

## Toolbox

We are glad to announce that IKSE's IO1 has been officially completed and translated in all Project Partners' national languages and is now available on the Project Website.

The first Intellectual Output of the project consists of a toolbox regarding e-learning international best practices for digital learning design and social entrepreneurship. In particular, the toolbox collects examples of online courses for social entrepreneurship, online courses for e-learning teaching, innovative financial tools for social entrepreneurship, state aid scheme to support social entrepreneurship, examples for public-private partnership and innovative business models for social entrepreneurship.

This document was produced by InnoGrowth thanks to the inputs provided by the whole Consortium and it will be very useful for the implementation of the two planned training courses on which the partners are working.

The Toolbox is freely available to the public and can be consulted on: <https://ikse.eu/intelectual-outputs/>

## IKSE Project - 2nd transnational project meeting and forthcoming events



The meeting represented a fruitful and enriching opportunity to make an important step forward in the development of the next Project's activities. The partners discussed how to implement the first planned training course for E-learning Designers and VET Key Actors by deciding its contents and structure and they set the pillars for the achievement of Intellectual Outputs 4 and 5.

After the implementation of the training course on e-learning tools (IO2) next year, the partners will be responsible for the organisation of the **Infodays**, which will be held in Italy, Spain and Turkey. Each event will host at least forty

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

**PROGRAMME:** Erasmus + KA2

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**LEAD PARTNER:** European Association for Innovation and Growth (Bulgaria)

### PARTNERS:

**Aris – professional training and research center (Italy)**

**Universitat Jaume I de Castellón (Spain)**

**Ankara Directorate of National Education (Turkey)**

**National Agency for Microcredit (Italy)**

**Bulgarian-German VET Center – (Bulgaria)**

### ASSOCIATED PARTNER:

**Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Bulgaria)**

Last 25th and 26th of November, the 2nd Transnational Meeting of IKSE Project took place.

The partners met in the beautiful city of Perugia, in the heart of Italy, to discuss the contents and the structure of the second Intellectual Output of IKSE.

The meeting was hosted by Aris Formazione e Ricerca and it saw the participation of the European Association for Innovation and Growth (Bulgaria), the University Jaume I de Castellón (Spain), the Ankara Directorate of National Education (Turkey), the National Agency for Microcredit (Italy) and the Bulgarian-German VET Center (Bulgaria).

participants, and it is foreseen to be held in **February - March 2022**, although, given the current health situation we invite you to follow our social media pages for further updates. The University Jaume I de Castellón will also be in charge of the Project's **Short-Term joint staff training events**. During the event VET expert and VET providers will work collaboratively on the course items with different methodology. They will work with their colleagues in the partner countries in three days of activity, after which the results of the other groups will be presented.

- A special training path for the experience will be applied;
- A special blended training will be discussed and tried in response to the Covid phase;

## What are the main features that an e-learning system should have, at least?

Distance learning has become a great ally in the current pandemic situation. The lockdown due to the COVID-19 forced the schools all over the world to close down so distance learning has been the most used alternative for the continuity of education in a great number of countries.

Choosing the most appropriate e-learning platform is a key decision that has to be taken after a thorough analysis due to the fact that the success of the learning process will be directly related to that choice.

### The main characteristics that an e-learning platform should fulfill are:

- Easy to use for non-digital users and user-centered design: Contrary to popular belief, not all users of an e-learning platform are tech savvy users. There are many different profiles that must be taken into account when deciding to set up an e-learning platform.
- Wide learning material possibilities: different subjects require different learning material; therefore, the course designer needs to have several options to select the most accurate to the subject of learning.
- Attributes of engagement: One of the main problems of distance learning is to achieve user engagement, so

- Piloting: specific session, half a day, will be dedicated to the assessment of the Platform and Training Course, and a final comprehensive questionnaire will be filled by the learners.

- At the end of the week, the host country will organize a show or a final presentation meeting where all the participants will be gathered to present their work. As mentioned above, each partner will select participants as their standard:

- Ability to communicate with others in English (the main language of this project);
- Presentation and collaboration skills;
- Target for this slot will be VET expert and VET providers



the chosen platform must have the necessary tools to keep the student's attention. Gamification techniques are essential on a platform that really wants to motivate the user to continue learning.

- Communication and collaboration tools, in all directions: student-teacher; teacher-learner; learner-learner. The user must feel guided throughout the learning process, so the functionalities of discussion between peers, forum, chats, videoconferences and information exchange possibilities are crucial in the selected platform.
- Different evaluation options: Assessment is a key action during the learning process, but depending on the topic to be studied, it must be adapted. A good e-learning platform should offer different possibilities when it comes to qualifying the student: tests, questionnaires, presentations, projects, and peer review are some of the most used methods.

- Ease of administration and reporting: We cannot forget that the platform must be maintained, courses must be developed and users with different profiles must be registered. It is important to know our own capabilities because the more functionalities the platform has, the more resources we will have to dedicate.

