

NEWSLETTER JULY-DECEMBER 2018

SOCENT SPAs

Interreg Europe

SOCENT SPAs improves the effectiveness of regional policies in sparsely populated areas to actively support social economy and social entrepreneurs as a driver to regional competitiveness and inclusive growth

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SME
competitiveness



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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1 Finland *Action Plan Draft and Good Practice Seminar*

The 4th semester of the project was dedicated to two major events in Lapland: one was the creation of the Action Plan draft and its expert group meetings and the other the Good practice seminar held in Rovaniemi and Salla.

For the Action Plan draft, two expert group meetings were organized. During the first meeting, the three main action groups were set. These are for Lapland:

- 1. Enhancing the Image of Social Enterprises and Social Economy in Lapland*
- 2. Providing Education and Training*
- 3. Initiating a System for Social Impact Measurement*

In the second expert groups, the concrete measures that go with each action group were set. During the upcoming bilateral visit during the first half of 2019, some more input on these measures is expected.



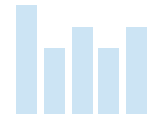
From the 23rd to the 24th of October, the project's good practice seminar was held. The seminar on the 23rd was held at the Arktikum Museum and Science Centre in Rovaniemi and was organized in cooperation with the ERDF-funded project "Arjen turvallisuuden kansainvälinen yhteistyö" (International cooperation in community based civil safety).



During the seminar, good practices from within and outside the project partnership were presented and subsequently reviewed and discussed in a workshop as well as panel discussion. The next day had participants travel to remote Salla, where the previously discussed good practices were linked to the Action Plan development.



Participants discussed how their Action Plan development process had gone so far and what could be learned from other partners' processes.



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2 *Finding real measures in Brandenburg*

SOCENT SPAs aims at delivering real support measures to social entrepreneurs in rural areas. To find out what specific measures we will implement in Germany's Brandenburg, our German partners held a workshop on July to discuss viable options with their regional stakeholders.

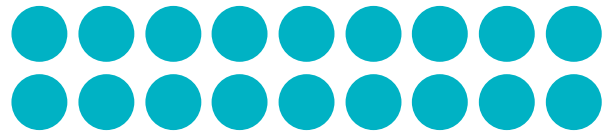
Among other things, it was discussed to implement an innovation fund, a Centre of Competence for Social Innovation to bundle several services for SEs in rural areas, a regional supply chain manager train-the-trainer scheme or a more bespoke incubation programme for regional SEs.

We are excited to move forward with these impulses and ideas to further strengthen SEs in Brandenburg and beyond.



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3 *Slovakia*

Stakeholder meeting on social entrepreneurship in Gemer

The close of the semester in Slovakia was dedicated to a regional stakeholder meeting on social entrepreneurship in Gemer, which took place in early December in the town of Rimavská Sobota. At the meeting, the project partners Non-profit organisation EPIC and Ministry of Labour shared the experiences gained from the interregional learning process with local actors and raised awareness about the new legal landscape for social enterprises in Slovakia.





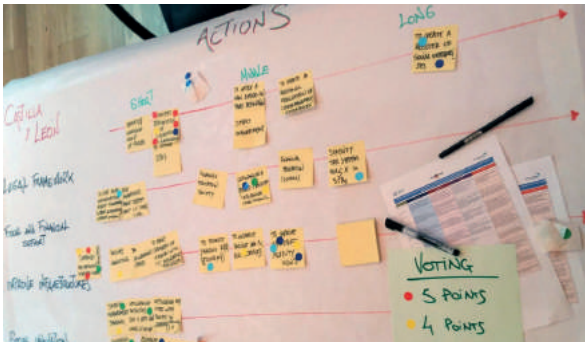
The work meeting was attended by a diverse group of about 20 stakeholders – municipalities and regional government officials, social entrepreneurs, and regional development groups from Gemer. The ideas and inputs shared in the roundtable discussion will be further translated into the regional action plan framework!



