



TASKFORCOME - TRANSNATIONAL ACTION TO ADVANCE SKILLS AND COMPETENCES FOR  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL MIGRANTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVES IN  
THE CENTRAL EUROPE

# REPORT

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SE) AND COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (CBSE) IN AUSTRIA

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### AUSTRIA REPORT

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CbSE - community-based social Enterprise

NPO - Non-profit Organisation

SE - Social Enterprise

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report tries to provide an initial overview of the existing SE- and CbSE structures in Austria and includes findings on both local and migrant owned ventures. In further exploration of the concepts the report will feature the characteristics of individual social entrepreneurs and define the boundaries distinguishing them from other forms of organisation.

The difficulties in providing a precise consensual understanding of social enterprises result from the lack of specific legal framework (chapter 2) embracing the whole scope of social enterprises. Hence significant information on existing social enterprises and their influence at large is minimal. Further resulting in a lack of availability of figures related to research and comprehensive empirical in general. The same applies to CbSEs or migrants/third country nationals that are involved in the SE (chapter 3).

Nevertheless, it has been tried to give an overview of the occurrence, structure of SEs and to present individual case studies to show that there is a heterogeneous field of actors. There are large differences between social entrepreneurs and between the supporting organisations, both in terms of the focus of their activities and their understanding of SE. These may include work integration projects, training offers for young people, sustainable tourism projects and a range of other bottom-up approaches where social entrepreneurs are active.

The network includes organisations that have been active in this field for many years but have not defined themselves as social entrepreneurs until

recently, as well as organisations that saw themselves as social entrepreneurs when they were founded.

For a reinsurance of the current sources, contact was made to the Social Entrepreneurship Center of the **WU** (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien) and the organisation **Arbeitplus**, which provided us with previously unpublished data material.

## 2. LEGAL, FISCAL FRAMEWORK

### General remarks

First, it is necessary to outline, that there is no database in Austria that would allow for an analysis of social enterprise such as it is defined by the EU operational criteria hereinafter described.

When referring to social entrepreneurship in Austria, it is necessary to return to the origin, i.e. the definition. The hermaphroditic system, which seeks to reconcile charitable goals and economic action, does not seem to be entirely at ease either with the state or with non-profit organisations. Only hesitantly does a common identity emerge and the investor scene is formed.

Hence, this report is based on an existing and widely accepted notion of social enterprises as articulated in the European Commission's SBI communication. The SBI definition incorporates the three key dimensions of a social enterprise that have been developed and refined over the last decade through a body of Europe academic and policy literature:

- An entrepreneurial dimension, i.e. engagement in continuous economic activity, which distinguishes social enterprises from traditional non-profit organisations/ social economy entities (pursuing a social aim and generating some form of self-financing, but not necessarily engaged in regular trading activity);
- A social dimension, i.e. a primary and explicit social purpose, which distinguishes social enterprises from mainstream (for-profit) enterprises; and,

- A governance dimension, i.e. the existence of mechanisms to ‘lock in’ the social goals of the organisation. The governance dimension, thus, distinguishes social enterprises even more sharply from mainstream enterprises and traditional non-profit organisations/ social economy entities.

When applying the EU SBI operational definition in Austria, it first must be underlined that the term **social enterprise** is not very frequently used in the Austrian context. The German terms that are most commonly used instead are those of **social economy** (Sozialwirtschaft), **social-integration enterprises** (Sozialintegrationsunternehmen), **public-benefit organisations** (gemeinnützige Organisationen) and **cooperatives** (Genossenschaften).

Moreover, the use of terminology depends on the special scope: business and management studies tend to focus on social entrepreneurship and non-profit management, while social scientists rather concentrate on typical social enterprises such as WISEs.

Last, but not least, terminology used differs depending on the policy actors concerned. Politicians and public authorities tend to view social enterprise according to their specific policy sectors and categories of competence, meaning that Austrian policy makers tend to define social enterprises as referrer for work integration. In recent years, interest in social enterprises has grown in ministries, public bodies and chambers of economy, but the interest focuses on the wave of social (innovation) start-ups.

