



Social economy in Slovenia

Financing social initiatives and businesses – Opportunities in programming period 2021-2027

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Social economy in EU

- 2 million social economy enterprises in Europe, representing 10% of all businesses in the EU.
- About 6% of the EU's employees – work for social economy enterprises.
- Social economy contributes about 8 % to the EU GDP.
- They operate a very broad number of commercial activities and provide a wide range of products and services.
- Different legal forms of subjects, such as cooperatives, associations, social enterprises and alike.



Action plan for social economy

- European commission is preparing Action plan for social economy.
- The publication of the plan is foreseen in December 2021.
- The plan will be a key tool for systematical incorporation of social economy into the different socio-economic policies of the EU.
- It will also incorporate actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Proposed duration of the plan is 5 years (2021-2026).



Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

- EU Cohesion Policy contributes to strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in EU.
- It aims to correct imbalances between countries and regions.
- It delivers on EU's political priorities, especially the green and digital transition.
- EU Cohesion Policy supports activities devoted to promotion and enforcement of social economy, especially social innovation.



Social economy in Slovenia

- Social economy in Slovenia is defined by the Social Entrepreneurship Act.
- Main objectives of the Social Entrepreneurship Act:
 1. Introduction of the concept social economy & social entrepreneurship.
 2. Definition of aims and principles of social entrepreneurship.
 3. Defining the criteria for obtaining social enterprise status.
 4. Defining the ways of promoting social entrepreneurship.
 5. Defining the jurisdiction on the field of social economy and the strategic development of the sector.

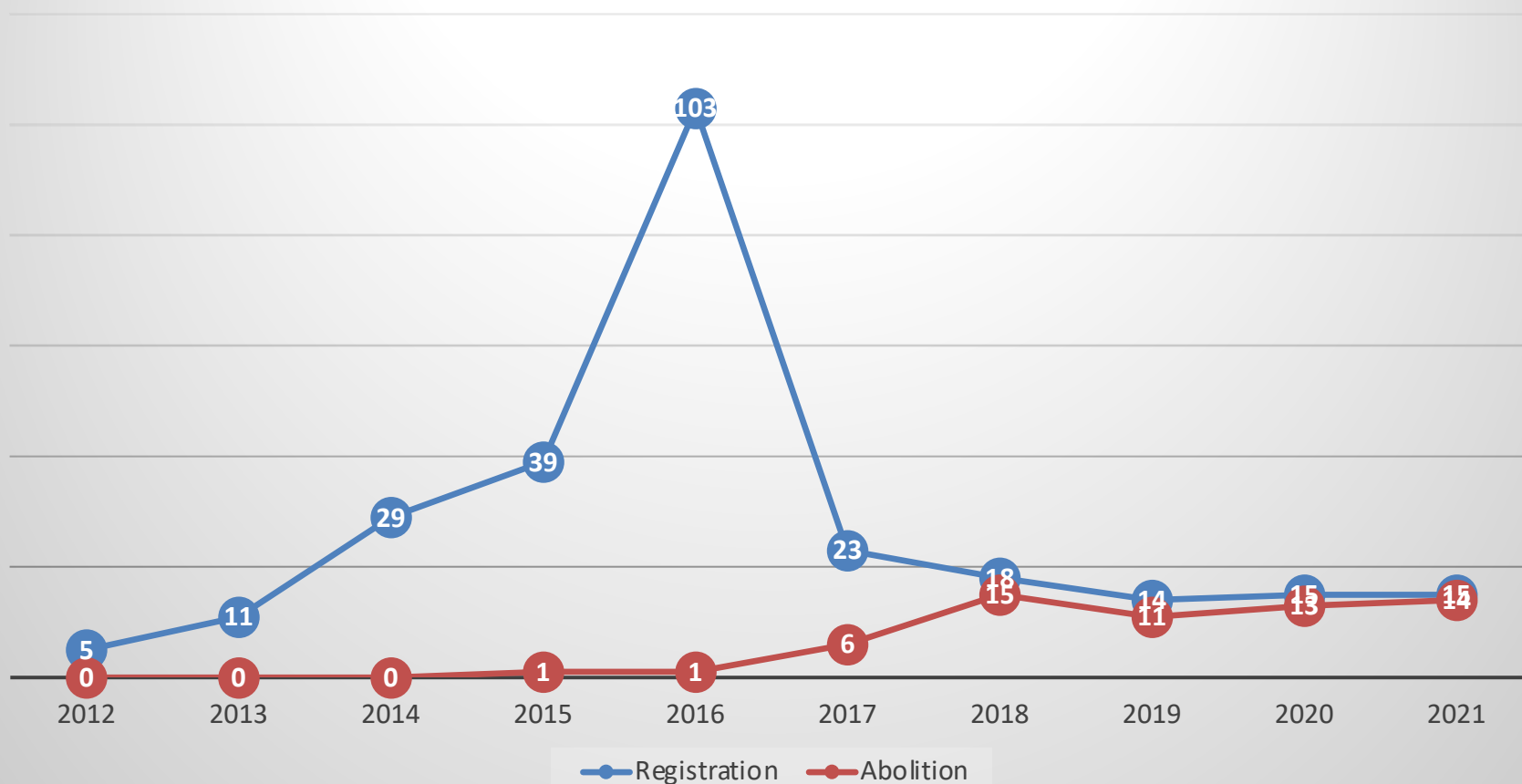


Social enterprises in Slovenia

- First social enterprise registered in Slovenia: 13. 3. 2012.
- In 2021 272 social enterprises are registered (66 legal subjects abolished or lost the status of social enterprise since 2012).
- Social economy sector on the other hand employ a higher share of the active population (0.268%) with revenues that represent 0.269% of GDP.
- Social enterprises employ a small share of the active Slovenian, population (0.045%) and their revenues represent 0.041% of GDP.



Growth of the gross amount of social enterprises





The number of Social enterprises by (cohesion) region:

Western Slovenia: 91

Eastern Slovenia: 181





Main achievements of the ministry

- Integration of the social economy into programming documents of European cohesion policy in period 2014 – 2020 and 2021 – 2027 and other instruments such as and ReactEU.
- Modification of the Law on Public procurement – retained public procurement for social enterprises.
- Modification of the Physical Assets of the State and Local Government Act – non profit rents/usage of real state for social enterprises.
- Social enterprises are included as a target group/ applicants on all public tenders of the ministry where it is legally possible.
- Social enterprises that have obtained the public interest status for NGO can get donations from income tax.



Main challenges

- Preparation of the national Strategy of development of social economy 2021-2031.
- Preparation of national system for Social impact measurement.
- Enhancement of social innovations in the sector of social economy.



Business support for social enterprises

- Formal specialized business support for social enterprises – public tender in progress.
- SPOT: Expert business support for future and established business and social economy subjects concerning registrations, electronic operations, business consulting and provision of information.
- SIO (Platform for innovative business): Platform unites incubators, university incubators, technologic centers etc. and provides free promotion, motivation and professional support.
- Growing (informal), autonomous business support for social enterprises



Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 in Slovenia + ReactEU

- Vouchers for digitalization for SMEs and registered social enterprises – digital marketing, digital competences (SPS).
- Mentorship schemes for social enterprises (SRRS).



Financial instruments

- Financial instruments – available also to social enterprises, especially FI Microloans for SMEs.
- 5 mio EUR estimated to be delivered to social enterprises. (SIB, SPS)
- Microloans for SMEs: 5.000 to 25.000 EUR.
- Eligible costs: investments and working capital.
- Maturity: 2 to 5 years.
- Grace period: up to $\frac{1}{2}$ maturity.
- Co-financing rate: up to 85%.



Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 in Slovenia

- Operative program and partnership agreement – work in progress.
- Social economy is suggested to be part of two main objective of OP:
 1. Smarter EU innovative transformation of the economy: Social innovation & Silver economy (11 mio).
 2. Knowledge, competences and skills for the future: Professionalization of social economy and (business) support ecosystem (10 mio).



Other measures to support the development of social enterprises

- Promoting social economy and social entrepreneurship in border areas.
- SIB (Social investment bonds).
- OECD collaboration.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION