



GOOD PRACTICE INVENTORY

Exploiting Potentials of

Social Enterprises through Standardized

European Evaluation

and Development System

SOCIAL SEEDS

Interreg Europe



SME competitiveness



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

I. GOOD PRACTICE COLLECTION

1. Name of the good practice (100 characters)

Foundation Vincenc Draksler

2. Overview (2000 characters)

In Slovenia and in our region, 15 years ago, there was no rehabilitation centre for ex drug addicts (beside those in hospitals). Mr. Vincenc Draksler, philanthrop and donor, was very keen to help young boys, which came back from communes abroad or from rehabilitation programs (hospitals) and didn't have no opportunity for further rehabilitation program that would include safe place to stay, psihosocial and work therapy. He found the joint language with local community Kranj and they established foundation to help ex drug addicts. Mr. Vincenc Draksler donated the farm with garden, local community Kranj provide other support. Further on the first program for rehabilitation of ex drug addicts was prepared, started and first boys were given a chance to improve their knowledge and capacities to be able in a long run to find the regular job.

Through years the rehabilitation program that eventually got concession from the state and quality program was/is implemented with the help of experts (social workers,...). The program was eventually upgraded with work therapy (smaller works at the estate, production of some smaller objects from the wood,...). Later on, when Law for social enterprises was passed, the Foundation established social enterprise and they started with the reuse centre (which is now working on two locations). They also provide work therapy in their centre, where boys produce new items and/or repair the used items that they get from the companies with concession from local communities to gather used objects (furniture, lights, technical items,...). Beside that this year started with new activity (shop in the city centre Kranj, where they sell the items from their own workshops and from other NGO-s, associations that are dealing with vulnerable goal groups. Beside yearly donation from the donor Mr. Vincenc Draksler and yearly support from City community Kranj, foundation tries to get the funds also through structural funds and from private donors (companies, individuals).

The main strategic line of the Foundation is to provide the work and other expert therapy for ex drug addicts and to develop the range of activities, that could help ex drug addicts in their way to the independent life. The foundation goal is also to promote the importance of help and support programs to ex drug addicts and to promote the life without drugs (also through promotion events like traditional yearly "Run").

3. Abstract (500 characters)

Foundation Vincenc Drakser (established by donor Vincenc Draksler and City community Kranj) is dealing with two main lines of the business:

- rehabilitation program for ex drug addicts (concession from the state)
- social enterprise with upgraded psihosocial support and work programs for ex drug addicts: reuse centre (two locations), workshops for repairing of used articles, shop for presentation and selling of the articles produced and repaired in foundation and other NGO-s, associations dealing with vulnerable goal groups

The foundation goal is also to promote the importance of help and support programs to ex drug addicts and to promote the life without drugs.

4. Coherence with the Dimension of the Social Enterprise Inventory

Social innovation (including services)

Social impact and measurement opportunities

Cooperation atmosphere (PPPs)

Regulatory frameworks and bottom-up grassroots

Social entrepreneurship skills and competencies

Access to finance (including external funding)

Access to market (including the internationalization approach)

New(ly) established social enterprise model

Other (specify): _____

You can tick more than one dimension, but emphasize which one is the most significant!

5. Policy Instrument connected with the good practice

Based on the experiences and good practices of start up of social entrepreneurship in Slovenia we can say that several improvements of support measures (that are now in Operational program 2014-2020) took place:

- Financial; microcredit scheme on Slovene enterprise fund (ERDF) and grants through National operational program 2014 -2020 (ERDF): support to Start-up social enterprises - incentives for the start-up of enterprises and youth cooperatives).
- Non financial; promised to be provided through National operational program 2014 -2020 (ERDF): support for mentoring schemes for vulnerable groups working in social enterprises, strengthening the support environment for social enterprises, transnationality in the field of social entrepreneurship, upgrade the services of One stop shop for SME-s and start ups (with the specific knowledge regarding social enterprises).

