

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

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EDITORIAL

This is the **fourth** 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 through 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 fourth project meeting in Prague, Czech Republic.

VISITED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES:

Restaurant **JUNUV STATEK**
www.junuvstatek.cz

Café **TICHÁ KAVÁRNA**
www.tichakavarna.cz

Laundry **PRÁDELNA U MANDELÍKU**
www.pradelnaumandeliku.cz

Toy shop **HRACKOTÉKA**
www.hrackoteka.cz

Restaurant **CAFÉ THERAPY**
www.cafetherapy.cz

Cooperative **1.SDZP**
www.1Sdzp.cz



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The history of social enterprising in Czech Republic in dates from the perspective of Fokus

1948 – 2000

- 1953 Establishing the production cooperatives of invalids
- 1989 End of the „socialist experiment“
- 1990 Fokus was founded
Starts the development of civil society – NGOs
- 1995 Opening of the first social firm in Czech Republic (Jůnův statek)
- 2000 Development of cafes as sheltered workshops
(subsidies from Min. of Labor and Social Affairs)

2001 – 2010

- 2004 The gradual emergence of other social firms (rarely, focus not only on people with disabilities); Creation of common standards of social firms
- 2006 Law about social services
- 2007 Begins development of social business
- 2009 Economic Crisis
- 2010 Set up Platform of social firms

2011 – 2014

- 2011 Starting activities of **TESSEA (Thematic Network for Social Economy)**
- 2012 Projects from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to support social enterprises - finance from EU (for start ups and not for NGOs)
- 2013 Entering in the TESSEA network (later the membership committee)
Definition of social enterprise as a enterprise with added value (not necessarily must be an employment)
- 2014 Ending projects to support social firms (30% of the start ups is again closed, another 50% restrict activities)
Min. of Labor and Soc. Affairs – cooperation with TESSEA and P3 consultants to formulate indicators for the WISE and the training type of the social enterprise)

- 2015 Soc. enterprise is included in the legislative framework
Support from Min. of Empl. and Soc. Affairs

SOCIAL FIRMS STANDARDS

www.socialnifirmy.cz/images/Social_firm_standards.pdf

Formulated in 2004 concerning Definition, Enterprise, Employment and Empowerment in the area:

1. Social firm mission
2. Enterprise
3. Financing
4. Social firm operation
5. Awareness and presentation
6. Disadvantaged employees
7. Contracts and wages
8. Ethical principles and internal communication
9. Organizational structure
10. Adaptation
11. Maintenance
12. Professional development
13. Co-operation of social firms

FACTS & FIGURES: JUNUV STATEK

- social firm from 1999
- pension with 40 beds
- 2 restaurants
- laundry
- small grocery shop
- training/meeting room
- part of NGO Fokus Praha
- 60 employees in total
- 40 employees with some type of disadvantage
- employees have an open working contract
- support from the Labour office up to 75% of minimum wage for disabled people



TESSEA – THEMATIC NETWORK FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY

www.ceske-socialni-podnikani.cz/en/tessea

The TESSEA mission is to promote the concept of social economy and social enterprises in the Czech conditions, in particular by creating and developing infrastructure model for its development, including awareness-raising, education, support, funding and exchange of experiences at national and international level and to promote it into concepts, strategies and policies. TESSEA has no legal subjectivity and uses voluntary initiatives of its members to enforce their goals, alternatively projects and other tools by real members of TESSEA.

The network has over 500 members (252 individuals and 251 legal entities).

INDICATORS FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the ČR prepared list of indicators that enable to identify an enterprise as a social enterprise. There are two sets of these indicators for social enterprise and for integrating social enterprise.

Distinguishing characteristics for both types of social enterprises are defined in five areas: **public benefit purpose**

social benefit

economic benefit

environmental benefit

local benefit.

In each of these areas is defined one or several indicators, including ways of implementing them.

