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# **Social Economy in the Czech Republic – waiting for Emergence**

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## Background

- # Decentralization of public administration
- # 14 regions – higher autonomy
- # Current financial insecurity of social services providers
- # Recent demographic trends
- # New proposed legislations (often without implementing mechanisms)
- # Social economy and social enterprise – lacking concept

## Existing problems

- # De-motivating system of social and unemployment benefits
- # Concept of SE is not currently widely known
- # Legislative framework – does not recognise social enterprise
- # Underdeveloped business environment in non-profit sectors
- # Privileged position and lobbying of contributory organisations established by municipalities
- # Absence of research basis and statistics on SE
- # Absence of favourable financial framework

## **Opportunities to introduce SE in the Czech Republic**

- # Demand for services at local level sharply increased**
- # Existing elements of sustainable „small“ economy**
- # Existing local employment potential**
- # Existing extensive black / grey economy market at local level**
- # History and experience of local development programs**
- # EU Membership**
- # Determined organisations with know-how**

## **Project actions to introduce SE in the CR**

**#** Establishment of the Working Group (Consortium) and its key members

**#** Tasks:

- Lobbying through MoLSA (letter to Minister)
- Introduce SE and enforce it in the 2007-2013 programming period
- International and national networking
- Awareness raising
- Research and Analyses
- Training programmes

## Key lessons learned until now

*Initiative has been successful !!!*

Meeting with the MoLSA representatives – preparation

Results:

1. SE will be promoted to 2007 – 2013 programming period by MoLSA
2. Interdisciplinary Working Group on SE will be set up under the auspices of MoLSA

## Conclusions

- # Interdisciplinary group under the auspices of MolSA (and ad hoc groups) set up to suggest concrete steps in the field of research, improvement of legislative framework and fiscal framework, promotion of SE concept.
- # Training programs for social enterprise managements
- # Assistance programs to create a network of Social Enterprise (set up by NGOs)