

OLD CHALLENGES NEW PATHWAYS: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES FOSTERING IMPROVEMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

NEWSLETTER 3
JULY 2014

EDITORIAL

This is the **third** newsletter of the project «Old Challenges New Pathways – Social enterprises fostering improvement and social innovation in social inclusion».

The OCNP project is a 2 years European initiative (Sep. 2013 – Jul.2015) funded by the [Lifelong Learning Programme](#).

Consisting in a series of exchange visits and networking among partners from 5 European countries, the project focuses on work integration social enterprises (WISEs) – organisations that provide goods and services through a commercial approach as a means to integrate disadvantaged people through work. This newsletter aims to share the visit and the debates that were held during the third project meeting in Luxembourg.

PROJECT PARTNER

[A3S Associação para o Empreendedorismo Social e a Sustentabilidade do Terceiro Sector](#) (PT)

[Scuola Centrale Formazione](#) (IT)

[Samenwerkingsverband Sociale Teverkstelling vzw](#) (BE)

[Focus – Association for Mental Health Care](#) (CZ)

[Centre d'Initiative et de Gestion Local Strassen a.s.b.l.](#) (LU)



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LUXEMBOURG

HISTORY, RULES AND REGULATIONS

Social economy and, consequently, social enterprises started to emerge in Luxembourg in the end of the 1970's, with the birth of several associations concerned with social assistance through work integration. In the 1980's, the creation of some of the largest work integration structures played an important part in making the concept of work integration relatively popular in the country. Concurrently, in the 1980's and 1990's, several public policies that aimed at tackling unemployment were implemented, leading to an increased awareness of the social problem at hands.

In Luxembourg, the term social enterprise is rarely used. Instead, the terms solidarity economy and social economy are commonly employed. The social economy sector in this country is highly influenced by the French tradition. Nonetheless, the term social enterprise began to be used in the 2000's, mainly due to the influence of EU initiatives.

In Luxembourg there are four types of organisations considered to be a part of solidarity/social economy: associations, foundations, cooperatives and mutuals. The majority of associations in the country have the so-called association status (Asbl), which stands for *association sans but lucrative*. Nowadays, there is a network of solidarity/social economy including the majority of these organisations and trying to push the sector forwards – the *Union Luxembourgeoise de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire* (ULESS).

There is no overall account of how many social enterprises operate in the country but, according to data from ULESS, there might be around 200 to 300 social enterprises that truly fit the EU established criteria of social enterprise.

In terms of policy, there is currently a new law being developed in order to direct state funding to the associations. The work of social economy organisations is under the scope of the Department of Social and Solidarity Economy, whilst the state has been a generous supporter of the sector. Hence, the development of the country's work integration structure has been highly supported by public financing. Nonetheless, the third sector faces the same challenges as any other European country due to the push for the reduction of public expenditure.

There is currently no legal definition of social enterprise in Luxembourg. However, there is a major push for the establishment of a legal definition and some developments on the matter have already been observed. In 2010, the government announced the plan to create a new legal form – *Société d'Impact Sociétal* – SIS. This status would allow for associations to possess a combination of a social aim and a pursuit of financial return in order to operate more independently.

VISITED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

“INTERNETSTUFF D’CLICK”

www.ciglesch.lu/informatique

“DE GRENGE KUERF”

www.co-labor.com

“PROJECT JAILBIRD”

www.jailbird.lu

HOSTING PARTNER

Centre d’Initiative et de Gestion Local Strassen a.s.b.l. is a non-profit association working in the field of social initiative. In response to the public policy challenges in Luxembourg, the organisation works to address socio-professional issues and access to the labour market. CIGL Strassen a.s.b.l. is developing a socio-economic approach which is tailored to the needs of its territory.

www.ciglstrassen.lu

OTHER LINKS

“RÉSEAU SOCIAL ET SOLIDAIRE”

www.sozialaffair.lu

“COOP 300 S.C. ”

www.coop300.lu

“ATP A.S.B.L.”

www.atp.lu

VISIT TO INTERNETSTUFF D’CLICK

The “Internetstuff D’Click” is a space, created by CIGL-ESCH, which allows individuals and professionals to surf on the Internet, using one of 13 available computers. It is also possible to print in black/white and colour, to make photocopies, and to save documents on CDs and USB sticks. The staff is available to help users with any computer problem and advice on how to use given programs. The “Internetstuff D’Click” also serves as a showcase to present the activities of CIGL-ESCH to all visitors. The staff of this store works here as a transition step to integrate into the regular labour market, thus making this store embedded in a sense of social responsibility.



VISIT TO SOCIAL COOPERATIVE DE GRENGE KUERF

“De Grengre Kuerf” is a social cooperative that works specifically with the production and sale of biological products. They not only produce their own biologic fruits and vegetables in their own premises but they also commercialise and promote the products. Additionally, a service of home delivery of organic baskets is also provided. Their production is autonomous and its ultimate goal is the work integration of their workers, who are people in a situation of social disadvantage. “De Grengre Kuerf” is a work integration social enterprise inserted in the association “Co-labor”, funded by the state.



VISIT TO THE PROJECT JAILBIRD

The association “Défi-job” was created in 2002 in order to promote the socio-professional integration of the Givenich prison inmates. This project, created within the framework of a European partnership, contemplates the creation/production of different objects and pieces of furniture, carried out in cooperation with young designers. The designers from GuidoGlas, in cooperation with “Défi-job”, created the Jailbird – a label fully produced in jail, promoting the work of the prison inmates. This is a project that aims for the social rehabilitation of prisoners while concurrently conveying a more positive image of the prison world and sensitising society to the fact that each prison inmate is able to create, improve, and evolve into a second chance in freedom. This activity reduces the risk of recurrence while giving the inmate an invaluable opportunity to rebuild his life and prepare his reintegration in society. The wages received allow them to meet the needs of their families, to repay their debts, to compensate their victims, and to build up a capital base for the day of their release.