## **Legal & fiscal framework**

Whilst seeing an expanding array of activities by social enterprises, in Austria the legal definition of social enterprise, basically, reduces the

allowable range of activity. So, basically, in Austria there is no coherent understanding for what a social enterprise constitutes and where the boundaries (in legal and fiscal matters) should be placed.

In Austria, there are support schemes providing enterprises in general, not specifically social enterprises, with employment subsidies, such as the payment of indirect labour costs, which are, for the most part, social insurance costs.

Therefore, no special legal form for social enterprise exists, and the term is not used in corporate law explicitly. The initiatives belonging to the different social enterprise forms are incorporated under one of the following available legal forms:

- Public benefit limited company;
- Association;
- Cooperative.

The **public-benefit limited company** (gemeinnützige GmbH, gGmbH) is the one that comes closer to the concept of social enterprise. The company is established to pursue public-benefit goals. It is principally governed by the law on limited liability company and it is by law a conventional enterprise. Therefore, the economic activity is a core goal of the company. The law on limited liability companies does not rule the public-benefit purpose. Instead the possibility for this type of companies to be granted the public-benefit status has been developed in tax law.

Another important legal form is the **association** (Verein). It is less market-oriented than the gGmbH but it has a strong focus on democratic decision-making and it allows flexible membership. It is typical of all kinds of



initiatives established in a bottom-up tradition in Austria. An association is defined as a non-profit organisation having a general-interest orientation. Even if the goal of the association is not to generate profit, the law allows associations to sell services and goods, as long, as the profits made are re-invested in the organisation to serve the defined public interest. Associations are, therefore, allowed to perform as social enterprises, but, within the spectrum of activities, the social goal, such as work integration, social care delivery, etc. is one of many objectives.

The third possible legal form is that of **cooperative** (Genossenschaft), which plays an important economic role in various fields of the market and is a form adopted by a significant number of social enterprises. In principle, the hybrid character of a cooperative organisation makes it an ideal and typical legal form for a social enterprise, as it combines elements of the member-based association and the limited liability company. According to Austrian legislation, the principal objective of a cooperative is the promotion of members' economic activities. However, this does not rule out the possibility for cooperatives to pursue social goals too. Each cooperative must join an auditing association, which presents, both, advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, the compulsory regular auditing enhances the sustainability and reliability of the business for members and external partners. On the other hand, the association membership fees are relatively high for small cooperatives.

Moreover, in Austria, all cooperatives must implement a two-level governance including a general assembly and an executive board. According to legislation, the management of the cooperative is directed by its members and the board is exclusively appointed from the membership. The capital of a cooperative is variable; this is consistent with the principle of

open membership. The focus on profits is encouraged by the law so that the cooperative remains economically viable and competitive. Profits are mostly allocated to the reserve fund and paying dividends is an exception.

## Fiscal framework

The tax law framework for **"benefit to the public"** (Gemeinnützigkeit) provides tax benefits for any organisation (association, limited-liability company, church, foundation) that pursues a public-benefit goal and whose assets are solely and directly used to further this goal.

Anyway, in order to be granted tax benefits, any social enterprise must demonstrate a public-benefit purpose, such as pursuing the work integration of disadvantaged workers, delivering social services or qualification services for disabled persons.

If an organisation, whatever its legal form, strives for non-profit status and the associated tax benefits, the statutes must ensure, among other things, that the association's assets may be used exclusively for non-profit purposes even in the event of their dissolution. These lay down the general conditions which must be met in order to benefit from tax advantages. In addition to some formal requirements, it must fulfil non-profit, charitable and/or ecclesiastical purposes and, according to the law, statutes, letter of foundation or its other legal basis and its actual management, serve exclusively and directly to promote the purpose, as afore. A purpose is deemed to be a public benefit "when its implementation supports the community at large in intellectual, cultural, moral or material terms (e.g. promotion of health care, art and science, care for the elderly, public education, nature, etc.)."

