

2022

COWORKING SPACES FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

STUDY ON GOOD PRACTICES



COWORKING
for social innovation

Co-funded by the
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HIGGS



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01 INTRODUCTION



ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

Publication "Coworking spaces for social innovation - Study on good practices" results from a 16 month-long mapping exercise covering nine countries of the European Union. It presents 19 carefully selected practices mapped among the coworking spaces, focusing on boosting social entrepreneurship and positively impacting local communities. The publication contributes to sharing the collective knowledge and experience of the coworking community and bringing attention to the coworking workplace model, which is a growing trend worldwide and a great tool for building the capacity of local citizens and boosting the local social economy. It supports the creation of more youth-friendly, more impactful coworking spaces.

A coworking space for social innovation is a term used in this publication in reference to all the coworking spaces that aim to positively impact the surrounding society through their programmes, practices, or profile rather than maximising their profit.

The research was developed under the project "Management systems of coworking spaces for social innovation", implemented by a consortium of 6 partners: Centrum Rozwoju Inicjatyw Społecznych (Poland), DYPALL Network (Portugal), HIGGS (Greece), an international network of coworking spaces Impact Hub, Sende (Spain), and Social City Wien (Austria). It is funded under the Erasmus+ Exchange of Good practices program by the Polish National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this research was to map, identify and exchange good practices in the existing management systems of coworking spaces for social innovation that foster youth participation, inclusiveness, learning processes, collaborative economy, impact on local communities, sustainability, and intersectoral cooperation.

We concentrated our research on the practices that:

- **BOOST LEARNING POTENTIAL** among the members of coworking spaces
- are **ORIENTED ON YOUTH** and support young people with special programmes
- increase the positive **LOCAL SOCIAL IMPACT** of a coworking space
- represent interesting and valuable **SUPPORT PROGRAMMES**, which are not directly connected to coworking spaces but might be an interesting source of inspiration or finances for them.

The division above is reflected in the chapters of this publication.

The practices presented on the following pages represent only part of the mapping results, as the authors wanted to present a variety of practices in a handy format. We are thankful for every input and effort from the organisations that shared their practices, and we are sorry for not being able to present them fully.



MAPPING METHODOLOGY

Each partner was obligated to study the existing management systems of coworking spaces for social innovation in their respective countries through their own already established network of contacts and other relevant organisations mapped during the research.

The collection method was a survey, followed by direct online interviews with the owners of selected practices. This process began right after the project's launch and was continued throughout its lifetime.

In the research, we focused in particular on:

- target groups/beneficiaries;
- number of beneficiaries;
- development potential;
- requirements necessary for implementation in terms of budget, staff, infrastructure;
- benefits;
- challenges faced during the implementation;
- ability to transfer practices both in a theoretical and a practical way to other coworking spaces.

Although the coworking space model, with an average age of a member around 35 y.o. is youth-friendly as it is, **we paid particular attention to selecting practices that support young people** - inside and outside of the coworking space.

02 PRACTICES



02.1

BOOSTING LEARNING POTENTIAL



BEST 2 SHARE

Higher Incubator Giving Growth and Sustainability – HIGGS

Boosting learning potential

Higher Incubator Giving Growth & Sustainability (HIGGS) is an initiative that aims to reinforce non-profit organizations (NPOs) operating in Greece through educational and supportive programs and activities that are carried out at its premises. It offers capacity-building support to small and medium civil society organisations mainly through training and educational initiatives. HIGGS mobilise the “invisible” forces of the NPO ecosystem in Greece, stimulate people and organizations, and activate initiatives.



IMPLEMENTATION

Implemented for the first time in 2016, these activities take place every 4 months - online or in person, depending on the possibility.



TARGET GROUP

The practice usually involves 4-12 residents of the coworking space. but is open to anyone who would like to join.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Best2Share is a meeting involving any resident of the co-working space. Participants are delivering a one-slide presentation on:

- a problem they faced;
- good development in their initiative;
- a lesson learned.

The idea is that the participants can learn about the problems that others are having, which decreases the feeling of “I am battling alone,” and results in more resilient teams.

Furthermore, best practices are exchanged, leading to some excellent tips and tricks for everyday issues for many co-working space residents.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 0-3,000 EUR

Staff: 2 employees

Infrastructure: events room with projector and PC

This practice can be developed further. One direction might be to put more focus on a particular target group or solve a particular problem (new law, effects of the pandemic). It can also grow, if open and inclusive for groups outside the co-working space.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

These practices decrease the feeling of isolation and that one is the only one that faces problems. It also leads to best practices exchange and enhances networking. Users of this program emphasize the welcoming environment and the opportunities to exchange ideas with other organizations. They were also satisfied with the process of exchanging experience in matters that may have value for HIGGS and getting to understand the problems other organizations face. The added value of this practice is the participant's insight of what each organisation provides regarding its processes and the solidarity when others offer to help and support you.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

During practice, it was observed that teams that think of other participants as competitors tend to be less honest. Teams, in general, are more afraid and insecure to open up with their problems.

Further, Covid 19 pandemic made it challenging to implement this practice, as in-person meetings were limited, and online sessions do not provide such a safe space for exchange.

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COWORKING PINZGAU

PinzHub

Boosting learning potential

The PinzHub describes the cooperation of different municipalities within the framework of coworking. This practice is organised through the official regional association, responsible for other regional development projects and is a part of an EU LEADER project.

LEADER is a development approach that provides opportunities for regions to work collaboratively and strategically to implement projects that are specific to their needs.



IMPLEMENTATION

The practice has been implemented for the first time in 2018 and consists of 4 coworking spaces in 4 municipalities.



TARGET GROUP

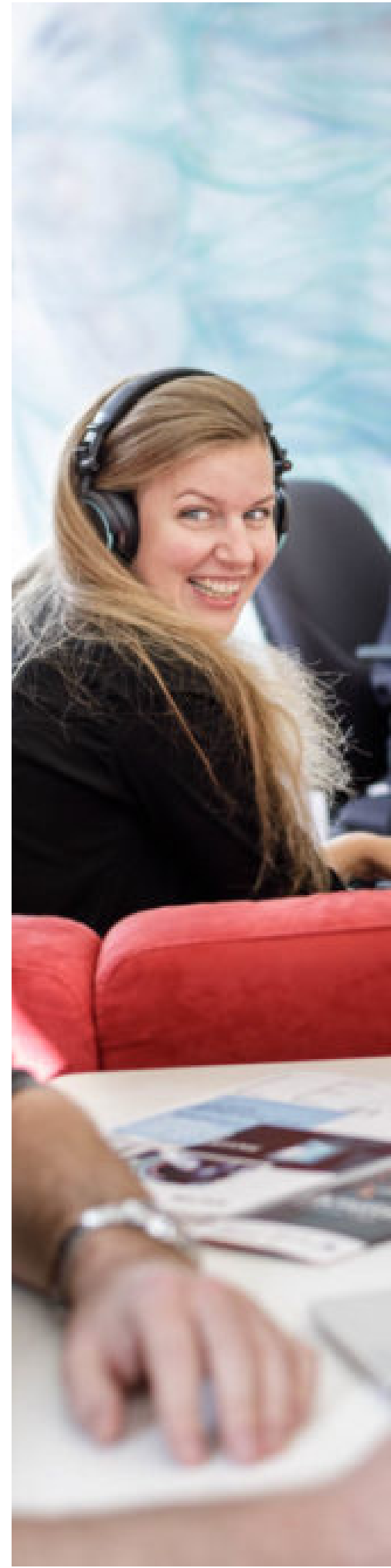
Coworking PinzGau targets local citizens, creatives, entrepreneurs, tourists, and local associations. It impacted ~100 beneficiaries until now.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The CoWorking Pinzgau consists of four coworking spaces in four municipalities (Mittersill, Niedernsill, Saalfelden & Krimml). The program combines workshops and lectures provided by coworkers as mobile professionals. For example, they organised a founding program and network building for young female entrepreneurs from the region.

