



Regionálna rozvojová agentúra SENEC – PEZINOK

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Social economy as an engine for positive societal changes

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The social economy initiatives, good practices in social entrepreneurship, building up and running social enterprises in a sustainable manner as well legislative frameworks and financial possibilities within the EU to support social economy were the key topics discussed by participants at the international conference *“Social Economy as a key player in providing effective answers to current societal challenges in the EU and the world”*.



The conference took place on 30 November – 1 December 2016 in Bratislava under the patronage of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, within Slovak Presidency.

More than 200 representatives coming from the social economy sector from all over Europe have had a great opportunity to not only discuss the role and importance of social economy in nowadays in Europe but also to exchange experience, practices, create contacts and partnerships for wider cooperation at EU level.

The EU representatives highly appreciated the involvement of high-level Slovak decision makers, especially the key note of Slovakia Prime Minister Mr. Robert Fico, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic Mr Ján Richter, State Secretary Mr Branislav Ondruš as well as other key high-level speakers from the EU.

This high-level representation was also very positively appreciated by the participants as key decision makers are those to support the social economy initiatives, create instruments for effective, positive and sustainable societal changes through support for sustainable social enterprises and entrepreneurship and pave the way of achieving concrete results for the benefit of the whole society including improvement of existing legislative frameworks.





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The Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok took an active part in the conference activities and organised specialised workshops. Although Bratislava Region is the most developed in Slovakia, the Agency is of the opinion that there is great opportunity to develop tools and concrete activities towards establishing the support structure for those who are involved or plan to be involved in the social economy actions – creating social enterprises, supporting social entrepreneurship, etc.



In this respect the RDA plans to cooperate with other stakeholders involved in social economy in the EU and in Slovakia. The conference also created opportunity for the Agency's staff to establish perspective contacts in Slovakia and EU for cooperation in the social economy.

The RDA is also open for more intensive cooperation with all stakeholders (NGOs, self-government, private sector, networks and platforms) from all over Slovakia who are interested and willing to take initiative and become the engines at local and regional levels in this indeed very crucial area.

All conference materials including reports, manuals, good practice examples, contacts to other stakeholders involved in the social economy matters from Slovakia and other EU countries etc. are at disposal in the Agency Headquarter Office in Pražská 27, Bratislava to anyone who is interested to get more information.

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