

# THE NETWORK FOR BETTER FUTURE OF SOCIAL ECONOMY



## SPECIFIC CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Facilitator for the European Network for Better future of Social Economy

VS/2009/0533 Learning for change – setting up learning networks under the ESF 2007-2013 announced by the European Commission / DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

### 1. Background

The network established by 5 core partner countries: Poland, the Lombardy Region, Czech Republic, Flanders, Sweden enables the **exchange of experiences and points of view as well as the discussion at European level between these countries which have already implemented a clear policy towards the social economy sector and the beginners in this field**. Our purpose within the Network is to focus also on the instruments, which known and widespread in the advanced countries, need to be elaborated and improved. Therefore, our intention is to **give the Member States more experienced the chance to become more professional in the subject**. Furthermore, we see this Network as an opportunity to try to **develop some common solutions, recommendations and tools at European Union level**, which, thanks to the wide participation of the representatives of the Member States, could take into account different stands and opinions.

The Managing Authorities as well as other participants cooperating within the Network on social economy want to **contribute to the Lisbon strategy through job-creation, social inclusion, increasing entrepreneurship, strengthening public administration and stimulating social innovation**. The Regulation No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council indicates the important role of the social economy in social inclusion as well as supporting the development of social cooperatives. In consequence the support for this sector was included in different ESF operational programmes (OPs). The actions undertaken within the Network will **meet the activities and instruments financed within OPs which will enhance and improve the development of social economy sector**.

The Network will be **based on the experiences gained in the past six years within Equal and other programmes / initiatives** which gave Managing Authorities, Intermediate Bodies, National Support Structures, public authorities, project partners and experts the possibility to share knowledge and best practices and develop tools and policy recommendations as support

for social economy and social enterprises. The close link with the previous activities will be ensured by the members of the Network – **the people that were involved in the European Thematic Group on Social Economy (2000-2006) form the founding fathers and core partners of the new Network.** Our objective is to: (1) **collect knowledge and best practices already existing,** (2) **organise them,** (3) **improve the solutions and work out new ones** and (4) **make them more visible and used.**

The Network works on solutions for social economy in **five working groups focused on:**

1. Community law and social services of general interest in the light of social inclusion,
2. Measuring social added value and quality standards,
3. Social responsible public procurement and public social partnership in the context of social economy development,
4. Social franchising,
5. Financial instruments and mechanisms of fund's allocation to social economy.

The themes chosen reflect the need for supporting social enterprises at their start-up stage as well as their growth and development. They are closely linked and together form a comprehensive support addressed to social enterprises.

**Through the Network its members will gain the possibility to:**

- share information, participate in the discussion at wider level, exchange experiences,
- implement good practices in their ESF OPs,
- work out a new instrument on measuring social added value,
- increase the effectiveness, the quality and the transparency of social inclusion measures,
- increase their knowledge and skills,
- enhance their professional networks,
- influence public authorities at European, national, regional and local level.

The duration of the Network supported within VS/2009/0533 is 33 month (1.10.2009-30.06.2012).

## 2. Description of the project activities

<b>Task 1: Engaging the stakeholders and building the Network</b>
<b>Task 2: Analysing: legal interference between practice and community law, existing tools, practices, solutions, fund allocation, social franchising</b>
<b>Task 3: Presenting recommendations developed in strands within tasks 1 and 2</b>
<b>Task 4: Creating and testing the set of solutions / refining set of solutions including the way the model may be financed (<u>current stage</u>)</b>

Description, objectives and expected results	Method	Activities	Milestone for Deliverables (schedule)
<p>This is the crucial part of the implementation phase relying on drafting a model solution, testing and verifying during the discussion with other partners and stakeholders</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b>  Model solutions tested/verified  Products of each strands work drafted i.e. "Good practice guide on SRPP towards social enterprises"  Draft recommendations from 5 strands for MAs and policy makers prepared</p>	<p>The strand leaders will coordinate activities within each strand leading to the initial set of solutions. Recognized on the previous stages stakeholders from all over Europe will take part in the strand activities. Among the core partners initial interest expressed in the letter of commitment has been confirmed.</p> <p>Foreseen strands' activities are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social services of general Interest and state aid exemptions rules (Flanders) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus group for 20 people</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Measuring social added value (Lombardy Region) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting a case study/model tool for the Lombardy Region</li> <li>• Testing the tool / tests in Lombardy</li> <li>• Experimentation/ tests in other countries</li> <li>• Workshop with other partner countries to share the results of the experimentation (20 people)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Social responsible public procurement and public-social partnership (Poland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review group of 20 representatives of good practices, experts and practitioners</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Social franchising (Sweden) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop for mentors on social franchise (20 people)</li> <li>• Workshop on social franchising (20 people from other partner countries representing social enterprises)</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Financial instruments and mechanisms of funds allocation to social economy (Czech Republic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review meeting for 30 people</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Above activities (events involving stakeholders from different countries) are accompanied by meetings of national stakeholders for whom the cases and methodology of assessment will be presented.</p> <p>The results of the strands work will be reported and discussed during a common seminar organised by Swedish partner in June 2011 in Sweden for all 5 strands (50</p>	<p>This task will take place in the first half of 2011 (<a href="#">Prolonged until September 2011</a>)</p>	