But, the tax authorities, responsible for granting the preferential treatment, will verify the activities carried out case by case. In contrast to Germany, for example, Austria does not issue a separate declaratory decision, but the tax office decides in the respective taxation procedure, whether the tax is worthy of the benefit, or not. The tax office must examine the requirements for the benefits ex officio, an application of the legal entity is not necessary. However, it is possible to request a non-binding confirmation from the tax office: The tax authority must respond to enquiries regarding the existence of the benefits in a non-binding form. This statement is not a decision. However, in the case of a correctly disclosed fact, with a regard to the assessment made in the statement, the protection of legitimate expectations is given.

The type and scope of the tax benefits are regulated in the respective tax laws, particularly, in the Corporation Tax, Value Added Tax, Municipal Tax and Real Estate Tax Act. Entrepreneurial non-profit organisations are only exempt from municipal tax if they serve charitable or non-profit purposes in the field of health care, child-care, youth care, family care, health care for the sick, the disabled, the blind and the elderly. Input tax can only be deducted if they are engaged in entrepreneurial activities. Income from capital assets is subject to capital gains tax. An exemption is only possible (and sensible) if the capital investments represent necessary business assets of an economic business enterprise (and whose losses exceed the capital gains). Non-profit legal entities, which finance their non-profit activity only by donations, are thereby disadvantaged.

### 3. SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN AUSTRIA

Since the 19th century in Austria, different traditions of socially oriented initiatives have emerged and developed. The phenomenon of social enterprises has been fed by various traditions in connection with welfare state development and social movements. They range from initiatives in the concept stage, associations, and the finished GmbH. They are all distinctively active in contributing to citizen participation, empowerment, inclusion, job creation and enhance social cohesion.

As mentioned above, there is no database in Austria that would allow for an analysis of social enterprise such as it is defined by the EU operational criteria. However, to give a rough idea, earlier studies made estimations on the spectrum of social enterprise in Austria using data from the Statistical Office and the Commercial Register. Existing directories of following institutions were searched and taken into account as an attempt to provide a more precise indication of the following:

Social companies or companies/institutions that use the public-benefit status “gemeinnützig” and associations with social or economic activities, non-profit organizations and cooperatives:

Figure 1. Estimated number of social enterprises in Austria

Legal form	Estimated number	Source
Association	1,000	Austrian Statistical Office (25% of organisations in the selected fields)
GmbH, gGmbH	415	Commercial register
Cooperative	120	Self-estimation and GBV 2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>Approx. 1,535</b>	

Source: Anastasiadis et al. (2018).

According to the available data on associations, public benefit limited liability companies and cooperatives, approximately 1,500 social enterprises, meeting the EU operational criteria, could be identified in Austria. Among them, some 1,000 associations are active in the social and cultural field or in the housing sector; 320 public benefit limited liability companies; 70 limited-liability companies without public-benefit status, operating in social fields; and 120 cooperatives active in various business fields, such as housing, social care, community energy, sustainable consumer goods, local service provision, culture, consulting, advocacy and education (Anastasiadis et al., 2018).

