European Social Economy Network

Ladies and gentlemen,

We would like to introduce you to the first issue of the ESEN Newsletter, which will present our project, identify its target groups and present the main tasks, results and objectives.

Social Enterprise saves the day: crisis precipitate change

"Global controls will have to be imposed and a world governing body, will be created to enforce them. Crises, precipitate change." – Deltron 3030

There's not much good news these days. We are distancing ourselves from one another and the most vulnerable groups of our society are now more exposed and suffer more than ever. There is hope though, coming in the form of social enterprises that quickly adapt to the new reality we are living in.

All over the world we see how people are coming to find new ways to help and adapt. For example, in Germany a hotel lets homeless people sleep in their beds. In Portugal, Food coops have been set up along with shelters for the homeless and the validity of monthly public-transportation tickets has been extended. All over the world we see how social enterprise is part of the solution to the coronavirus response.

One of the best examples comes from the UK, where a social enterprise called LocoSoco is growing exponentially. This social enterprise focuses upon providing everyday items in such a way that supply chains and value chains are fairest that they can be.

One of the items that sells is hand sanitizers and soap. However, they do not sell it. They sell it to corner shops who in turn sell it to their customer. All of this is done in such a way that costs are kept to a minimal, ownership lies with the corner store and not the big company that is producing the items in the first place.

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As simple as the idea is, its powerful in low income communities where access to these items is difficult because they tend to be expensive. Given market forces, their prices have been rising and the people in the highest needs are not able to procure them. Their unique and egalitarian approach is the fair answer to the challenge of unfair market forces and social needs in these challenging times.

They do not just spread disinfecting goodness through the world but also part of their profits and shares. Their product's profits are evenly distributed amongst all the stakeholders in their supply and sales chains. This gives the corner store the ability to profit more from a product they sell while it costs less than comparable products. In addition, there is a refill option that people love. This gives us the much desired triple bottom line that every social enterprise strives for. People Profit and Planet. This is more and more relevant in these challenging times where a problem is turned into opportunity. Consider going on their facebook to show them some love.

We at ESEN are very inspired by these cases and will use them as best practices to come up with an educational programme that allows all and future social enterprises to take advantage of similar circumstances. As it becomes clear that social enterprise will have an important role to play in providing goods and services to people that are most vulnerable and affected by the rapidly changing world around us. ESEN recognizes this potential and strives to highlight these changes to assure the work of social enterprises is recognised and more people are inspired

First project consortium meeting

In Warsaw on 5-6th December 2019, IOŚ-PIB hosted the first partner's meeting of ESEN Project: "The European Social Economy Network". The aim of the meeting was to discuss the successful realisation of the project and to coordinate the execution of the first phase of work, which consists of creation of Transnational Report on Successful Stories and Recommendations for Social Entrepreneurship Enhancement.

Tasks for next 6 months

For the next 6 months the Partnership will focus mainly on the first project task:

IO1 – Transnational Report on Successful Stories and Recommendations for Social Entrepreneurship Enhancement.

The first phase of the project is to carry out in depth research on existing data in order to identify best practice applied in the social enterprise sector and suggest key points for improvement and enhancement.

As the outcome of IO1 a Transnational report will be created which will focus on the real demands from social enterprises and their training needs.

The report will be written in English and executive summaries will be translated into partners languages (PL, EL, IT) for dissemination at a national level.

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Project aims, objectives and results

The European Social Economy Network (ESEN) project aims to support social enterprises in Europe through sharing knowledge and providing high quality training.

The project is funded through Erasmus + under the Cooperation for Innovation and exchange of good practice Key Action. Project duration: 01.11.2019 - 31.03.2022

ESEN project main objectives

- → To help build and support existing social enterprise networks and increase the interaction between them,
- → To raise awareness of social enterprise (SE) as a way to create employment, reduce poverty and contribute to a better world,
- → To promote the work of existing social enterprises, within the context of a social economy movement that also includes social entrepreneurs, cooperatives mutuals and ethical companies.
- → To add to the body of knowledge around social enterprise including the setting up of an ESEN on-line knowledge centre that will provide training and education and help spread good practice.

ESEN project results

- → Transnational Report on successful stories and recommendations for social entrepreneurship enhancement at European level.
- → The ESEN Programme and the ESEN Syllabus to train, support and guide active and potential social entrepreneurs in developing their social business idea.
- → Creation and operation of the ESEN e-learning platform.
- → Establishment of the ESEN Knowledge Network, which will act as a body of networking of social entrepreneurs, social economy organisations, facilitators, business angels, mentors, trainers and students.

The ESEN partnership

The project partnership constitutes an innovative scheme of organisations of all relevant fields of expertise and activity and of five different countries, with diverse approaches on social entrepreneurship and different levels of social economy growth.

The partnership was created on the basis of 3 pillars: technical capacity; experience in social entrepreneurship, employment research and social innovation; and networking opportunities. The project is implemented in a group of 6 partners from Poland, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Project Partners

Instytut Ochrony Środowiska
- Państwowy Instytut Badawczy
(Poland)
www.ios.edu.pl

Institute for Private Enterprise
and Democracy
(Poland)
www.iped.pl

Tiber Umbria Comett
Education Programme
(Italy)
www.tucep.org

Social Enterprise
International LTD
(UK)
www.sei.coop

Emphasys Centre
(Cyprus)
www.emphasyscentre.com

DIMITRA Education
& Consulting SA
(Greece)
www.dimitra.gr

ESEN contact information

Project website in 4 languages:
https://esen.ios.edu.pl

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social_esen

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