	<p>people). <u>The common seminar/workshop was postponed for September 2011 and will be either organised by Swedish Partner in Brussels or in Italy by the Lombardy Region.</u></p> <p>It will give us a feedback from the phase 4 – what are the solutions proposed by each group and what are the recommendations for ESF managers and the EC we can draw on their basis.</p> <p>Stages of preparation of learning seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the meeting agenda and content</li> <li>• Preparation of the supporting materials</li> <li>• Encouragement of ‘learning’ prior to the meeting: the learning process can be encouraged in advance of the meeting, which will ultimately make the discussions more fruitful and the learning outcomes more significant. The supporting materials will be posted on the website</li> <li>• Facilitation of the meeting: The facilitators will be briefed to ensure a common, unified approach that works towards the same learning outcomes. Another key aspect of the facilitation will be drawing out conclusions and messages. It will be up to the facilitators to make use of the reflective session at the end of each working group discussion and the final closing session to pull all the debate into a series of key points.</li> <li>• Encouragement of learning after the meeting: Written information will be circulated and posted on the website.</li> </ul>		
<b>Target group</b>	Stakeholders engaged in phase 4, ESF programme managers, the EC		
<b>Lead responsibility</b>	Strand leaders: PL, CZ, SE, Flanders, Lombardy Region		
<b>Contributors</b>	Stakeholders, experts		
<b>Task 5: Redesigning and delivering the final set of solutions</b>			
<b>Description, objectives and expected results</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestone for Deliverables (schedule)</b>
<p>The final solutions from each strand discussed initially during the learning seminar in phase 4 will be then the subject of experts work. Their role is to underpin the practical results of phase 4, conclusions of the learning seminar, revise it and prepare as a final document from the Network</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> Final document from the Network presenting the recommendations</p>	<p>The experts work on each strand recommendations and then the common document will be followed by the final learning seminar addressed at all strands stakeholders, practitioners (good practice representatives), experts involved in the Networks works.</p>		<p>Experts work June – November 2011 Final learning seminar in Warsaw for 75 people (Polish presidency) in November/December 2011</p>

for the social economy development under ESF programmes with particular products from each strand attached		
Stakeholders involved in Networks activities informed about results of each strands work and final Networks recommendations during final learning seminar		
<b>Target audience</b>	Stakeholders, experts, practitioners engaged in the Networks activities	
<b>Lead responsibility</b>	PL, CZ, SE, Flanders, Lombardy Region	
<b>Contributors</b>	England , FI	

### Task 6: Drafting the communication plan

Description, objectives and expected results	Method	Activities	Milestone for Deliverables (schedule)
<p>The good communication plan is very important in terms of internal communication between partners and dissemination of the Networks achievements (recommendations). Its drafting will be started from the very beginning of the implementation phase and then will be revised and adjusted in course of the Networks works.</p> <p><b>Expected results:</b> Communication/dissemination strategy drafted</p>	<p>The communication strategy will consist of two chapters: internal communication rules and external communication strategy which is a dissemination strategy. It is important to start the work as early as it is possible, together with identification of stakeholders in order to create properly the information policy and build the effective channels of dissemination. The input from all partners is needed regarding identification and then verification of target groups, events and methods.</p> <p>After the website will be rebuilt it will play the important role in both: internal communication and dissemination plan.</p>		<p>First draft - November 2011 (<a href="#">Changed for June 2011</a>) Final version – September 2011</p>
<b>Target audience</b>	Core partners, stakeholders, experts, programme managers, the EC		
<b>Lead responsibility</b>	PL and other strand leaders		
<b>Contributors</b>	England, FI		