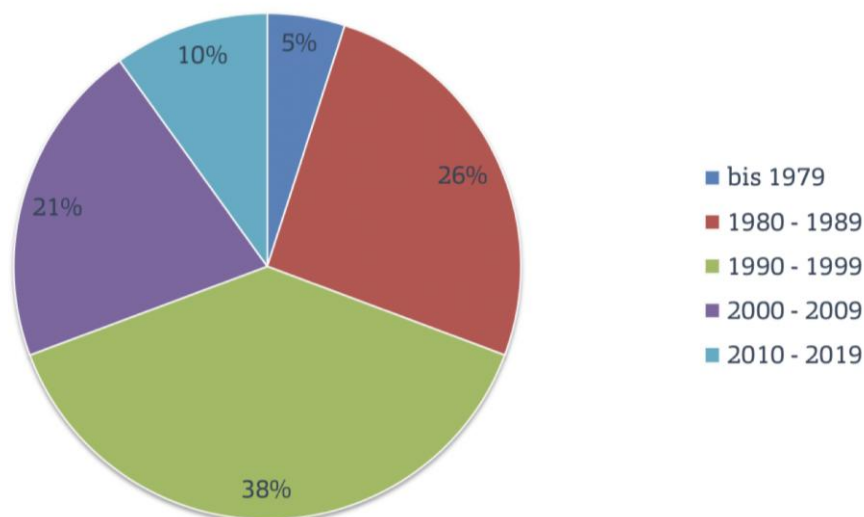
As regards to the economic dimension of social enterprises, research studies show that overall, income generation via public contracts or sales to private customers constitutes an important source of income, besides public funding. Paid work is important in the range of Austrian social enterprises, but voluntary work plays an important role as well, especially among smaller community-led cooperatives and in social enterprises derived from

the NPO sector. The results also show that organizations react to societal demands in different fields of activity. In the research concerning the participatory dimension, most of the social enterprises choose a participatory legal form: WISEs and NPOs which often have a business approach of operating as associations or public benefit limited liability companies. The category of social businesses offers a greater diversity as it includes limited companies and a few sole proprietorships. Not all organizations in both these streams of the cooperative tradition operate under the legal form. As a result, there are also associations, among small community-led cooperative-type initiatives, and limited companies, among larger cooperative-type enterprises active in the social housing sector.

Thus, the role of these organizations turns out to be a twofold: they serve as “bottom-up” innovators, on the one hand, and as “top-down”-governed service providers on the other. They are mainly advised by institutions from the business environment. Especially consulting companies in the fields of strategy, law and communication are mentioned. In addition, organizations such as the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber play an important role in the founding of a company (Schneider and Maier, 2013).

As far as age is concerned, a survey conducted by the institution **Arbeit Plus** shows that around 38 percent of the participating organizations that can be classified as social enterprises were founded in the 1990s. The average age is around 23.2 years.

Figure 2: Founding years of social enterprises

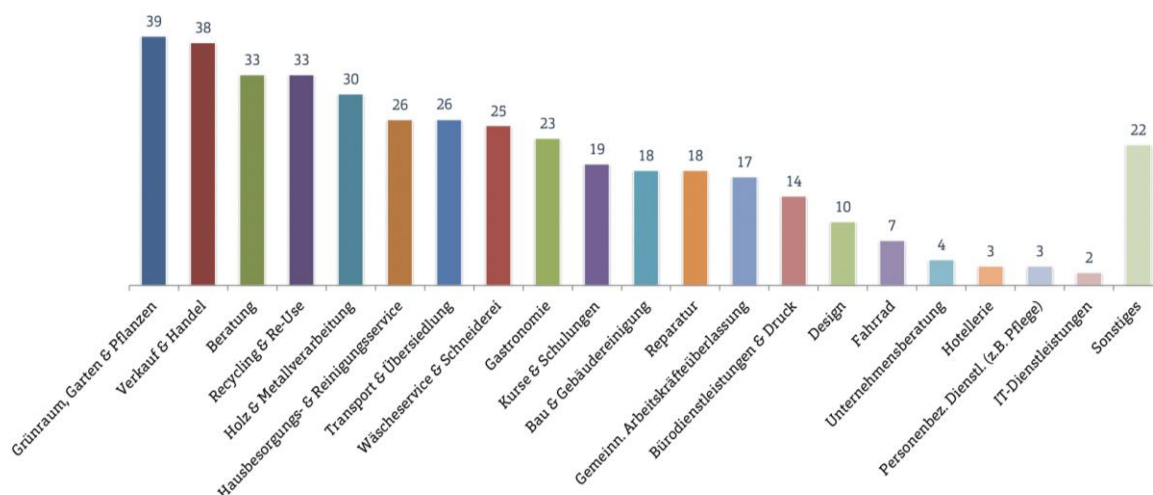


Source: arbeitplus Österreich (2017).

## FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Education, regional or local development projects, work (re)integration projects, projects in developing countries as well as projects with a focus on environmental protection are the most important areas in which social entrepreneurs are involved. The most frequent target groups include children and youth, sustainable consumers, people from developing countries and the general public. The most frequently mentioned services that are offered to achieve the social objectives are the sale of products and services, the networking of groups of people, as well as the counselling, training and further education of specific groups of people (Schneider and Maier, 2013).

Figure 3: Fields of activity of social enterprises in Austria



Source: arbeitplus Österreich (2017).

The chart above shows the sectors in which Austria's social enterprises are active. In the survey conducted in 2017, multiple answers were possible with regard to the field of activity. The most frequently mentioned sectors were green space, sales & trade, consulting, recycling & re-use as well as wood & metal processing.

## MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In general, it can be said that a relatively high number of people with international migration experience are active entrepreneurs. Due to language barriers, discrimination and difficulties in employers' recognition of foreign qualifications, migrants are often disadvantaged in finding employment. In many cases, they are unable to find suitable job offers in the labour market or to pursue the occupations for which they are qualified. These barriers make it more attractive for many immigrants to



use their skills as self-employed and entrepreneurs, rather than as employees in the labour market. Moreover, in some countries, immigrants benefit from the support of ethnic communities. These networks can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and goods between countries and facilitate access to labour, and start-up capital information for setting up a business.

In Austria, the number of business start-ups by individuals with a migration background is growing. As early as 2013, around 37,000 companies were founded, 15,500 of which were by persons with non-Austrian citizenship. In Vienna, almost 36% of start-ups were carried out by non-Austrian citizens (Medienservicestelle neue Österreicher/innen, 2012). The number of people with a migration background who are self-employed is also high in Austria and is subject to strong growth dynamics (Vandor, 2015). It can be assumed that these tendencies have increased and continue to increase over time, although it is not clear to what extent migrants are also involved in the establishment of SE's. Creating a demand for further research relative to this field of social and economic development.

#### 4. FOCUS ON CBSE IN AUSTRIA

Community based enterprises use business to improve the life of a community. They are different from private or social enterprise because their business activity is undertaken as a means of achieving not only public, but local community benefit.

In the scope of TASKFORCOME, a CbSE is conceived as any group of people, either formal or informal, who cooperate in order to improve the living conditions of a relevant part of its society (which often will be a local community such as a village or a city). Its activity has typically economic aspects, marked by participation in market economy, especially the local or regional one. A CbSE may make profit from this activity. However, profit is neither the single nor the first and dominating purpose, since improving the well-being and cohesion of the local community is seen as at least equally important. Moreover, any profit should typically be re-invested into the core activities of the enterprise or community. In that respect, a CSE is an entity of Social Economy, however with strong local and grass roots flavour to it.

Since social enterprises themselves are not listed in Austria by official bodies (e.g. Statistics Austria, Ministries, Chambers, ...), it is not possible to obtain additional country-specific information, specifically on CbSE. At the end of the report, we will only try to filter out and present individual examples that can be clearly assigned to the basis of the definition. Even the “Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing (UNECE)” do not stress all parameters regarding Social and Migrant Entrepreneurship.

## 5. PUBLIC POLICIES SUPPORTING SE AND CBSE IN AUSTRIA

With a focus on Austria, it is important to emphasize the range of diverse support and networking organizations. This includes governmental departments/institutions and authorities as well as independent initiatives that promote social enterprise and training or offer platforms to interact. They are all key actors in the Austrian structure regarding SE. Those institutions support SE i.e. through advisory, financing and training services and therefore somehow shape the concrete understanding of SE on a field level.

