team also offers catering services and organises culinary

and cultural workshops, events (*Cultural treats* – Friday dinners with cultural programme) and programmes (e.g. birthday parties for children).

To immigrants Skuhna offers easier transition to labour market, eases their integration process, offers opportunities to gain experience, develop their skills and be part of environment where they feel accepted, included and where they get the chance to present their country and culture.

The goal is to create bridges between local population and immigrants and to promote different cultures, tolerance, cultural exchange and cooperation. Skuhna is a socially responsible project managed by principles of social entrepreneurship.

Zavod KNOF, Institute for creative development

Place / city: Sevnica, Slovenia

Legal status: social enterprise

Economic activity: education and training, consultancy activities, entrepreneurial community, textile products, environmental protection, intergenerational cooperation

Web, blogs, internet information, etc.:

- <http://www.knof.si/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/drustvo.knof?fref=ts>

People involved in KNOF:

Employees: 3

Volunteers: 15

Employees – public work: 4

Participants from vulnerable groups: 5

KNOF is a community of people from Posavje region who believe in entrepreneurship with positive environmental, social and health effects, local self-supply on different levels and inclusion of vulnerable target groups. The vision of KNOF is to become strong community of individuals, companies, entrepreneurs, public institutions and other organisations able to solve different problems in the region. KNOF has a goal to provide self-sufficient, green and supportive environment for people, create green jobs, also for vulnerable groups of people (disabled, long-term unemployed...).

KNOF has 8 entrepreneurial centres:

- Stara šola (Old school) – center for reuse
- Zeleni vrt (Green garden) – urban gardening
- Kiss – washable nappies and diapers
- MO.JA – clothing and products for children
- Srčni žarki (Heart Rays) – activities for better quality of life
- Tekstilna proizvodnja (Textile industry) – clothing with ecological and social effects
- SUNK – ICT and digital workshops for elderly
- different workshops and trainings for different target groups (primary school pupils, elderly, unemployed, companies and entrepreneurs)

KNOF's support programmes:

- Posavje social incubator – development of business activities

- KNOF FOND – financial fond, administrative and accounting support and shared co-working space
- info point, consultancy and education about social entrepreneurship
- co-working and networking
- shared marketing and promotion under KNOF trademark
- festival of entrepreneurship with effect
- Ambassadors of social entrepreneurship.

Spain. Best practices

The ALTER Foundation ("alter" means the other) is a private non-profit organization, a foundation that aims to build a society and a more just and united world, giving prominence to the people and the people paying particular attention to those least-favoured ones. The Foundation was established ten years ago from the critic of the system but with the will to act, otherwise compete by incorporating solidarity and sustainability. The Foundation has 30 to 40 members who contribute financially with a fee, and about 10 volunteers.

<http://www.fundacionalter.org>
<http://huertamolinillo.blogspot.com.es/>
www.alteraudio.es/

It operates under the principles of solidarity economy and the two initiatives managed by the foundation and which fall within the field of social economy are the auditory centre **Alteraudio** and **Huerta Molinillo**, always with the idea of serving disadvantage people or people at risk of social and economical exclusion.

These initiatives employ 5 people, two women and three men. One person is an immigrant. Everyone has the same working conditions and equal salary.

The Hearing Centre

Provides services under the slogan "hear is a right, not a privilege"

It provides services tailored to the socio-economic situation of each person so that no one can be deprived of the right to hear well.

The investments made are the same as any other hearing center as some characteristics are required to approve the center. Currently the center is profitable and have been able to overcome the crisis, this is a good indicator that proof that the project is viable.

Huerto Molinillo

The "huerto" has a greenhouse in the city and a orchard in a village in the province. They are engaged in organic agriculture. The main investment has been the greenhouse construction.

Production is distributed only among its members. Currently Huerto has about 100 members, each member pays an annual fee and entitles them to receive every week five kilos of seasonal fruit and vegetables.

The garden has recovered or been worth an abandoned downtown space in the middle of the city. Philosophy and project management makes it relatively easy to replicate the idea in other contexts.

