

**Interreg  
Europe**



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*Sharing solutions for better  
regional policies*



# **SOCIAL-SEEDS**

## ***Exploiting Potentials of Social Enterprises through Standardized European Evaluation and Development System***

**Presentation of social enterprise  
landscape & policies**

**SLOVENIA**



# Gorenjska region







# Gorenjska region



# BSC, Business Support Centre, Ltd., Kranj



**BSC Kranj is the regional development agency** for Gorenjska region, North-West Slovenia. It is responsible for (implementation of) the Gorenjska regional development programme 2014-2020. Owners state, local communities.

Relevant areas of regional development include:

- Technological development, entrepreneurship and innovation
- Environment, space and infrastructure
- Tourism
- Human resources development
- Rural development

BSC Kranj is as development agency part of the board of West cohesion region for the OP 2014-2020, connecting the strategic and implementation part of regional development for the West cohesion region.

BSC Kranj is already supporting the social enterprises through the one stop initiative, its role will be widened in this programming period.

# BSC, Business Support Centre, Ltd., Kranj



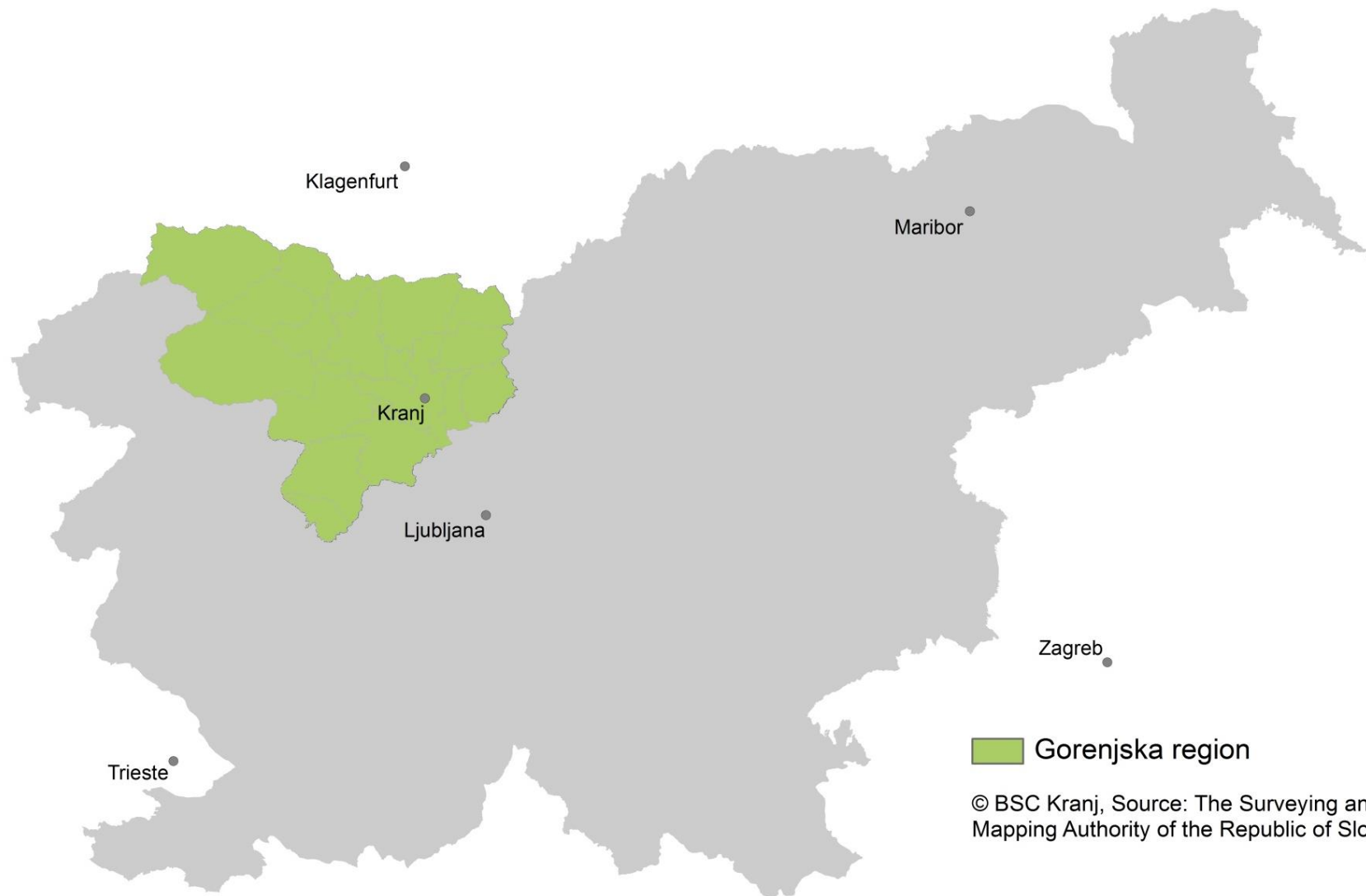
- 1. Regional development agency (RDA), est. 1995, 19 employees**
  - Regional Development Programme 2014-2020
  - Regional Projects (Regeneration of old town, Business parks,...)
  
- 2. Tourism development**
  - Creation and comanagement of regional destination organisation, development and implementation of key projects to implement and upgrade strategy
  
- 3. Business centre for SMEs**
  - One stop shop, Guarnatee Scheme, Coworking initiatives...)
  