### Task 7: Implementing communication strategy

Description, objectives and expected results	Method	Activities	Milestone for Deliverables (schedule)
<p><b>Expected results:</b> The products of the Networks activities (Guide on application EU legislation, publications, database on social franchising, database on frequently used ways of financing, a list of engaged stakeholders, links with other networks, proposal of possible solutions and tools, description of conditions of model</p>	<p>Mainstreaming and PR events towards the EC, Parliament, the ESF Managing Authorities Printing publications and reproductions.</p> <p><b>Key stages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation of mentors</li> <li>• Designation of ambassadors</li> <li>• Learning seminars</li> <li>• Policy forum during the Commission / Polish presidency event</li> </ul>		<p>Final mainstreaming conference for 75 people – by 31.05.2012 (Brussels)</p>

applying) disseminated among identified users (mostly the ESF Managing Authorities) and policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events in MS</li> <li>• Open Days presentations</li> <li>• Final conference</li> </ul>	
<b>Target audience</b>	ESF programme managers, project promoters, European Parliament, the EC	
<b>Lead responsibility</b>	PL, Flanders	
<b>Contributors</b>	SE, Lombardy Region, FI, England, CZ	

### 3. Facilitator's tasks

This announcement refers to the period June - December 2011

- Coordination of the Strand leaders` efforts
- Exploring policy areas identified for social economy development on the EU level
- Contributing to five reports based on the findings of thematic working groups and meeting discussions
- Preparation of monthly draft reports concerning the Network progress
- Participating and providing an expert support at 5 events at least organized by working groups (workshops, peer reviews, seminars)
- Participating and providing expert support at the common network events like common network seminar on creating and testing a set of solutions and final learning seminar
- Participating in Steering Management Committees meetings
- Animating discussions and supporting website development

### 4. Expert profile

The qualifications of applying expert should be outlined in a **comprehensive CV** showing the professional achievements and providing previous experience in a social economy field. The CV should be also provided with a **list of relevant reference projects** concerning either 'exchange of knowledge' initiatives or participation in the EU actions, especially ESF projects. Each candidate should deliver a **statement of availability** confirming that he or she is available to perform requested tasks with indicated resource estimation in days.

The application should also include a one page information on how expertise will fit into NBFSE activities.

The maximum budget earmarked for the facilitation is **EUR 9 000 including overheads**. This sum does not include transportation and accommodation costs, which will be paid upon actual costs incurred. The claimed costs have to be in line with 'Financial Guidelines', which are available under the address:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/calls/2008/vp\\_2008\\_018/call\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/calls/2008/vp_2008_018/call_en.pdf).

The costs will be reimbursed according to the statement of the costs actually incurred and delivered invoices.

The budget has to be broken down by working days and appropriate time sheets should be provided to the contractor.

Requested qualification in details:

*Qualifications and skills*

- At least university degree education in associated field.

*General professional experience*

- At least 5 years experience in the area of social economy or third sector and preferably knowledge exchange in the EU and abroad.

*Specific professional experience*

- Experience in co-ordination and knowledge-exchange processes of programmes and projects concerning social development
- Experience in analyzing/ evaluation of projects/programmes on the social aspects of the labour market policy (social integration in employment)
- Detailed knowledge of the European Structural Funds, especially European Social Fund and previous EU-based programmes on social economy development, like Community Initiative EQUAL
- Knowledge on social, economic and labour market policies on the European level, particularly the issues concerning social economy development, like state aid, public-social partnership, public procurement, financial instruments and allocation of funds for social economy, social added value, social franchising

*Language skills*

- Fluency in English language, both spoken and written.
- Fluency in one or two other official EU language is an advantage.

## **4. Timing**

The facilitator`s work should start on **1 June 2011 and be finalized by 31 December 2011**. The facilitator should be prepared to participate in all strand events (approximately six), common network seminars (approximately 2) and Steering Management Committee/Content Management meeting. The draft report from the event should be delivered within 15 days after the meeting.

Main meetings:

- Common network Content Management meeting, Brussels (30 June 2011)
- Peer review on social responsible public procurement and public-social partnership (Poland)
- Focus group on social services of general interest and state aid exemptions rules (Flanders)
- Workshop to share the results of testing a model tool for measuring social added value (Lombardy Region)
- Workshop on social franchising for experts and representatives of social enterprises (Sweden)
- Seminar on financial instruments for social franchising experts (Sweden) – to be confirmed
- Peer review on financial instruments and mechanisms of funds allocation to social economy (the Czech Republic)

- A common seminar where the results of the strands` work are reported and discussed (Brussels, Lombardy Region, Warsaw – to be confirmed, September 2011)
- Final learning seminar addressed at all strands stakeholders, practitioners and experts involved in the network operation (Warsaw, December 2011)

Estimated dates and places are subject to change

## **5. Selection criteria**

60% Professional experience  
20% Reference projects  
20% Technical ability (budget)

## **6. Contact and application procedures**

The applications including CV, reference projects, statement of availability, description of the proposed methodology and price-tasks grid have to be delivered to the Ministry of Regional Development in Poland, Department of ESF Management no later than **25 May 2011** either by e-mail, by mail post or hand delivered. Any application received after the deadline will not be considered.

- Contact person: Monika Deszczka
- Address: Department for ESF Management  
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Poland
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