

Project Progress Report: BERSE - Business Models Empowering Rural Social Entrepreneurship - voicing the rural norm

| A.1 Project Progress Report Identification | |
|--|--|
| Project Title | Business Models Empowering Rural Social Entrepreneurship - voicing the rural norm |
| Project Acronym | BERSE |
| Project Number eMS | 473 |
| Project Number CAV, MA | |
| Project Start Date | 01.01.2022 |
| Project End Date | 30.06.2022 |
| Project Priority | Priority Axis 2 - Entrepreneurship |
| Project Priority Specific Objective | 2.1 - Improved support systems tailored for start-ups and existing SMEs in remote and sparsely populated areas |
| Lead Partner | Mittuniversitetet |
| Contact Person | Yvonne von Friedrichs yvonne.vonfriedrichs@miun.se +46101428110 |
| Reporting Period | Period 1 : 01.01.2022 - 30.06.2022 |

| A.2 List of Partner FLC Certificates | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Partner Abbreviation | Number of FLC Certificate | Date of FLC Certificate | Co-financing Source | Co-financing Rate (%) |

| A.3 Highlights of main achievements |
|---|
| <p>The focus of BERSE was how to develop social businesses in rural areas and to clarify the design for a main NPA project. It's been very beneficial to all partner due to the extensive knowledge exchange between the project partners and stakeholders on the prerequisites for social enterprising in the NPA area. During the project, feasibility studies in several regions has been carried out in Sweden, Norway, Great Britain (GB), and Ireland. To compare the prerequisites and support for social businesses in the countries we have carried out a mapping of opportunities and barriers for community-led social enterprises in remote rural areas as well as a mapping of the ecosystem for regional support to social enterprises in remote rural areas. A comparison of obstacles and possibilities to pursue social entrepreneurship is based on the interviews of 42 social entrepreneurs in GB, Norway, Sweden, and Ireland. The results show that the enterprises address several local target groups and that the local community benefits from the enterprise. However, even if the social enterprises are appreciated most of the time in the local community the society in general has "little knowledge and understanding about social business and its benefits", which cause obstacles for e.g. predictable economy, adapted regulations, and supporting ecosystem and infrastructure for the rural social businesses.</p> <p>During the project period we have mainly met online, but thanks to the easing of pandemic restrictions in the spring, we have been able to meet physically during a much-appreciated study visit to Ireland. The partners in the project have been able to engage several stakeholders from social enterprise support organisations, municipalities, and educators into a full NPA project application in 2022 and engaged additional stakeholders from Iceland and Finland to join the consortium in a main project application. We have investigated synergies related to projects specified by MC.</p> |

| A.4 Project Objectives | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Project Specific Objectives | Level of Achievement | Explanations |



A.5 Project Main Outputs Achievement

| Programme Output Indicators | Sum of Output Indicator Targets | Sum Of Achieved Output Indicators So Far | Project Main Output Indicator Number | Project Main Output Title | Project Main Output Quantification Target | Planned Delivery | Achieved So Far | Level Of Achievement |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|



A.6 Target Groups Reached

| Target Groups | Target Value | Target Groups Reached (previous periods) | Target Groups Reached (current period) | Source of Verification | Description of Target Group inv. | Target Groups Reached so far % |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| local public authority | 16,00 | 0,00 | 14,00 | The public authorities in the municipalities have been the main base for the mapping of local stakeholders. Mapping of the support ecosystem for leaders of community-led social enterprises in remote rural areas (i.e. distinct from from generic / urban focused support). | Östersund and Härnösand municipalities (SE) Moray, Argyll & Bute, Highland municipalities (GB) County of the Gaeltacht - Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Meath, Cork and Waterford municipalities (IE) Molde and Trondheim municipalities (NO) | 87,50 |
| interest groups including NGOs | 26,00 | 0,00 | 28,00 | Mapping of country specific social entrepreneurship interest group. An assessment of opportunities for leaders of community-led social enterprises in remote rural areas to share innovations and best practice | (Please see appendix for the list). Name of interest group Häggdånger Intresseförening Högsjö intresseförening Ramsele Kölsillre network of businesses and persons Samhällsbyggarna i Matfors/matforsfabriken Glesbygdskollektivet Pelle Åbergsgården Södra Årefjällens ek.för. https://sodraarefjallen.se Skålans byaråd https://skalan.nu/byaradet/ Bodsjöbygden https://www.facebook.com/icabodsjodiverse/ Laxsjö bygdegård http://laxsjö.se/index.htm Åsarna utveckling ek.för. Ketty Englund Östersund Undantaget https://undantaget.org Åre Kulturarena https://www.arekulturararena.com The district center https://distriktss | 107,69 |



| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | with their peers, both within their nation and across NPA nations | enteret.no/english/ Prios Kompetanse https://www.ue.no/ Proneo https://proneo.no/ Innovasjon Norge <a 465="" 530="" 965="" 979"="" data-label="Page-Footer" href="https://www.innovasjon norge.no/ NAV https://www.nav.no/no/ Ferd https://ferd.no/ SIVA https://siva.no/ Troendelag County https://www.trondelagfylke.no/ Batteriet https://www.batteriet.no/english/ Impact Hub Inverness Development Trusts Association Scotland Inspiralba TSI (Third Sector Interface) Moray</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>higher education and research</td> <td>4,00</td> <td>0,00</td> <td>4,00</td> <td>Mid Sweden University have been the lead partner in the project. During the project period, two more universities have been involved in preparation for a main project application.</td> <td>Mid Sweden University, Sweden Helsinki University, Finland University Centre Of The Westfjords (The University of Akureyri), Iceland Rurals, Norway</td> <td>100,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>education/training centre and school</td> <td>8,00</td> <td>0,00</td> <td>5,00</td> <td>Contact has been made with training centers and schools where the pre-project BERSE has been presented and inquiries have been made about the interest in participating in an NPA main application.</td> <td>Academy for social enterprise employment (GB) Udaras training centers (IE) Coompanion (SE) Bäckedal folkhögskola (SE) KBT Fagskole (NO)</td> <td>62,50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Lochview Training (GB) Highland Wool Project (GB) Clachworks (CIC) (GB) Lairg Learning Centre (GB) Walking Theatre</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div> <div data-bbox="> <p>Page 4 of 7</p> |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|



| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|------|-------|--|--|-------|
| SME | 60,00 | 0,00 | 42,00 | Interviews with small and medium sized social enterprises based on one of the project partners' jointly designed questionnaire. interviews, Interviews held in each partner's nation, to identify the barriers and successes in engaging more young people and women as leaders (non-executive and executive) of community led social enterprises. | Company (GB) Kyle and Lochalsh community trust (GB) North Community Development Country (NCDC) (GB) Findhorn Village Community Trust (GB) Comharchumann Oileán Árinn Mhór (IE) Lárionad Acmhainní Nádúrtha Teo (IE) Seirbhísí Cúraim Chill Chomáin (IE) Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil Acla (IE) Comharchumann Shailearna Teo (IE) Comharchumann Chéléire Teo (IE) Tearmann Éanna (IE) Ionad na Feamainne (IE) Comhlacht Forbartha Ionad Deirbhile (IE) Forbairt na Dromoda / Cumann Tithíochta (IE) Ionad Naomh Pádraig, Dobhar (IE) Teach Solais Fhánada (IE) Comharchumann Turasóireachta Árinn Mhór (IE) Studion Åre (SE) Health room in Offerdal economic association (SE) Åsarna Village Development Cooperative (SE) RSMH Fjällsjö (SE) Fristad Entreprenad ek.för. (SE) Matforsfabriken (SE) EkoTeck (SE) Kooperativ Anundsjö framtiden (SE) Destination Haverö (SE) Ådalens Industrimuseum (SE) Skålans Bysamverkan (SE) NOEN AS (NO) Mindblown AS (NO) Husfrua AS (NO) Maurtua Vekstgård AS (NO) Øyna | 70,00 |
|-----|-------|------|-------|--|--|-------|

