



**BRESE**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# Interreg Europe Project “BRESE – Border Regions in Europe for Social Entrepreneurship”

## Regional Analysis of the Podkarpackie Region – key points

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# The region and overview of number of social enterprises

## The region:

Number of municipalities - 160

Population - 2,120,000

Hub of the largest aviation industry cluster in Poland

Cross-border location

## National leader in social economy:

- 149 social enterprises - (**60% non-profit**)
- a total of 6500 different foundations and associations –  
7th place in the country
- 33 organizations per 10000 residents –  
5th place in the country

## Main areas of activity: :

- **gastronomy** (23%)
- cleaning services (22%)
- education and culture (21%),
- trade and other services (21%)



# Legal Status and Concept of Social Enterprise

National Programme for the Development of Social Economy (2014)

***“The social economy is a sphere of civic activity, which through economic and public benefit activities serves: professional and social integration of people at risk of social marginalization, the creation of jobs, the provision of social services of general interest and local development”***

4 groups:

- **social enterprises** (fundamental)
- **reintegration entities**
- **public benefit entities**
- **economic operators**

The legal basis for social enterprises comprise 10 different acts of law.

Various development strategies (national and regional) and operational programmes, e.g. Regional Operational Program of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship for 2014-2020.

# Main factors hindering the development of Social Enterprises

- The structure of the economy inherited from the period of real socialism;
- Labour market situation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic;
- High unemployment rate;
- Low level of knowledge about the social economy;
- Administrative burdens, complicated legal regulations and procedures;
- High migration outside the region;
- Waves of economic emigration of relatively young and well-educated inhabitants of the region;
- Very strong intra-regional differentiation: north and west - south and east.

# Main findings and conclusions from the stakeholder interviews

1. Social entrepreneurship is an **opportunity** for people from areas most at risk of exclusion to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the region, to get a job, or participate in social and professional life.
2. A **strong cooperation** between ES and the Social Economy Support Centers.
3. The **main problems** that limit the Social Economy in the region:
  - lack of knowledge about social enterprises; – inability to cooperate; – a small number of financial mechanisms favoring the establishment of ES; – dependence of ES on EU funds and subsidies.
4. Key needs for the development of social entrepreneurship
  - networking of social enterprises –business representatives –public administration;
  - creating a competitive financing environment for such enterprises,
  - system solutions (e.g. tax breaks, simplified licensing procedures).
5. The outbreak of the COVID pandemic is definitely an unfavorable phenomenon.





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Thank you!