With offers like these, an innovative start-up scene and community can establish itself in Pinzgau. The program is designed to cover topics away from the coworker's area of expertise like tax law, financing, or marketing.

This practice shapes and creates framework conditions in rural areas for current employment. The flexibility and sovereignty for specific jobs in terms of location are the best opportunity for municipalities to tackle their socio-economic challenges.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 95,000 EUR for three years

Staff: 1 (project management only)

Infrastructure: four open spaces (in four municipalities)

The coaching potential of the PinzHub can be developed in different contexts of the revitalisation of the countryside. Up to seven other projects from German-speaking areas with a similar objective have contacted this practice. This role model has enormous potential to function as a blueprint.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

The experience of the practice has been a “proof of concept.” This approach with the associations and institutions involved is a pioneer project for other municipalities and entrepreneurs. The PinzHub has already shared its expertise with similar projects. It was also a networking platform for many municipalities, institutions and associations. This practice is an essential part of the revitalisation of the countryside in Austria. The CoWorking Pinzgau creates a modern infrastructure, which creates an opportunity to use the advantages of digitalisation in this region efficiently. Additionally, it improves the role and partnership in the tourism sector and how social innovation can help develop it.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Social network building needs personal relationships in the countryside context. The main drivers of the practice were individuals who were determined to realise the concept.

Furthermore, there must be established contact and encouragement with and from local institutions (e.g., building regulations).

Finally, financial solutions from public institutions are necessary to fully develop this coworking practice.

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MOB ACADEMY

MOB Bailén - Coworking in Barcelona

Boosting learning potential

MOB – Makers of Barcelona is a creative hub with two spaces in the heart of Barcelona, home of the city’s first community of makers and freelancers.

MOB Bailén - Coworking in Barcelona promotes the coworking space and the opportunities it provides, boosts collaboration among entrepreneurs from different areas, and finds unexpected ways of coming up with new initiatives, bringing people together from unlikely fields of cooperation.



IMPLEMENTATION

Implemented for the first time in 2011, this practice focuses on organising annual events such as festivals and hackathons.



TARGET GROUP

The practice targets entrepreneurs, companies, young people, willing to innovate and make the change.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

MOB academy is an innovative educational ecosystem where professionals can express their mentor potential by providing agile and skill-oriented classes. They equip people and organisations to grow under the triple sustainability paradigm. Their work is based on three main areas: technology, creativity, and business, to educate people to develop an economical, social, and environmentally sustainable world.

MOB brings the opportunity to the coworking community of talented professionals and students to flourish through various classes and workshops on different topics, hackathons, and marathons (intensive sessions when they gather qualified professionals to brainstorm and bring solutions collaboratively), and boot camps for future entrepreneurs.

For example, **Project Youngfish** is a two-week full-time program that focuses on creativity and innovation and targets young people as the project's potential participants.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 3,000-4,000 EUR for one-two time major events

Staff: organising entrepreneurs, mentors, and volunteers

Infrastructure: in-person residential experience for one-two day events (such as hackathons) or week-long events (in case of events, such as festivals)

MOB Bailén - Coworking in Barcelona offers a space to share, an innovative ecosystem, and a community to grow together.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

When bringing together entrepreneurs from very different fields and unlikely areas of potential collaboration, unusual ideas are generated. Bringing people together in an informal environment can also generate new fresh, exciting ideas that may have been different if it were a formal meeting setting. MOB has been supporting talented people who think outside of the box by offering them a space to call home and skills to match their ambitions., so the community of change-makers can flourish.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing such practices usually attract a particular group of people within the same field, and it is more challenging to gather people from different areas of practice.

In this case, advertising and promotion need to be more targeted and intentional.

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NPOS-MNES BRIDGE

Higher Incubator Giving Growth and Sustainability – HIGGS

Boosting learning potential

Higher Incubator Giving Growth & Sustainability (HIGGS) is an initiative that aims to reinforce Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs) operating in Greece through educational and supportive programs and activities that are carried out at its premises. It offers capacity-building support to small and medium civil society organisations mainly through training and educational initiatives. HIGGS mobilise the “invisible” forces of the NPO ecosystem in Greece, stimulate people and organisations, and activate initiatives.



IMPLEMENTATION

This practice was implemented through 2018 and 2019, every 3 months. It connected 35 beneficiaries.



TARGET GROUP

NPOs-MNes Bridge practice connects multinational enterprise personnel and representatives of non-profit organisation.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

NPOs-MNEs Bridge is an activity in which management personnel of a multinational enterprise (MNE) is connected with representatives of newly established or up to medium-sized organisations. It consists of a full day of presentations and parallel sessions. The MNE's personnel share thoughts and advice on how the Nonprofit organisations (NPO) are operating, their core activities, and potential room for growth.

The meeting is set up as part of MNEs' positive stance in providing pro bono consultancy support to NPOs. HIGGS contacts them, and after explaining the concept, they can request a set of NPOs that have a sectorial focus close to the MNE's business sector and the MNE's core corporate social activities. For each NPO identified by HIGGS, at least five people from the management team (usually of medium and higher level) of the MNE are invited.



The event commences with an introduction to being socially responsible and making a social impact, usually addressed by a high-level executive from the MNE and HIGGS representative.

Then MNE's employees are randomly divided into groups, and each group is attached to each NPO. The optimum ratio was set to 5:1. After the NPO and its core activities are presented, employees can ask questions, offer advice, and propose areas of growth for the NPO. Based on the regions of change, a business model canvas is formulated by all participants. Efforts to see how the MNE can somehow support/connect with the new activity are made by all sides. A final plenary session presents each group's business model canvas results.

After the end of the activity, the MNE has a first opinion right to the new activities formulated for either funding them, collaborating with the NPO, or offering pro bono consultancy services. In addition, participating employees are invited to support (economically or through volunteering) the presented NPOs.



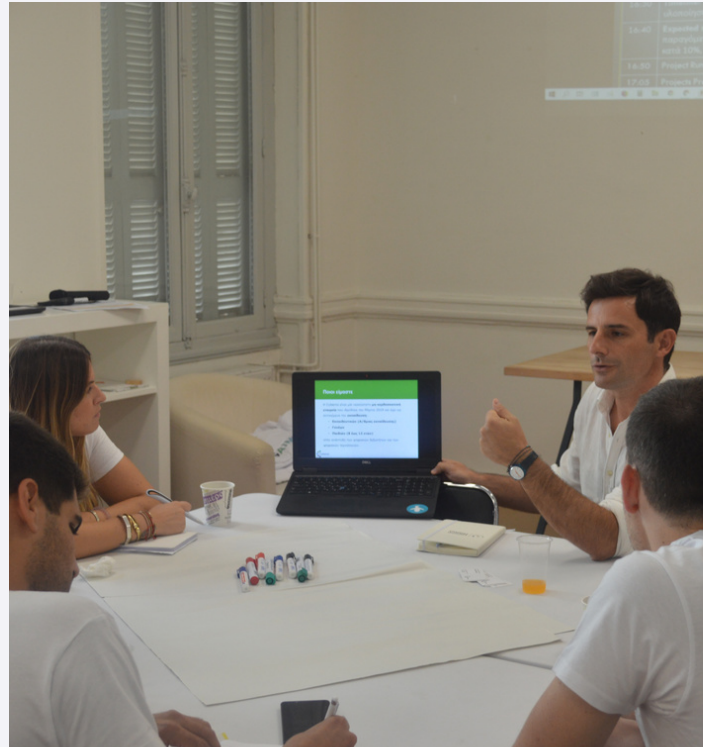
IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 5,000 EUR

Staff: 6 employees

Infrastructure: event rooms with projector and PC, breakout rooms, snacks

Any interested multinational enterprise can copy the practice. Each time, a different multinational enterprise is connected with several NPOs.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Teams and organisations are given a fresh view from people working at the management level in an MNE; MNE's employees understand better the energy and restrictions of newly established to medium-sized organisations. MNE's employees are also exposed to needs and initiatives with social and environmental impact, potential pro bono consultancy services, and small funding/collaboration between the MNE and participating NPO(s). Teams and organisations are prepared to pitch in an audience with a more "MNE/big company" culture and new services/pivot of existing services from NPOs based on ideas and advice from MNE's personnel.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Usually, some initial culture and vocabulary differences between the two groups can produce an inability to find common ground for collaboration (which is the target of the NPOs).