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|--|---|--------|
| | | | | | Parken AS (NO) Power. På rett vei (NO) Kjerringa me straumen AS (NO) Prios Kompetanse AS (NO) Stabburshella bruker og pårørende forum (NO) Terrengen AS (NO) (See appendix for more information about the interviews) | |
| business support organisation | 4,00 | 0,00 | 6,00 | All business support organisations has been involved as partners or associate partners in the project. | The business support organisations involved has been: Coompanion (SE), Östersund municipality business office (SE), Härnösand municipality business office (SE), Competence Center for Lived Experience and Service Development (NO), Social enterprise academy (GB), Udaras (IE). | 150,00 |

A.7 Problems encountered and solutions found / Deviations

There is a growing interest in society for social entrepreneurship (SE) and transformative social innovation processes as drivers for regional and local development and growth. Social entrepreneurship and social innovations are new concepts in many countries in the NPA area and relatively little is known on the value of SE what the factors are that endorse or inhibit SE. We see the opportunity to develop business development programs to support leaders of community-led social enterprises in sparsely populated regions. The sparse knowledge and lack of data about social enterprises in society has made it difficult to get an overview of numbers and character of SE as well as the SE ecosystem (i.e. interacting elements and the interdependence between actors and factors) and the support system at large for social enterprises in the partner countries.

The feasibility studies has drawn attention to the fact that there is a great interest and a general need among all stakeholders to increase the knowledge of the contribution of SE, how to measure the value of SE for the stakeholders, how value creating SE in rural areas can be facilitated and supported, but also to find models and methods to improve cross-border collaborations and learning between NPA regions and stakeholders from the different sectors.

The project's partnership has been dynamic and developed significantly during the project period with new project members added ahead of the planned NPA main project application. Thanks to a functional partnership strongly dedicated to the task of jointly developing cross-border knowledge and better support to rural social entrepreneurship there is a low risk of not being successful in implementing a main project application.

A.8 Horizontal principles

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| Sustainable development (environment) | as planned | |
| Equal opportunity and non-discrimination | as planned | |
| Equality between men and women | as planned | |

A.9 Work Package Preparation (preparation)

| WP number | WP title | WP start date | WP end date | WP status |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|-----------|
| P | Preparation | 01.2022 | 01.2022 | completed |
| Partners' involvement | | | | |
| Abbreviation | | Name | | |
| SEA | | Social Enterprise Academy Scotland | | |
| Coomp | | Coompanion Kooperativ Utveckling i Västernorrlands län | | |
| KBT | | Kompetansesenter for brukererfaring og tjenesteutvikling | | |
| MIUN | | Mittuniversitetet (Lead Partner) | | |
| Summary Description Of Activities Carried Out And Contribution Of Each Partner | | | | |
| <p>All partners have been equally actively involved in carrying out planned feasibility studies in their respective regions/countries and participated in planned on-line meetings and the onsite meeting in Ireland. All took part in the identification of gaps, in analysis, contextual models and methods in use and partner seeking for the main project. Step 1 1. Map stakeholders of the ecosystem supporting leaders of community-led social enterprises in remote rural areas. 2. Map methods and models that has social entrepreneurs as personas. 3. Map the current support for social enterprises in each region 4. Map methods for mobilising and engaging local communities in rural areas. In this mapping we will involve 60 end users i.e., social enterprises in rural areas. Step 2 After the mapping was done, we compared and analysed similarities and differences between the partners where the project searched for gaps that our different unique models and examples could fill for each other. This to adapt better support to place-based conditions for social entrepreneurship in remote rural areas. Step 3 (To be done in a main NPA project) Jointly developed solutions for enhancing SE in rural areas, solutions taken up or upscaled by organisations. Develop a methodology of better locally adapted support for social entrepreneurs' business development. We have seen the opportunity to develop business development programs to support leaders of community-led social enterprises in sparsely populated regions. We will create a model for "learning and sharing network clusters" of community-led rural social enterprises and cooperatives in different regions in the northern periphery and arctic area. We will also develop methods for cross-border learning between stakeholders in the SE ecosystem (i.e., societal culture, finance, support, human capital, markets, policymaking) to enhance the prerequisites for rural SE to flourish and contribute with value creation in the local society.</p> | | | | |