

PGI02359 - SOCENT SPAs

Social Entrepreneurship in Sparsely Populated Areas

Interregional Thematic Workshop on *How to support social entrepreneurship development in SPAs*

Programme

08 May 2018, Day 1

8:15	Pick up of workshop participants at Plaza de Mariano Granados (downtown Soria - less than 5 minutes from your hotels)
8:15-8:45	Travel to Valdeavellano de Tera where the workshop will take place. (30 Km from Soria - Espacio Valdeavellano http://www.espaciovaldeavellano.org/presentacion.html)
9:00-10:00	Short presentation by Local authorities on the situation of depopulation in the province of Soria
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break
10,30-10,45	Brief introduction to the workshop. Marcelo Segales, Fundación Tomillo.
10:30-13:30	Group work. The workshop will focus on 4 of the 6 points identified by the Fundación Tomillo based on the conclusions of the 4 regional studies on social entrepreneurship as well as of the interregional thematic workshops held to date.
13:30-15:00	Lunch at Valdeavellano de Tera . Hostal Rebollar.
15:00-18:00	Group work Follow-up work on the 4 points.
18:00-18:30	Conclusions
19:00-19:30	Travel back to Soria
20:00 approx.	Joint-dinner at "La Chistera" restaurant (Calle Alberca, 4- bajo, 42003 Soria)

9 May 2018, Day 2	
IV. Spring Meeting on Impact Investing and Social Innovation for repopulation in Europe – Presentations of some SOCENT SPAs partners and stakeholders	
9:30	Seminar opening (<i>Castile & Leon</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luis Rey. President of the Province of Soria • Antonio López Calvín. President of Cives Mundi • Edelmira Barreira. Government Commissioner for the Demographic Challenge • Silvia Clemente. President of the Parliament of Castile and Leon • Carlos Fernández Carriedo. Minister of Employment of the Government of Castile and Leon. • Carlos Martínez Mínguez. Mayor of Soria
10:00-10:30	Current overview of Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investing in Europe
10:30-11:00	Public presentation of the Study on Social Entrepreneurship in Castile and Leon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucía Velasco. Social Innovation and Research Director at Fundación Tomillo (<i>Castile & Leon</i>)
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:45	Policies to promote SE, Social innovation and impact investing for the repopulation of SPAs in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Volker Offermann. Head of the Department for Women and the Labour Market and Work and Start-up in Brandenburg. • Päivi Ekdahl. Development Director of the Regional Council of Lapland • Ingrid Ujváriova Counsellor to the State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic • Jesús Rodríguez Rodríguez. General Director of Social Economy – Regional Government of Castile and Leon
12:45-14:00	Impact investing tools in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timo Kaphengst. Regionalwert AG Berlin-Brandenburg
14:00-15:30	Lunch
15:30-17:00	Impact investing tools in sparsely populated areas in Spain

17:00-18:00	<p>European programs for boosting social entrepreneurship and social innovation in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joaquín Alcalde. El Hueco, "Laponias Conectadas" Project (<i>Castile and Leon</i>) • Norbert Kunz. Director of Social Impact gGmbH (<i>Brandenburg</i>) • Paula Arribas, JCyL, coordinator of SOCENT SPAs (<i>Castile and Leon</i>) • Mária Montoiro. Parliament of Castile and Leon. Responsible for the management of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies Working Group on Depopulation and Ageing in EU Regions (<i>Castile and Leon</i>)
21:00 approx.	<p>Joint dinner with Spring meeting participants at El Kioscode Soria (Alameda de Cervantes, s/n, 42003 Soria). Informal cocktail dinner hosted by Cives Mundi</p>

10 May 2018, Day 3

9:15-10:15	<p>Panel of success stories of social entrepreneurship and social innovation in European sparsely populated areas (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Tortosa. CEO & Founder of La Exclusiva Logística Social (<i>Castile and Leon</i>) • Roberto Lozano. Director of El Hueco Verde (<i>Castile and Leon</i>) • Kaisa Annala & Tiina Kärjä-Lahdensuu. Sompion Tähti Cooperative (<i>Lapland</i>) • Andrea Vozarova. Community Centre Horehronie (<i>Gemer</i>)
10:15-11:15	<p>Panel of success stories of SE and SI in European SPAs (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juan José Manzano. CEO & Founder of Almanatura. Innovación Rural (<i>Castile and Leon</i>) • Ana Bärceña. Mayor of Muriel Viejo (Soria). Destino Turístico Starlight (<i>Castile and Leon</i>)
11:15-13:00	<p>Presentations of the results of the workshop "Innovative and sustainable ideas to fight depopulation" from the project LAPONIAS CONECTADAS</p>
13:00-13:30	<p>Seminar conclusion and closure</p>
13:30-15:30	<p>Lunch</p>



