



Action Plan of the Interreg Europe Project BRSE

Border Regions in Europe for Social Entrepreneurship

Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (RRDA)





Contents

Preface

1. General Information	3
2. Policy Context	3
3. Actions.....	10
3.1. A) Transfer and application of the Good Practice “Intensive Bachelor level BOVA course “Exploring social entrepreneurship in the Baltic States”	
B) Introduction of new solutions based on social economy education of young people in the Podkarpackie Programme of Social Economy Development 2025-2029	
C) Enhancing cooperation of universities with the main institutions responsible for the development of social economy in the region.	4
3.1.1. Background	4
3.1.2. Action Description	5
3.1.3. Players Involved	7
3.1.4. Time frame.....	9
3.1.5. Costs and Funding Source.....	9



1. General Information

Project	<i>BRESE</i>
Partner Organisation	<i>Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (RRDA)</i>
Other partner organisations (involved if relevant)	<i>N/A</i>
Country	<i>Poland</i>
NUTS2 region	<i>Podkarpackie</i>
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2. Policy Context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

- 1) Regional Operational Programme of Podkarpackie Voivodeship 2014 – 2020
- 2) Podkarpackie Programme of Social Economy Development (2021 – 2024)



3. Actions

3.1. **A) Transfer and application of the Good Practice “Intensive Bachelor level BOVA course “Exploring social entrepreneurship in the Baltic States”**

B) Introduction of new solutions based on social economy education of young people in the Podkarpackie Programme of Social Economy Development 2025-2029.

C) Enhancing cooperation of universities with the main institutions responsible for the development of social economy in the region.

3.1.1. Background

The BRESE project and the partners cooperation enabled the exchange of information about social economy systems and the solutions used to enhance the development and foster the cooperation among the main actors in the field of social economy in each country taking part in the project. The analysis of the good practices presented by the partners as well as information obtained during the project enabled to find many interesting solutions which aims at the support and the development of the social enterprises. The impressive is the attitude of the large companies in Germany which support start-ups and already running companies with social aim e. g. Brabant Outcomes Fund, Rheinland Pitch and Impact Factory. However those great examples of support are mainly organized by large private companies.

Polish Action Plan aims to present the activities which directly concentrate on introducing changes in regional policies/strategies which also focus on the social economy. As one of the most important document which has a direct influence on the development of the region is Regional Operational Programme of Podkarpackie Voivodship 2014 – 2020 (RPO). This document was included in the Application Form as it tackles issues in the field of social economy such as promotion of the social entrepreneurship, vocational integration in social enterprises and the usage of social economy in order to facilitate access to employment. The specific objective of this document was to strengthen the role of social economy entities in the activation of disadvantaged people and in providing social services of general interest in the region. RPO was prepared for the years 2014 – 2020. At present the works for the new policy instrument “European Funds for Podkarpackie 2021 – 2027” are finished and the document is waiting to be approved by European Commission. It will not be possible to introduce to those two documents any changes and improvements from the lessons learnt during the project. Moreover coordination of the social economy sector will be no longer under the regional policy instruments, although the issues of support for social

entrepreneurship provided mainly by Social Economy Support Centres will remain within the competence of the regions and will continue to be financed from regional funds.

The document specifying the framework for social economy in Poland is the National Programme for Social Economy Development (KPRES). At the national level, the document defines the directions of development, while at the regional level it is the Podkarpacki Programme of the Social Economy Development (PPRES), which adjusts the measures included in the KPRES to the specifics of the Podkarpackie region. The RPO is a tool for financing specific actions aimed at supporting the social economy in the region. All the provisions of the Regional Operational Programmes concerning the social economy must take into account the assumptions included in the KPRES.

In Podkarpackie voivodship the regional government issued “Podkarpacki Programme of the Social Economy Development 2021-2024”. This document tackles the most important issues concerning social economy such as: institutions responsible for the issues of social economy, the diagnosis of the social economy sector, the aim of the programme, programme implementation management system. This document is valid until 2024 but the preparation for the new document will already begin in 2023 or 2024.

The BRESE project allowed to get acquainted with the good practice concerning the education of young people in the field of social economy. The Intensive Bachelor level BOVA course "Exploring social entrepreneurship in the Baltic States" not only disseminates knowledge about social economy (SE) among young people, but equips them with practical business skills with a social focus.