- Scalability, Portability and Sustainability on time: An e-learning platform must not become obsolete or unused, therefore, it must be easily scalable, with the pos-

sibility of transferring the electronic platform to another environment and durable over time, hence a reliable maintenance service with continuously updated packages is a matter of serious consideration.

In conclusion, the selection of the e-learning platform is a strategic decision that must be deeply thought through and based on reliable considerations that take into account both technical and operational aspects.

## Action Plan to boost the social economy and create jobs

The European Commission defines social enterprises as those entities that combine societal goals with an entrepreneurial spirit and focus on achieving wider social, environmental or community objectives. The term social economy refers to four main types of entities providing goods and services to their members or society at large: cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations (including charities), and foundations. In the past years, the Commission has worked towards creating a favourable financial, administrative and legal environment for these enterprises so that they could operate on an equal footing with other types of enterprises.

Last 9th of December, the Commission presented the "Action Plan to boost the social economy and create jobs", running until 2030, to enhance a sector that currently has 2.8 million organisations and employs 13.6 million people all around Europe. This Initiative seeks to boost social innovation, support the development of the social economy and encourage its social and

economic transformative power. Building on the Commission's 2011 Social Business Initiative, the Action Plan is the result of an extensive consultation process with citizens and stakeholders.

More specifically, the Commission proposes to act in three areas: first of all, the creation of the right conditions for the social economy to thrive, secondly, the opening of opportunities for social economy organisations to start up and scale up and, thirdly, the recognition of social economy and its potential.

The action plan announces a number of key actions to support social economy: a Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions, a new EU Social Economy Gateway to provide a clear entry point for social economy stakeholders and a new European Competence Centre for Social Innovation.

As for the impact of the Plan on IKSE Project, the Consortium of partners will follow its implementation throughout the IKSE's lifecycle, in particular during the preparation of the third intellectual output, i.e. the training course *Piloting the System: 4 Drivers for Social Entrepreneurship Key Competencies (IO3)*

## Social Innovation Award Ceremony 2021, Bulgaria

On December 17th the Bulgarian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) awarded 11 social enterprises in occasion of the 7th Social Innovation Award Ceremony 2021. The social entrepreneurs were awarded in three different categories "Social innovations related to employment", "Social innovations related to social inclusion" and "Social innovations related to the provision of social products and services".

Mr. Gerogi Gyokov, Minister of Social policy explained that social enterprises combine societal goals with an entrepreneurial spirit. These organisations focus on achieving wider social, environmental or community objectives. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy aims to create a favourable financial, administrative and legal environment for these enterprises so that they can operate on an equal footing with other types of enterprises in the same sector.

The Ministry of labour and Social Policy plans to invest around BGN 70 million until 2027 in social entrepreneurship. The funds will come from the Recovery and resilience plan and the Human Resources Development Program (2021-2027). The main objective is to support social entrepreneurs and stimulate social innovation, tools for direct contact with citizens and digitalization. This will strengthen their role in society in terms of social and environmental balance.

The Social Innovation Award Winners for 2021 are:

#### Category "Social innovations related to employment"

- **1st place** Social Enterprise Social Investments and Resources Ltd
- **2nd place:** Blagichka Ltd.,- the first restaurant with zero waste in Bulgaria, that employs disadvantaged young people.
- **3rd place:** Joy for Our Children Foundation and Municipal Social Enterprise Landscaping and Maintenance of Territories for Public Use

#### Category "Social innovations related to social inclusion"

- **1st place:** Ice - Open Ltd. and chocolate house Stanimira
- **2nd place:** Bon appetit from the World of Maria Ltd, Training Kitchen "Hope" - a professional training center

for skills development, professional experience and providing support for access to the labour market for people with intellectual difficulties.

- **3rd place:** is the Association Future for Children for its confectionery workshop "Cookies".

#### Category "Social innovations related to the provision of social products and services"

- **1st place:** rabotosposobni.bg EOOD. It connects socially responsible employers with people with disabilities who are actively looking for a job or a want to change their professional career.
- **2nd place:** Kolev and Kolev AD
- **3rd place:** Cooperative NARCOOP

Currently, 34 enterprises are registered in the register of social enterprises of the MLSP. They provide over 300 jobs, 180 of them are for vulnerable social groups.

## Social entrepreneurship - good practices and new opportunities, Bulgaria

"Successful entrepreneurs are not the entrepreneurs who make the most money, but the ones who make their dreams come true and share the fruits of what they have gained with people." This was stated by the President of the Bulgarian Industrial Association / BIA / Mr. Dobri Mitrev during a round table on "Entrepreneurial initiative in the social sphere", organized on December 9, 2021 under the project "Equal Opportunities" of the National Union of Labor Cooperatives in Bulgaria, announced by the press center of BIA.