III Interregional Thematic Workshop

Valdeavellano de Tera, Soria, Spain. 8th May 2018

SYNTHESIS REPORT

GOAL OF THE WORKSHOP: Define the basis for the forthcoming elaboration of the four regional Action Plans to support social entrepreneurship in sparsely populated areas in Castile and Leon (Spain), Brandenburg (Germany), Lapland (Finland) and Gemer (Slovakia).

The meeting took place in the village of Valdeavellano de Tera, Region of Castile and Leon, with the participation of 28 attendants, including key stakeholders from SOCENT SPAs participating regions and representants of the partnering organizations:

- General Directorate for Social Economy and Self-Employed Persons – Regional Government of Castile and Leon (Lead partner – Spain)
- NGOD Cives Mundi (Spain)
- Social Impact (Germany)
- Lapland University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
- Not-for-profit organization EPIC (Slovakia)
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Slovakia)

The programme was designed by Cives Mundi, together with Altekio, a non-profit social enterprise based in Madrid, that was hired to provide an agenda and lead the event with 4 workshop facilitators.

Mr. Joaquin Alcalde Sanchez, Director of Cives Mundi, Mr. Manuel López Represa, Delegate of the Regional Government of Castile and Leon in Soria, and Mr. Amancio Martínez Marín, Provincial County Representative and Mayor of Valdeavellano de Tera, opened the interregional thematic workshop by welcoming the participants.

Mr. Marcelo Segales, from the Fundación Tomillo¹, made a brief introduction to the workshop presenting a “Comparative analysis of the measures included in the diagnoses on social entrepreneurship in the four regions under study within the framework of the SOCENT SPAs Project.”

¹Fundación Tomillo is the contractor to the Conduct a Study on social entrepreneurship status in Castile and Leon region (Spain) and to Support in Drafting an Action Plan in the framework of the Interreg Europe project - SOCENT SPAs: Social Entrepreneurship in Sparsely Populated Areas

<https://tomillo.org/en/>



The workshop was divided in two parts, one corresponding with the morning were activities focused on connecting with the essence of the project and bring the multiple visions from every participant with the aim of defining a common vision.

In the afternoon, activities were planned to go into more detailed work line considering the strategic fields for the project Action Plans and starting to define goals and priority actions for every region in those fields.

Networking and Team Building

First activity was a **mapping of the participants**, placing themselves around the space as if it was the map of Europe, then having a whole picture of the participant's origin. After that, a **'Speed Dating'** activity was done, which consisted in making two lines, one in front of the other, having every person one another in front, preferably some unknown, and then answering the following questions:

- What is your relation with sparsely populated areas?
- Which are for you the main values of the sparsely populated areas?
- Which is your role in this meeting/project



After this first connection among the participants, the next activity was the **'Dyads'**, a walk in pairs for 45 minutes around the village exploring some questions for connecting with the **essence of the project**. The questions had to be done in three rounds, having the same three questions for each round, with the aim of getting more clear and deeper reflections and answers. The questions asked were the following:

- How do you picture a desirable future around social entrepreneurship in sparsely populated areas?
- Which are the barriers and drivers to get to that picture?
- How would you overcome those barriers and strengthen those drivers?

Once the participants came back from the walk, a circle was done to share those reflections. First, sharing the vision of the project (related to those questions). While the sharing, one of the facilitators was capturing the main ideas in a wall paper:



The participants were asked to write down in sticky notes the answer of the third question in the third round (overcoming barriers and strengthening drivers) that answers would be the basis for defining goals in the four **pre-defined strategic lines** identified in the previous interregional thematic workshops and derived from the conclusions of the Studies on Social Entrepreneurship in each region:

- Legal Framework
- Financial and Fiscal Support
- Improve Infrastructures
- Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances

The ideas were shared by the participants and then placed in a different wall paper categorizing them among the strategic lines.



