

Newsletter

ABOUT THE PROJECT



SENSES - STRENGTHENING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURIAL LANDSCAPE THROUGH INVOLVING SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE PRACTICES IN ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETENCES AND SKILLS ENHANCEMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION

Project objectives:

1. Empowering SEs through bridging public & private sector best practices
2. Better engaging SEs with their ecosystems
3. Creating an improved policy landscape for SEs

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROJECTS - THEMATIC POLE 3 ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING SYSTEM



[DIGITRANS](#)

[NewGenerationSkills](#)



[Excellence-in-ReSTI](#)

[DA-SPACE](#)

PROJECT NEWS

MEET THE NEW PARTNER FROM ROMANIA

SMRDA South Muntenia Regional Development Agency is a new ERDF partner on the project. The mission of the agency is to stimulate the social and economic development towards a balanced and sustainable region, by developing and implementing strategies and programmes, attracting investments and promoting the region internally and externally. More: <http://bit.ly/2B5Pl19>

SENSES INTERREG YOUTH VOLUNTEER



The Lead Partner of SENSES IFKA and partners ZSI from Austria are hosting young volunteers on the project. IVY stands for "Interreg Volunteer Youth" and it is a pilot action to offer the possibility to young Europeans aged 18-30 to serve as volunteers in cross-border, transnational or interregional programmes and related projects. Since solidarity and volunteering is at the heart of IVY, this initiative is part of the European Solidarity Corps. The initiative is aimed at involving young volunteers to support, promote and report the achievements of Interreg programmes and projects, as well as generally promote cooperation across European borders and related values such as solidarity.

Eniko is volunteering in IFKA and one of her duties is to write an interactive blog about her volunteering experience. More: <http://bit.ly/2AaGb2P>

SEMINAR AND STUDY VISIT IN VIENNA



SENSES partners gathered in beautiful Vienna on 19th and 20th September 2017 to jointly discuss project progress and next steps in project. Hosts of seminar and study visit were project partners from ZSI, Austria. The major topic of the seminar was SENSES synthesis report on policy niches and benchmarking and

needs for training for social entrepreneurs. This is the 1st step of our curriculum development, a training and mentoring tool in e-form that will be available on SENSES web page. More: <http://bit.ly/2gco1m5>

SENSES POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE OUT NOW!

Over the last 6 months, SENSES partnership has worked on the state-of-the-art analysis of social enterprises in the Danube Region led by ZSI Centre for Social Innovation. The Synthesis Report as a key strategic document, contributes to the determination of a macro-regional strategy and policy recommendations. The main directions of the development are the benchmarking of legal framework, a better recognition of the SE sector supported by the development of impact measurements tools, fostering national and international business relations, improvement of access to market, broadening the funding possibilities on public and private level and last but not least, further training programmes for endowing the entrepreneurs with business orientation. We are happy to announce our 6 policy recommendations, more: <http://bit.ly/2iQswUD>

FIRST ROMANIAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING

On 13th November 2017 South Muntenia Regional Development Agency (SMRDA) organized in Calarasi, Romania, their first stakeholder meeting within the SENSES project. Participants at the event were representatives of social enterprises, public administration and public institutions responsible for the SE sector. During the meeting, it was highlighted that there is a need for training for the managers of the companies employing people with disabilities since it seems that employers do not know how to set the tasks and employees often fail to understand or are unable to carry out their activities. More: <http://bit.ly/2C1xyG9>



SECOND RSM HELD IN CAKOVEC, CROATIA



Regional development agency Medimurje REDEA Ltd. held their second regional stakeholder meeting on the 22nd November 2017 in Cakovec. The aim of the meeting was to present the current activities of the project, in particular a benchmarking analysis of the social enterprises in the partner countries made

by the partner ZSI from Austria. Stjepan Mikec from ACT Group presented the accelerator for social entrepreneurs - a programme designed to accelerate the development of strong and sustainable social

entrepreneurs, increase their positive social impacts and strengthen the support ecosystem in Croatia. 2nd RSM was the opportunity to conduct interviews with the representatives of the ACT Group (consortium of SEs) which will be featured as one of the SENSES best practice examples. More: <http://bit.ly/2zf7vtc>