## KEY ACTORS IN AUSTRIA REGARDING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Figure 4: Fields of activity of social enterprises in Austria

Areas of activity	Actors
Governmental departments/institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; BMASK - Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection; Department VI/A/4 Labour market promotion</li> <li>&gt; Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws)</li> <li>&gt; Regional and local authorities providing subsidies and contracting social enterprises</li> </ul>
Authorities designing and enforcing public procurement legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Bundeskanzleramt V8 Verfassungsdienst</i></li> </ul>
Authorities designing and enforcing legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Finanzministerium (fiscal)</i></li> </ul>
Organisations promoting, certifying and awarding labels, business prizes, social reporting systems and other mechanisms to raise awareness about and acknowledge the social value of the products, services or ways of production of social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>arbeit plus</i> (quality label for WISEs)</li> <li>&gt; Architects of the Future</li> <li>&gt; Social business day</li> <li>&gt; Sozial Marie</li> <li>&gt; Trigos</li> <li>&gt; future4you GmbH (Social Entrepreneurship Award)</li> <li>&gt; Common Good Balance Sheet</li> </ul>
Institutions and initiatives promoting social enterprise education and training Observatories and entities monitoring the development of social enterprises and assessing their needs and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; NPO &amp; SE Competence Centre</li> <li>&gt; IFA Styria</li> <li>&gt; Pioneer of Change</li> <li>&gt; Social Impact Award</li> <li>&gt; Next - Award and Social Entrepreneurship Programme</li> <li>&gt; FH Campus Vienna</li> <li>&gt; Johannes Kepler University Linz (JKU)</li> <li>&gt; University of Graz</li> </ul>
Incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Impact HUB Vienna</li> </ul>
Facilitators of learning and exchange platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Ashoka (fellowship programme)</li> <li>&gt; Emersense (events)</li> <li>&gt; Architects of the Future (global community building)</li> <li>&gt; Network platform in Vienna "Social City Wien"</li> <li>&gt; Impact HUB</li> <li>&gt; Organisation for public-benefit founding (<i>Verband für gemeinnütziges Stiften</i>)</li> </ul>

All these organizations are themselves closely networked, which is why it is often the case that supporting organizations create events together, sit on each other's advisory boards or launch projects together.

## 6. CASE STUDIES OF SELECTED SES AND CBSES

Ten case studies of SEs and CbSEs in Innsbruck and Tyrol region as well as in Vienna have been collected as examples and are listed with a short summary including objectives and beneficiaries.

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISES:

#### FELD

[www.feld-verein.at/](http://www.feld-verein.at/) (Innsbruck/Tyrol)

Type: Social Entrepreneurship/ (official appearance as association)

Initiative tapping on unused resources in order to avoid unnecessary production and consumption. Unused resources - material and immaterial - are discovered, collected and transformed together. The FELD-Verein offers in and around Innsbruck an exchange opportunity for all interested parties and participants - in a consumer-free area. Unused resources exist in many areas - food, raw materials, knowledge, etc. - but they are not always used. Unfortunately, for various reasons (practicability, ignorance, profitability, etc.), new production is often used instead of existing ones. However, these already produced resources offer a lot of means and possibilities so that they do not have to be declared as waste and disposed of.

Objectives: Reuse material to avoid unnecessary production and consumption.

Beneficiaries: Everyone who becomes member of the association or takes part in projects or workshops.

#### Ho&Ruck

[www.horuck.at/](http://www.horuck.at/) (Innsbruck/Tyrol)

Type: Social Enterprise/ (official appearance as public-benefit limited company)

HoRuck is an indoors flea market for second-hand furniture and items for the home. It was founded in 1984 and boasts with both social and economic benefits. They aim to help jobseekers who are particularly disadvantaged in the labour market and encounter difficulties entering the working force. This is in an effort to prepare them for their new employment by providing them

with temporary jobs, trainings and advice. With this support, jobseekers employed for a limited period of time can better achieve their goal of regaining a foothold in the labour market.