That was the last activity for the morning session and then there was a lunch break.

Defining Project Goals and Priority Actions

The first activity in the afternoon was working in mixed groups for defining goals for each strategic line, with the inspiration of the previous ideas and the diagnostic report (see Annex 1 below) that was done previously to the meeting.



The main **goals** defined were the following:

- Legal Framework:
 - o Define Social Enterprise and Social Entrepreneurship
 - o Reduction of bureaucracy
 - o Special taxing system for social enterprises
- Financial and Fiscal Support:
 - o Financial education for enterprises and the public
 - o Regional development fund, private and public
- Improve Infrastructures:
 - o Internet for everyone, everywhere
 - o Public support services
 - o Online medical consultation
- Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances:
 - o Supply chains
 - o Improving knowledge on Social Innovation
 - o Social incubator for rural areas
 - o Join/support Smart Social Specialization Platform

Once the goals were defined, the activity that was carried out was a '**Coffee Dialogue**' which consisted in four work groups divided by regions and in each of them there was two people from the corresponding region that were giving coherence during the time that the activity lasted. The rest of the people could switch table between every rounds. There were four rounds, each of them focusing on one of the strategic lines, and then in each group, **brainstorming ideas for priority actions** for achieving the goals defined previously, putting them on a time-line.





After the four rounds, the participants organized in regional groups in the four tables, with the aim of get to know what ideas were provided during the previous activity and then to prioritize which were the most relevant priority actions, voting from 1 to 5 points with sticky points of different colours.

The list of **priority actions** per region that shall be taken into account in the elaboration of the regional Action Plans are the following (systematised from short to long-term):

BRANDEMBURG

- Legal Framework:
 - o No priority
- Financial and Fiscal Support:
 - o Micro-credits
 - o KFW regulation champ
 - o Build a social business network (1)
 - o Innovation funds (16)
 - o Talk with our government
- Improve Infrastructures:
 - o Foster a network of SE
 - o Inform regional stakeholders (7)
 - o Ask for funding for social business incubator (13)
 - o DGST
- Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances:
 - o Social franchise (1)
 - o Regional awards and campaigns (13)
 - o Regional labelling
 - o Platform for SE (4)
 - o Regional supply change manager (2)

CASTILLA Y LEÓN

- Legal Framework:
 - o Experts working group in different fields
 - o Concept definition of Social Enterprise and Social Entrepreneurship (26)

- Definition of SPAs
- Write a law based on that definition
- Impact measurement
- Create a regional association of social enterprises/entrepreneurship
- Create a register of social enterprises (3)

- Financial and Fiscal Support:
 - Give more information about financial support alternatives (LEADER Programme) (1)
 - Rise awareness, bank system about SE 'times' in SPAs
 - Financial education for society
 - Public-private co-financing (5)
 - Financial education for schools
 - Simplify tax system for SE in SPAs (1)

- Improve Infrastructures:
 - Internet for everyone (Lapland model) (17)
 - Business consulting (4)
 - Co-working spaces
 - Equip chambers of commerce with SE (knowledge/resources)
 - Promote sharing economy apps (1)
 - Increase online public services (4)
 - Improve transport and mobility (9)

- Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances:
 - Impact measurement standards (7)
 - Mentoring network (on and off-line) (6)
 - Networking activities (on and off-line) (3)
 - Exchange training programmes (7)
 - Networking activities with general society (not only SEs)
 - Smart villages network (4)

GEMER

- Legal Framework:
 - Lobby ministries to implement tax reliefs based on definition (1)
 - Special department for social enterprises (11)
 - Oral pitches instead of long applications
 - Set up controls
 - Learn from Estonia, f.i. digitalization (5)
 - Transparency (1)

- Financial and Fiscal Support:
 - Free/subsidized co-working spaces for starting businesses (3)

- Housing grants for young managers working in social businesses (5)
- Flexible micro-credits (14)
- Grant scheme crowd-funding
- Business development consulting (11)
- Bonuses for meeting the goals (3)
- Improve Infrastructures:
 - Train consultants (10)
 - Public transportation (6)
 - Easy access to social institutions
 - Medical help / distant consultation
 - 100% internet connectivity
- Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances:
 - Good practice examples (local, national and international) (5)
 - Internships for business and schools (5)
 - Supplying matching businesses (5)
 - Education (formal, non-formal, practical) (7)

