BALTIC INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ENGAGE! Project Development workshop
Interreg project „BSR Social Innovation”
11.01.2023
Venue: Hotel Mercure, Gdańsk

Engage!

Iceland Liechtenstein Norway Active citizens fund

BAŁTYCKI INSTYTUT SPRAW EUROPEJSKICH I REGIONALNYCH

Euroregion Bałtyk

AGDER fylkeskommune

BALTIC INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

About BISER

- Est. In 2001
- Operates in Gdynia/ Tricity/ Pomorskie Region
- Representatives of academia, business, public administration → volunteers
- Areas of interest & expertise:
  - International cooperation of NGOs
  - Social innvoation& social entrepreneurhsip
  - Sustainable development
  - Baltic Sea cooperation
- Currently engaged in 3 international projects (Interreg BSR, Erasmus+, EEA Grants)

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Current strategic project – ENGAGE!

The project is implemented with a grant from the Active Citizens - National Fund funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Funds

Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Active citizens** fund

South Norway European Office
Sørlandets Europakontor

BISER | Baltic Institute For Regional Affairs

Engage!

WSPIERAMY
LOKALNE ORGANIZACJE POZARZĄDOWE
W ROZWOJU WSPÓŁPRACY MIĘDZYNARODOWEJ

SUPPORTING TRANSNATIONAL
COOPERATION OF LOCAL NGOs

www.biser.org.pl/engage

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Current strategic project ENGAGE!

Duration:
April 2020 – July 2023

3 partners:

- ***BISER (LP)***
- ***APC ERB***
- ***Agder County Council***

9 ENGAGE! activities

1. Kick-off conference in Elbląg, PL
2. 8 workshops in PL
3. Study visit to Iceland (project partners)
4. Study visit of Polish NGOs to Norway
5. Visit from Norwegian NGOs to Poland
6. Consultations & mapping the NGO sector
7. Ambassadors of NGOs International cooperation - suport activities
8. ENGAGE! Playbook – International cooperation for NGOs
9. Final conference in Gdynia, PL – June 2023

ALSO: invitation to NGO representatives to participate in Annual Forum in 2022 Lappanreenta, Finland

Engage! Iceland Liechtenstein Norway Active citizens fund BISER AGDER fylkeskommune

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New cooperation possibilities – Policy Area Tourism Coordinator

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

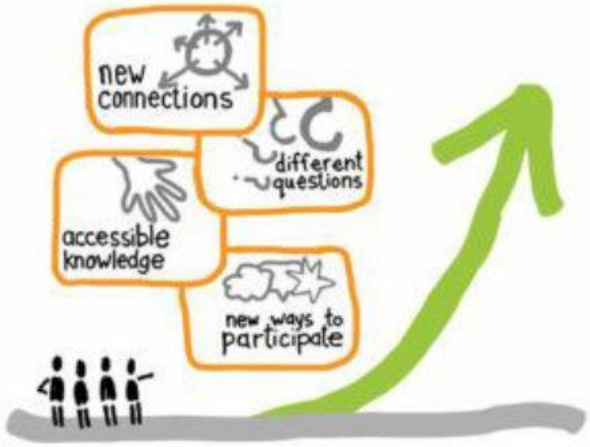
BSR Social Innovation flagship project – how it started?

- → Baltic & Nordic SE Support Network www.socialenterprisebsr.net since 2016
- → June 2020 contact with PAC Education
- → Since 2021 also PAC Inno + international workshop in Oct 2021
- → Since 2022 – PAC Tourism + international workshop in Nov 2022

MOVING FORWARD!

Why social innovation?

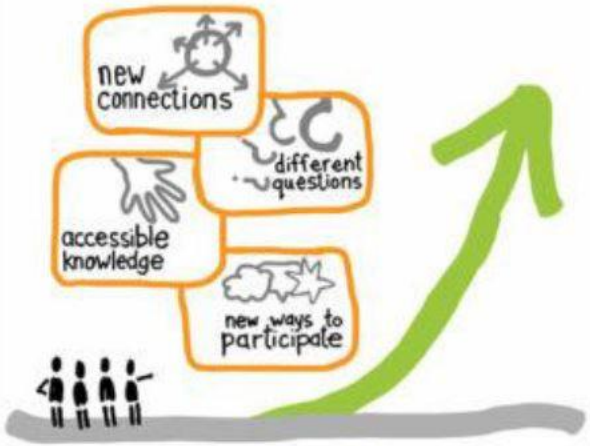
- The unparalleled **challenges** at global, national and territorial levels **demand new strategies** and tools to successfully address them.
- **Social innovation is part of the solution**, as it aims to provide innovative solutions to unsolved social problems, putting social value creation at the heart of their mission.
- **"...social innovation does not have fixed boundaries**; it cuts across all sectors (the public sector, private sector, third sector and household)" (Mulgan and Pulford 2010, p. 14).
- **social entrepreneurship is not the same as social innovation**, since it is focused on solving a problem through business, but social innovation search to solve the problem through a number of different forms.