**Objectives:** Reintegration and support for jobseekers; supports the reuse of used goods.

**Beneficiaries:** Long-term unemployed, job seekers facing disadvantages on the labour market as former inmates.

## WAMS

[www.wams.at/](http://www.wams.at/) (Innsbruck/Tyrol)

Type: Social Enterprise/ (official appearance as association)

Shop for second -hand goods (clothes, boots, furniture, sports goods etc). With its network of four shops in Innsbruck WAMS focuses on creating jobs for disadvantaged people while promoting preserving the environment by not throwing items rather reusing them. The WAMS association offers a total of 127 jobs in socio-economic enterprises in Innsbruck, Hall, Schwaz, Jenbach and Kirchbichl with full social insurance and collective wage agreements.

127 jobs exist 83 with social and labour market policy objectives:

- 59 transit jobs for long-term unemployed - as a stepping stone back to the labour market
- 22 jobs for jobseekers aged 55 and older - as a stepping stone back into the labour market or into retirement
- 2 protected jobs for people with disabilities - for integration into working life

Objectives: Job creation for particularly disadvantaged jobseekers; Environmental thinking: reuse instead of throwing away.

Beneficiaries: Long-term unemployed; older employees.

## GREENROOT

[www.greenroot.at/](http://www.greenroot.at/) (Innsbruck/Tyrol)

Type: Social Enterprise

A food store for spices, cereals, flour for the fine cuisine. The company aims to eradicate plastic packaging by providing packaging-free shopping. They offer customers organic dried fruits, legumes, muesli, spices, dragées and cereals unpacked to comply with the motto of zero waste. The customers can take their containers with them from home and have them filled from the store`s dispensers. Thus, people pay for the goods, not for expensive packaging! The shop provides environment-friendly paper bags.

Objectives: Sustainable - diverse - organic - packaging-free shopping.

Beneficiaries: Environmentally conscious consumers; nature.

## Younited Cultures

[www.younitedcultures.eu/](http://www.younitedcultures.eu/) (Vienna)

Type: Migrant Social Enterprise

An initiative started by two migrant women from Romania who faced similar issues such as exclusion from groups, rejection from jobs, bad perceptions, etc. Their aim has been to rebrand “migration”, promote migrant role models and tell their stories, and to do that they figured out a new channel of communication - fashion. What they do is visualize stories and experiences through scarves. They discover inspiring stories, listen and visualize them through designer

scarves with a social impact. Through their work they raise awareness towards the positive effects of migration embodied in colourful scarves telling stories.

Objectives: To make success stories of migrations visible and wearable.

Beneficiaries: Migrants.

## COMMUNITY BASED SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUSHIPS:

### KOMM!UNITY

[web.kommunity.me/](http://web.kommunity.me/) (Wörgl/Tyrol)

Type: Community based Social Enterprise/ (official appearance as association)

Komm!unity operates several facilities in Wörgl and the surrounding area. In addition, the association develops and implements numerous projects and events such as youth clubs, women's cafés, the dinner club and exhibitions. Komm!unity is active in several networking committees and contributes its experience there. The tasks of the association include advising politicians and administrators on issues relating to youth and integration.

Objectives: Promotion of youth, integration and community work.

Beneficiaries: Entire parts of the local society, i.e. young people, migrants, etc.

### Café NAMSA

[www.cafenamsa.at](http://www.cafenamsa.at) (Innsbruck/Tyrol)

Type: Community based Social Enterprise/ (official appearance as public-benefit limited company)

Café Namsa is specialised in Iranian-Bulgarian-Austrian cuisine and offers recognised refugees in Innsbruck and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection the opportunity to bring their strengths to bear in a first employment relationship in order to get to know the Austrian working world and expand their social networks. In addition, Café Namsa offers a platform for lectures and various performances that take place there regularly.