Possibilities to develop new social enterprises

Slovenia

The potential of the social economy in Slovenia is far from being fully exploited and the role performed by social enterprises is still marginalised. Slovenia needs to clarify the use of this concept, raise awareness of policy makers and the general public of the important socio-economic role played by the social economy.

Newly established organisations and enterprises appear to be more innovative in terms of types of services provided and target groups addressed. They also include new groups of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups that were previously disregarded. Social entrepreneurship seems to rely considerably on voluntary work, which plays important role in strengthening social cohesion and ensuring active participation of individuals.

Slovenia has very important strength in history of solidarity in Slovenian culture. Favourable is also well developed civil and NGO social entrepreneurship (private institutes, companies for disabled, co-operatives...). From last year Slovenia has in charge Ministry in charge of social entrepreneurship was defined (Ministry of Economic Development and Technology).

At legalisation level Slovenia has already adopted laws and other legal documents that are supporting policies goals for the development of social entrepreneurship. Important factor in the development of social entrepreneurship policy is a Slovenian forum of social entrepreneurship, which is a key supporter in social entrepreneurship environment together with other institutions as VEM-points, Regional Development Agencies, Slovene Enterprise Fund, different professional chambers and associations, incubators and technology parks. There are plenty incentives for encouragement of social entrepreneurship in local environment and rural areas, which are using existing measures for encouraging entrepreneurship of specific vulnerable groups.

There is a positive trend that comes also from European Commission in which Slovenian social start-up's can get a support for social entrepreneurship projects in the scope of European Social Fund programmes. There are also some banks that have shown interest in offering products and services that could have characteristic of social banking. A media trend of showing good examples of social entrepreneurial projects (also through different crowd founding campaigns) are giving reason for optimism about future developments across the social entrepreneurship sector, interest in work for integration and regeneration activities.

Italy

The new Reform is an important result because provides a clear and unitary legal definition the precedent law hadn't, and defines nature, fields of action, aim and boundaries to the associations, enterprises and cooperative in the third sector.

The improvements compared the previous law 155/06 concerns:

- An accurate and unitary definition at the third sector: social enterprise, political associations, trade unions, professional associations and representation of economic categories are not a part of the third sector.
- Simplification of the rules concerning the legal status of juridical persons and the drafting of a code of the third sector that contains
- Voluntary and social promotion: voluntary in collaboration with the scholastic system, voluntary valorisation in work and training field. Service centre for volunteering can be

managed by all third sector organizations and the services will be for all the organisations that use volunteers.

Creation of a regional and supra-regional coordination bodies with programming and verification of service centres for volunteering;

- Coproduction goods and services between no profit, public administration and private investors;
- Simplification of tax law and the institution of support measures (social finance tools, facilitation of donations, establishment a found at the Ministry of Labour an Social Policy, consolidation and more transparent regulation for 5x1000). It is required more transparency for organisations at the third sector.

The expectation is that thanks to the Reforms social enterprise model will spread becoming a relevant resource for the third sector economy.

A clear legal framework could also enlarge the sectors wherein to start up social enterprises. As showed by Postmodernissimo and Tamat EPG, "culture", "green economy", "sustainable agriculture and development" could represent new fields for innovative start-ups.

In this context, also migrant entrepreneurs could be an important resource in order to find innovative ideas to address social issues with an entrepreneurial mind.

Greece

Within the real economy, cooperatives have a specific impact on territorial development because they are, by definition, aimed at satisfying the needs and inspirations of people in the territory in which they are embedded. In particular, two types of cooperatives play an important role in creating stable jobs and economic activities or maintain them where they are threatened (worker cooperatives), delivering social inclusion through work to vulnerable groups of citizens and providing health, social, educational, cultural and environmental services for the general interest of the community (social cooperatives).

