



DelFin project: Promoting social entrepreneurship in rural regions

Motivated by the social challenges that European rural regions are currently facing, such as brain drain, unemployment, and aging of the population the DelFin project focuses on the **Development of Financial Ecosystems for the Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship in Rural Regions (DelFin)**. Within the next three years this Interreg Central Europe project aims to:

- promote social entrepreneurship in rural regions
- develop finance and funding instruments for social enterprises
- carry out activities that facilitate the cooperation process of regional and local stakeholders in the financial ecosystem for social entrepreneurship in a rural environment
- improve skills and entrepreneurial competences for advancing economic and social innovation in Central European regions
- enhance funding for business support structures for social entrepreneurship

Eight project partners from Germany, Hungary, Croatia, and Italy work on improving the conditions in some of their countries' rural regions: Saalekreis (DE), Hajdu Bihar (HU), Duga Resa (CR) and rural areas in Piedmont Region (IT).

More Information: www.interreg-central.eu/delfin



Key results of regional analysis and discussion in Turin

To get an overview of the current situation in the partnering regions, project partners undertook separate analyses which are combined into a joint comparative analysis. Following the analysis of demographic facts, economic situation, the situation on social entrepreneurship and business support structures, a set of needs of action is identified in each partnering region. Saalekreis needs individual support with respect to the special needs of social entrepreneurs, strengthening information and capacity building for new social entrepreneurs, Piedmont needs to provide adequate economic and financial support and to exploit potential synergies with the local economic activities, Karlovac County aims to eliminate lack of business skills among social entrepreneurs and to enable larger volumes of funding, while Hajdú-Bihar County has to focus on strengthening the familiarity of social businesses and on providing organizations with practical training.

The results of the analysis were discussed during the project meeting that took place in Turin on the 24th-25th of September. The meeting included 24 partners and stakeholders that discussed key conclusions of analyses in partnering regions, similarities and differences between social enterprises and supporting institutions, as well as good practice examples and the ways in which they can be further developed and transferred to other rural regions.





The current situation in the partner regions

Since every project partner country has a specific situation, regional stakeholder meetings took place in each partner region, with local stakeholders discussing the social entrepreneurship models and challenges rural regions are facing. The main goal of those regional meetings is to present innovative ways of improving the economy and working together for local development.

For example, on the 8th of July, the stakeholder meeting for the Piedmont Region took place in Turin. Fondazione Brodolini and FinPiemonte invited stakeholders involved in the topic of supporting social entrepreneurship in internal area of the Region, with the aim of creating a first round table to support solid ecosystem for social enterprises' development. Another example is the regional stakeholder meeting for Karlovačka County that took place in Duga Resa in Croatia on the 16th of September. The main goal was to inform local stakeholders about the aims of the project and the results of local analysis, which started a lively discussion about the potential benefits of the project results.

Upcoming events and activities

Transnational transfer workshops - Local partners and stakeholders will meet with selected DelFin partners in either November or December to organize the transnational transfer of experience for the promotion of social entrepreneurship in partnering regions.

Generation Z - A full-day conferencing on the subject of social entrepreneurship, open labs and citizen science will be organized on the 18th of October 2019 in Magdeburg, Germany.

Perspective job 4.0 - On the 19th of October, the regional job fair is organized for the 4th time by Merseburg Innovation and Technology Centre (Saxony-Anhalt). Our project DelFin will have a stand at the entrance of the fair to present its activities and raise awareness for the pilot project phase.

Social Impact Award Croatia - Award ceremony for the winners of the “Social Impact Award Hrvatska” program, taking place on the 1st of October in Zagreb, Croatia.

Social Crowdfunding Academy - The Civic Academy Crowdfunding is a project coordinated by the City of Turin and is realized by a partnership composed by Guanxi, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini e STI-Jobonobo at the Open Innovation Center of Turin (Open Incet). The Academy will take place every Thursday at Open Incet.

Social(i)Makers - Project partner IFKA, together with the Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organizing a national conference on social innovation in employment, taking place on the 14th of November in Budapest, Hungary.

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