LAPLAND

- Legal Framework:
 - Online platform for Social Enterprises success stories
 - Define social enterprise and entrepreneurship
 - Path description for what needs to be done when starting SE
 - System for social impact measurement
 - Reduction of bureaucracy – municipal reform
- Financial and Fiscal Support:
 - Private sponsors for SE in region
 - Promote social criteria in public procurement
- Improve Infrastructures:
 - Raising awareness of digital medical solutions
- Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances:
 - Creating and sustaining SE value chains
 - Develop and encourage local supply for public procurement



Conclusions

This meeting helped to bring a deeper connection of the participants with the project and among themselves, exploring their personal and group interests and visions, and to reinforce the group relations with personal and group activities.

A set of goals and priority actions for each of the pre-defined strategic lines were nailed down, serving as a basis for the design and definition of SOCENT SPAs' four regional Action Plans, process that will continue during the next months until June 2019 when these Action Plans shall be evaluated by Interreg Europe Joint Secretary and launched in each participating region.

Comparative analysis of the measures included in the diagnoses on social entrepreneurship in the four regions under study within the framework of the SOCENT SPAs Project.

Analysis dimensions	Castilla y Leon	Brandenburg	Lapland	Gemer
Context y situation of social entrepreneurship				
Depopulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Population density much lower than the Spanish average (26 and 92 inhabitants per km2, respectively). -Strong population loss between 1960 and 1970 and since the beginning of the economic crisis in 2009 -As a consequence: loss of productive potential in depopulated areas and lack of job opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Population density of 84 inhabitants per km2, significantly lower than the rest of the country. -It will lose a total of 517,000 inhabitants by 2040, mainly in more peripheral areas whose population is migrating to areas of former West Germany and the Berlin metropolitan area due to a lack of economic and employment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It occupies 30% of the Finnish territory and has only 3% of its population. Its population density is only 2 people per km2. -It is composed of three provinces: Rovaniemi, Sodankylä and Inari, the first of which is the most populous (61,000 inhabitants). -49% is generated by the private sector and 12% by entrepreneurs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It is in the southeast of the country and its population density reaches 57 inhabitants per km2, just over half that of the entire country. -Strong rural component. -High unemployment, especially long-term unemployment and a weak production structure.
Policy frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Social enterprise and social entrepreneurship are not recognized. -The law only defines social economy entities based on the nature or legal form they adopt, including: cooperatives, labour companies, special employment centres, insertion companies, foundations, associations, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The National Engagement Strategy (2010) defines social entrepreneurs as those people who set up organizations aimed at addressing social challenges with entrepreneurial and innovative strategies. -There is no specific legislation for social entrepreneurship, nor is it expected to be introduced in the short term. -It is considered that acting under the ordinary legal forms existing in Germany and gives social enterprises different advantages- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In Finland there are two definitions of social enterprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Finnish Labour Association defines them by their social mission and materialises in a hallmark (Finnish Social Enterprise Mark) -The Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment includes those which generate employment for disadvantaged people and materialises in the butterfly label. -Neither of the two definitions depends on the legal form of the companies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There is no specific legislation for social enterprises. -In 2015, social economy entities were defined as those with a social purpose, providing goods or services to disadvantaged communities that use at least 50% of their income to meet their social objectives. Social enterprises were not included.
Support measures for social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The instruments for promoting entrepreneurship have little incentive for social enterprises. -The recent "Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Self-Employed Strategy" 2016-2020 includes the promotion and support of social entrepreneurship projects and an accelerator of social projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The German federal government supports social entrepreneurship through awareness-raising measures, infrastructure to accelerate business, access to funding, development of a Social Reporting Standard, support for young people, etc. -The state of Brandenburg has been involved in projects to promote social entrepreneurship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There are no specific measures for the promotion of social enterprises. These have developed thanks to the strong social and business fabric (especially of cooperatives). -There are institutions working to promote social entrepreneurship: the Red Finlandesa de Investigación de Empresas Sociales (FinSERN) and the Finnish Innovation Fund (SITRA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There are no initiatives aimed at strengthening social enterprises in the territory. -The policies to promote entrepreneurship are implemented based on the different action plans of the districts that make up the region. -The main measures adopted to strengthen the social economy include improving labour market conditions and developing key productive sectors (tourism, construction, environment, etc.).
