

**Zagreb, 28-29 September, 2006**

**EMERGING MODELS OF SOCIAL  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP:**



**POSSIBLE PATHS FOR SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IN  
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

**The Case of Serbia**

Marija Kolin

**The current state of SE is typical for country in transition:**



**In the wake of the first steps toward transition on the market economy, innovative solutions in building alternative solutions has no significant recognition in public debate**

**Some initiatives recently started to attract attention of relevant stakeholders:**



- **NGOs community**
- **Trade unions**
- **Policy makers**
- **Professionals**

# Types of entities corresponding SE



## NGOs

Self-help groups

- Refugees
- Religious groups
- Handicapped
- Women
- Minorities

## Cooperatives

old and new

- Farmer's
- Ecological
- Women's
- Minorities

# Numbers?



- 300-400 from NGOs scene
- 600 old cooperatives
- 20-30 new emerging cooperatives



## **Main activities:**

- Social protection of vulnerable (shelters, home care, day care)
- Health services at home
- Business activities
- Agriculture production
- Environmentally safe production
- Tourism, handcraft production

## **New legal framework allow entrepreneurial activities**



- **Law on Nonprofit Organizations-  
promote advantages appropriate to  
modern approach**
- **Cooperative Law – comprises major  
cooperative principles**

# Key factors contributing to legal evolution



- Poverty and huge unemployment rate 30%
- Structure of unemployment: women, disabled, minorities
- Care deficit – older-old living alone
- Process of alignment with EU standards
- INGO initiatives and support for pilot programs



# The role of international programs



USAID, UNDP, EU/EAR, SIDA, Handicap International, OXFAM...

**Main achievements are pilot, experimental programs, while sustainability is questionable**



## Key obstacles:

- Slow process of economic restructuring and overall transitional achievement
- Weak market opportunities
- Poor understanding of SE function and role in new circumstances
- Lack of knowledge
- Absence of reliable statistics
- Lack of in-depth research

# Prospect for the future:



- Policy promotion and transparency
- Active engagement of local authorities
- Institutional support - umbrella organization
- Information exchange
- Education, training, counseling
- Research and monitoring