

Transforming Local Challenges into Opportunities: Peer Review in Podravje, Maribor



On January 23rd, 2025, the 3P4SSE Peer Review visit took place in the heart of Slovenia's Podravje region. Hosted by **Fundacija Prizma / Foundation Prizma** and **RRA Podravje - Maribor**, the event brought together project partners from Croatia HR, Hungary HU, Poland PL, Austria AT, and Italy IT to explore the power of local stakeholder cooperation and innovative solutions in the social and solidarity economy (SSE).

Reviewing the Local Action Plan (LAP)

The day kicked off with a detailed presentation of the **Slovenian Local Action Plan (LAP)** at the **Regional Development Agency for Podravje – Maribor**. This plan aims to tackle the socio-economic challenges of the Podravje region, focusing on key pillars of social economy development: enhancing public-private partnerships (PPP) and fostering social economy clusters. Key objectives include promoting social innovation and improving service delivery across both urban and rural areas of the region, such as **Maribor** and **Poljčane**.

Innovating in Poljčane

The visit also spotlighted **Živo Gnezdo** ("Living Nest"), a social enterprise in Poljčane, which focuses on creating sustainable, community-driven services. **Živo Gnezdo** demonstrated its work through an innovative initiative—the **Table of Treasures**, a culinary experience that combines local culture, food, and community collaboration. The involvement of local stakeholders, including the **Municipality of Poljčane**, underlined the importance of integrating local government into social entrepreneurship to drive long-term positive change.

Key Lessons Learned:

- Collaboration across Sectors
- Social Impact through Local Action
- Public-Private Partnerships

These lessons highlight the need for all sectors—public, private, and civil society—to work together in crafting solutions for local challenges, driving both social and economic sustainability.

A big thank you to the **Municipality of Poljčane, RRA Podravje - Maribor, Fundacija Prizma**, and all the partners for their efforts in making this event a success.

Stay tuned for more updates on how we're creating lasting change across Europe through collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development!