6. Location

The headquarters is in local community Tržič, with units in Radovljica and Kranj. They offer the support mainly for young men from Gorenjska region, but also from other regions in Slovenia are welcomed.

7. Start date (tentative)

2000

8. Total revenue / income created / personnel employed by the good practice (EUR)

Not specified.

9. Challenges

The lack of specific support measures for ex drug addicts that finished their rehabilitation in communes and/or hospitals is important challenge and so far there is too little developed support mechanisms that would help ex drug addicts to continue rehabilitation including work therapy. Since ex drug addicts are usually facing multiple challenges and they deserve to find the best possibilities for full integration (meaning also regular work) the work of Foundation Vincenc Draksler is very specialised, precious and most welcomed and show very good results. We are convinced that good practice of Foundation Vincenc Draksler can be transferred also to other regions in Slovenia.

10. Would this programme work well in another European context?

The program is rather specific, but their experiences can be perhaps used as the foundation for exchange of experiences with other support programs, working in the same range of the business.

11. Activities (2000 characters)

Foundation Vincenc Draksler works in diverse fields that built together the support measures and offer diverse support to ex drug addicts after they finish their rehabilitation program in Communes and/or in hospitals. The users of the program can be involved first in rehabilitation program for ex drug addicts (concession from the state) and further on they can continue to work in social social enterprise with upgraded psihosocial support and work programs for ex drug addicts: e.g. in reuse centre (two locations) or/and in workshops for repairing of used articles or/and in shop for presentation and selling of the articles produced and repaired in foundation and other NGO-s, associations dealing with vulnerable goal groups.

12. Achievements so far

The foundation Vincenc Draksler is the first social enterprise in region Gorenjska. They are successfully developing and implementing program for reintegration for ex drug users (concession from the state). Additionally they have developed successful social enterprise with inclusion of ex drug addicts into psychosocial and work therapy (workshops for production of new items/repair of old items that can be reused) and they offer also several so called shops where such items can be purchased. Additionally this year they opened the special shop in city centre in Kranj where items produced by NGO-s, association that are dealing with vulnerable groups can be purchased.

13. Strengths, weaknesses, difficulties and lessons learned

The Foundation Vincenc Draksler based on the long years of experiences in implementing the rehabilitation program successfully started with social entrepreneurship. They provide successful model of social innovation, specific model for content and financial viability of the enterprise. They have wide network of connections with stakeholders and they are quite successful in gaining the funds (either public or private) for sustaining and upgrading their activities connected to programs for ex drug users. Through years they have proved, that their program is successful and ex drug addicts find their way to full employment and normal inclusion into the normal daily life.

Due to the fact that working with ex drug addicts is a very demanding job and demands range of experts from different fields and results can come only by working with smaller groups it is not possible to open new unit outside of the region. The other limitation is also connected to financial viability (to quick development can bring the big challenges connected to financial viability).

14. Tips for success

Foundation Vincenc Draksler is successful because;

- they have put together the realistic business plan
- they have defined specific content of their work and they are aware of the necessity for quality experts involved in support program and they know the needs of ex drug addicts
- they constantly take care about the quality of the services
- they gradually built their core business including new activities that are of benefit to users (ex drug addicts) and wider public (e.g. shops)
- they build their image very carefully (all the time having in mind also philanthropy and importance of healthy life)

- they have steady financial flow (partly from donations, public funds, partly from the market)

15. Dissemination and sustainability

It is evident that Foundation Vincenc Draksler has an innovative business model, that has proved its viability through years. Since they combine rehabilitation centre (concesion from the state) and social enterprise activities and they have constant donor support, they will sustain their activities. Their good results, especially regarding the succesfull programs for ex drug addicts can be used also in other regions, the same goes for their good practice of gaining the funds (also through promotion activities: e.g. Yearly run,...).

16. Source – URL or Facebook

<http://www.omamljen.si/>

17. Contact person and details

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