Action plan and Presura 4 Spain

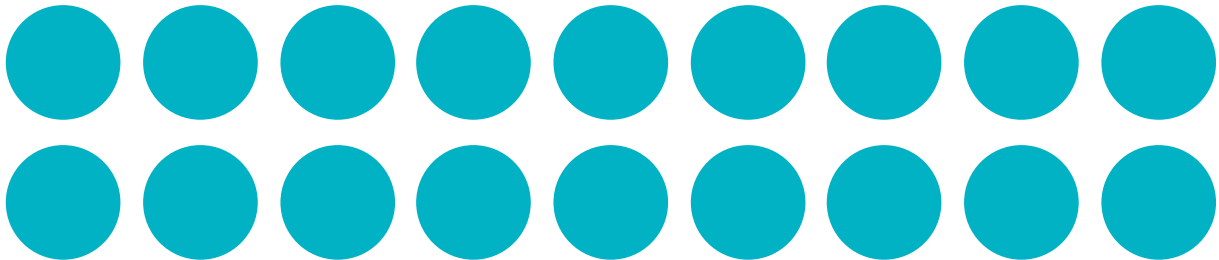
Action plan

After the workshop of Valdeavellano de Tera, in the region of Castile y León, both the DGES, lead partner, and Cives Mundi, identified four main lines of action on which we have been working on the Action Plan, as well as a series of guidelines to establish concrete measures: Legal framework; financial and fiscal support; improve infrastructures; Social Innovation, Networks and Alliances.





With the aim of achieving greater social consensus with the proposed initiatives, in the next semester, a draft of the action plan will be presented to the Economic and Social Council of Castilla y León, which brings together at a regional level, union representatives, representatives of business organizations, external experts and representatives of social economy companies.

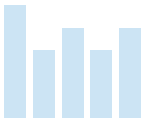


Presura

On November was held in Soria, Castile y León, the second edition of Presura, the Fair for the Repopulation of Empty Spain. The fair aims to disseminate a vital and thriving rural world that attracts entrepreneurs, especially of a social nature. SOCENT SPAs was present at the fair and, in addition, during the summer participated in the Presura presentation tour through different towns and cities of sparsely populated Spain.