The second problem is that some employees come to these events only because they are instructed to do, so there is a potential lack of motivation.

Furthermore, sometimes there is too much advice focusing on the business side, thus leaving outside the discussions about the social aspect of NPOs activities.

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COUNSELLING AND COACHING

Felisa Cowork

Boosting learning potential

Felisa is a coworking space for professionals looking to implement various activities in their area. The organisation offers coaching, mentoring, and advice for entrepreneurship development.

The aim was to create a workspace that promotes creativity, idea sharing, and the establishment of connections. The coworking space is also environmentally aware and aims to incorporate more sustainability into its work.



IMPLEMENTATION

This practice has been first implemented in 2020 and continued in 2021.



TARGET GROUP

The practice targets professionals and entrepreneurs from the area of Barcelona.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

At Felisa CoWork, one of the services they offer is the development of their coworkers through competency development programs and individual coaching sessions. That is a service also available for people who are not members of the coworking space but are interested in working on their skills, improving their abilities, overcoming blockages, shaping their leadership style, or simply continuing their personal or professional development in an individual way.

Online meetings or offline visits of practice exchange can be organised between partners who offer coaching and counselling within their organisation and ones who are eager to start a similar practice in their work.

Felisa CoWork encourages cooperation among its coworkers, and it is also one of its main objectives. They aim to contribute to and facilitate success by exchanging ideas, knowledge or resources.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 30,000-40,000 EUR for desk research and incorporating the practice within the coworking space

Staff: mentors (depending on the project)

Infrastructure: coworking spaces

This initiative can easily be adapted to each coworking space, incorporating counselling and coaching into their everyday work as an offer to their members. Many coworking spaces offer such options but only a few in a systematised way.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Aside from providing a space from which people can work, coworking spaces can institutionalise and systematise their counselling and coaching practices, providing packages and options for their members. Social entrepreneurship, in particular, is a field where practice share can be essential in building a sustainable business that works to do good for others.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

This may not be feasible for every partner of the coworking space since they serve different purposes and have other goals. Nonetheless, the idea of coaching and counselling can be adapted to each partner organisation accordingly.

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02.2

ORIENTATION ON YOUTH



CHANGE THE WORLD MUDAR O MUNDO

Associação IRISOCIAL Incubadora de Inovação Social

Orientation on youth

IRIS is a social incubator based in the city of Porto and promoted by the European Investment Bank Institute since 2017.

Its mission is to support the appreciation, development, and promotion of activities and social initiatives in the areas of education, citizenship, entrepreneurship, and innovation, contributing to a significant improvement in the quality of life of the population, enhancing the social, economic, and cultural development of the community.



IMPLEMENTATION

It started in 2017 as a unique innovation awareness session and developed into a 6-session face-to-face programme and a practical educational handbook.



TARGET GROUP

The general program targeted kids and youngsters 6-12 years old and educational professionals. Over 2900 people benefited from the programme until today.

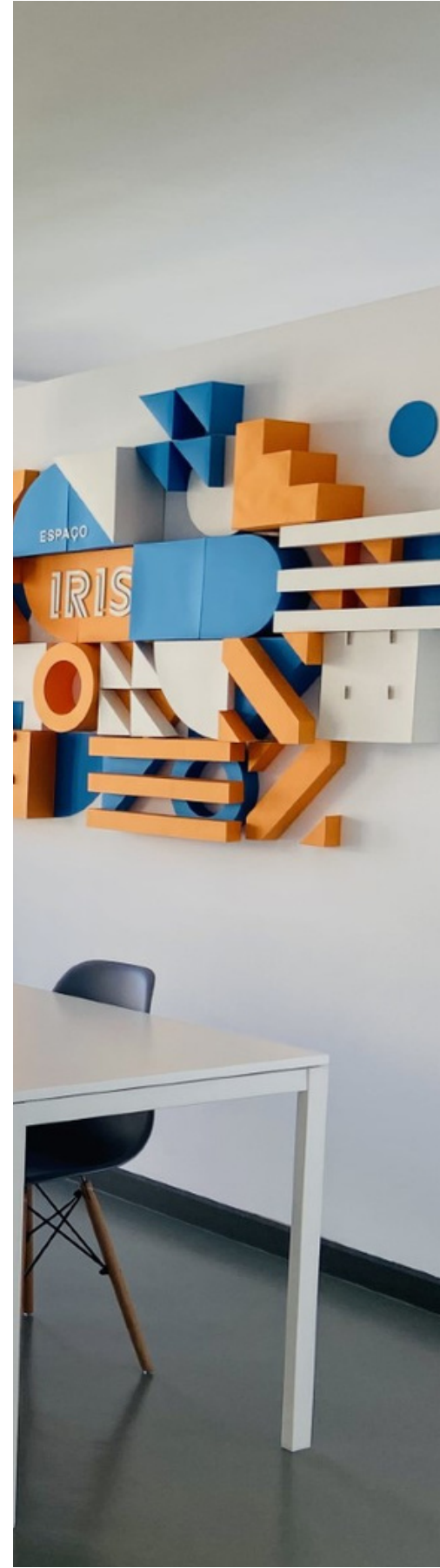
ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The program includes awareness-raising actions for children, and young people carried out in, preferably, groups (e.g., in a class context) and consists of an annual idea contest (Social Innovation Apprentices Contest) aimed at children attending the first years of school (1^o cycle).

Social Innovation Awareness Program:

6 sessions, of 1h30m online or in-person, distributed throughout the school year, for children aged 6 to 12 years old to promote social innovation through practical activities that stimulate critical thinking, problem-solving, and reflection on critical competencies related to social entrepreneurship, such as empathy, resilience, discipline, persistence, and optimism. Social entrepreneurs – members of IRIS – are concrete examples and role models that help children understand the importance of social innovation.

Social Innovation Apprentice Ideas Contest: the online contest for small children (aged 6 to 10 years old) nationwide rewards creative ideas for social and environmental problems identified by children.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: Part of a bigger project. The book has a public sale value of 11,98€.

Staff: implementation manager and financial manager

Infrastructure: presentation equipment, access to school infrastructure, communication tools.

The programme will evolve into an online programme for kids and teachers, supplemented with a physical book (available online and in bookstores) and a manual for educational agents (exclusive for educational contexts).