Given the composition of the Greek GDP (agriculture: 3.4%; industry: 16%; services: 80.6%), cooperatives active in industry and services, namely worker and social cooperatives, have a huge potential for job and wealth creation in this country, provided they are adequately supported in their creation and development while taking into consideration their need for autonomy and grassroots participation, which is inherent to their very nature and functioning logic. Furthermore, the longevity and stability of the cooperative business model even in times of crisis, which has been proved by different studies, should be a tell-tale sign and source of inspirations for other types of enterprises.

The public image of social economy actors has suffered from bad examples and by complicated, incoherent and unclear legal and administrative frameworks as well as insufficient monitoring and funding schemes. This image has further been fueled by complicated, incoherent and unclear legal and administrative frameworks, insufficient monitoring and funding schemes that tend to preserve inefficient structures rather than providing incentives and assistance to structural change. It is no coincidence that especially now we observe some important initiatives aimed at encouraging the development of the social economy in Greece and an increased focus on it can be expected in the next few years.

A Steering Committee has already produced a document called "*Outline Strategy and Priorities for Action to develop the Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship*" in January 2013 which designs a comprehensive action plan based on four main axes:

- ❖ Axis 1: An enabling ecosystem for the Social Economy
- ❖ Axis 2: Direct financial support for starting and developing a social enterprise
- ❖ Axis 3: Access to finance to consolidate and scale social enterprises

❖ Axis 4: Good governance and public sector capacity building

Some ideas for the development of social economy in Greece are:

- The creation of support centers both at national and regional/local level to support the start-up, development and growth of social enterprises which fulfil the conditions described by Law 4019/2011 on “Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship and other provisions” (under Axis 1),
- The establishment of a comprehensive regulatory and administrative framework to facilitate access of social enterprises to public markets, and make best use of it 5 (under Axis 1);
- Direct financial support is envisaged (under Axis 2) both for new social economy enterprises and transformation of existing entities (such as business transfers to cooperatives);
- Establishment of a task force of social finance experts and investors from Greece and other European countries to explore the feasibility of a public private partnership to set up a wholesale fund, and to build capacities for developing a social investment market (under Axis 3);
- Facilitate transnational learning as to how to assist the development of the social economy, across the whole spectrum of organizational arrangements and legal forms. Improve the administrative and legal framework (in particular the institution of indivisible reserves)

Spain

In Spain, as well in Burgos, there are possibilities to promote and develop social enterprises. The economic activities considered as sources of employment creation in this frame, could be the following ones:

Green activities

Green jobs are an attractive option for companies in the social economy. A significant percentage of social enterprises are developing their activities in this "green" sector: agriculture, recycling, renewable energy and maintenance of green areas. The advantage of this sector is the need for workers, that is labour-intensive. They are intensive sectors labor and skills required for the workers are relatively easy to achieve in a short period of training.

Another advantage is that they need little investment and the expected growth of the sector by increasing the demand for certain products, especially in certain sectors such as organic farming.

And also we expect that the end of the crisis will contribute to re-allocate public resources for the maintenance of green areas as public forest.

Social and health activities (Dependant adult care, elder people care, etc.)

Ageing of European and Spanish populations in recent decades reflects natural demographic evolution triggered by even greater longevity of senior citizens, and falling birth and fertility rates. Such evolution warrants greater social protection for dependent people, including not only people with disabilities but also elderly citizens whose dependency makes them vulnerable. Spain's expanding social safety network has identified several economic activities to provide care for dependent people who for various reasons require specific types of attention. Such activities require a growing supply of services to fulfil likewise expanding social demand to meet related specific needs. But they have also, and

contrary to many other activities, created jobs despite the present financial and economic crisis marked by job destruction.

Against this backdrop, care giving for dependent people can create jobs even under conditions of a deep crisis that is having serious consequences in the labour market.

Information from various statistical sources confirm that activities associated with care for people in situations of dependency are a source of employment in times of crisis, because they respond to a dual function, on the one hand, serve as an alternative to reduce the chronic unemployment in our society, and on the other, meet social neglected needs.

Finally, despite the obvious job creation by this type of activity, you can not forget that depend largely on budgetary allocations for this purpose. The end of the crisis also will stimulate the generation of jobs in this area of activity.¹²

There are other interesting sectors that are supposed will create new jobs in next years, we can mention the agrifood sector, tourism or clean energy.