SECOND RSM HELD IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

The second Hungarian Stakeholder Group Meeting of RaiSE has been organized by IFKA Public Benefit Nonprofit Ltd. for the Development of the Industry on 14th November 2017 at Impact Hub Budapest. The moderator of the event was Elemér Eszter, the chairman of the Association of Social Impact Investors. More: <http://bit.ly/2BT4rnC>

SECOND RSM HELD IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA



On 29th November 2017 Slovak Business Agency organized the second Regional Stakeholders meeting, attended by 27 policymakers. The main topic was devoted to the presentation of the draft law on social entrepreneurship and planned financial instruments for SEs, which was presented by the representative of the Ministry of Finance of the SR. The presentation was followed by intense debate, as this long-awaited topic is very current and complex. More: <http://bit.ly/2AxK03k>

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES TO SUPPORT SENSES PROJECT

The aim of the research was to find out more about the skills, competences, social goals, business plans and presence on the market. The results of the questionnaire will serve to develop customized training modules for social entrepreneurs and to formulate recommendations for the social enterprise development policy in the Danube Region. The questionnaire contained 22 questions, and was developed by partners from ZSI from Austria. More: <http://bit.ly/2zxQpXz>

SEMINAR AND STUDY VISIT IN GORENJSKA REGION, SLOVENIA

Regional development agency Gorenjska, BSC Kranj on 5th and 6th December 2017 hosted the SENSES Seminar and Study visit. The seminar started with presentation of legislation on social entrepreneurship in Slovenia and prospects of social enterprises. Director of social enterprise Inovum presented social economy in Slovenia and its internationalization. The rest of the seminar and study visit was dedicated to the presentation of different practices implemented in Slovenia regarding the social enterprises and inclusion of disabled and young people in different programmes. More: <http://bit.ly/2BzO8zT>



OTHER NEWS

TP 3 – ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING SYSTEMS AT THE EUSDR PA7 STEERING GROUP IN BELGRADE

IFKA has been invited to join the XIV. PA7 Steering Group Meeting held in Belgrade on 27th and 28th of November 2017. They represented all the projects working closely together in the Thematic Pole 3 with the aim of supporting the implementation of EUSDR, more precisely PAC7, and to provide insight into

the implementation of DA-SPACE, DIGITRANS, Excellence-In-RESTI, NewGenerationSkills, SENSES addressing aspects of the Knowledge Society. More: <https://www.danubeknowledgesociety.eu/>

SENSES PROJECT AS A GOOD PRACTICE IN THE FIELD OF SME DEVELOPMENT

We are proud to announce that the Joint Secretariat of the Danube Transnational Programme has chosen the SENSES Project as a best practice and explored two of the concerned enterprises to present their experiences and the secret of their success. Toldi House and Parents' House are two successful Hungarian enterprises with big dreams that set an example for other social innovators all over the region. More: <http://bit.ly/2jpXK4J>

INSPIRATIONAL SLOVAK CSR SUMMIT 2017

Slovak Business Agency attended the largest and oldest event on Corporate Responsibility in Central and Eastern Europe organized by [Pontis Foundation](#) on November 14. Together with other participants from private companies, academia and NGOs we had a chance to discuss current CSR topics and to learn about responsible product and services at the Sustainable Solutions Hub. In the round table discussion on "How to measure the social impact of CSR projects" we could hear out an expert from Competence Center for Nonprofit Organizations and SE of Vienna University of Economics and Business talking about several levels and types of impacts and the impact value chain including several useful recommendations (from the project [KomenskýFond](#)). More information about the annual summit can be found on <http://www.cce-csr-summit.eu/>.



CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN CROATIA



Minister of labour and Pension system of the Republic of Croatia Marko Pavic opened the conference "Social Entrepreneurship in Croatia - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" held in Zagreb on 14th November 2017. The Ministry of labour and pension system is responsible for the development of social entrepreneurship through the implementation of the "Strategy for the Development of Social

Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2015-2020". As a policy maker the Ministry is associated strategic partner in SENSES project. The SENSES project with the emphasis on benchmarking analysis and the upcoming activities of the project were presented at the conference as an example of good practice. More: <http://bit.ly/2jwORtZ>

MEET-UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SERBIAN INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATION KONTAKT FROM MACEDONIA

During two-day visit of the Macedonian representative of Konekt organization, dealing in research on social entrepreneurship in the region of Western Balkans, several meetings were held with relevant stakeholders in Serbia. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia presented the activities within the project SENSES. Representatives of Delta Holding Foundation presented their project „Zasad za budućnost“ (eng. Seactivities. Support ranges from financial grants in the first year of

production, to support in business related activities such as providing market for their products and providing tools for sustainability of their businesses in later phases. Meeting was also an occasion to point out the necessity for joint strategy on development of social entrepreneurship and synergy in cooperation which lead to easier development of social entrepreneurship in Serbia.



PROJECT SENSES STATED IN UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT REPORT

As part of Report of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia as member of United Nations Global Compact Initiative, project Senses was stated as an example of good practice project promoting social entrepreneurship. More: <http://bit.ly/2AqgWD4>

DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME STRATEGIC MEETING IN BUDAPEST



As a preparatory event for the following day's EURSD Annual Forum, a meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce in Budapest on 17 October 2017 for the Coordinators of the Thematic Poles 1-3 and for the EUSDR Priority Area 8 Coordinators. As the coordinator of Pole 3, the colleagues of IFKA were also present, along with the representatives of projects from the region concerned with the strategy. During the

meeting, the past and future steps of the joint work were discussed, as well as the possibilities and benefits of strengthening the cooperation. In the framework of an interactive workshop, the Thematic Poles talked over the current state and the future of the capitalization. The discussions were highly beneficial for IFKA, our colleagues collected plenty of useful ideas and plans. More: <http://bit.ly/2kZLHj1>

UPDATE ON THE DRAFT LAW ON SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SLOVAKIA

In particular, the current incomplete and fragmented legislation prevents the development of the social economy in Slovakia. For this reason, the Ministry of Labour published the proposal of a completely new law in May 2017 that clearly defines the subjects of the social economy and defines the possibilities of providing support for the development of the social economy. Among other news that the law will bring, there are definition of a partially social enterprise, implementation of state-subsidized vouchers for providing social services by social enterprises (the Belgian system model) and dedicated public contracts for work-integration enterprises. The law will also regulate the support system for social enterprises and the control mechanisms. In order to prevent the misuse of financial aid, the process of control will be much stricter. New financial instruments include repayable and non-repayable financial assistance. However, the process is still accompanied by negative reactions from certain business representatives. "It's the most complicated law I've ever read. It is not bad, but it was done by white collars in an office," says Vladimír Ledecký, the mayor of Spišský Hrhov, where until recently a social enterprise, which has been a model for employing Roma, has been working. Peter Kremský from the Business Alliance of Slovakia adds that if the system were not corrupted, social businesses as such could work. "The idea of keeping the working habits of hard-to-employ people is good." The public and interdepartmental commentary procedure of the law has ended and should be followed by

negotiations in the National Council of the SR (parliament). The new act is expected to be effective from April 2018. More: <https://www.etrend.sk/>

CALLS

Employment and Social Innovation Programme (2014-2020) - EaSI programme

EaSI - Establishment of 4-years framework partnership agreements to support EU-level networks active in the areas of social inclusion and poverty reduction or microfinance and social enterprise finance & Operating grants for 2018

Call for Proposals VP/2017/015, more: <http://bit.ly/2vFGm0G>

EaSI - Transaction cost support for social enterprise finance

Call for Proposals VP/2017/013, more: <http://bit.ly/2qzdbOv>

SOCIAL INVESTMENT, VENTURE PHILANTHROPY, IMPACT INVESTMENT CONFERENCES AND EVENTS IN CEE

EVPA Crash Course on Venture Philanthropy and Social Investment

Date: 8th November 2017; venue: Oslo, Norway, more: <http://bit.ly/2AenitC>

France Country Meeting

Date: 6th December 2017; venue: Paris, France, more: <http://bit.ly/2hSG41w>

SENSES CONTACTS

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