MOVING FORWARD!

Why a BSR Social Innovation flagship?

- **The aim** of the flagship BSR SOCIAL INNOVATION is to **deliver policy briefs and new methods** targeting complex societal challenges.
- Stakeholders will be invited to co-create, cross-sectorial, transnational, and multilevel. Besides co-creating solutions, the flagship will offer **exchange on good practices related to how to organize and promote social innovation.**
- Potentially, the flagship will be cross-Policy Areas besides PA Education Science and Social affairs support PA Innovation and PA Culture.
- Flagship can absorbed funding from ESF+ through synchronized calls o via the centralized calls on social innovation



1st workshop results

- Joint learning process - understanding the logics within different sectors
- Common understanding is fundamental, awareness raising and capacity building
- Capacity building of cooperation; different perspectives of organisations/ individuals
- How to evaluate the impact of social innovation?
- Inner development goals as a mean to support and work with the SDG.
- Long-term stability for the foundation of social innovation
- To engage all stakeholders and strengthen capacity for all stakeholders
- Exploring, defining, and creating ecosystems to foster social innovation
- Defining role of different stakeholders in social innovation ecosystem
- Combining social innovation with EU Green Deal and Local Agenda 21
- Cross-thematic discussion of social innovation – not only actions also knowledge
- Labs - defining, creating, financing, connecting
- Citizen engagement
- Mapping what is out there and establishing the relevant links
- Platforms for social services, social enterprises
- How to evaluate impact from social innovation
- To make common understanding
- To inform about possibilities
- Opening innovation support for social enterprises
- Individual aspects of the person to be considered
- To create common definition
- Health
- Education and skills needed for the future
- Education for social innovators – developing skills
- Challenge: financing the social innovation system
- Social economy linkages
- Strong facilitation role before any technical platform
- The most important thing is to gather and connect all these actors
- Target groups, interest groups or users should be part of this work at some point
- Great to meet, but also make sure they get real value out of it. Many meetings, conversations with no real outcome. Smaller organisations don't have a long runway

RESULTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

First thoughts on thematic priorities – possible platforms for collaboration within the flagship.

1st workshop results

- Widened competence base, bringing experts together
- Supporting the change of mindsets towards social innovation
- Being able to learn and co-create together in the macro region
- Working more effectively together, across boarders
- Possibility of coordinating, sharing and jointly designing new working methodologies, approaches, and skills to targeted shared challenges
- International inspiration and help to promote social innovation at national level
- To push & advocate EU for long-term funding possibilities instead of smaller projects where collaborations can be set up properly
- There is a paradigm shift towards working in a coordinated way, although difficult it is important to prove the impact of this model
- Access to and knowledge about funding opportunities
- Exchange on social innovation methods and tools
- Be the voice to EU on social economy and social innovation
- Exchange on regional social innovation strategies
- Connecting grassroots social innovation initiatives with policy-making
- Capacity building platform for social innovation stakeholders
- Platform for exchanging best practices on how to support social innovation -> An academy for us
- Increasing awareness about the value of social innovation to those who are not already "on board".
- Join forces for putting social innovation on the political agenda
- Mapping social innovations – both inspiring and cautionary ones. So that the knowledge is gathered in one place for innovators to build on.
- A place for sharing the national mappings of our national social innovation ecosystems. Perhaps knowledge exchange on the methodologies used?
- Creating the long term opportunities and environment for transnational collaboration on social innovation
- Mindset shift from "me" to "we"

RESULTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

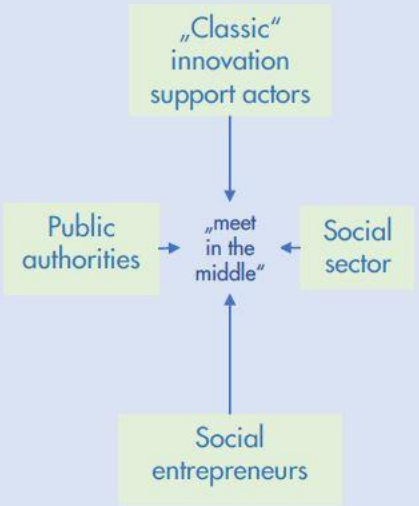
What is the macro-regional added value provided by this potential flagship?

