

Social entrepreneurship – good practices of social inclusion through development of social economy of the territory of Republic of Bulgaria



Lifelong
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Introduction

In the Bulgarian legislation there is **no legal definition of *social enterprise***, as well as rules governing the status, form and activity of the *social enterprise*.

The main related **law is for social assistance activities**.

Despite the lack of legal regulation, practice in Bulgaria shows that **there are organizations developing social entrepreneurship and identify themselves as social enterprises**.

Additional, there are **many different types of social enterprises**, which cover a wide range of forms and functions: **organizations at the local level, joint organizations such as cooperatives and large companies that operate either at the national or international level**.

Introduction

Main social support activities, described and regulated by the Law for Social Assistance Activities:

- Protected home
- Centre for family support
- Monitored home
- Daily centre

Introduction

Beginning of social entrepreneurship in Bulgaria

In 2002 **Counterpart Int. - Bulgaria** started implementation of a program for **creating and supporting social enterprises** through funds from the **United States Agency for International Development**.

In the period 2002 - 2006 year was performed an **information campaign**, aiming to promote the **social enterprises** as a mechanism for **social inclusion**, **employment of disadvantaged groups** and **opportunities to increase the capacity of social service providers**.

Additional, **45 non-profit organizations from 17 communities** were selected to participate in trainings and to receive **technical assistance and funds to create social enterprises**.

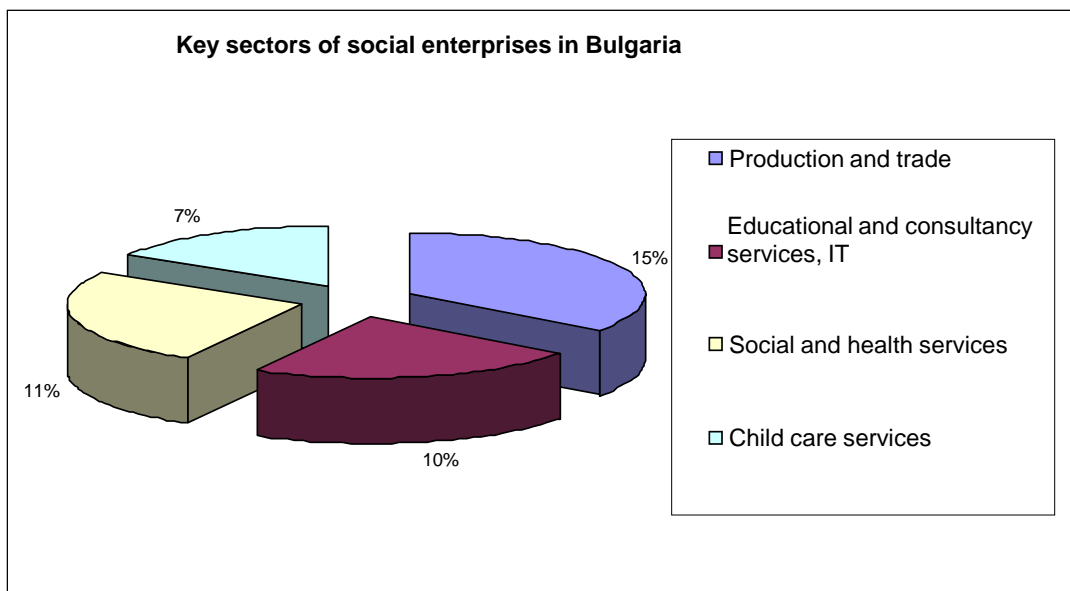
Models and structure of social enterprises in Bulgaria

Most popular model of social enterprise is for job creation and workforce development by providing an opportunity to create jobs for disadvantaged people. This model is associated with social enterprise for people with disabilities.

Another model is entrepreneurial model where social enterprise is an intermediary between the disadvantaged and the market. In this model, people with disabilities are involved in the production of products and the social enterprise is committed to marketing and distribution.

The third model is a direct service model - social enterprise is providing social services to external customers and at the same time is a provider of social services to its members. The payment is regulated through a contract with the municipality or state.

Models and structure of social enterprises in Bulgaria



Social enterprises in Bulgaria - examples

Society for Social Assistance - Drianovo

Model of social enterprise: paid social services. Legal form - non-profit entity.

The organization was established in 1997, working in the field of **improving the quality of life for disadvantaged people.**

Scope of services - **shopping for elder people, home health cares for a sick people, medicine delivery, hot meals for elders, health checks for elders, organization of holidays, trips and social activities.**

Last but not least, the **social enterprise is the employer of long-term unemployed women.**

Social enterprises in Bulgaria - examples

Center “Open doors”, Pleven

Social enterprise model: part-time employment of women victims of domestic violence. Sector - studio for laundry, cleaning services for homes and offices.

The organization was established in 2000 to provide assistance to women victims of violence. Additional, the center operates also as a **shelter for these women** for a period of 3 to 6 weeks.

Important social effect of the activity is **creation of a temporary employment for disadvantaged women** who can recover in a secure environment.

Social enterprises in Bulgaria - examples

Association “Samaritans”, Stara Zagora

Sector - beekeeping, honey production and bee products. The association was established in 1998, working for full inclusion in society of disadvantaged children, youth and families.

The activity of the social enterprise is related with manufacturing and marketing of apiculture products and beekeeping equipment and technology.

The revenues from the social enterprises are used to ensure the social services of the association, offered to disadvantaged children, youth and families.

Social enterprises in Bulgaria - examples

Social enterprise, Bansko

Under grand scheme “Social entrepreneurship - promoting and supporting social enterprises” of Operational Programme HRD, municipality of Bansko established a social enterprise with scope **manufacture of paper bags.**

Company’s employees are **people with disabilities, single mothers and long term unemployed.**

Social enterprises in Bulgaria - examples

Map of the social enterprises in Bulgaria



Social enterprises in Bulgaria – Advantages and Disadvantages

- The Bulgarian people have developed charity abilities – it is part of our culture to help each other;
- The Bulgarian EU financed programmes offers different and various possibilities for establishment and support social enterprises;
- The local authorities do not have enough financial and other resources to long term support of social enterprises which make in risk their sustainability;
- Local business environmental is not well informed of the purpose and social advantages of social enterprises;
- The local tax laws do not motivate business entities for charity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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