Concerning immigrant people and their possibilities to develop new economic activities, there are two very interesting activity sectors that are restaurant services and handicraft. In both cases it comes to capitalize on the interest of the general public for food (restaurants) and things made by hand.

There is often a relatively large immigrant representation in restaurants, reflecting the cultural importance of food, the culinary skills and knowledge of immigrants and the relatively low start-up costs of the industry. The fusion cuisine or slow food are also rising sectors, trendy activities, new opportunities to explore. So this is an option for immigrants with relatively few resources.

The possibilities related to the handicraft are also very interesting, in this case the trend is to appreciate not only the handmade but everything that incorporates social and environmental principles and values. It is possible develop new economic activities in this frame, taking advantage of the skills of some immigrant people and, at the same time, open new ways to contribute to the development of some non developed regions, for example, through the import of raw materials and other consumables (fair trade).

New methods to identify opportunities for the development of employment generating projects in the frame of the social economy

Slovenia

The discussion related to develop strategy for planned approach to encourage the social entrepreneurship is linked to new social entrepreneurship law (legalisation) and governmental associated development strategies and structural funds (make full use of the institutional space of EU programmes to innovate, build capacity and build on previous experience; use EU funding programmes to put in place a development strategy for social enterprises by building and strengthening the social entrepreneurship sector). Any legislation on social entrepreneurship should be integrated into all areas and policies developed by a wide range of ministries and departments.

A positive promotion of social entrepreneurship (with the help of media) is important to raise and

¹² Care giving to dependent people. A source of jobs in times of crisis. The case of Spain. José Antonio CAMACHO and other. Cuadernos de Relaciones Laborales. Vol. 33, Núm. 1 (2015) 169-188

change all negative connotations of social entrepreneurship and its principles. There is a huge misunderstanding what is a real difference between profit and non-profit enterprise. Public connotation regarding non-profit enterprise is direct connected to someone who needs help or subsidiaries to survive in financial and fiscal aspect. One of the possibilities is to run independently loan fund for social enterprises could be set up to enable them to engage in tenders (in order to manage cash flow). There should be a model of showing good practice, including codes of good governance and good practice training, with an emphasis on ethical management. For example the idea how to build trust in the social entrepreneurship sector could be connected to annual prizes for top social enterprise or nominating ambassadors for social entrepreneurship sector.

The possibilities of future development could be found in establishment and developing social enterprises in different activities and sectors that generate local and regional development. Perhaps together with municipality initiative to include social entrepreneurship in their local development plans and ensure the friendly environment for establishment and development of social enterprises; community development and rural regeneration strategies for disadvantaged communities could be formulated through a process of co-governance with municipal and regional bodies together with social economy organisations.

One of biggest potential of social economy in Slovenia is that social entrepreneurship can contribute to economic growth, especially in times of high unemployment rate and constantly volatile international business environment. The legalisation should be adopted for social enterprises only, what would be better solution as looking for a constant financial and professional support for social entrepreneurship projects, programmes and enterprises. Social economy can survive by their selves; important is to provide “clear rules of the game”.

Once clear legalisation rules have been set, new methods of cooperation and opportunities for social economy can rise in the fields of eco-production, tourism, ecology and social care (e.g. day care for the elderly and childcare in residential areas). Different cooperative legal entities are already known from the time of socialistic Yugoslavian era, but new innovative approach can rise up, especially in cooperation with co-working spaces, crowd-funding society and sharing economy. Also the cooperation between different entrepreneurial supporting infrastructures as hubs, incubators, technology parks and different public-private partnerships can be effective partnership for policies between public agencies and social enterprises.

Spain

The possibilities to stimulate social economy initiatives in Spain could be, among others, through legislative changes, initiatives to stimulate NGOs and other non-profit organization to start-up social enterprises or encouraging private cooperation for the implementation of those social initiatives.