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

According to the impact measurement by the psychology and educational sciences faculty at the University of Porto (external evaluation), after enrolling in the Program, the children began to identify and give greater importance to the 5 powers of a Social Innovator: persistence, optimism, discipline, empathy, and resilience. Before the Begin Innovation program, only 3% of children knew what Social Innovation was. In the end, it was 79%. At the same time, they began to give greater importance to teamwork and recognise their own creative and innovative capacity more strongly. Furthermore, among the teachers of the groups of children who participated in Begin Innovation, 44% indicated that the level of knowledge of children about social innovation increased after the Program.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

The most significant difficulties in implementing the program are due to:

- unawareness of the concept of social innovation;
- contacting and receiving response from educational agents (e.g. directors/teachers);
- lack of time/availability of teachers to participate in new extra-curricular projects.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD OUTREACH

Higher Incubator Giving Growth and Sustainability – HIGGS

Orientation on youth

Higher Incubator Giving Growth & Sustainability (HIGGS) is an initiative that aims to reinforce Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs) operating in Greece through educational and supportive programs and activities that are carried out at its premises. It offers capacity-building support to small and medium civil society organisations mainly through training and educational initiatives. HIGGS mobilise the “invisible” forces of the NPO ecosystem in Greece, stimulate people and organisations, and activate initiatives.



IMPLEMENTATION

It started in 2017 and happened every six months. Due to the C-19 pandemic, it was stopped but will be reactivated in the next school year (Sept 2022-Aug 2023).



TARGET GROUP

The practice targets secondary students from local high schools (around 20-25 each time).

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Neighbourhood outreach is an activity that connects the co-working space and its residents with students from local schools. Students are invited to visit the co-working space. A moderator gives a presentation of the aims and objectives of the co-working spaces, followed by a presentation of some teams' and organisations' missions and activities.

Students are asked to be inspired by the presentations, vote for the best organisation/team, create a video on their mission, and share their views on what they would do if they were the organisation's owners. This practice encourages young people to think critically and improves their presentation and strategic planning skills.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 100-200 EUR

Staff: 2 employees

Infrastructure: event room with projector and PC, snacks

The practice can be expanded to different age groups and even university students. As new students join the high school each year, it can be a never-ending event.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Teams and organisations are exposed to fresh views from students. During the event, quality videos produced by students may be created. Also, students and organisations could acquire a new skill of giving a presentation to a “difficult” audience. After the end of the practice, local schools’ students are more connected and better understand business and social initiatives notions.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Teams may not see the value in presenting to students, and keeping students' interest can sometimes be challenging.

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SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATION FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Casulo - Incubadora de Inovação Social Loulé
Algarve

Orientation on youth

CASULO is a social incubator based in the south of Portugal, in Loulé in the region of Algarve. Their mission is to support the development and implementation of social entrepreneurship projects in Algarve to reduce social exclusion levels and promote more qualified, long-term employment.

Anyone who has a business idea connected to social innovation (innovation at the local level) can apply to become part of the acceleration program and receive full support from Casulo experts.



IMPLEMENTATION

This practice started in 2017. It is implemented annually and supports ~35 projects each year.



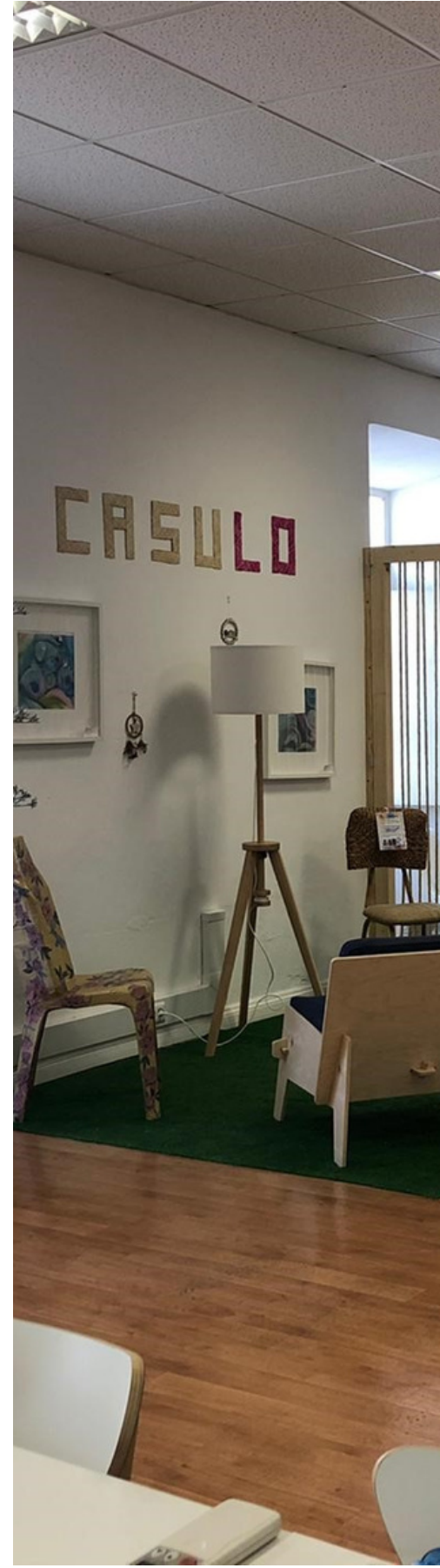
TARGET GROUP

The target group are young people from local vocational schools, who need to design their own project to finish the education.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Students from vocational schools in Algarve, to finish their education, need to develop a personal, final project. As often happens, these projects are business ideas that either forever stay on paper or fail when challenged with reality. Casulo has a program that supports these young people. Using a network of mentors and experts, Casulo provides a comprehensive incubation program, often with the support of experts from an informal network of social incubators in the Algarve.

Young people have an opportunity to discuss their projects, shape them into business-realistic ideas, plan a proper legal and financial structure, count the implementation costs, and devise marketing and sales strategies. Finally, after this initial (yet comprehensive) stage, students receive advisory regarding external funding. Students' business ideas have to be connected to their field of study and be a social innovation to be implemented in the region of the Algarve.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 118.209€ per year

Staff: 7 people - coordinator, innovation manager, financial manager, and 4 consultants in the field of design, marketing, social entrepreneurship, and legislation

Infrastructure: physical coworking space, training, and meeting rooms, as well as workshops with IT equipment

Plan to develop structured support programs based on the experience obtained and increase the space capacity to receive and help more youth and social entrepreneurs.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Casulo provides local young social entrepreneurs with the services of the entire business circle (initial mentoring, search for external funding and mentoring while submitting the applications, supporting the design, legal and financial services, provides resources (such as coworking space), develops communication and marketing strategies, supports the development of sustainability strategies and gives access to innovation and entrepreneurship events. The most significant benefits of this practice are the activation of young people from the region, the development of sustainable business ideas that keep young people employed and attached to their local environment, and more social enterprises that answer the needs of the local communities.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing a business idea requires patience and a particular approach, often challenging young people. You need to demonstrate your work, invest your time and effort to create a comprehensive implementation plan, and implement your business idea. Only then can you sustainably earn on your results. The challenge is to teach young people to think ahead and be entrepreneurial.

Additionally, the implementation of a social project is a particular challenge. Firstly it's needed to prove your work and proficiency, and only then can you reach out to private and public funding - with an established enterprise or organisation.

The challenge is to maintain sustainability after the end of funding.

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YOUNG IMPACTMAKERS

Impact Hub Amsterdam

Orientation on youth

Impact Hub Amsterdam connects pioneers, leaders, and innovators to organisations, investors, and the public sector.

To make change happen, Impact Hub Amsterdam facilitates entrepreneurial solutions to society's most significant challenges and gives access to a valuable network and business expertise, resources, and capital. It organises events, hosts a collaborative working space, and runs a series of accelerator programs.



IMPLEMENTATION

This practice started in 2017 and is implemented throughout the year by the young people themselves.



TARGET GROUP

It targets professionals and young people interested in entrepreneurial activities. Over 2000 participants benefited from participation in this programme.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Young Impactmakers is a project that builds up local teams of young people who organise bi-monthly events on sustainability, impact entrepreneurship, and personal development. They host it offline or online and bring the event participants together in a newsletter and Facebook group. They also host hands-on workshops, matchmaking events and pitch nights online or at the Impact Hub.

By joining the events and programs, young people build up networks, knowledge, and self-esteem to work in the impact scene, start their impact businesses or contribute to purpose-driven companies.

The community is growing in this way, and sign-up for programs and memberships.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 0,5 workday per week

Staff: 2 employees

Infrastructure: social media (Facebook, newsletter), venue for the in-person activities and licenses for hosting online meetings



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Impact Hub Amsterdam only works on real-life cases and builds trust between young people. All the events are based on non-formal education working methods, and the practices are led by a team of young people, giving them leadership and event management skills. Young people are encouraged to develop the themes and harvest the essential topics based on their community and surroundings by being in the lead. By giving a stage to other young people, Impact Hub Amsterdam boosts initiatives of young entrepreneurs and active citizens. The outcome is that they get more attention, new partnerships, new job and volunteer opportunities for young people, and potentially even new clients.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

The main challenges that Impact Hub Amsterdam faces while implementing this practice are to gain enough financial resources to invest the time, cover the costs of the activities and keep the volunteers motivated and engaged.

Last but not least is maintaining the quality of the events high.

CONTACT DATA



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PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Rutger de Rijk



02.3

LOCAL SOCIAL IMPACT



CARITAS COWORKING SPACE AT KULTURHAUS BROTFFABRIK

Caritas

Local social impact

Embedded between the studios and galleries of the Brotfabrik, the Kulturhaus is a bridge between these and the residents of the surrounding district, characterised by municipal housing and the diversity of the population, but at the same time has few open places to meet.

They share their coworking space with Caritas, which promotes integral human development so that people in the worst-off and most disadvantaged communities are free to flourish and live in peace and dignity.



IMPLEMENTATION

The practice started in 2017 and is continued until now.



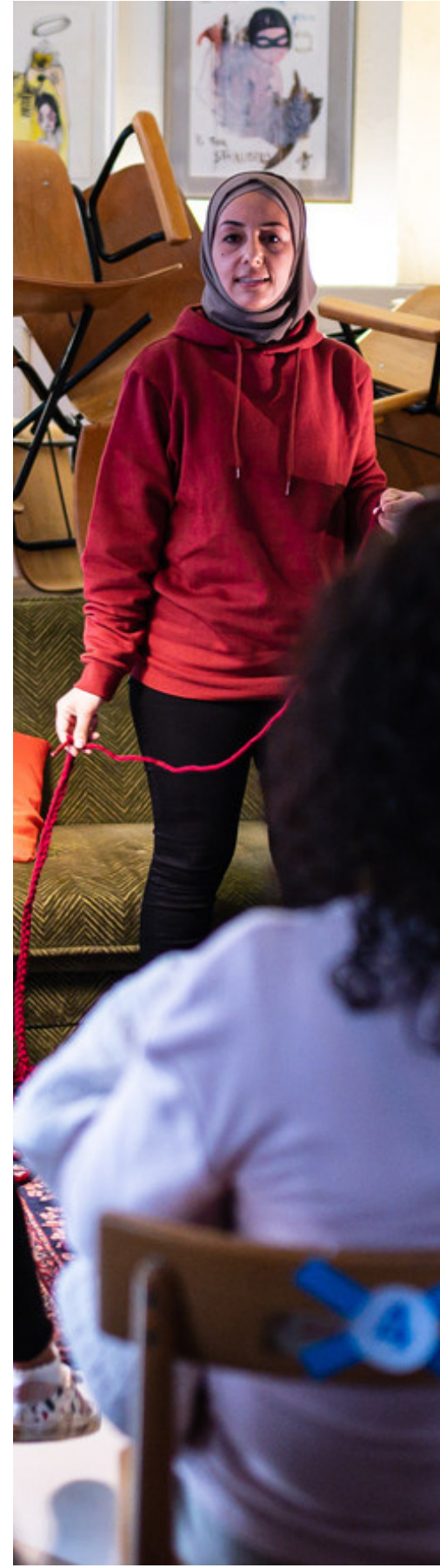
TARGET GROUP

It targets Viennese neighborhoods, Caritas employees, creative and social entrepreneurs.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

This coworking practice is located in the Kulturhaus Brotfabrik, part of Caritas Austria, a social aid and service organisation. As mentioned, the Kulturhaus acts as a neighbourhood centre and meeting point for Caritas employees and the residents of the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Various social and cultural projects opened the art and culture arena of the Brotfabrik Wien to the residents of the surrounding district and strengthened social cohesion in this area. The coworking space covers one floor, where social entrepreneurs and employees of the Caritas are invited to work on projects. There are different initiatives where coworkers, employees, and residents are invited to participate and create together.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 6,500 EUR (rent per month)

Staff: 1 employee

Infrastructure: open space

External coworking social entrepreneurs could be integrated into the cultural program of the Kulturhaus Brotfabrik itself and organise workshops to boost the interaction with the residents of the neighbourhood and try out their ideas within a confined space where societal challenges are present.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Caritas carries out programmes and events in the Kulturhaus Brotfabrik; many are for free access for all residents. The house functions with the commitment of numerous volunteers and therefore has many capacities. Also, social impact is connected to cultural and art projects in this practice.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Because the practice's location is the renovated Brotfabrik (bread factory), which is an essential Viennese cultural heritage, challenges arose with costs and the balance of preserving the location with the adaptations of the needs of modern bureaus, gastronomy, culture related events, or any social programs.

Another obstacle was promoting the program in the neighbourhoods surrounding the factory building. Much communication and patience were invested in getting to an optimal capacity use. Especially in this area of the city, where there are not a lot of social activities, and residents were sceptical of such a big project.

CONTACT DATA



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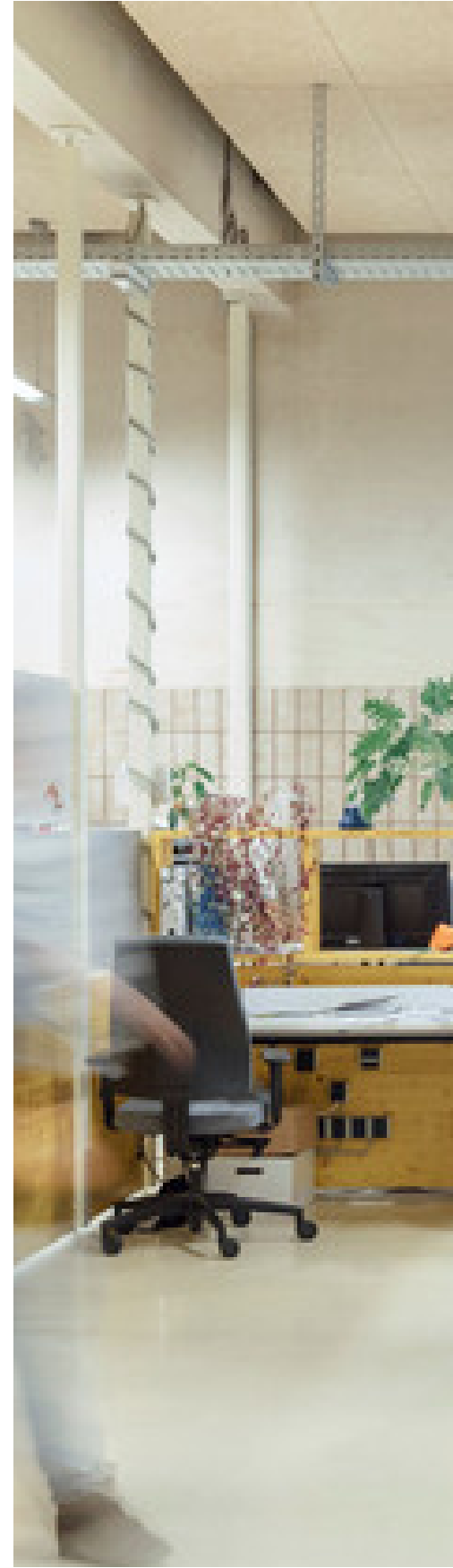
WEB LINK

<https://www.kulturhaus-brotfabrik.at/>



PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Kajin Al Khalil



COWORKING, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & COMMUNITY WORK

MANAGERIE

Local Social Impact

MANAGERIE is a social enterprise with a coworking space where community work and social innovation are combined. It functions as a hub in social design, urban interventions, community building, campaigning, cultural management, where social innovation projects are managed, implemented, and realized. As the headquarter of the ANNENVIERTEL district project association, the MANAGERIE is one of the most significant urban actors which influence change in neighborhoods through projects and interventions. Here, community work and the coworking space build a symbiosis.



