

Newsletter #5

03/ 2022



Dear CE-RESPONSIBLE community,

We kicked off 2022 with the organisation of Social Siesta Webinars, a webinar series addressing some of the key questions relevant to social entrepreneurs of today.

Over the last six months, the consortium identified and selected 10 innovative social projects per project partner. Even after the project ends, all of these will have the opportunity to get in touch and strike collaborations with other socially responsible companies across Europe by joining our [platform net4socialimpact.eu](https://platform.net4socialimpact.eu).

This edition of the newsletter brings an overview of the best socially entrepreneurial synergies from Slovenia.

Last but not the least, we are excited to announce our final dissemination event, online conference *Supporting the Economy of Positive Change*, organised in cooperation with another Interreg CE project, *Development of financial ecosystems for the promotion of social entrepreneurship in rural regions (DelFin)*. So without delay: save **March 23, 2022; 10:00 - 13:00**, and [register now](#) through details below! The conference is dedicated to supporting and connecting actors of positive social influence - socially responsible businesses, investors, foundations, civil society and social enterprises.



Social Siesta Webinars

Our CE Responsible partners Iksom organised the **Social Siesta** webinars to address some of the key challenges faced by social entrepreneurs across Europe today: how to (better) explain the value of our social business; how to reach customers and what to expect from Europe in regard with support for social entrepreneurs. The webinars featured expert speakers from Central European countries and allowed time for informal discussions.



The poster features a light beige background with a top-down view of a coffee cup on the right. On the left, there are three circular headshots of speakers. Logos for Interreg Central Europe and the European Commission are in the top right corner.

Social Siesta Webinar #3

How the European Social Economy Action Plan impacts your social business

Feb 7th 2022 - 2pm CET

Guy Lejeune, European Commission

Francesco Silvestri, University of Bologna

Marino Cavallo, University of Bologna

Three webinars featured the following experts: **David Kovalsky**, investor and education angel from the Czech Republic; **Teo Petričević**, director at ACT Group, Croatia; **Živa Lopatič**, founder at Zadruga Buna and leader of the Fair Trade movement in Slovenia; **Manuel Kreitmer**, organiser of the European Social Economy Summit, Germany; **Kama Kępczyńska-Kaleta**, Creativity Works Preston, Poland; **Kristina Lauš** from the Green Energy Cooperative Croatia, **Thorsten Bühner**, from Co-Creation/ Fairstärker, Germany; **Guy Lejeune**, European Commission; **Francesco Silvestri**, University of Bologna, and **Marino Cavallo**, the Metropolitan City of Bologna. More than two hundred participants attended.

All recordings are available through <https://bit.ly/35JaBvc>



Open calls for innovative social ideas

CE RESPONSIBLE partners organised open calls in their countries to support cooperation between social entrepreneurs and other organisations for the development of innovative social ideas/projects/ projects using the platform [NET4SOCIALIMPACT.EU PLATFORM.](https://net4socialimpact.eu)

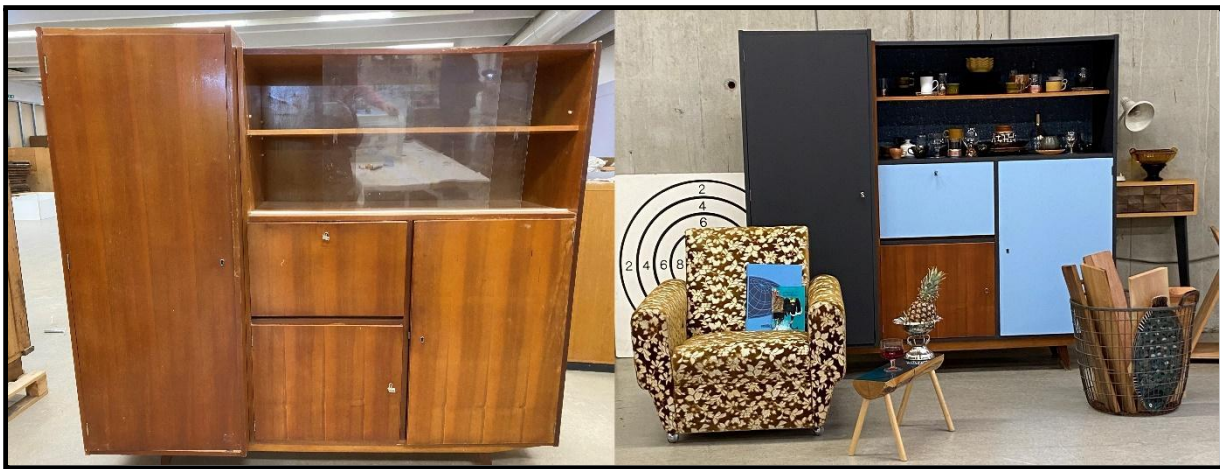
In this edition, we singled out the three best innovative social ideas identified as best practices from Slovenia.

Selected socially responsible synergies by the LP, E-Institute - Institute for Comprehensive Development Solutions

The Salon furniture project

As part of this year's Fourth Award for Socially Responsible Synergy in the Large Company category, the jury awarded the first prize to Kostak and their partnership with the Knof Institute for a circular waste management project implemented through the established Reusable Furniture Salon.





