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ROMANIAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

*Supporting Social Economy initiatives
through social capital enhancement and
capacity building*

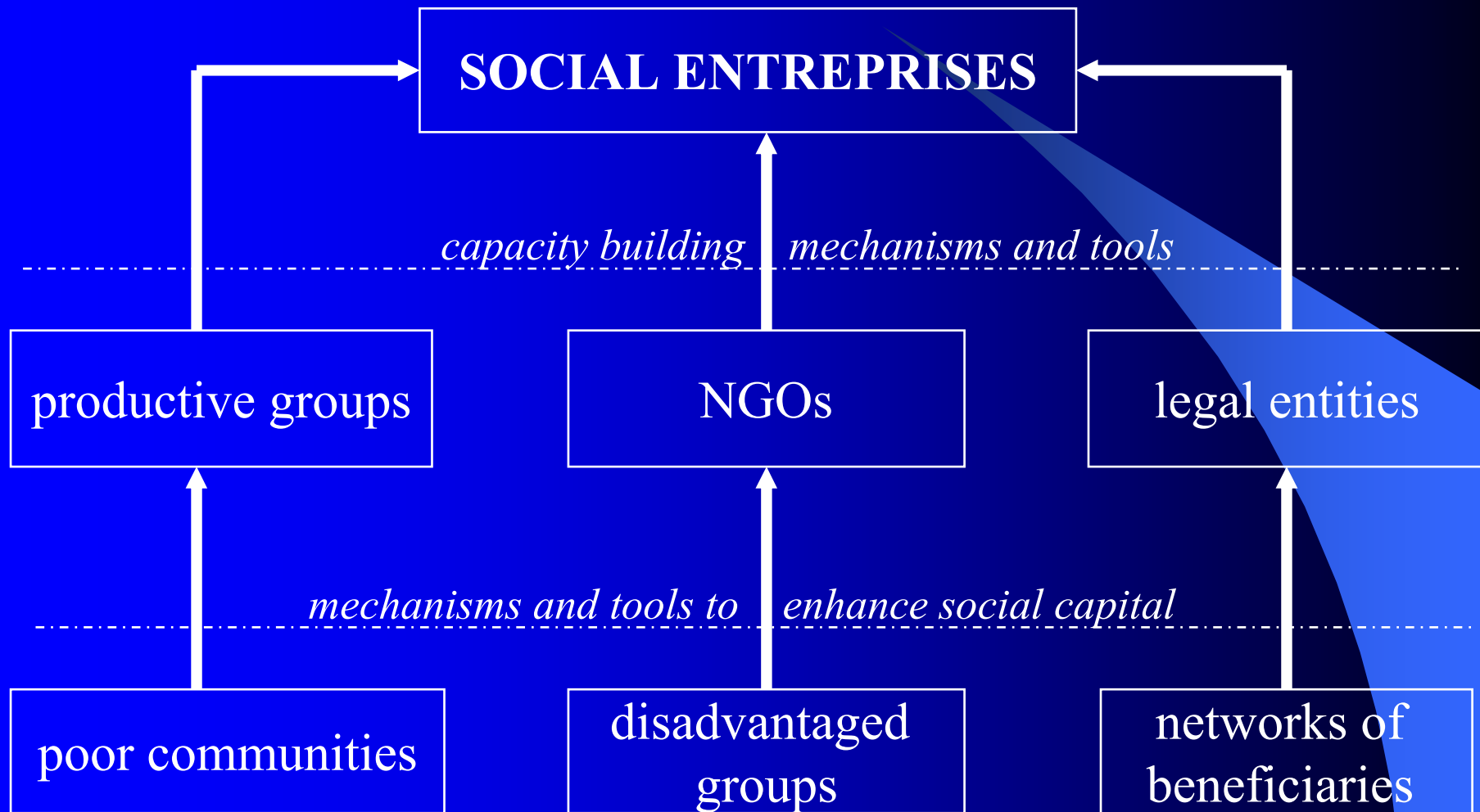
The OECD LEED International Conference on “The Social Economy in Central, East and South-East Europe: Emerging trends of social innovation and local development”
Trento, Italy, 22-23 September 2005



ROMANIAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

- **social development not-for-profit agency
(initially created as a social fund)**
- **addressing the needs of poor communities**
- **objectives**
 - **stimulating social community initiatives**
 - **improving livelihood**
 - **developing social capital**
 - **promoting social inclusion**
 - **piloting innovation**

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY INITIATIVES





CASE STUDY - CONTEXT

- **community**
 - multiethnic rural community, 6 religions
 - about 485 people/ 300 households
 - isolation, out-migration
- **project**
 - wood processing unit
- **initiative group**
 - 12 youth (under 30)
 - 2 priests (evangelist and orthodox)
 - other 4 persons (one woman)
- **partnership**
 - Orthodox Church



CASE STUDY - RESULTS

- **a small income generating unit integrated in the free market**
- **a not-for-profit organization accountable to the community**
- **opportunities and resources to dissuade the young men to leave the community**
- **resources (human and financial) to solve other community problems**
- **a context for the development of social entrepreneurship**



OUR WAY

- **working at grass root level**
- **promoting good practices**
- **being transparent and flexible**
- **applying capacity building tools**
- **emphasizing the role of social capital in local development**
- **providing grants to those who demonstrate social capital**
- **building on the lessons learned**



SOCIAL CAPITAL ENHANCEMENT

PILLAR 1

Rehabilitation of the civic engagement concept

PILLAR 2

Exercising the participatory decision making process

PILLAR 3

Personal contribution to the project implementation

PILLAR 4

Social inclusion of the marginalized

PILLAR 5

Partnership between local stakeholders

PILLAR 6

Accountability in the administration of funds



CAPACITY BUILDING TOOLS

Increasing the community based organizations' skills through:

- facilitating participatory assessment of the local problems
- assisting the process of local development project generation
- training for the project implementation team
- technical assistance for the project implementation team
- granting incentives for further sustainable development (follow-up projects, networking, professional association)



LESSONS LEARNED

- **for the national and regional governments** – the necessity to develop national and regional strategies and alternative tools to support the Social Economy initiatives
- **for the RSDF or other similar financing tools** – the necessity to develop some post-implementation tools to support the beneficiaries (supervision, follow-up grants, networking etc.)
- **for the beneficiaries** – the importance of the formal and informal networks and self-support organizations development, for the sustainability of the Social Economy initiatives



SOCIAL ECONOMY INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY RSDF

- 48 social enterprises created (small size)
- The sustainability rate is about 70%
- Recent strong interest for waste management and cultural activities