IMPLEMENTATION

This practice started in 2011 and works until today.

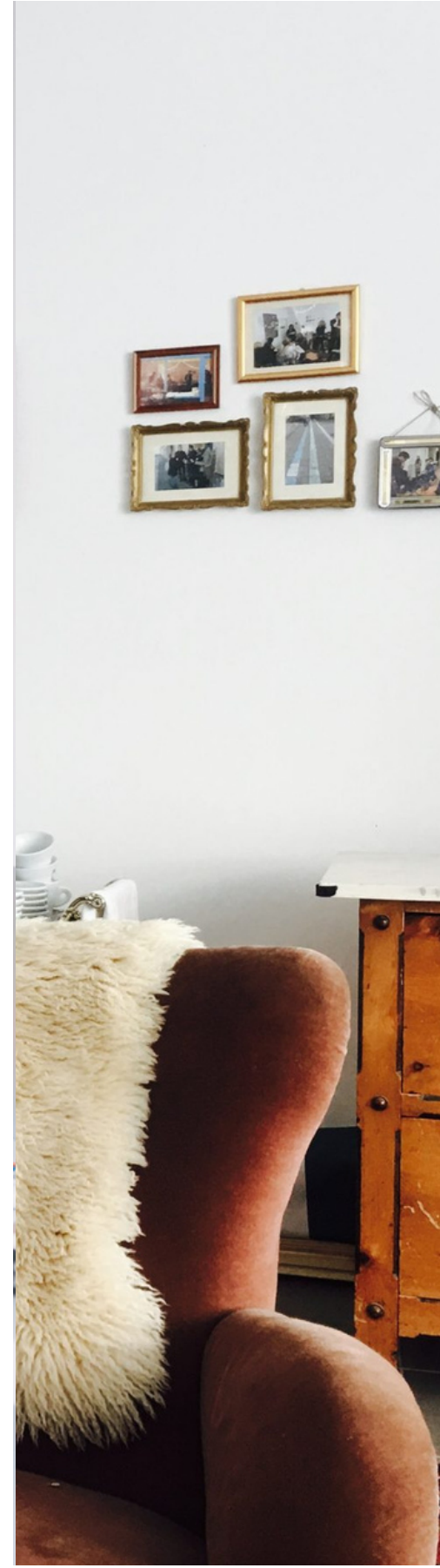


TARGET GROUP

It targets professionals from the creative sector, social entrepreneurs, local economy actors and neighbourhoods in the district of Lend.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The founder of the MANAGERIE works and cooperates with the city, the management of town planning, local entrepreneurs, and residents. The coworking space is embedded in the local infrastructure, where citizens live and work. The approach is a participative working method and bottom-up work from and with the community and its structures, which support social innovation. The coworkers of the MANAGERIE are invited to co-create concepts for the neighbourhood with site-specific and complex solutions. An example of this synergy is the Social Safari designed with a coworker, where the diverse sectors of the local economy and entrepreneurs are invited to explore their role in the local development of the neighbourhood. In mixed teams, representatives of the local economy, representatives from art and culture, the chamber of commerce, existing alliances, the City of Graz, residents, and socio-cultural institutions are invited to explore the status quo and the vision for a productive future in the neighbourhood together. In these Social Safaris, business owners as stakeholders work on engagement, community, and cooperation ideas.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: not specified

Staff: 1 employee

Infrastructure: venue (coworking)

This practice could be developed in different areas and districts or in same-sized cities with similar political landscapes. MANAGERIE's approach to social innovation is nested strongly in the culture and arts community and builds on local expertise. Social innovation projects could also be developed to transcend neighbourhood interests.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

This practice supports the interconnectedness of different sectors and the challenges in an urban setting. In these kinds of structures, social capital, networking and self-marketing are essential to promote social innovation and create site-specific solutions. Even though the structures are complex, the social aspect makes the actors interested in the process and makes solutions more tangible. Because the MANAGERIE is interconnected to community work, sustainable and long-term cooperation between actors is fruitful. Lastly, this practice creates similar values based on projects, urban interventions, and designs. With this approach, existing structures and actors are included and multiplied.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Because this coworking space was first in Graz, a familiarisation process was necessary to take off with the concept. Depending on the place and time, new ideas need a lot of explanation and time for general awareness. Also, these projects need actors who are already part of the local community and existing structures.

CONTACT DATA



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PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Maria Reiner



SANTA CASA CHALLENGES

Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa

Local social impact

Casa do Impacto is a coworking space that belongs to Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa – one of Portugal's most prominent social non-profit organisations, created over 500 years ago and hiring over 6000 people working in the area of social services.

Casa do Impacto wants to promote innovative solutions to social and environmental problems and needs, following the values promoted by Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa to construct a more solidary and sustainable society.



IMPLEMENTATION

First implemented in 2016, it consists of punctual activities with the different lengths depending on a challenge (other challenges each year).



TARGET GROUP

It targets members of the coworking space it connected programmes. Until now, it involved over 40 enterprises and 100 coworkers.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Santa Casa Challenges are special contests launched each year by Casa do Impacto for their network. Each year Casa do Impacto managers define a challenge that solves a particular, significant social problem of the community (local, regional or national). Challenge is launched among the network to propose projects that solve this problem. The competition rewards innovative technological solutions that give rise to technologically feasible devices, applications, digital content, web, or communication services. For example, in 2020, during the first strike of the pandemic, Casa do Impacto set a challenge for the member organisations to propose a solution for eldercare to connect them with their family during lock-down.

The challenge for 2021 was: “How can we promote quality health, with special attention to mental health problems and the needs of people in vulnerable situations?” The challenge winner receives funding (up to 15000 EUR) and an acceleration program to implement the solution. 2nd and 3rd solution gets a year of the free-of-charge acceleration program.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 15,000 EUR (1st prize) and incubation packs and other prizes

Staff: 7 people (permanent staff)

Infrastructure: practices do not require particular infrastructure

Challenges usually address a particular topic and are an easily transferable practice to any other coworking space or incubator.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Casa do Impacto contributes to greater promotion and visibility of the innovation ecosystem and social entrepreneurship, providing solutions to existing social challenges and supporting the development of innovative social enterprises. They work intensely to contribute to creating positive social impacts that can also be profitable and scalable by promoting and supporting sustainable business models. Casa do Impacto wants to become a reference in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Major challenges during the implementation were connected, especially in the last years, to the pandemic. Implementing such practice with online events only, building and maintaining the community of participants online and in general - marketing efforts in times of COVID made getting attention to the Challenges more difficult.

Moreover, Casa do Impacto exists directly under a major organisation, with less flexibility and more procedures than usually a coworking space, which is both a blessing and a challenge.

CONTACT DATA



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PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Nuno Comando



SOCIAL INNOVATION CITIES

Impact Hub Rome

Local social impact

Impact Hub is a globally connected locally rooted network for supporting early-stage social entrepreneurs & innovators. It is a network of collaborative spaces, entrepreneurial communities and capacity building programs that inspire, connect and enable impact.