The Action Plan aims to introduce more provisions on youth education into the PPRS. For that purpose it is planned to increase cooperation of three Rzeszow universities (University of Rzeszow - UR, University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow - WSiIZ and Rzeszow University of Technology - PRz) with institutions dealing with social enterprises support (Rzeszow Social Economy Support Centre - ROWES, which operates within RRDA structures) and social economy sector coordination (Regional Centre of Social Policy in Rzeszow - ROPS). Based on BOVA good practice and cooperation with the above mentioned institutions, it is envisaged to create a course/training plan for young people (students), which would prepare them in a practical way to set up and run a social enterprise. The aim of such course/training would be to develop business competencies of young people while increasing their social sensitivity.

3.1.2. Action description

It is planned to use this good practice to prepare a similar solution in Poland. A new approach to educating young people in the field of social economy should be introduced. It is planned to establish cooperation between ROPS, ROWES operating within the structures of RRDA and 3 universities from Podkarpackie Voivodeship: UR, WSiIZ and PRz



to develop a practical plan to teach how to run a social enterprise. The learning plan would include topics such as:

- ✓ Social Economy Entities (SEE) and Social Enterprises (SE) - types and differences,
- ✓ Social goals of SEE and SE,
- ✓ Types of SE and their characteristics,
- ✓ Functioning principles of SE in various legal forms,
- ✓ How to set up a social enterprise,
- ✓ How to run a social enterprise and not go bankrupt,
- ✓ Potential clients and suppliers - individual clients, municipalities, social service centers,
- ✓ Marketing and promotion ,
- ✓ Public procurement - how to respond, the potential of social clauses.

The created curriculum plan will be consulted with practitioners - people with experience in running SE. Classes would include creating a SE business plan. At the end of the course, a business simulation would be conducted using a business simulator to put the knowledge gained into practice.

Business simulator is a tool designed to teach business and entrepreneurship basics. It enables simulation of running a social enterprise on market rules. In the simulation, participants make real business decisions managing a virtual social enterprise by experiencing business such as: creating workplaces, hiring employees, setting salaries, buying equipment, investing in traditional and online advertising, setting prices. The simulator allows you to run businesses in a variety of sectors, which provides variety and reflects different market conditions. The gameplay consists of about 6-8 rounds, during which the participants make business decisions that have an impact on the company's financial result. After the final round, the team with the best score wins. Each round will be preceded by mentoring from a practitioner - a person who runs a social enterprise in real life.

Description of the business simulation:

- ✓ Trainees are divided into smaller teams (about 3-5 people - like in a small cooperative) that create virtual businesses.
- ✓ Teams manage companies, making realistic business decisions.
- ✓ They compete for customers with rival companies operating in the same market.
- ✓ They analyze the results of their decisions, make theses, draw conclusions, solve problems.

The simulation will be a practical verification of knowledge gained during the course. The element of rivalry will allow to increase attractiveness of the simulation.

As PPRES for 2021 - 2024 has already been adopted, the proposed activities could be tested within the framework of joint activities of ROPS, RRDA and ROWES, and then entered into



PPRES as new solutions based on education of young people (students, high school students) in the field of social economy.

This activity will strengthen the cooperation of the university with the main institutions responsible for the development of social economy in the region (ROPS, ROWES, PMO).

3.1.3. Players involved

There are different players involved in this action:

Podkarpackie Marshall Office (PMO) it is an auxiliary unit of the Regional Board, which, with the help of the Marshal's Office, performs the resolutions of the Regional Council and the tasks of the Region specified by law. The head of the Marshal's Office is the Regional Marshal. The Offices area of operation is the whole Podkarpackie Region.

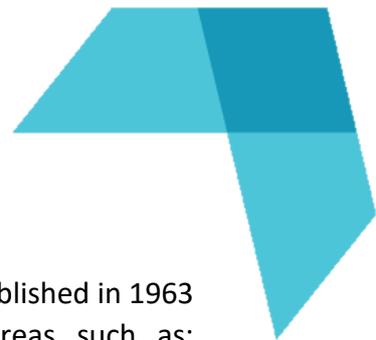
- The main tasks of the Regional self-government include:
- public education, including higher education;
- health promotion and protection as well as social assistance and pro-family policy;
- culture and protection of its goods;
- modernization of rural areas and environmental protection and water management, including flood protection;
- zoning;
- public transport and public roads;
- physical culture and tourism;
- protection of consumer rights;
- public security and defence;
- counteracting unemployment and activating the local labor market.

Regional self-government is responsible for the development of the region, among others in the field of social economy. In this field it prepared and issued "Podkarpacki Programme of the Social Economy Development 2021-2024". This document tackles the most important matters concerning social economy in the region.

One of the tasks of the voivodeship self-government resulting from the Social Welfare Act is to coordinate actions for the social economy sector in the region. This task is assigned by the voivodeship government to the Regional Centre for Social Policy in Rzeszów, which is a public institution supervised by the PMO.