Objectives: offer refugees the opportunity to gain first work experience in Austria, support integration, creates a meeting place in a less central district of Innsbruck

Beneficiaries: Migrants and other parts of local society



## Die Bäckerei - Kulturbackstube

[www.diebaeckerei.at/](http://www.diebaeckerei.at/) (Innsbruck/Tyrol)

Type: Community based Social Enterprise

The bakery is an open house (Community/social hub). Events, workshops, lectures and courses take place here. Collectives, associations and artists\* work in their studios and offices. On the first floor there is a coworking space.

- The bakery is a non-profit association. The team is organized without hierarchy - which means that everyone has equal voting rights and is responsible for their own areas of work. There is no leading authority, decisions are made jointly or independently.
- The bakery is a competition-free space without consumer compulsion.
- The bakery is a lively platform for cultural and social exchange. It is a dynamic space that combines communication, production and presentation. A place that does not want to be defined but is created by its users and makes them the dynamic core of the institution. The bakery may and should remain a mobile experimental area that can react flexibly to different requirement profiles.
- The bakery creates space for dialogue, exchange and participation. At best, this results in interdisciplinary, intermedial and cross-genre projects. Cooperation broadens the intellectual perspective and promotes mutual inspiration, criticism and correction.

Through the combination of network, event and production space, everything that is produced, presented or communicated within can also be brought out again - into the urban space, the virtual space and into the field of vision of different interest groups.

Objectives: To offer an open, dynamic competition-free space for everyone.

Beneficiaries: Collectives, associations and artists; people who need space to implement creative ideas.

## TOPFREISEN

<http://www.topfreisen.at/> (Vienna)

Type: Migrant Community based Social Enterprise/ (official appearance as association)

Based on the idea that food brings people together, Topfreiseen provides international dishes prepared by refugees. The kitchen caters for orders placed by the local surrounding communities and businesses. Working since 2014, now they have two production sites and cook in a 700m<sup>2</sup> fully equipped canteen kitchen. Topfreisen's culinary highlights come from Europe, the Arabian Peninsula and Asia encouraging intercultural dialogue and exchange through food.

Objectives: To offer an open, dynamic competition-free space for everyone.

Beneficiaries: Refugees.

## MagDas Hotel

<https://www.magdas-hotel.at/> (Vienna)

Type: Migrant Community based Social Enterprise/(official appearance as association)

At MagDas Hotel, refugees become hosts, upcycled furniture is turned into design elements,

and disadvantages are turned into advantages. MagDas hotel is run by former refugees and hotel experts. There are people from 14 nations with a variety of personal life stories, each making this place so unique. For people with a refugee background, it is still difficult to find work in Austria. Initial lack of German language skills, the resentment of many employers, as well as the circumstance that refugees are only allowed to accept work after receiving a positive response to an asylum application (which can often take months or years) make integration difficult. We are convinced that those people who move here from foreign countries are able to strengthen the hotel business, because they bring with them many skills, talents, languages, and cultural backgrounds and thus allow for a special position in the hotel market.

**Objectives:** To support the integration of refugees into the labour market.

**Beneficiaries:** Refugees

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[www.gemeinnuetzig.at](http://www.gemeinnuetzig.at)

**arbeit plus; das unabhängige österreichische Netzwerk von Sozialen Unternehmen im arbeitsmarktpolitischen Bereich:**  
[www.arbeitplus.at](http://www.arbeitplus.at)

**Social Entrepreneurship Forum; Event und Informationsplattform für (zukünftige) Social Entrepreneurs und andere Interessierte:**  
[www.socialentrepreneurshipforum.org/de/ueber/sef/](http://www.socialentrepreneurshipforum.org/de/ueber/sef/)

**SETup; Impulsgeber und Anlaufstelle für soziales Unternehmertum in Tirol**  
[www.setup.or.at](http://www.setup.or.at)