SOCIAL FIRMS PLATFORM

www.socialnifirmy.cz/index.php/en

SFP is the open association for legal entities and individuals based in the Czech Republic which acknowledges the social firm model, i.e. the definition, the basic characteristics and the social firm standards. It was established in 2010 and in 2013 become member of the TESSEA network and in 2014 also member of the committee of TESSEA.

VISIT TO SOCIAL FIRM JUNUV STATEK

www.iunuvstatek.cz

Pension and restaurant was founded in 1999 in the Sedlec – Libeznice near Prague. Jůnův statek gradually expanded to include space for seminars, internet cafe, grocery and laundry .

VISIT TO SOCIAL FIRM TICHÁ KAVÁRNA (SILENT CAFE)

Project Tichá kavárna (Silent Cafe) was created in collaboration of two NGOs - the 365, and APPN (Agency for the Deaf) in spring 2011. This is the first Prague cafe where deaf employees serve the customers. Silent Cafe is a place where deaf people can work, use their skills and prove to themselves and their surroundings, they can work very well in services. Café is also used as a training environment and offers support to students and graduates of vocational schools for their professional beginnings. Particular case are deaf graduates of apprenticeship cook - waiter. Silent cafe approaching the public world of the deaf, their culture and sign language through everyday encounters deaf and hearing visitors who will find escape from the noisy outside world. Functioning of Silent cafe is a kind of social enterprise, profit from its operation is used exclusively for its further development and support services for the deaf.



VISIT TO SOCIAL FIRM HRACKOTÉKA



The store Hračkotéka is social company since January 2013. With the support of the OP PA (European Social Fund) employs people with disabilities and also there is a job skills training that helps these people to integrate into normal life. Safe toys and consistent quality of the products is priority for them. All products comply with European safety standards. They are manufactured with only the highest quality ingredients, wood and paper. Manufacture of toys is environmentally friendly. Toys are fully recyclable.

VISIT TO SOCIAL FIRM CAFÉ THERAPY



Café comes under Sananim that provides complex services in the area of prevention, treatment and re-socialization of non-alcoholic drug addiction. Since 2005 offers people after the treatment a job in the café and helps them to get back to the open labor market.



TOUR WITH A GUIDE FROM PRAGULIC

Pragulic is a social enterprise that enables people to experience life from the homeless perspective. During the project meeting in Prague, the project participants also visited the evening Prague when the guide from the Pragulic agency showed them places that are closely connected with homelessness. With the guide Jan who has a personal experience as a homeless person, we've been through so-called Prague Sherwood (park at the main train station) and around low-threshold day center organization Hope. Through Republic Square we got to the boat Hermes, which offers people in need lodging at reasonable terms. We also reviewed on stone walls under Letná sets large format photographic portraits of Tomáš Třeštík, that figure the faces of the homeless living in Letná park. There was also a romantic view at Prague Castle from bridge of Stefanik.



PRAGULIC: "A FEW WORDS ABOUT US"

"We were founded in 2012, when we were a group of 3 students participated in the competition Social Impact Award. We wrote a project from August 2012 realized tours.

We worked initially as a three-man team, then separated one colleague, we stayed two and then rejoined to one man less than a year to finally again stayed in 2 and this is the situation today.

In addition, we work with a psychologist in the past also volunteer accountant, now we have already paid professional accountants. We also have volunteers to translate tours in foreign languages, which allow tours to offer foreigners. 30% of our clients are foreigners.

Since the beginning of the project we conducted two recruitment guides, the first when recruited core guides, and gradually other. We speak with organizations working with homeless people (charity, homeless theater, etc.) Suffice to say that none of us had previous experience working with homeless people.

We focus primarily on tours, besides, we also organize various events, we work with many partners. We succeeded also in several international competitions. But our activities are independent, we do not use any of public funds. We have a foreign partner, and most support comes to us from abroad, our financial support consists primarily of revenues from tours. We are working on the business model, so we have our guiding business activity.

We have with a special relation with a staff, help them with what is needed, of course depending on our choices. We are a social enterprise, not charity, etc., that works on a different model."

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