



Newsletter #2

SECON boosts social economy in EU regions

We are thrilled to share with you our latest news and updates on our SECON project – an initiative to boost social economy in EU regions. As we delve deeper into our actions, we would like to keep you posted on everything that is going on so you can be part of it all too!

About the SECON initiative

SECON is an Interreg Europe project that aims to drive policy improvement and facilitate the exchange of best practices to promote social economy within EU regions. Recognising the potential of the social economy as a catalyst for sustainable growth and community development, the project intends to create an enabling environment that supports its advancement. To achieve this, SECON intends to embark on a comprehensive range of activities, including regional and interregional learning initiatives, the development of studies and reports, and knowledge exchange endeavours.

SECON

Social Economy - Regional Policies for supporting Social Economy Enterprises



Project indicators

- ✓ **43 organisations** cooperating across borders
- ✓ **9 policy instruments** addressed
- ✓ **8 interregional** policy learning events organised
- ✓ **30 good practices** identified
- ✓ **26 organisations** with increased capacity due to their participation in project activities
- ✓ **9 policy instruments** improved thanks to the project

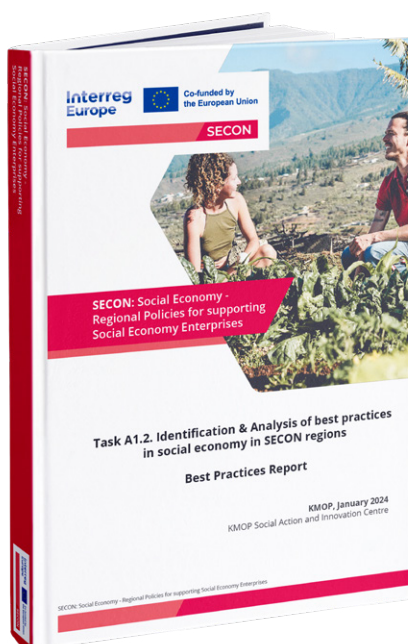
Recent Highlights

2nd Interregional workshop

November 13-14, 2023, in Haskovo, Bulgaria

The SECON 2nd Interregional Meeting, held on November 13-14, 2023, in Haskovo, Bulgaria, offered valuable insights into enhancing the visibility and awareness of social economy enterprises. During the meeting, discussions took place on the collaboration between enterprises, NGOs, and local authorities, along with valuable insights into the legislative framework in Bulgaria. Attendees enjoyed in-depth conversations on marketing strategies, branding, consumer engagement, educational initiatives, and the collaboration of small

enterprises with socially responsible corporations. The second day focused on overcoming barriers to social economy development through discussions with local key stakeholders. Work plan progress, communication strategies, and future initiatives, including an interregional workshop and an overview of regional stakeholder groups, were thoroughly explored. Participants also had the opportunity to take part in a study visit as part of this dynamic and collaborative event.



SECON EU Best Practices report

The report provides information on selected good practices implemented in the SECON regions, corresponding to one or more domains of social economy.

The social economy across various SECON regions demonstrates impactful approaches to local challenges and successes. The practices emphasise community-led initiatives, sustainability, and social inclusion as well as diverse strategies, including digitalisation and innovative financing models which enhance efficiency and inclusivity.

Download it [here](#).

What's coming next?

3rd Interregional workshop

On the **16-18th of April 2024**, the 3rd Interregional workshop and Steering Group Meeting will take place in Harghita, Romania.



A field regional policy research report on needs, attitudes and perspectives

KMOP will lead the activity on the field research on regional needs, attitudes and perspectives with regard to the regional policy baseline studies and the evidence gathering. The field regional policy research aims to assess the specific needs of each region concerning social economy promotion. It will inform the interregional policy learning and will also support foresight and new initiatives within and beyond the participating regions. A regional report will be ready soon.



Our consortium: 10 partners - 9 countries



- ✓ **Greece:** Region of Peloponnese, KMOP-Social Action and Innovation Center
- ✓ **Belgium:** Province of Flemish Brabant
- ✓ **Poland:** Mazowieckie Region
- ✓ **Spain:** Consejería de Agricultura, Desarrollo Rural, Población y Territorio Junta de Extremadura
- ✓ **Germany:** Rhine-Neckar Regional Association
- ✓ **Romania:** Harghita County Council
- ✓ **Portugal:** Oliveira de Azeméis Municipality
- ✓ **Latvia:** Riga Planning Region
- ✓ **Bulgaria:** Haskovo Municipality

Explore more about our initiatives, updates, and resources on our website **here!**



www.interregeurope.eu/secon

Our team:



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