Regional Centre of Social Policy in Rzeszow (ROPS) - is a public institution which deals with the social policy in the region. Among others it runs the project "Coordination of the social economy sector in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship". ROPS also prepares "Podkarpacki Programme of the Social Economy Development" and take part in the creation of other important policy instruments such as RPO.

Rzeszow Social Economy Support Centre (ROWES) operating in frame of the RRDA – institution which supports and promote social economy entities operating in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.



Rzeszow University of Technology (PRz) – public technical university established in 1963 in Rzeszów, educates almost 13 000 students each year in the areas such as: Management, Finance & Accounting, Construction, Architecture, Chemistry, Mathematics, Mechanics, Electrotechnology, MBA.

Rzeszow University (UR) – public university, established in 2001 in Rzeszów, educates over 16000 students each year in the areas such as: Social Work, Sociology, Finance & Accounting, Medicine, Law, Education, Economy etc.

University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow (WSliZ) - the largest private university in Podkarpacie, established in 1996, educates over 6000 students each year, WSliZ educational offer includes 13 fields of study of the 1st and 2nd degree, postgraduate and doctoral studies. Education is carried out in four colleges: Medical, Media and Social Communication, Applied Computer Science and Management.

Establishing cooperation between the above mentioned partners in order to develop a new model of education about ES is feasible and will not be a problem.

RRDA and ROWES have been cooperating with ROPS, PRZ and UITM for many years. RRDA and ROPS carry out joint projects, exchange knowledge and undertake joint initiatives for the development of Podkarpackie Voivodeship. Moreover, ROWES closely cooperates with ROPS within the framework of ES sector coordination activities conducted by ROPS.

RRDA manages Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park - Aeropolis and operates Technology Transfer Centre, which closely cooperates with entrepreneurs and universities, especially technical universities - PRz and UITM.

On the other hand ROPS has been cooperating with the UR for many years, in particular with the UR Institute of Political Sciences and the UR Institute of Sociological Sciences, organizing numerous conferences, publishing joint publications or organizing trainings.

Both RRDA (through ROWES) and ROPS cooperate directly with social enterprises in supporting the social economy sector. ROWES conducts animation activities, helps to create SE, conducts counselling and training for SE. ROPS on the other hand conducts networking activities of SE, organizes ES fairs, conferences, consultations and is responsible for functioning of the Podkarpackie Social Economy Committee, which is composed among others of representatives of SE.

Division of tasks among partners:

RRDA together with ROPS will be responsible for signing cooperation agreements with universities and obtaining practitioners who will provide mentoring during business simulations.

UR, PRz and WSliZ will delegate one expert each, who will take part in developing educational materials and practical plan to teach how to run a social enterprise.

If the proposed activities are successful, the new system of education on ES will be recommended by RRDA and partners as part of the new Podkarpackie Programme of Social Economy Development (PPRES).

The feasibility of implementation of the presented education system into regional policies is influenced by the fact that the development of educational activities will involve ROPS, which is responsible for the preparation of PPREs, consults it with SEE and SE, and gives its opinion to the PMO.

3.1.4. Timeframe

2023 -2025.

3.1.5. Costs and Funding Source

- 2 Collaboration Workers – $\frac{1}{4}$ FTE * 12 months. 500 EUR/month * 12 months = 6000 EUR * 2 people = 12,000 EUR
- Costs of experts – 3 people from university * 4 months to prepare training plan. 1,000 EUR/month = 12,000 EUR
- 2 practitioners conducting PS – consultation of developed teaching plan – 2 persons * 1,000 EUR = 2,000 EUR
- Experts conducting classes – 6 persons * 500 EUR = 3,000 EUR
- Mentors – practitioners providing mentoring before the start of each round of the competitions using the Industry Business Simulator – 8 persons * 150 EUR = 1,200 EUR
- Access to the Industry Business Simulator service along with support for the games = 12,000 EUR.

TOTAL: 42,000 EUR

All the above-mentioned activities will be implemented within the framework of cooperation between ROPS, ROWES and universities. These activities may be financed under the coordination project of ROPS, which has been implemented cyclically since 2016 and will continue in subsequent years, or under the activities of ROWES operating within the structures of RRDA. Depending on the choice of the institution that will be the leader of the conducted work, funds for the task may come from different sources. There is a possibility of financing the discussed activities from regional funds under the Program European Funds for Podkarpackie 2021 - 2027 or national funds under the Program European Funds for Social Development.



Date: 29.04.22

Signature:

Stamp of the organisation: