



Nordplus

LINK BETWEEN SOCIAL RIGHTS AND
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EAPN-Latvia, Association
01/06/2019 - 31/10/2022



Project No. NPAD-2019/10128

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The project "Link between social rights and social entrepreneurship" was developed within the time period 1st June 2019 - 31st October 2022 by 5 partners: Association "EAPN-Latvia" (Riga, Latvia), Eesti People to People (Tallinn, Estonia), Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union (Vilnius, Lithuania), Odense School of Adult Education (Odense, Denmark) and People to People International (Bergen, Norway).

The project objective: for 10 adult educators to gain knowledge and experience regarding the compliance with the principles of social rights and the practical application of these principles in relation to the development of NGO's social entrepreneurship.

As a result of this project, 26 adult educators from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Denmark and Norway gained knowledge and experience regarding the compliance with the principles of social rights and the practical application of these principles in relation to the development of NGO's social entrepreneurship. A total of 183 participants from adult education organizations took part in the project activities. 4 discussion meetings/workshops and 8 webinars promoted the consolidation of the basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights when it comes to the availability of NGO's social enterprises and providing an inclusive environment for different social groups, including immigrants: women, young people and seniors, house craftsmen, traders, vulnerable groups of population and families at risk of poverty and social exclusion, as well as people with disabilities.

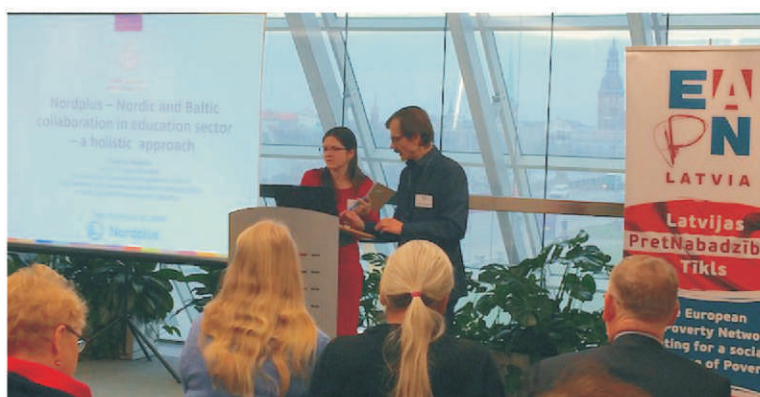
Extensive publicity measures in the process of the project implementation and dissemination of the project's results also took place. Modern technical equipment was provided for the project partners. The project website was maintained regularly, and a draft brochure that consisted of the NGO educators' conclusions was prepared. The Nordplus grant in the amount of 31 570 EUR was used for the project implementation.



THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



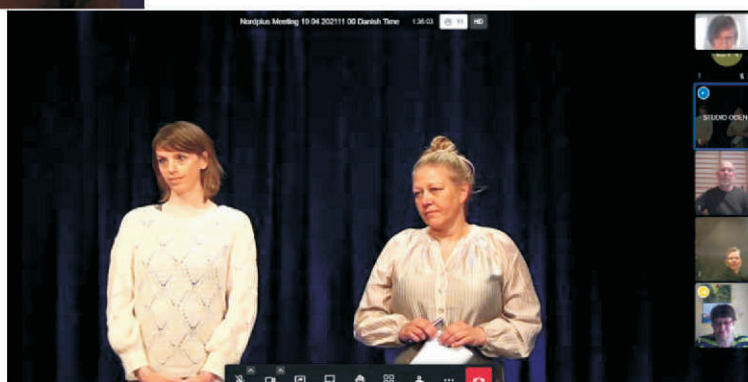
17-20 December, 2019. Bergen, Norway. Preparatory visit.



