



Newsletter #1
06.11.2023

Boosting Social Economy Across Europe

We are excited to bring you the latest updates from the SECON project, aimed at boosting the social economy across EU regions. As we embark on this journey, our goal is to create a thriving environment for social economy growth through policy enhancement and the exchange of best practices.

Let's dive into the heart of our mission and recent developments:

Our activities include:

- ✓ **Regional and Interregional Learning Initiatives:** We're facilitating the exchange of insights and expertise among regions to foster growth.
- ✓ **Development of Studies and Reports:** Through comprehensive research, we're uncovering the key drivers of social economy progress.
- ✓ **Knowledge Exchange Endeavors:** We're creating platforms for collaboration, ensuring the cross-pollination of ideas.

5 things you need to know about SECON:

SECON aspires to:

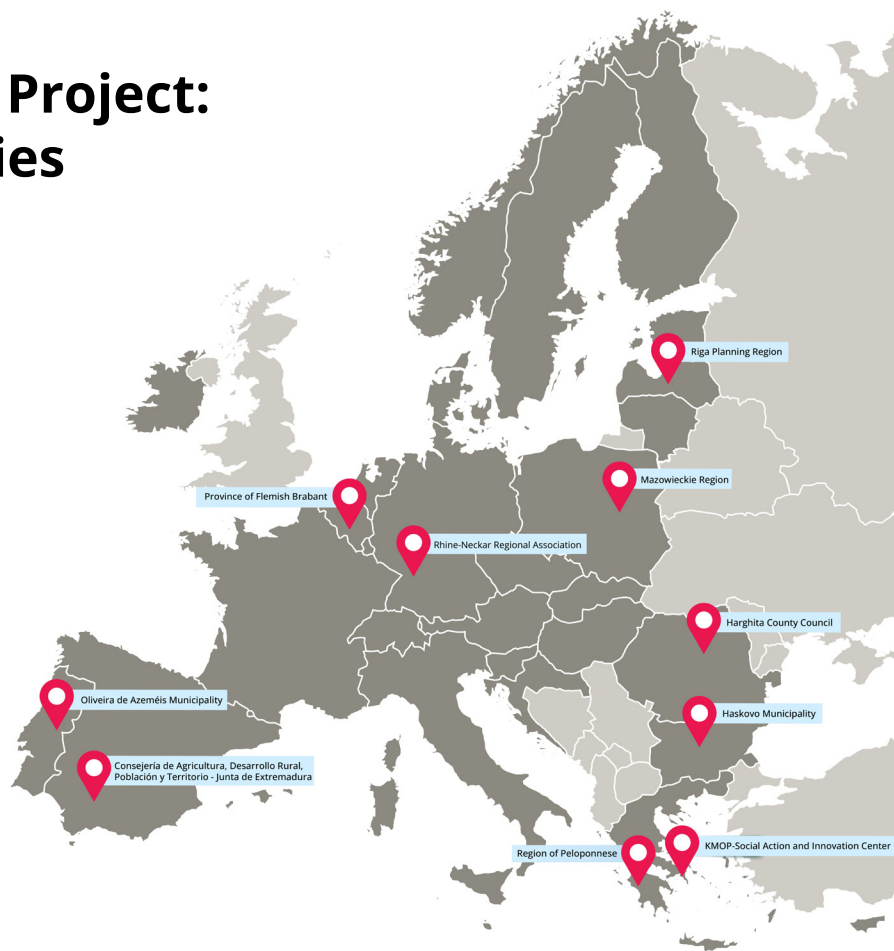
- 1. Raise Awareness and Visibility:** We aim to connect responsible consumers with the social economy, promoting local and ethical consumption.
- 2. Empower Social Enterprises:** By aiding access to funding and responsible procurement, we're empowering social enterprises to achieve financial independence.
- 3. Enhance Business Support:** We're equipping social enterprises with the tools they need to thrive through capacity building.
- 4. Contribute to Transitions:** SECON is playing a pivotal role in driving the social economy's involvement in green and digital transitions.
- 5. Fuel Social Innovation:** Through our efforts, we're igniting social innovation at the regional level.

Navigating the Policy Landscape

SECON is addressing policy instruments in various regions, including:

- ✓ Region of Peloponnese, Regional Programme 21-27 in Greece
- ✓ Multiannual Plan 2020-2025 – Flemish Brabant in Belgium
- ✓ Regional program “European Funds for Mazowsze 2021-2027” in Poland
- ✓ ESF Operational Programme (2021-2027) in Spain
- ✓ The Regional Development Concept “Rhine-Neckar – Connect Innovation!” in Germany
- ✓ Economic Development Strategy - Harghita 2030 in Romania
- ✓ Municipal Plan for Social Innovation (MUPSI) in Portugal
- ✓ The Riga Planning Region (RPR) Development Programme 2022-2027 in Latvia
- ✓ Plan for Integrated Development of Haskovo Municipality 2021 – 2027 in Bulgaria

The Geography of our Project: 10 partners - 9 countries



- ✓ **Greece:** Region of Peloponnese, KMOP-Social Action and Innovation Center
- ✓ **Belgium:** Province of Flemish Brabant
- ✓ **Poland:** Mazowieckie Region
- ✓ **Spain:** Consejería de Agricultura, Desarrollo Rural, Población y Territorio - Junta de Extremadura
- ✓ **Germany:** Rhine-Neckar Regional Association
- ✓ **Romania:** Harghita County Council
- ✓ **Portugal:** Oliveira de Azeméis Municipality
- ✓ **Latvia:** Riga Planning Region
- ✓ **Bulgaria:** Haskovo Municipality

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Kick-off meeting in Kalamata

The SECON project commenced with its kick-off meeting, on the 24th and 25th of May, marking the beginning of a collaborative effort to enhance the social economy in European regions. Coordinated by the Region of Peloponnese, the meeting brought together representatives from nine participating regions at Kalamata, Greece, to discuss project implementation and set the foundation for future activities.

Read more [here](#).

Representatives of the SECON Project met online with Interreg Europe community

On the 15th of June, representatives of the SECON Project met online with Interreg Europe community to discuss new innovative approaches that the public sector, both nationally and locally, is using to support the social economy across Europe. During the event, the primary activities and objectives of the SECON project were presented.

Read more [here](#).





SECON report reveals insights into Social Economy Policies

In a significant stride towards understanding and enhancing the social economy landscape, SECON partners worked in the first semester in documenting and analysing the relevant Social Economy Policies of their Regions. Our report delves into the intricate fabric of social economy policies within the SECON regions, shedding light on various dimensions including barriers, enabling factors, and the policy frameworks. The report was crafted through a combination of desk research involving strategic documents at both national and regional levels. Furthermore, it draws insights from interviews with seasoned experts in the domain of social economy, as well as stakeholders who actively contribute to shaping social economy development policies.

Download it **here**.

Explore more about our initiatives, updates, and resources on our website **here!**

Our team:



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