EMPOWER-SE

COST
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Towards and enabling ecosystem for social enterprises

WG3 Research Workshop

12-13 February 2020
University of Bucharest (Romania)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

The analysis of social enterprises' dynamics from an analytical and comparative perspective corroborates that they operate in a rather complex "ecosystem". This ecosystem is shaped by the interplay between diverse factors:

- citizens' ability to self-organise, which drives the upsurge and development of social enterprises from the bottom up and also explains the setting up of networks by social enterprises themselves;

- the degree of visibility and recognition enjoyed by social enterprises at different levels (political and legal recognition, recognition through private marks and self-recognition by the same social enterprises);

- the capacity to access different kinds of resources, including resources for establishment and consolidation, resources from income-generating activities, repayable resources and tax breaks and fiscal benefits;

- the development of research aimed at exploring social enterprise from a national and comparative perspective and the existence of educational and skills development opportunities designed to enhance the competitive advantages of social enterprises in tackling economic and social concerns.

The relative importance of each of these factors varies significantly across countries and over time, depending on the phase of development of the social enterprise.

AIM

Empower-SE Working Group (WG) 3 aims at encouraging a fruitful discussion forum among researchers and stakeholders from diverse countries that are interested in exploring and/or supporting social enterprise development and scaling.

The specific objective of WG3 is to equip major SE stakeholders with robust knowledge to understand how the different elements that compose the ecosystem of SE in each country interact and can have an impact on the scaling of SE, both wide and deep.

Presenters will be encouraged to critically analyse the diverse factors that contribute to shaping social enterprise development against the most recent literature exploring the upsurge of social enterprise, social enterprise recognition, access to resources and research, education and skills development.

The activities within this WG will focus on:

- Defining the components of the SE ecosystem as described above;

- Analysing how the ecosystem of SE is shaped in selected countries, whether all the above mentioned components are present and what role is played by specific components;

- Developing recommendations addressed to both EU institutions and individual countries – including national and local public authorities – with a view to supporting SE further development and scaling.

PARTICIPANTS

Members of the MC with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and research experiences in one of the key areas to be discussed will participate either as invited speakers, chairs and discussants or as selected presenters of case studies. A call for case studies will be launched with a view to select between 4 and 8 case study presenters, who will carry out a case study based on a shared template. Examples of case studies include the following:

- Capacity to self-organize: the development pattern of a selected social enterprise and or a network of social enterprises that have emerged bottom up thanks to the self-organization capacity of citizens or groups of social enterprises

- Recognition and visibility: a specific law or policy strategy that has acknowledged social enterprise in a given country, a private mark, the process of self-recognition of a group of social enterprises

- Access to resources: one particular public support (EU or national) policy scheme; private support initiative (from foundations, social enterprise networks); financing scheme or guarantee agreement available to social enterprises, collaboration modality between social enterprises and public authorities (e.g. via vouchers)

- Education, research and skills development: an innovative educational programme, research initiative or training programme that had a role in promoting social enterprise at a national or international level

Each program session will include one or two presenters of case studies. If you are interested in submitting a case study to present at the meeting, please do so by January 17th, 2020 using the template available here (http://www.empowerse.eu/events/1st-wg3-meeting-towards-and-enabling-ecosystem-for-social-enterprises).

DAY PROGRAMME

Wednesday, February 12ⁿᵈ - DAY 1

9.00 - 10.30 Stakeholders' Forum

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00 General introduction: social enterprise ecosystem

Chair: Mihaela Lambru, University of Bucharest

- Hugo Pinto, University of Coimbra (via skype) – Exploring social enterprise and social innovation ecosystem
- Giulia Galera, Euricse –The social enterprise ecosystem: insights from the European Mapping Study

1-2 case studies

Discussant: Slobodan Cvejic, University of Belgrade

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch break

13:00-15:00 (in parallel) Session on "Capacity to self-organise"

Chair: Jenny Eschweiler, University of Roskilde

- Claudia Petrescu, Research Institute for Quality of Life: from individual commitment towards social enterprises. Insights from Romania
- Anna Ciepielewska, Institute of Political Studies the Polish Academy of Sciences: the role of networks in Poland
- Philip Karré, Erasmus University Rotterdam: Social Enterprise NL

1-2 case studies

Discussants: Benjamin Gidron, Israeli Center for Third sector Research (ICTR)

13:00-15:00 (in parallel) Session on "Social enterprise recognition"

Chair: Bernard Enjolras, Center for Research on Civil Society and Voluntary Sector

- Silvia Ferreira, University of Coimbra: the legal recognition of social enterprises in Portugal
- Lasma Licite, University of Latvia: the impact of the Social Enterprise Law in Latvia
- Michela Giovannini, University of Trento: critical insights on the degree of self-recognition of social enterprises. An international perspective

1-2 case studies

Discussant: Zuzana Polackova, Slovak Academy of Sciences

15.00 - 15.15 Coffee break

15:15-17:30 (in parallel) Session on "Social enterprise resources"

Chair: Nicolae Bibu, West University of Timisoara

- Carlo Borzaga, Euricse: Classifying the different resources social enterprises rely upon (findings from the EU Mapping)
- Vincent Caruana, University of Malta: the contribution of volunteers
- Melinda Mihàly, Institute of Geography, Leipzig University: EU funds in support of social enterprises in CEE and SEE. A critical overview
- Fergus Lyon, Middlesex University: The UK case (via skype)

1-2 case studies

Discussant: Rory Ridley-Duff, Sheffield Hallam University

15:15-17:15 (in parallel) Session on "Research, education and skills development"

Chair: Richard Lang, Johannes Kepler University Linz

- Rocío Nogales, EMES International Research Network
- Lars Hulgård, Roskilde University
- Millán Díaz-Foncea, University of Zaragoza

1-2 case studies

Discussants: Davorka Vidovic, University of Zagreb

19.30 Social dinner

Thursday, February 13rd - DAY 2

9.00 - 10.00 Wrap up session and closing remarks

- Silvia Ferreira, University of Coimbra
- Giulia Galera, Euricse
- Mihaela Lambru, University of Bucharest

10.00 - 14.00 4th Management Committee meeting

WORKSHOP VENUE

University of Bucharest, Panduri headquarters
Faculty of Sociology and Social Work and the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Address: Panduri St. no. 90, sector 5, Bucharest

Follow updates on the conference and sign up
for the EMES (www.emes.net) and EMPOWER-SE (www.empowerse.eu) News Alerts

For any questions about this workshop, please write to empowerse@emes.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/emesnetwork | Twitter: @emesnetwork

Event hashtags: #SEecosystems | #EMPOWERSE_EU | #1WG3workshop