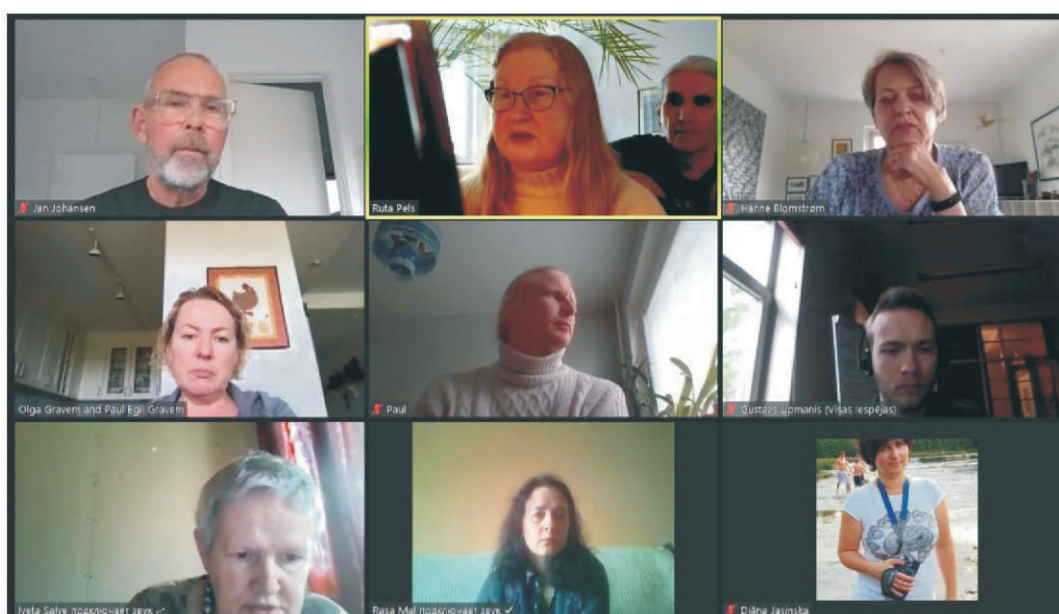
21-23 November, 2019. Riga, Latvia. Project opening conference
"Is social entrepreneurship socially responsible?".



THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



19 April, 2021. Odense, Denmark. Online workshop on the European Pillar of Social Rights for social protection and minimum income, as well as exchanging legal and financial information on social entrepreneurship and administrative aspects and work experience of individual companies that employ people from social risk groups and families, incl. immigrants.



21 May, 2021. Tallinn, Estonia. Online workshop on the European Pillar of Social Rights for equal opportunities and equal access to the labour market, as well as exchange of experience regarding the respect for social rights in the social enterprise that employs young people and seniors, including immigrants.



THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



18 May, 2022. Bergen, Norway. Experience exchange workshop in the company "AS Grønneviken".



19 May, 2022. Bergen, Norway. Experience exchange workshop in the company "AS Nordnes Verksteder".



THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



27-29 June, 2022. Tallinn, Estonia. The seminar on the European Pillar of Social Rights for equal opportunities and equal access to the labour market, as well as exchange of experience regarding the respect for social rights in the social enterprise that employs young people and seniors, including immigrants.



12-14 October, 2022. Riga, Latvia. The seminar on the European Pillar of Social Rights for social protection and inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as exchange of experience regarding the respect for social rights in the social enterprise that employs people with disabilities, including immigrants.



The NGO educators' conclusions and recommendations

EAPN-Latvia (Riga, Latvia):

Advocacy of the interests of social enterprises at local, regional and national level

Informing the general public about social entrepreneurship

Building capacity of network members, developing the platform for sharing experience and knowledge

Future opportunities for youth:

- remote work opportunities (especially in the rural areas)
- remote training opportunities
- hybrid work (especially for those living in areas within 3-5 hours' drive from work)
- transnational work.

Trends in youth employment:

- employers will fight for top talent (as it happens now in IT sector)
- specific training courses and non-uni knowledge will be more appreciated
- harder for "blue-collar workers"
- harder for part-time workers.

(In cooperation with Latvian Association of Social Enterprises and Youth Platform "All Opportunities".)

Eesti People to People (Tallinn, Estonia):

Despite their diversity, social enterprises mainly operate in the following fields:

- Work integration – training and integration of people with disabilities and unemployed people
- Personal social services – health, well-being and medical care, professional training, education, health services, childcare services, services for elderly people or aid for disadvantaged people
- Local development of disadvantaged areas – social enterprises in remote rural areas, neighbourhood development/rehabilitation schemes in urban areas, development aid and development cooperation with third countries
- Other – including recycling, environmental protection, sports, arts, culture or historical preservation, science, research and innovation, consumer protection and amateur sports.

Recommendations:

- the elderly need to be pointed out as a target group in the adult education strategy and measures for their participation in lifelong learning need to be developed
- it is necessary to develop active labour policy measures such as career counselling and training services based on the needs, knowledge and skills of the elderly
- pension has to be preserved while working at the retirement age
- society's attitude towards the employment of the elderly needs to be changed



The NGO educators' conclusions and recommendations

Eesti People to People (Tallinn, Estonia):

Recommendations:

- flexible work organization should be supported (e.g. part-time work, online work), the tradition of part-time work is weaker in Estonia than in many other European states
- in order to support the participation of the present elderly in employment attention must be paid to lifelong learning, as well as active employment measures.

The mission is to increase the number, capacity and societal impact of social enterprises in Estonia, helping to grow companies that create positive impact in the world.

