



KINDLING A BETTER **WORLD**



KMOP is an NGO that provides services to disadvantaged groups for 40 years

## **PROMOTING YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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## Social Entrepreneurship in Greece, context, challenges and the opportunity for the young people

# The context in Greece

- Economic crisis since 2010
- High unemployment rates
- Very high youth unemployment
- Brain drain
- Last years things seems to get better
- However....

# Youth unemployment

- Youth unemployment rates for December 2018:
- Greece – 39,5%
- Italy – 32,8%
- Spain – 32,4%
  
- Unemployment rate in Greece for the same period: **18%** (14% for men and 23% for women)
  
- Greece is still the champion of youth unemployment
- Women unemployment is also an issue

Source: Eurostat

- Cooperative movement of the last century
- Social cooperatives, mainly in farming and agriculture sectors
- Failed to prosper in the long term
- Law 4019/2011 provided new institutional tools allowing informal collectives and other groups of individuals to create their own formal SSE (Social and Solidarity Economy) organisations.

- The law 4430/2016 established the “Social and Solidarity Economy and the Development of its Actors”.
- A new framework for diverse types of organisations or enterprises that have a clear collective and social impact, while also addressing a social need.

# The SSE organisation/enterprises in Greece

- Take part in economic and/or entrepreneurial activity
- Have a clear social purpose
- Are independent and democratic in their governance
- Reinvest profits, distribute part of them to employees and/or channel them to social goals, rather than distribute them to stakeholders as return on investment.
- Are based on collective action.

- *Social enterprise development support: incubators, accelerators and workspaces*
- *Financial, funding and impact investment services organisations*
- *Education and research institutions*
- *Forums and networks*
- *Advisory and policy organisations*
- *Chambers of commerce, industry associations and business advisory bodies*
- *Government and local authority support structures.*

*Source: British Council (2017)*

# The main types of services these organisations provide are:

- • Awareness-raising
- • Business plan support services
- • Social impact plan support services
- • Access to finance
- • Seed capital financing or funding
- • Social Impact investing or funding
- • Operations financing or funding
- • Scale up financing or funding
- • Educational programmes, content and methodology
- • Market facilitation
- • Policy-making
- • Vulnerable group members inclusion support services
- • Sustainable development support services.

- There are approximately 1,500 social and solidarity economy organisations in Greece.
- This group is made up of:
  - Around 600 active social and solidarity economy organisations, according to the official government registry (which is currently undergoing a transition).
  - Hundreds more organisations with different legal forms and informally constituted organisations.

Source: British Council (2017)

# SSE Organisations in Greece (BC Study findings)

- 68% were established in the last five years.
- 74% have an annual turnover of less than €50,000.
- Most operate at local and regional levels.
- 78% focus on addressing unemployment.
- 68% expect to increase their turnover in the next 12 months.
- More than 90% believe that the sector has the potential to grow in their industry and in their geographical area.
- Access to appropriate finance is the biggest barrier to sustainability and growth.
- 35% are led by women.
- 41% of leaders have a postgraduate or doctoral level of education.

Source: British Council (2017)

- **Shedia** – the Greek street paper which employs homeless and disadvantaged people
- **Myrtillo** cafe in Athens - opened in 2013 to employ people with disabilities
- **Wise Greece**'s mission is two-fold: to promote/sell high-quality Greek products, and to use resulting funds to acquire food and other resources for the elderly, economically-challenged, and other underprivileged groups.
- **Recycglobe** has developed the first cloud-based platform for connecting users with recyclable materials—both liquid and solid—to private companies or municipal agencies in the business of collecting and treating waste.
- Various women small cooperatives around Greece producing traditional food etc. and giving job opportunities to unemployment women.

# Challenges – Recommendations from the BC Study

- Establishing a national centre to support the social and solidarity economy in Greece.
- Creating a communication and awareness-raising strategy to promote the movement.
- Providing start-up seed capital as grants or loans to emerging enterprises.
- Convening a social finance task force to identify alternative forms of finance.
- Importing and adapting proven specialist learning programme models.
- Providing training in social impact measurement.

Source: British Council (2017)

Thank you for your time.