- 4. Energy efficiency, reduction of CO2 (innovations)**
  - REALL, different projects in the field of energy efficiency, SEAP-s, preparation of regional CO2 reduction plan in progress
  
- 5. Human resources development**
  - Regional Scholarship Scheme
  
- 6. Centre for rural development**
  - Rural Development Programme, Rural Entrepreneurship, ...)



# **Steering Committee meeting**



# Gorenjska region



 Gorenjska region

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# Regional overview of Gorenjska region

- **18 municipalities**
- **203,894 inhabitants** – 9.9% of Slovenia (2014, source: SURS)
- **Unequal population density** – average 95.4 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> (2014, source: SURS)
- **Ageing of population** – 16% under age 15, 18% aged 65 and over (2014, source: SURS)
- **Positive natural change of population** - 419 or 2.1 per 1000 inhabitants, in Slovenia 1.1 per 1000 inhabitants (2014, source: SURS)





# Regional overview of Gorenjska region

- **19.7 % inhabitants with tertiary education** (2013, source: SURS)
- **8,913 students** – 9.8% of all in Slovenia (2013, source: SURS)
- **1,921 graduates yearly** – 9.7% of all in Slovenia (2013, source: SURS)
- **Number of persons in employment is decreasing** – for 7.4% in the last 6 years (source: SURS)
- **8,472 unemployed people** (Dec. 2014), 3,897 more than in Dec. 2008 (source: SURS)



# Regional overview of Gorenjska region

- **67,499 working places** (2013), 6,340 less than in Dec. 2008 (source: SURS)
- **15,833 € – regional GDP per capita** (2014, source: SURS)
- **5,352 companies** (8,7% of all in Slovenia) with 37,293 employees (8.8% of all in Slovenia) has made 5.656 MIO € incomes in 2013, which represents **7.1% of all incomes of Slovene companies** (2013, source: AJPES)
- **1,772,566 overnights stays by tourists** (78% foreign tourists), that is **18.5% of all overnight stays in Slovenia** (2014, source: SURS)



# Seminar



# Social enterprise landscape

- There is **currently available statistics only about the number of social enterprises registered at the national ministries, lack of available statistics** e.g. employees, profit, ... (due to weak sector)
- It is estimated that there are circa **100 social enterprises fulfilling the criteria of EU operational definition** (national level)
- **Low sustainability** and success rate of start up of social enterprises (the successful ones based on coordination of measures; for vulnerable goal groups, invalids (national support scheme and concessions)
- **Policy attention** (Operational program 2007-2013) so far was given to the start up of social enterprises (through cohesion policy – for inclusion of vulnerable goal groups)
- **New Operational program 2014-2020** will give support to the start ups (social enterprises) and building of regional networks for social enterprises
- **The question of state aids:** all support so far so treated as state aid, including the start ups training, mentoring, ...





# Definition of social enterprises

Are for non profit, they can get the status of social enterprise if:

- They are established for performing the activities of social enterprises in the way, that they will employ at least one worker in first year and at least two workers in next years (social enterprise type A)
- If they are established for employment of people (invalids, long term unemployed,...) in a way that activities will be made by employment of at least 1/3 of those workers of all employees (social enterprise type B) and can perform also other activities not mentioned in the law (based on EU legislation 800/2008)



# Areas of work

- Social care, taking care of the families, invalids, science, research, education
- Youth work, protection of health, social inclusion, production of food
- Usage of renewables, protection of nature and environment, tourism
- Social shops, culture, technical culture, sport, recreation, protection
- Encouragement of the development of the local communities, support services for social enterprises



# Challenges for the sector policies

- We have **specific national law for social enterprises** (need improvements)
- **We have national strategy for social enterprises** – need to be revised
- We have **specific department for social enterprises** at the National ministry for economy
- **Specific improvements of the mentioned framework** need to be done to be able to better promote the development of the sector formulated by the government,
- **There is no possibility for special loans** or financial mechanisms for social enterprises (no specific measures at the banks, no ethic bank, donations are weak)
- **The market for social enterprises is rather weak** – also support from public sector is rather weak (they prefer to use public services; e. g. cleaning,....)
- **No specific trainings for social enterprises**; some smaller attempts
- **No regional framework for development of social enterprises**



# Policy instrument 1.

- **Policy instrument: NOP Priority; development of social enterprises; topics support to start up of social enterprises, regional networks**
- **Reasons for improvement: lack of comprehensive support to social enterprises and development of support environment**
- **How: to upgrade the measures** to support social enterprises also after start up in the development of cooperation with environment, marketing, access to funds and support in their endeavour to spread the activities and areas of work
- The improved measure need to give overall picture and support to the national authorities to **build good policy measures**





# Regional Stakeholder Group

- Social enterprises: 100
- National policymaker(s): Ministry for Economy and technology development, Ministry for work and social affairs, Ministry for education
- Regional policymaker(s): regional development agencies
- Higher education institutions and research institutions: University Maribor, Ljubljana, ...
- Intermediary organizations: Chamber of commerce, chamber of craft, ...
- Professional bodies: Association of social enterprises
- Media partners: journals, TV, ...



# Promising initiatives

- Social enterprises initiative
- Some banks ready to support social enterprises – special measures
- Support of the state to build the regional networks
- Some ideas about start up of ethic bank