

3P4SSE NEWSLETTER_ #3 contribution from Slovenia (PRIZMA Foundation & RRA Podravje Maribor)

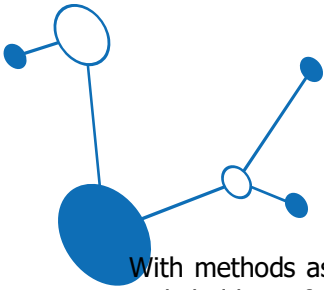
Building Stronger Communities: Co-designing Local Action Plan



On June 2024, the PRIZMA Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities (PRIZMA) and the Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor (RDAPM) conducted a transformative workshop where representatives from municipalities, regional development agencies, social enterprises, small enterprises and NGOs were brought together. The event focused on strengthening the social economy sector in Podravje through better cooperation between public and private organizations, together addressing the needs of specific local communities and implementing the Local Action Plan, that will help involve SSE into addressing the local need and hence aiming for sustainable change.

The workshop featured two Social Innovation Laboratories focused on **PPP empowerment**, identifying the need to produce pragmatic guidelines for municipalities based on systematic analysis of possible PPP frames and the need to provoke **stakeholder engagement**. The second laboratory reevaluated support structures for social enterprises, emphasizing SOCIOLAB's role in fostering a **robust ecosystem** through strategic initiatives, increased marketing and sustainable funding mechanisms.





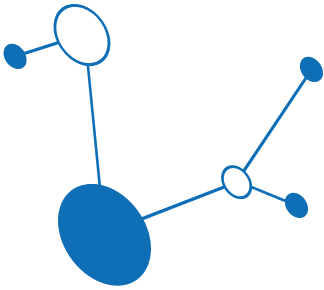
With methods as World Café, we encouraged fruitful exchange of knowledge and expertise among the stakeholders from the public and private sector. The workshop successfully identified **key implementation measures** that will shape the future of SSE:

- Strategic municipal budget allocation for **sustainable development**.
- Provision of free spaces for **emerging enterprises**.
- Creation of dedicated coordinator positions for **enhanced coordination**.
- Development of comprehensive information points for **stakeholder engagement**.
- Implementation of **awareness campaigns** for community mobilization.
- **Preparing public procurement** (public tenders and calls, reserved public procurement, green public procurement, municipal budgets ...) to include social enterprises.
- **Enhancing the supportive Environment** through intensive communication, active mentorship, counselling, support documents, workshops.
- **Systematically linking traditional and social enterprises**, advocacy for better conditions, financial resources.

Research revealed insights into **municipal disparities**, with smaller municipalities requiring infrastructure development and improved information flow, while larger ones seek enhanced **intersectoral cooperation**. This understanding enables the development of **tailored approaches** to SSE implementation across different contexts.

The workshop united local leaders and practitioners in a collaborative effort to develop new ways of involving social enterprises in the search for solutions to local everyday challenges. Municipal representatives shared their experiences in providing support to social enterprises, while regional development agencies offered insights into regional planning. Social enterprises and NGOs brought valuable perspectives from the field, enriching the discussion with real-world experiences.





The outcomes from this workshop demonstrate the power of institutional synergy in driving social innovation. The partnership between these two sectors has established a strong foundation for future development, emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue and adaptive strategy implementation.

The workshop marked the launch of the Local Action Plans, which will be implemented in the form of two pilot pillars until March 2025.

The first pillar aims to strengthen Social Economy Ecosystems by creating supportive environments for social enterprises to tackle local socio-economic challenges in Poljčane. Through public-private partnerships, we seek to improve collaboration among stakeholders, bringing together the municipality, local businesses, NGOs, farmers, and the community to deliver effective public services and expand economic opportunities in Poljčane.

The second pillar, which has its focus area in Maribor, has already started its activities, focusing on establishing a network of social protection organisations to increase support for vulnerable groups. The aim of this network is to improve the accessibility and transparency of services by linking different providers such as social work centres, homes for the elderly and NGOs, thus strengthening the social solidarity economy in the city.