In the first case, although the Spanish regulatory framework is quite adequate, it could improve a little more by simplifying some bureaucratic requirements, for example, by modifying the law on cooperatives, homogenizing the diverse and dispersed regulatory framework for each region and by establishing economic aid and similar stimuli throughout the national territory.

As we have seen in previous sections, the development of the social economy in Spain is not homogeneous, being observed very significant differences between different regions. Could be possible to identify good practices related to the regulatory framework and public support in

those regions where the development of the social economy is above average. Should be analyzed not only the actions carried out by the, best known regional governments, but also those promoted by local administrations, municipalities and provinces.

Some of the entities that are identified as social economy organizations in Spain are promoted mostly by NGOs and non-profit associations in order to create jobs for the people they are working with. This is the case of special employment centers and insertion companies. Disparities between regions also indicate that this may be an option that could be explored by some entities. To encourage the launch of new entities in the frame of social economy could explore new options such as collaboration between non-profit entities; creating public-private networks and structures; cooperation with existing companies or seeking private investors. At this point is very interesting use all the possibilities offered by the Contract Law of Public Administrations to contract directly with some social economy organizations in order to executing public works or providing public services.

Finally, as a non-explored option, from non-profit organizations it could encourage the creation of social enterprises promoted by people or at risk of exclusion but with the guidance and support of those entities. The options could range from advice and technical, legal and financial support to the presence and participation in the capital of the new social economy enterprise.

Greece

No project or program promoting cooperatives has ever been successful when it is exclusively promoted by external actors to the people supposed to be the components of these cooperatives, be they governmental agencies, trade unions, universities, NGOs, or foreign institutions or experts, without a clear participation of the actors themselves.

A top down dynamic should always be combined with a bottom up one in cooperative projects. Indeed, the essence of social economy is to meet ordinary citizens' socio-economic needs through an enterprise which the same ordinary persons control democratically. In order to promote cooperatives, it is necessary to enter the cooperative logic. If this fundamental factor is absent and is not consciously promoted, there is a high risk that an initiative to promote social cooperative enterprises and the social economy in Greece may fail, with a substantial waste of financial resources and, even worse, a bad experience which may take years or even decade to be overcome in public opinion, as has happened in a number of countries already. Thus, there is a need to identify the different actors who could contribute to cooperative development in Greece. Some methods in order to achieve the development of social economy with new projects are:

Development of centres dedicated to the development of cooperatives and of the social economy, with few pilot project areas being chosen, with a handful (at least 2-3 persons) of dedicated full-time personnel in each of the project areas. The centres should see the participation of persons and institutions committed to the development of cooperatives and the social economy. Connected to these centres, a financial mechanism should be devised in order to provide seed funding to cooperative start-up or restructuring projects.

The operators of the centre and sub-units should receive intensive training in other countries for one to two months (accompanied by an interpreter if needed) in selected areas where concrete and immediately utilizable knowledge can be learnt.



Foreign specialists from the technical fields in which the operators will have undergone training abroad should then be available to perform regular visits on the pilot projects in order to pursue the training of the project operators and provide follow-up and advice, including, in the beginning, on the specific cooperative enterprises being established.

Such a programme should foresee, as a third stage, the establishment of a Greek federation of cooperatives in industry and services. Having an interlocutor with a clear mandate by the grassroots cooperatives to represent the latter, negotiate on their behalf, elaborate strategic development plans and establish alliances with other civil society actors is in the interest of all parties (national and local authorities, trade unions, employers' organizations, chambers of commerce, business courts, banks, NGOs, etc.), as has been demonstrated repeatedly in dozens of countries around the world.

As far as the social cooperatives involved in care to children and the elderly are concerned, the establishment of cooperatives should not be seen as an alternative to overall public supervision and financing over this area. Successful experience in other countries (e.g. in Italy and Japan) show that social cooperatives active in these areas can function properly only if they can on the one hand rely on state funding for part of their activities and clients, and without state funding for another part. Social cooperatives have shown everywhere that they can provide a better and cheaper utilization of public resources, provided the above condition is met.

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