DEVELOPING PROJECT IDEA

Project Idea for Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2nd call:
Integrating social innovation / social entrepreneurship into existing innovation ecosystems

Challenge

Insufficient integration of social (inclusive) entrepreneurship support into existing innovation ecosystems in the Baltic Sea Region



WP 1: Prepare solutions

solutions are jointly developed by partners (Year 1)

Solution idea 1:

Concept for integrating social innovation into smart specialisation strategies

Target group: Regional authorities (as strategy owners), sectoral agencies and business support organisations

Components: Tools for ecosystem mapping, …

Solution idea 2:

„Add-on" social/inclusive entrepreneurship programme for incubators

Target group: Existing business incubators, business support actors

Components:
Guidelines for incubator management, staff training programme for working with social innovation

Solution idea 3:

New targeted incubators for social/inclusive entrepreneurship

Target group: Potential operators of incubators: Universities, business support organisations, NGOs

Components:
Operating concept, financing concept, staff training programme for innovation support

Solution idea 4:

…

WP 2: Pilot solutions

each solution is piloted in 1-3 partner countries (Year 2)

WP 3: Transfer solutions

solutions are transferred to target groups outside the partnership, e.g. by a „road trip" (presenting solutions in-house), workshops, mentorship

DEVELOPING PROJECT IDEA

BSR SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT

The project idea addresses this challenge and aims to bring together regional actors across the Baltic Sea Region that want to

1) foster and develop social innovation/social entrepreneurship ecosystems in their respective regions,

2) improve the linkages between existing innovation support schemes (including regional innovation strategies) and social innovation ecosystems and/or

3) facilitate the transnational and cross-sectoral exchange and cooperation of (social) innovation actors and social entrepreneurs from their region with other Baltic Sea countries.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP

- Hamburg City/Region (Behörde für Wirtschaft und Innovation, Hamburg), together with REM CONSULT
- Social Innovation Centre ,Latvia
- Kurzeme Planning Region, Latvia
- Mötesplats Social Innovation, Sweden (national coordinator for the European Competence Center)
- Agder County, Norway (TBC)
- Centre for Social Innovation Lithuania (TBC) – National Coordinator for the European Competence Cente

Planned Polish partners:
Pomorskie Network of NGO Support Centres
Pomorskie Region

In discussion: finnish NGO suggested by PA INNO coordinator, SADE network from Germany

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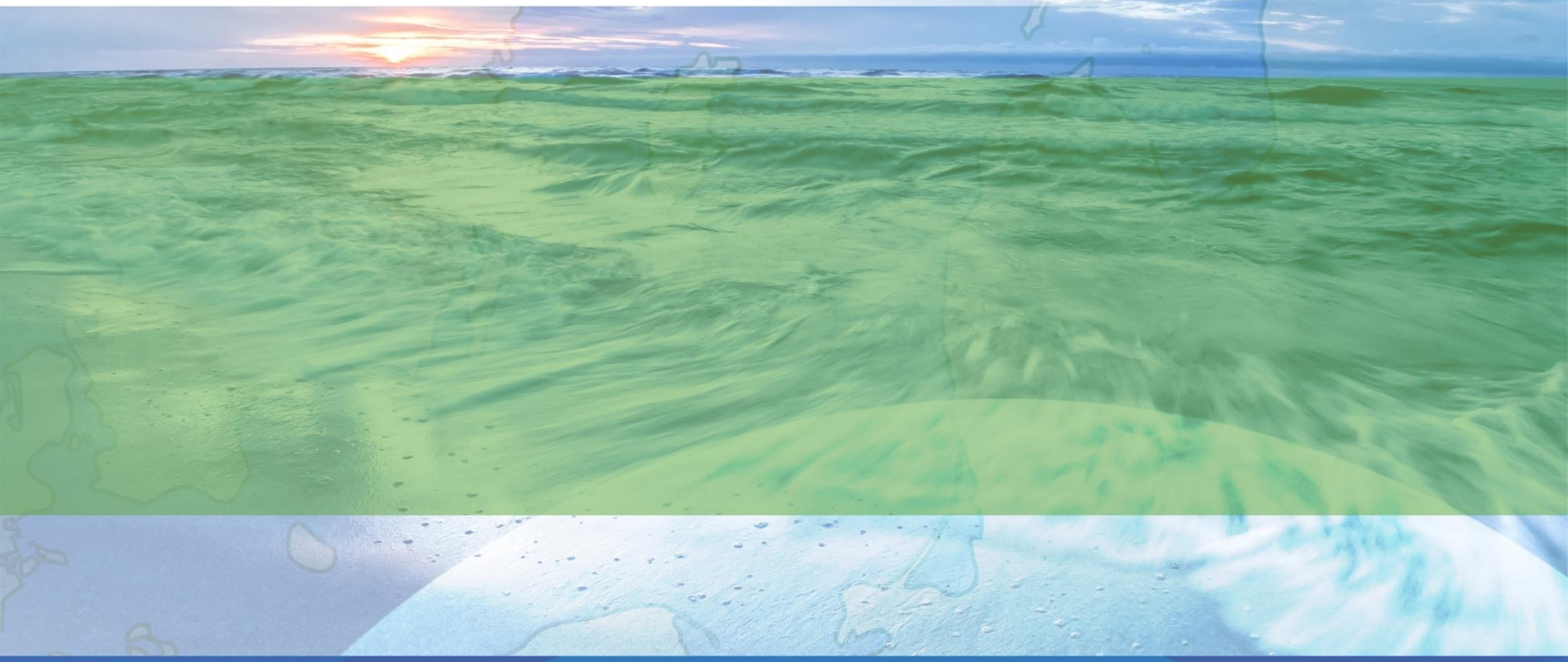
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