Mr. Mitrev pointed out, that for the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce all people are equally valuable and over the years the organization has always led and will continue to pursue a policy of their inclusion and unleashing their potential for the labor market.

The round table highlighted positive examples and new opportunities for people with disabilities and took place in four discussion panels: Government policy in support of people with disabilities; Municipal policy for social integration; Increasing social added value through interaction between social entrepreneurs; The non-governmental sector in support of social entrepreneurship.

The Executive Director of the Agency for People with Disabilities Mr. Mincho Koralski assured that their activities

are focused on stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit of people with disabilities by supporting self-employment. According to him, this activity enjoys over 90 percent sustainability. The Agency also supports the activities of specialized enterprises, as well as cooperatives with investment projects. The new form of support - sheltered employment for people with multiple disabilities, is also a key program for people with disabilities.

The establishment of Protected Employment Centers aims to create work skills and habits of at least 15 people with multiple permanent disabilities, together with the provision of a minimum package of personal support services. The aim is to create the preconditions for people with many permanent disabilities, including people with intellectual disabilities and mental disorders, to earn money from work, both in sheltered employment and further in the normal work environment.

The first such active center is in the municipality of Bozhurishte - better known as the garden "Inspiration". In this garden, 15 young people are employed on a 4-hour working day and practice the profession of "gardener". For many of them, this is their first job and is the basis for creating work habits and social integration.

The Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration of the Municipality of Bozhurishte is also successful, where 30 people receive services. On the territory of the municipality of Bankya, people with disabilities, members of labor cooperatives and their families can benefit free of charge from the services of the Day Center "Zheravna" - Bankya. The Union has allocated 150 square meters of space for the Center in its best and most modern rehabilitation base in the National Prevention and Rehabilitation Center "Zheravna". Despite its short existence, the center has provided support to more than 160 people. In it, they can benefit from professional medical and psychological support for better adaptation to the labor market.

Among the main problems facing social enterprises remains finding work and obtaining orders, so this Christmas choose a gift from a social enterprise to become together a more developed society with equal opportunities for people who want to work, said in a statement Bulgarian Chamber of construction.

## Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey

The concept of Social Entrepreneurship is relatively new in Turkey like in many countries around the world with growing interest from academics, civil society actors, policymakers and practitioners.

There are many different definitions for the concept of social entrepreneurship. The three main criteria that overlap in these definitions are; creating social/environmental impact, generating income through commercial activity, using the surplus income for the main mission.

Social enterprises can play an important role in providing opportunities for diverse groups and generally often employ disadvantaged groups while creating products and services.

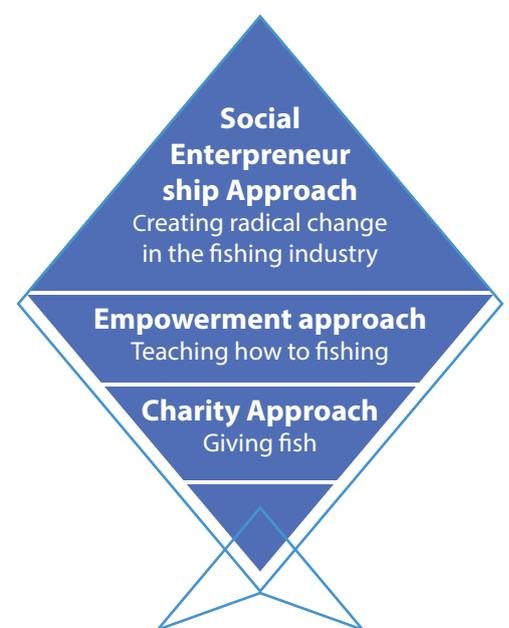


Figure 1. Social Entrepreneurship Approach (Denizalp, Hülya. STGM 2009)

Social enterprise approach aims at “systematic change” in solving social problems, instead of dealing similar cases/ situations one by one. The solutions that were found for the cases are disseminated for a long term effect.

#### Some amazing facts related to S.E. in Turkey;

- Social enterprises are adopting a range of business models and operating across various sectors. Education is the most common field for social enterprises in Turkey, followed by manufacturing and the creative industries.
- There are around 9,000 social enterprises in Turkey. Most of them are located in the 3 biggest cities, İstanbul, Ankara and İzmir, of the country.
- Most social enterprises are young organisations established after 2018.

#### Some good-examples of Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey;

- Social Entrepreneurship, which produces solutions with the mission of liberating visually impaired individuals: [BlindLook](#)
- Social Entrepreneurship producing educational games for children with special educational needs, [Otsimo](#),
- b-fit, which works with the aim of enabling women to lead a healthier and happier life by giving them the habit of doing sports. [b-fit](#)
- E-cording, which develops technologies to increase individual and corporate environmental awareness and offers environmentally sensitive solutions to the activities people practice in their daily lives

*This document reflects the views only of the authors, and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.*

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