We work as an incubator and give continuous advice in terms of business model, as well as product and service development.

We help amplify the work of social enterprises through our marketing channels.

We participate in developing a suitable investment compartment.

(In cooperation with Estonian Social Enterprise Network and MITRA.)

Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union (Vilnius, Lithuania):

A good purpose – to improve the situation of people with disabilities – but there were no real results foreseen by the government.

People with severe disabilities should have the priority right to work in social enterprises because there are no other means of supporting them.

The status of social enterprise for people with disabilities is changed to a status of a social enterprise.

The open labour market is not ready:

- Experts note that the employment of people with disabilities in the open labour market remains a problem.
- Barriers to integration into the labour market remain unchanged. These are the following constraints:
 - a lack of information; - weak motivation; - passivity in finding a job;
 - a lack of qualifications and retraining opportunities. The most important directions of training needs are related to vocational guidance, computer literacy, lack of knowledge and skills for starting a business, as well as proficiency in foreign languages.

Now the companies are slowly starting to open their eyes to the fact that there may also be a resource in disabled people, but there is still a long way to go.



The NGO educators' conclusions and recommendations

Lithuanian Multiple Sclerosis Union (Vilnius, Lithuania):

Recommendations:

- Promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in the labour market must be a key objective of the reform. This requires:
 - abandoning the status breakdown of companies employing people with disabilities;
 - eliminating all discrimination in the distribution of support for the employment of people with disabilities;
 - ensuring continued and comprehensive support for employers of people with disabilities;
 - simplifying regulations and reducing bureaucracy for both people with disabilities and those who employ them.
- It is also important to ensure the links between legal regulations and compatibility with related legal acts, including, but not limited to, the repeal of the Law on Social Enterprises of the Republic of Lithuania.

They (the City Laboratory)

- applied the principles of traditional business;
- gathered and motivated the local community;
- shared ideas for a more sustainable, greener lifestyle;
- established a cohesive educational community centre;
- established a café, which is the financial engine of the centre.

(In cooperation with City Laboratory.)

Odense School of Adult Education (Odense, Denmark):

Civic education empowers us to be well-informed, active citizens and gives us the opportunity to change the world around us.

It is a vital part of any democracy, and equips ordinary people with knowledge about our democracy and our Constitution.

There is a need to support Social Entrepreneurship in SMEs, and we need a direction towards bigger enterprises and their social responsibility.

EVERYBODY must have more and more focus on the social side of the business.

A social enterprise is an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders.

It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives.

It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities.

We aim to reduce harm and improve the life situation of women who are in difficult situations due to drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, mental illness, poverty and homelessness.



The NGO educators' conclusions and recommendations

Odense School of Adult Education (Odense, Denmark):

There is a weekly attendance of the project's social worker, who works to increase the citizens' well-being and focuses on motivating each individual citizen to attend the store despite this citizen's physical, mental and/or social challenges.

It carries out assignments for authorities, public and private companies, networks, civil society organizations and individuals.

It also inspires and initiates cooperation between public authorities and companies in order to establish optimal conditions for anyone with a work potential to be an active participant in the labour market.

(In cooperation with Odense Municipality, Reden Odense and Cabi.)

Nordnes Verksteder AS (Bergen, Norway):

- Quality, rehabilitation and responsible for marketing, online store and social media are a total of about a 1,5 position.
- 75 - 80% of our employees have some degree of mental disability. Individual plans are prepared for all employees and are assessed at least once a year together with the supervisor.
- Employees receive a small salary allowance for this job. This comes on top of their disability pension. Being taxpayers would like to contribute.
- In case of illness, employees are entitled to sickness benefits during the employer's period when they write their own report of absence or have sick leave from their doctor.
- Focus on employees' tasks. The supervisor shall supervise, not take over their work.
- Skilful and dutiful workers who are proud of their work. Our offer is important because:
 - Work is important for all, and especially for those who are outside of the ordinary working life. It gives good health.
 - Work, good nightly rhythm, regular appointments, weekend breaks and holidays provide a good quality of life.
 - Delivering services and products that society wants strengthens the sense of belonging.

Grønneviken AS (Bergen, Norway):

- In total, we involve around 190 people, divided between permanent employees and participants.
- We offer work and training places to people who fall slightly outside the ordinary labour market and who need a structured working day. Our customer group includes local, national and international companies.
- We produce and deliver products and services to various industries such as mechanical industry, wood industry, seismic industry, as well as warehouse and logistics services.
- We also have our own canteen business with meeting food production for companies in Bergen and the surrounding area.

(In cooperation with People to People International.)



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