Situation of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of specific regulation of social enterprises -Low visibility and knowledge of its characteristics. -Financing is underdeveloped. -Lack of entrepreneurial culture in sparsely populated areas. -Obstacles in terms of infrastructure (especially the Internet). Small markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No quantitative data available for Brandenburg. There are 1,700 social enterprises in Germany. -They are characterized for being social assistance organizations that provide a significant volume of public services throughout the State. Most of them are micro-enterprises operating at local level. -They are aimed at the integration into the labour market and the social integration of people at risk of exclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High concentration of social enterprises in the southern cities of the country. -In Lapland there are only 39 (without considering cooperatives operating as social enterprises). That is why its impact on Lapland's economy is difficult to determine. -They provide services in isolated areas. -Reinvest their profits in new initiatives. -They do not feel supported by public policies. -They use technology to offer their services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Difficult situation due to economic, demographic and labour conditions. -There are five key actors for their development: local governments, insertion companies or companies whose workers are people at risk of exclusion, third sector entities, associations and cooperatives. -The development of social enterprises can be facilitated by: existing in-depth financial instruments for all enterprises; state funds for peripheral regions; active employment policies; and support projects funded by the ESF.
Measures proposed in each of the regions				
Raise awareness about the positive aspects of social entrepreneurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Incorporate entrepreneurial spirit and social entrepreneurship into school curriculums. -Encourage social entrepreneurship from the public employment services. -To fight against the stereotypes that prevail over the rural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Coordinate federal and state advocacy efforts on behalf of social enterprises. -Raise awareness among other economic agents about the economic viability and social impact of social enterprises. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promote that the regions include the promotion of entrepreneurship in their regional development plans. -Bringing educational content closer to the needs of the labour market and improving the integration of disadvantaged young people.
Build an appropriate legal framework and provide specific fiscal and financial incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Typify legally the figure of the social enterprise and create a register of social enterprises -Establish tax incentives (special reduced rate of taxation, deductions, etc.) -Raise the awareness of banks and investment funds to channel resources towards social entrepreneurship -Promoting social clauses in public procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase market transparency by identifying social enterprises. -Establish flexible regulation of social enterprises in relation to their tax treatment. -Adapt Corporate Social Responsibility programmes to improve access to financial resources for social entrepreneurs. -Encourage private banks to develop programmes to finance social enterprises. -Simplifying the legislation on donations and promoting crowdfunding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improve the legal framework for social enterprises by increasing the visibility and usefulness of the Finnish Social Enterprise Mark. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Legally classify social enterprises according to European guidelines. -Develop a national institute of the social economy to improve legislation on the social economy and train advisers and consultants to identify social projects and enterprises for its support. -Financial support for companies and social entrepreneurs, especially those linked to the growth of local employment.
Generate support infrastructures for entrepreneurs and social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish training devices (physical or virtual), advice, search for financing lines, contact networks, etc., hubs, labs and co-working spaces; incubators and business incubators for social entrepreneurs. -Ensure adequate internet connection in sparsely populated rural areas. -To promote the generation of networks for the exchange of experiences and knowledge among social entrepreneurs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establish a national consultancy service for social enterprises. -Promote advisory services for social enterprises in more advanced stages of development. -Improve the provision of consultancy and support services in German universities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide support and information in relation to social entrepreneurship to people with entrepreneurial initiatives and ongoing businesses in Lapland. -To generate support and advice mechanisms for entrepreneurs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generate incubation and acceleration spaces for companies and enterprises that provide training and advice. -Support social entrepreneurs in developing realistic business plans and accessing microfinance, especially those projects with prospects of employing people from disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities (gypsy origin).
Promote the generation of networks and knowledge about the impact and scalability of social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Incorporate subjects related to social entrepreneurship in university academic training and depopulation. -Provide entrepreneurs with tools to improve the impact of their activity, measure and disseminate it adequately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Design specific training and advisory programmes for the scaling up and transfer of initiatives to rural areas and disadvantaged regions. -Incorporate standards in the generation of information on the impact of social enterprises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Investigate how social enterprises are being promoted in other countries to determine the best way to support social enterprises on a regional level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Encourage that local action groups coordinate themselves to improve their capacity for action in relation to the local development of their regions.



Social Entrepreneurship in Sparsely Populated Areas (SOCENT SPAs)

Comparative analysis




Abandonment of rural areas harms economic growth

Population density significantly lower than the country average and negative perspectives

Only two people per km² makes it the **least populated region in the EU**

Low attractiveness, rural and underdeveloped area




Social enterprises are **not legally typified** although social economy is regulated

German social entrepreneurs **do not claim for a legal classification of the sector**

Two definitions and **labels of social enterprises without connection with the legal form** of the enterprise

Social enterprises are **legally typified** since 2018




Scarce specific support instruments except for private initiatives at national level

Relevant initiatives at national level which support infrastructure, financing and raising-awareness

Two **institutions support** SOCENT: FinSERN and SITRA but **no concrete measures** at national level

Regional action plans do **not include specific initiatives**



Limited visibility, funding and entrepreneurial culture in isolated sparsely populated areas

No quantitative data, usually **microenterprises at local level** addressed to boost social and labour market integration

Provide services in isolated areas using technology (cooperatives also work as social enterprises)

Difficulties derived from **social and economic** general situation

Proposals



 <p>Promote social entrepreneurship spirit in the school system and the public employment services</p>	<p>Coordinate advocacy and raise-awareness on positive social impact of social entrepreneurship</p>	<p>The reforms of social and health care system may increase the importance of social enterprises</p>	<p>Promote social entrepreneurship in regional development action plans</p>
 <p>Typify social enterprises legal status, set tax incentives and raise-awareness of banking system to improve their funding</p>	<p>Build a flexible regulation for tax purposes and stimulate corporate social responsibility to improve social enterprises funding</p>	<p>Improve legal framework by increasing visibility of existing Finnish Social Enterprise Mark</p>	<p>Establish a social economy national institute</p>
 <p>Establish training, advice, hubs, labs and co-working services and improve connectivity in SPAs</p>	<p>Establish a consultancy service for social enterprises, specially those in more advanced phases</p>	<p>Provide support and advisory services for social entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Support social enterprises specially for those with initiatives with employment prospects</p>
 <p>Provide social enterprises with tools for measuring their social impact and promote social innovation</p>	<p>Design training programs for scaling up initiatives to rural areas and incorporate impact information standards</p>	<p>Investigate good practices in EU countries to find the best way to support social enterprises in the region.</p>	<p>Encourage local action groups coordination for boosting regional development</p>

Castile and Leon: findings



Castilla and León have been suffering strong **tendencies of depopulation** since the 1970s. This has led to serious consequences on its economic growth.



The **social enterprises** are the ones whose main purpose is generate a social impact by solving a need rather than generating economic benefits.



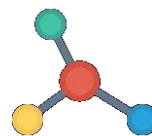
There are no specific regulations for social enterprises. This results in a scarce visibility and awareness of their existence and therefore making it impossible to generate specific framework in order to benefit them.



Without a legal framework, the means of **financing** them are underdeveloped.



The **lack of entrepreneurial culture** and low economic opportunities result in the abandonment of the rural areas by the youth who prefer heading out to work in cities or near-by urban areas.



Limitations in the market in SPAs slows down the entrepreneurial developments.



Insufficient generation of knowledge about rural areas and scarcity of any support system towards social entrepreneurship inhibits the possibilities of receiving resources destined towards less populated areas.



The existing difficulties to establish **good internet and landline services** make it less likely to install these services in less populated areas.



Castile and Leon: priority lines of action



Build a **legal framework** in order to structure social enterprises.



Boost **social innovation and knowledge** by the development of tools in order to network and exchange experiences between social entrepreneurs and their initiatives.



Improve the **access to capital** by generating specific fiscal and financial incentives to develop entrepreneurs and social enterprises in sparsely populated areas.



Encourage the creation and consolidation of **markets for social entrepreneurs** through the alliance with the public sector and other actors, such as enterprises, business, consumers etc.



Promote the **social entrepreneur spirit** in the school system and the public employment services.



Improve connectivity (internet and online systems) in sparsely populated areas in order to encourage economic activity and attract new population.