Impact Hub Rome, since 2011, is the coworking and innovation accelerator space with a social impact in Rome, whose mission is to connect impact innovators, policy-makers, artists and activists in a unique environment.



IMPLEMENTATION

The practice was first implemented in 2014. The programme covers 6 months of online and in-person events and impacts ~350 participants.



TARGET GROUP

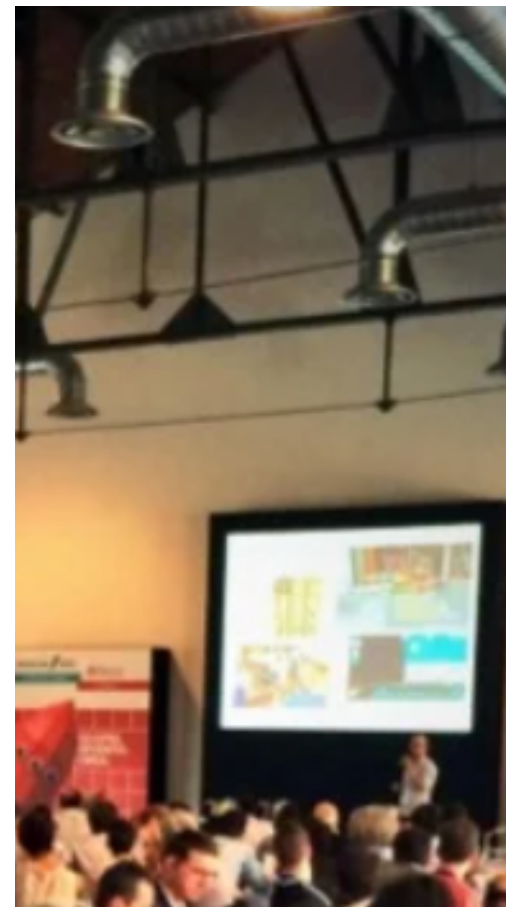
It targets students and researchers, social entrepreneurs and innovators, policymakers, artists and civil society organisations.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Online engagement and local events (2 months) have been shared on the IdeaScale platform to create a bridge between the local initiatives (focused on specific topics) and the final one-day co-design event with 300 people, 30 working tables, 30 facilitators, 10 subjects, 10 international speakers, to co-create the “Social Innovation City” ecosystem hence, in collaboration with Innova Camera (Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Rome), during “The Maker Faire Rome – The European Edition”, a Social Innovation Agenda for the City of Rome.

Among the topics were: 1. Making resilient communities, 2. Co-design methods, 3. Open data management, 4. Accessibility, 5. Scaling impact, 6. Education and welfare, 7. Cultural Heritage & Tourism, 8. Impact Finance, 9. Environment and mobility, 10. Food & Agriculture.

The format consisted of an intro from experts in the field, hence a co-design process for the final output as a list of recommendations, good practices, and proposals at international and local levels. All the contents and proposals emerged during the first 2 months stage, were shared during in the final event.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 18,000 EUR

Staff: 5 employees

Infrastructure: open space

The final event presented 30 working tables, each of them made up of “Makers” - practitioners in Social Innovation, “Thinkers” - opinion leaders, artists, academics, and students, and “Influencers” - decision and policymakers, activists, policy shapers, innovators, and social entrepreneurs. These new networks of educated actors have the potential to improve their communities.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

The main goals achieved:

- introducing the Social Innovation narrative into the local political Agenda of the City of Rome;
- replicating the format in other cities (“Lecce Social Innovation City”);
- networking and “lesson learnt” for all the participants with diverse backgrounds;
- linking the tech world (in particular the Makers movement) with social impact via the co-creation processes.

The most important outputs of this practice are: knowledge sharing with youth and experts and networking between social innovators and (local and national) policymakers for co-designing a social innovation agenda with a proper methodology and impact indicators.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

The role of the facilitators, as the previous stage of community engagement (online and via local events), the presence of international speakers into a rich programme of events during the Maker Faire Rome, were crucial ingredients for a successful initiative that, actually, remain one of the most impactful on social innovation topics.

Balancing interests, priorities, and expectations from the heterogeneous actors involved, especially from public institutions and big corporates, was this practice's most demanding challenge.

CONTACT DATA



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PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Dario Carrera



02.4

SUPPORT PROGRAMMES



D&C - DREAMERS AND CRAFTSMEN. HOUSE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

Consortium: Foundation “Stocznia” and Jabłkowski Brothers Department Store

Support programmes

The Dreamers and Craftsmen. House of Social Innovation is a partnership program inspired by Impact Hub (Global Network) and Centre for social innovation (NY), which covers a coworking space for around 40 people (individual desks), a common room (kitchen, chillout, sport) and conference, workshops, meeting space. It is based in a centre of Warsaw on the 3rd floor of a historical Department Store Bracia Jabłkowscy. This place is open to anyone with an idea to change the world for the better.



IMPLEMENTATION

The first edition of the programme has been implemented in 2016-2019. The second one takes place between 2020-2023.



TARGET GROUP

Everyone involved in social projects, including public administration, non-governmental organisations the academic world and entrepreneurs.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The Dreamers and Craftsmen is based in the centre of Warsaw. Their coworking place is open for anyone with an idea to change the world for the better.

The D&C is formed to:

- support the generation and exchange of ideas for innovative activities that improve the quality of social life - in Warsaw and beyond;
- meet with each other and facilitate the joint work of people developing social projects but coming from different backgrounds;
- provide substantive, organisational, and financial support to selected ideas that respond to specific and essential social needs;
- host and organise events on urban issues, public policies, and social innovation, for example, breakfasts and talks (each Monday morning).

The space is operated now by Foundation Stocznia, which is implementing projects of social innovation incubators on the topic of social inclusion (previous one in the case of services provided to dependent persons due to disability, illness, or age and their guardians.).

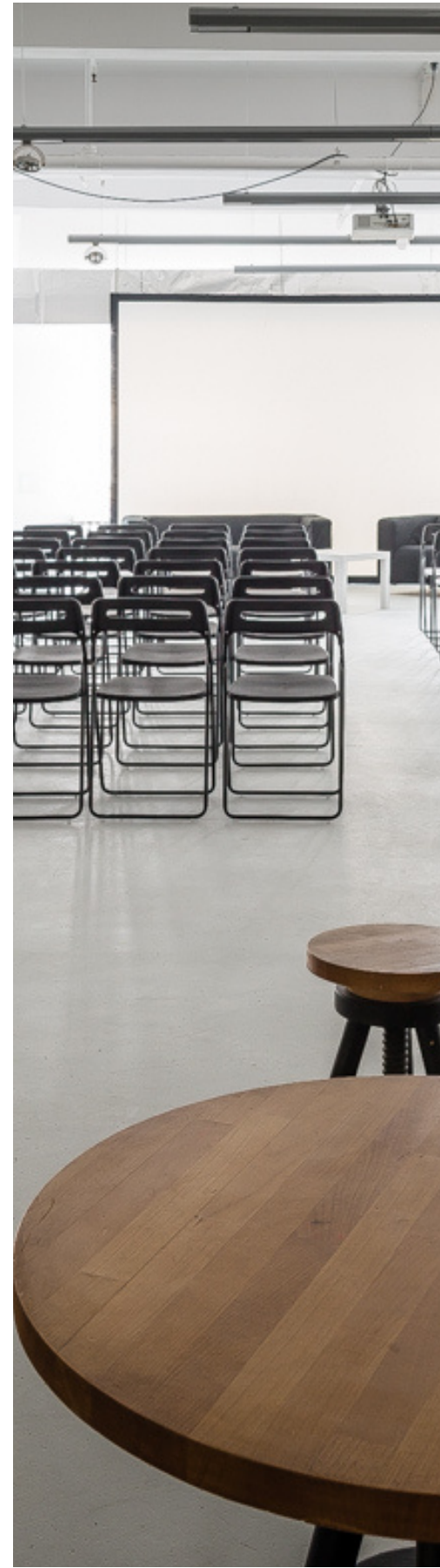


ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The primary support model will be the so-called incubation cycles, i.e., processes involving the recruitment, support, and refinement of innovative ideas and their testing, evaluation, refining the final version of the solution, and disseminating the best of them.