Intensive consumption of fresh raw materials in the past has led to a global shortage of raw materials on the one hand and more waste on the other. In the company Kostak, together with the applicant Zavod Knof, they designed the project Salon of reusable furniture at the local level, which supports the concept of circular management. The aim of the basic project is to design a logistical model for the management of used bulk materials and some others (eg electrical and electronic equipment, used clothing and footwear,...) which also takes into account the quality of raw materials and ensures the repair of all useful products and reuse. The expected results are the improvement of environmental and economic indicators for the benefit of the local population.



Komunala Kranj and the Vincenc Draksler Foundation - hand in hand

The company Komunala Kranj influences the environment with various projects and in this framework cooperates with various stakeholders. An important partner is the Vincenzo Draksler Foundation, which provides training and employment of hard-to-employ people through social entrepreneurship programs, especially former addicts, the disabled and the elderly unemployed. The projects are also related to waste reduction. With common ideas in the workshops of the Foundation, they prepare products and accessories that they present at events and help in communication. By communicating together through different channels, they influence the development of sustainable thinking and the maintenance of a clean environment.





Oldi stroller / extra mobile bed for disabled and immobile people.

The initiator Alojz Verbovšek presented the innovative product Oldi wheelchair, which enables the seriously ill to establish contact with nature. The wheelchair allows patients who are lying down due to a serious injury or in the last stage of the disease to be taken to nature. Many patients have not been in nature for years due to limited mobility, and the wheelchair allows them to experience nature and see the sun even when lying down. The project is carried out in cooperation with the medical profession and users (nursing homes, hospices and such), which provide quality control and feedback.



The project expands the possibilities of connecting with other organisations and brings the product closer to end-users. Visibility and presentations, which would be carried out more intensively in the institutions and in the general public, would increase the interest in access. As a result, new projects would involve the local community and organisations that, through active involvement, would provide funds for the purchase of a wheelchair for rent. This would increase the quality of life of individuals in local environments, which in turn would spread product information further. With the development of long-term care, which aims to ensure the quality of life of individuals in the local environment, the need for such devices will grow, which will also have a quantitative effect.



Save the date for the final conference: Supporting the Economy of Positive Change

After successful teamwork on the realisation of the [2021 IMPACT conference](#), the final conferences of two Interreg projects, [DelFin](#) and [CE-RESPONSIBLE](#), both working on the support and the promotion of SE in Central Europe, will once again join forces on **March 23**, to present their key deliverables and what they leave behind once project activities end in spring 2022.



The three hour online event will share lessons learned and good practices in the Central European context.

The first session will present socially responsible enterprises, community services and support for social enterprise culture from project countries. In the second session, the speakers will reflect on the existing policy support to SE, and added value of transnational networking. And lastly, we will meet innovative social projects from project countries, leaving room for final comments and the message we want to send when it comes to further support for social entrepreneurship in our countries.

Find out more about the programme and the speakers on the following link - <https://bit.ly/3ijlHbS>



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Upcoming social enterprise events:

Event: START Summit 2022 (24-25, March) **Type:** online; **Sponsor/organiser:** One of the largest student-led conferences for technology and startups in Europe that aims to connect young entrepreneurs, investors, and corporations. It features fireside chats, panel discussions, pitching competitions, keynotes, workshops, and matchmaking.; **Link:** <https://bit.ly/3MAZODV>

Event: TechChill 2022 (April 27-29) **Type:** online and in Riga; **Sponsor/organiser:** one of the biggest startup events in the Baltics. It aims to bridge the gap between knowledge, network, and skills; **Link:** <https://techchill.co/>

Event: Euclid Network Summit 2022, (24-25 March, 2022) **Type:** Online; **Sponsor/organiser:** the Euclid Network **Theme:** Conference on social innovation and social entrepreneurship where leaders join forces to address global challenges, define innovative and sustainable solutions and form partnerships. **Link:** <https://bit.ly/3pAumwg>

Event: ChangeNow Summit (19-21 May, 2022) **Type:** Paris, France; and online; **Sponsor/organiser:** Change Now; **Theme:** A three-day hybrid accelerator event that will highlight concrete and innovative solutions to the world's problems. ChangeNow describes its summit as the "largest event for the planet"; **Link:** <https://bit.ly/3HkTr4m>

Event: Social Enterprise World Forum **Type:** Brisbane, Australia; online; **Sponsor/organiser:** SEWF; **Theme:** The SEWF 2022 hybrid programme will feature fireside chats, panels and discussions with live Q&A, expert-led masterclasses, partner sessions, networking and a marketplace. The 2021 gathering drew 3,000 participants from 131 countries. In 2022, SEWF's Australian hosts hope to attract 100,000 attendees; **Link:** <https://bit.ly/3EvLNC9>



ABOUT OUR PROJECT

CE Responsible - Empowering Social Business in Central Europe connects established corporations with social entrepreneurs through <https://net4socialimpact.eu>, to make strong, long-term connections.

It's a win-win situation: while social entrepreneurs gain the knowledge and expertise they need, corporations and other commercial entrepreneurs interested in generating more social and ecological impact create new business environments and improve the footprint of their positive impact.

During project implementation, the partners:

- Developed and implemented three strategic documents for improving skills and competences:
 - o Central Europe roadmap for upscaling support to social entrepreneurship sector
 - o Central Europe sustainable framework model supporting specifics of social entrepreneurship
 - o Policy recommendations
- Developed and implemented four tools for improving skills and competences:
 - o Central Europe support and networking platform with related tools
 - o Altruistic entrepreneurs' international association
 - o Coaching toolbox for social entrepreneurs
 - o Coaching toolbox for altruistic entrepreneurs (mentors)
- Implemented seven pilot actions for testing developed bottom-up support tools



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