

**Interreg
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European Union | European Regional Development Fund

*Sharing solutions for better
regional policies*



SOCIAL-SEEDS

Exploiting Potentials of Social Enterprises through Standardized European Evaluation and Development System

Presentation of social enterprise landscape & policies

RERA a.s. – Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia

Regional overview

South Bohemian Region

leading branches: tourism, food industry, automotive industry, R&D (biology, biotechnologies, fishery)

Basic data	
Area	10,057 sq. km
Population	637,300 inhabitants
Capital – České Budějovice	slightly over 90,000 inhabitants
GDP per capita	about 12,500 EUR (about 71 % of EU average in PPS)
General unemployment rate (ILO)	5.9 %
Average salary	about 850 EUR
Guests in collective accommodation establishments	1,176,046 visitors



Social enterprise landscape

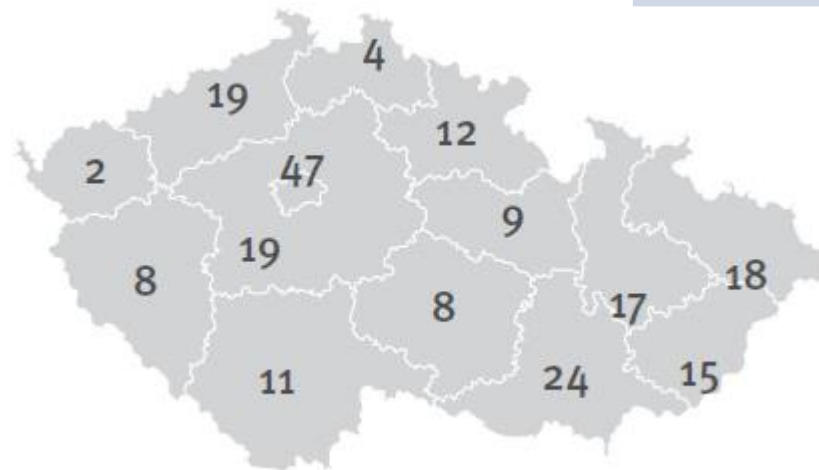
No. of social enterprises in the Czech Republic – 223

Results of survey (2015) among social enterprises made by P3 - People, Planet, Profit, o.p.s.

Area of activity	No.	%
Gardening services, property maintenance, cleaning work	36	24
Other services	30	20
General sale	27	18
Hotels and restaurants	23	15
Food production	23	15

Employees	%
Disabled	64
Long-term unemployed	38
Others	...

Main problems of SE
Finance
Marketing
Lack of time
Sale and contracts
Employees



Challenges for the sector (policy niches)

- National level
 - EU support: Operational Programme Employment (*policy instrument*), Integrated Regional Operational Programme
 - Legislation: Act about social entrepreneurship in preparation
- Regional level:
 - Planning of development: social entrepreneurship supported by the Regional Development Plan 2014-2020, and by the Mid-term Development Plan of Social Services in the South Bohemian Region 2014-2016

Partner – RERA a.s. – Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia



- www.rera.cz
- Operating since 1999
- Located in České Budějovice
- Main activities:
 - Wide spectrum of activities which enhance regional development in the whole area of South Bohemia
 - A stable partner for towns and municipalities, university and business sphere in the area of regional development including the subsidy problems
 - Within the purview of international cooperation, RERA become an ideal subject in South Bohemia to transfer knowledge and expertise from abroad to the region and at the same time it is the right subject for implementation of international projects having provable influence on regional development of the South Bohemia
- List of main relevant completed EU-funded projects: InoPlaCe (Central Europe, lead partner), INNOVAge (Interreg IVC, partner), I4W (Interreg IVC, partner), MATEO (INTERREG IIIC, partner), SEE Platform (EDII, partner); many projects from INTERREG IIIA and following programmes based on cross border cooperation with Bavaria and Austria (lead partner and partner)

Partner – RERA a.s. – Regional Development Agency of South Bohemia

- 4 main shareholders:
 - South Bohemian Region – 30 %
 - The Union of Towns and Municipalities of South Bohemia – 30 %
 - The Chamber of Commerce of South Bohemia – 20 %
 - The Regional Chamber of Agriculture of South Bohemian Region – 20 %
- Experience related to social enterprises
 - Started to be active in preparing grant applications from the region in the area of social entrepreneurship
- Experience in regional / national policy-making
 - See the shareholders
 - Cooperation in development of basic development documents of the region including results of implemented international projects (regional development plan, innovation strategy, etc.)

Policy Instrument 1.

- Name of Policy Instrument:
 - Operational Programme Employment, Priority axis 2. Social inclusion and combating poverty, Specific Objective 2.1.2: Development of the social economy sector
- Brief description of the policy instrument
 - The policy instrument aims to promote and create conditions for the emergence and development of social enterprises, raise awareness about social entrepreneurship and cooperation between all relevant actors is addressed
- Managing Authority in charge:
 - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Proposed self-defined performance indicator:
 - No. of submitted projects by social enterprises - 5

Current status of implementation of the policy instrument

- What is the status of implementation of the policy instrument?
 - 1st call is over (2015)
 - Focus: foundation and development (capacity expansion of the company) of new business activities in the field of social entrepreneurship
 - Can companies apply for funding: Yes
 - 283 projects registered in the amount about 46 mil. EUR
 - Results about accepted projects (which meet the criteria) continuously published
 - Generally low success rate
 - Unfortunately, can't see the origin region
 - 2nd call planned for 2016

Policy instrument 2.

- How do you envisage the improvement of this policy instrument (e.g. through new projects supported, through improved governance, through structural change)?
 - The improvement of the policy instrument will be achieved by new projects supported
- What partner region do you wish to learn from and how?
 - ???

Partner Relevance

- What are the partner's competences and experiences in the issue addressed by this policy?
 - Over 15 years, RERA is an essential regional player in the Czech Republic supporting&coordinating economic, social, cultural development within the South Bohemian Region. Due to its shareholders, RERA has strong connections with regional politicians&the representatives of the region, responsible for regional economy&social affairs. RERA is active in preparing grant applications from the region in the area of social entrepreneurship.
- What is the capacity of the partner to influence policy instrument?
 - RERA is a regional development agency for the whole South Bohemian region& works closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which declared support in the LoS. Through its partner network, RERA under the supervision of the ministry, will directly address, influence and improve the policy instrument by initiating of submission of new project proposals, and by proposing improvements of this instrument through cooperation under the stakeholder group.

Regional Stakeholder Group

- Composition of RSG:
 - National policy maker
 - Regional policy maker
 - Selected Czech social enterprises and umbrella organizations
 - Higher education institutions
 - Intermediaries
- Have you already established structures to regularly meet and discuss with the relevant regional stakeholders?
 - Not yet
- If not how do you plan to organise it?
 - Planned for upcoming months

List of Stakeholders

- National policy maker - The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Regional policy maker - The South Bohemian Region and the Union of Towns and Municipalities of South Bohemia (shareholders of RERA)
- Selected Czech social enterprises and umbrella organizations - P3-People, Planet, Profit, o.p.s., Pražírna Drahonice, etc.
- Higher education institutions - University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice - Faculty of Health and Social Studies, Faculty of Economics
- Intermediaries - The South Bohemian Chamber of Commerce (shareholder of RERA)

Your Expectations

- What are your expectations in the project?
 - To investigate state-of-art of social entrepreneurship's sector in the region
 - To enable different stakeholders from the region to learn and get inspired by experiences / good practices from abroad
 - Contribute to the improvement of the selected policy instrument through new projects supported
- What needs to be improved in the territorial situation?
 - ???