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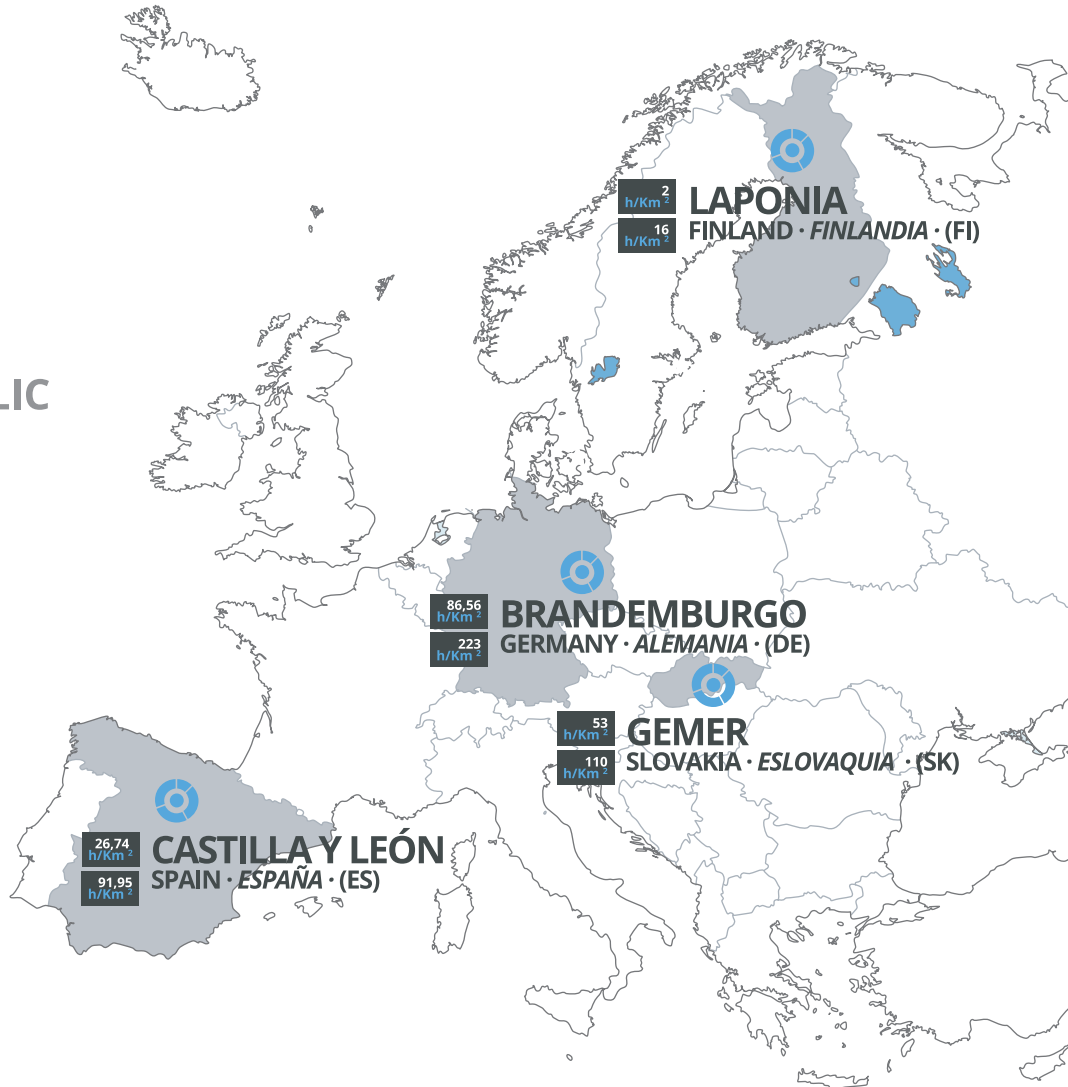


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TOPIC
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SOME THINGS WE LEARNT THIS SEMESTER

STEP

01



No easy solution to the problems of sparsely populated areas, otherwise the same problem would not be present all over Europe

STEP

02



Public procurement can be used in all regions to boost social economy and social entrepreneurship, as seen in the Greater Manchester example

STEP

03



Create good balance between qualitative and quantitative indicators for social impact measurement, as in the best practice from Spain "ROIPE"

STEP

04



Social Economy membership platform could be adopted also in other regions, as shown by the good practice from Lapland

STEP

05



Establish social innovation/enterprise incubator, as shown by the example of Brandenburg

STEP

06



Possibilities/sources for social investments need to be better communicated

STEP

07



Tight cooperation with key target groups needed, to provide solutions that fit them best, as observed by the Finnish example of the "maakuntauudistus" (municipality reform) team, which is travelling through all of Lapland to chat with inhabitants about the upcoming reform, as "when it's social business you have to socialize"

STEP

08



Engage multidisciplinary teams in the development of social economy and social enterprises, to include the human, legal as well as the technological viewpoint

STEP

09



Attract more financing for social impact measurements and convince the community of the importance that rural areas are more than just problems

STEP

10



Important to see that there a lot of people who deal with the same issues in Europe, so time to scale up the initiatives and confront politicians with these ideas to bring these issues even more on the political agendas

Project Partners

**General Directorate for Social Economy and
Self-Employed Persons - Regional Government of Castile and León (ES)**

NGOD Cives Mundi (ES)

Social Impact (DE)

Lapland University of Applied Sciences (FI)

Not-for-profit organization EPIC (SK)

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (SK)



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