

Press Release

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Business Ideas Incubation and Support for the 3rd sector |or Boosting cooperation between the 3rd Sector and Public Administration

INSPIRING NEW BUSINESS PATHS AND BUILDING COMPETENCES OF GROUPS AT RISK OF EXCLUSION

The share of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2019 peaked among the EU Member States, at 32.8 % in Bulgaria, 25,3% in Spain, 20,6% in Ireland, and 18,2% in Poland (almost 21% in the EU)¹. At the same time the pressure on public social systems and budgets increased, creating a gap between decreasing income and increasing expenditure for basic social needs. It is thus crucial for local governments and public administration to look for smart ways to address emerging socio-economic issues and cooperating with the 3rd sector may just do the wonders looked for.

The Challenge

The 2008 financial crisis and the prolonging COVID crisis heavily impacted the European non-profit sector causing work discontinuity and social obstacles. The third sector organisations are now in a delicate position also in terms of stable financing sources that would enable them to continue employment especially for vulnerable groups.

While NGOs are fighting for their organizational recovery and stable position in the 3rd sector, it often leads to bigger competition for the same public funds, which are continuously decreasing. There are also difficulties in effective interaction between civic organizations and administration, which does not know the results of NGOs work or is unable to assess its specific contribution to the community. It is important to note that many NGOs themselves fail, due to lack of resources and / or knowledge, to present themselves clearly through their results and contributions. Success in building partnerships of NGOs with local authorities is also a result of personal characteristics and attitudes of the parties, which is often difficult to achieve in the 3rd sector with the resources those organizations have. Municipal administrations tend to limit the range of NGOs they work with due to (dis)satisfaction with previous experience or intent to simplify the procurements processes and selection criteria.

¹ Key figures on Europe 2021 edition, Eurostat, May 2021,
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/13394938/KS-EI-21-001-EN-N.pdf/ad9053c2-debd-68c0-2167-f2646efeac1?t=1632300620367>

At the same time to a large extent, NGOs do not know the nature and dynamics of the administration world, especially with regard to the legal framework that defines its responsibilities, competencies and public procurement rules.

The Solution

Boosting Entrepreneurship with the Public Administration among NGOs and Social Economy Entities is the goal of the international partnership of 5 organizations from Spain, Poland, Ireland, and Bulgaria. A Business Ideas Marketplace created jointly with business and public administration, mentoring and workshops for NGOs, will become the means to "drag out" potential for cooperation between the 3rd sector and the public administration institutions.

"Our aim is to create added value in the social sector, facilitate the generation of economic viability tools for NGOs and improve their relationship with the world of administrations, in the new context of public procurement." - says Isabel Estany Orillosa, International Grants Manager at Fi-Group, the project Coordinator.

DRAGGING Project has an objective to help with the following 3 challenges:

- diversify the sources of income for NGOs by improving their capacity to respond to the needs of the administration and to achieve stable sources of income and by identifying new opportunities for collaboration between the social and business worlds when providing services to public administrations
- take advantage of new legislations/public hiring opportunities
- generate job opportunities for people at risk of exclusion.

The marketplace of ideas will allow companies to identify and develop business opportunities that respond to the shortcomings of their respective sector. **An online course** accompanying the good practices platform will additionally provide competencies and skills related to entrepreneurship and business management and give support to the most vulnerable entrepreneurs in managing their own micro companies.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Dragging Project involves a group of 5 partners, coming from 4 different countries: Spain, Poland, Ireland, and Bulgaria.

- 1) Spain
FI Group
(Project Coordinator)
www.fi-group.com
- 2) Spain
Asociación Con Valores
www.cvalores.org
- 3) Poland
PCG Polska Sp. z o.o.
www.pcgpolska.pl
- 4) Ireland
The Rural Hub
www.theruralhub.ie
- 5) Bulgaria
RDA BSC SMEs – Plovdiv
www.rda-bg.org

To find out more about the DRAGGING Project and to get involved in the activities please follow the link draggingproject.eu or #draggingproject

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