As part of two nationwide calls for proposals to the Incubator, circa 100 ideas for innovations receive support in refining the concept and preparing a prototype of an innovative solution. Together with innovators, it is discussed whether these are the best ways of responding to a given problem and under what conditions solutions have a chance to grow and work most effectively. After several months of incubation, 52 innovations are selected to receive a grant (8800 EUR) to test their solutions in practice. Ten social innovations that work best during the test are disseminated and incorporated into social policies and practices.

The project is implemented in a partnership with the Laboratory of Social Innovation in Gdynia. Activities will be run simultaneously in those two localizations and support innovators from Poland.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 1st edition: 630 435,00 EUR;
2nd edition: 1 130 365,73 EUR,
depending on the scale of activities

Staff: Manager, the idea givers, staff dedicated to running a program of social innovation incubator: two coordinators, two animators for social innovation in both localizations, two specialists of social innovation, four target group specialists, four evaluators

Infrastructure: around 42 individual working spaces (desk) and a few meeting rooms



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

This practice is the first in Warsaw and probably the first in Poland. The common space exists to support the development of social innovations and social initiatives dedicated to civil activities and making a city a better living place, creating a space where cultural, social, civic, and business activities can meet. The recipients of D&C activities can co-create this space and incubate programs for social innovations. This practice achieved strong cooperation between business and social initiatives (a few NGOs and local leaders) and a long-term partnership of Stocznia and building owners Jabłkowsky Brothers.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

There was a lack of diverse financial support (mainly depending on external funds – the European Social Fund). Furthermore, there are project restrictions regarding the topics/subjects of supported social innovations. The entire supporting program can be offered only to a social innovator in specific thematic scope. Others can benefit only from open activities like conferences, workshops, and networking. Also, Covid's situation limited the possibility of running regular activities connected with seminars, training courses, workshops, debates, and regular meetings for social innovators, activists, and thinkers.

CONTACT DATA



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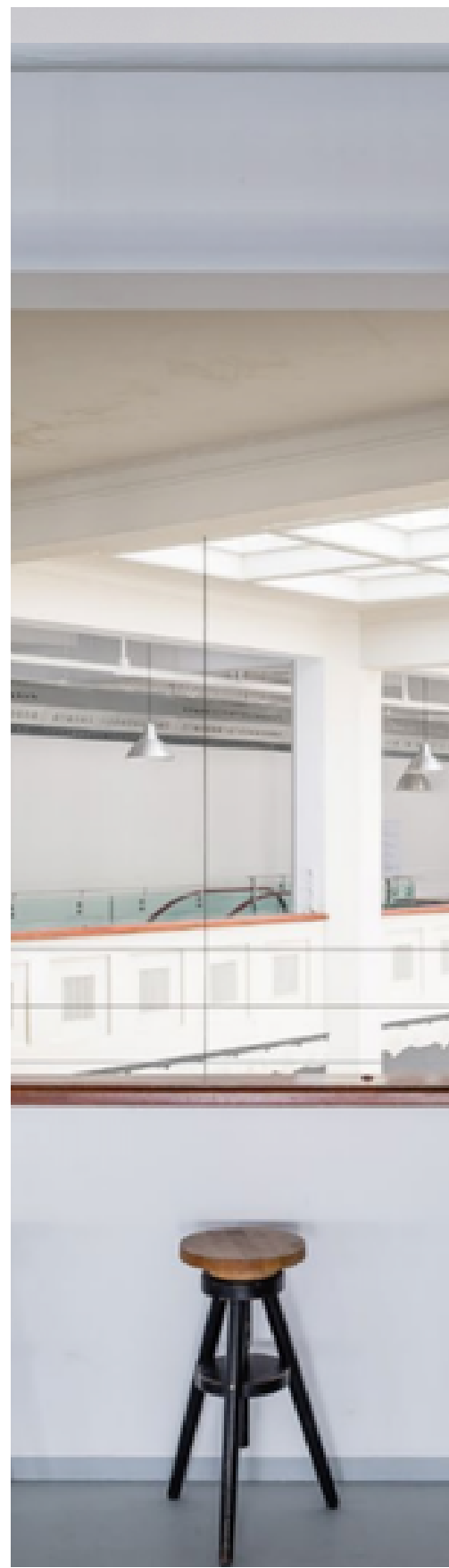
WEB LINK

<https://www.marzycieleirzemieslnicy.pl/>
<https://inkubatorpomyslow.org.pl/>



PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Magdalena Gawin, D&G
Maria Lewandowska-Woźniak, Fundacja Stocznia
Anna Ratajczak, Laboratory of Social Innovations



SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD

Impact Hub Budapest

Support programme

Impact Hub Budapest is a coworking space intended to support dreamers and entrepreneurs to find solutions for critical global issues.

Their primary non-governmental work is centred around the importance of social enterprise, helping people start financially sustainable businesses and have a positive social or environmental impact, and raising awareness and educating the community on social and sustainable innovations. They promote and implement sustainability, environmental protection, and social innovation.



IMPLEMENTATION

The practice was first implemented in 2016. It is repeated annually and any organisation is welcome to join.



TARGET GROUP

It targets youth and young professionals aged from 14 to 30 years.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Since 2009, the **Social Impact Award (SIA)** has promoted the knowledge and practice of social entrepreneurship among youth in Europe, Africa, and Asia. The Social Impact Award is a year-round educational program on social entrepreneurship dedicated to students and youth. SIA supports the participants in building social enterprises that find solutions to the most challenging issues. They do so by hosting events and organising workshops to raise awareness for social entrepreneurship, teaching the necessary skills to navigate from vague intentions to promising ventures, providing access to networks, and promoting the best teams with the Social Impact Award.

Eight finalists compete for the Award during the Social Impact Award annual program. To support the finalists, who become Alumni, they have regular calls and hold meetings on their process and development in continuing their project. They organise workshops on investment readiness and help them to get funded. They also involve them in conferences and stakeholder meetings and support them in networking. An impact report is carried out year by year.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 26,000 EUR

Staff: 3 employees

Infrastructure: trainer, offline hall, online infrastructure, Zoom license

In the future, new countries will join the program and further extend the reach and impact of this practice. Additionally, any organisation can join to create and implement innovative social business ideas.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Impact Hub Budapest is keen on following up on those young innovators who want to continue their projects. It provides the follow-up and offers such services that provide them with funding. Impact Hub Budapest has a network within impact investors, angel investors, and financial institutions to connect and prepare them for such meetings. Impact Hub Budapest set up workshops on term sheets during the prep phase and basic knowledge of getting funded. They organise Pitch Days to introduce their projects to others. Impact Hub Budapest also organises workshops with Impact Venture Capitals and some investors to submit them to the Alumni. Each investor has got different term-sheet packages that they introduce.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

As some of the Alumni still study at high school or University, the project remains on stand-by as they want to finish their university studies. It might take years to follow up. There were situations where the team broke up, and new members were involved, or if not, Impact Hub Budapest supported the Alumni to get new founding members. Moreover, some team members are too young by age for the investors to be funded, or the fund needed for the team's project is much smaller than an Impact VC would give. Also, the last two years have been challenging due to COVID-19 pandemic, that disabled this practice in many ways.

CONTACT DATA



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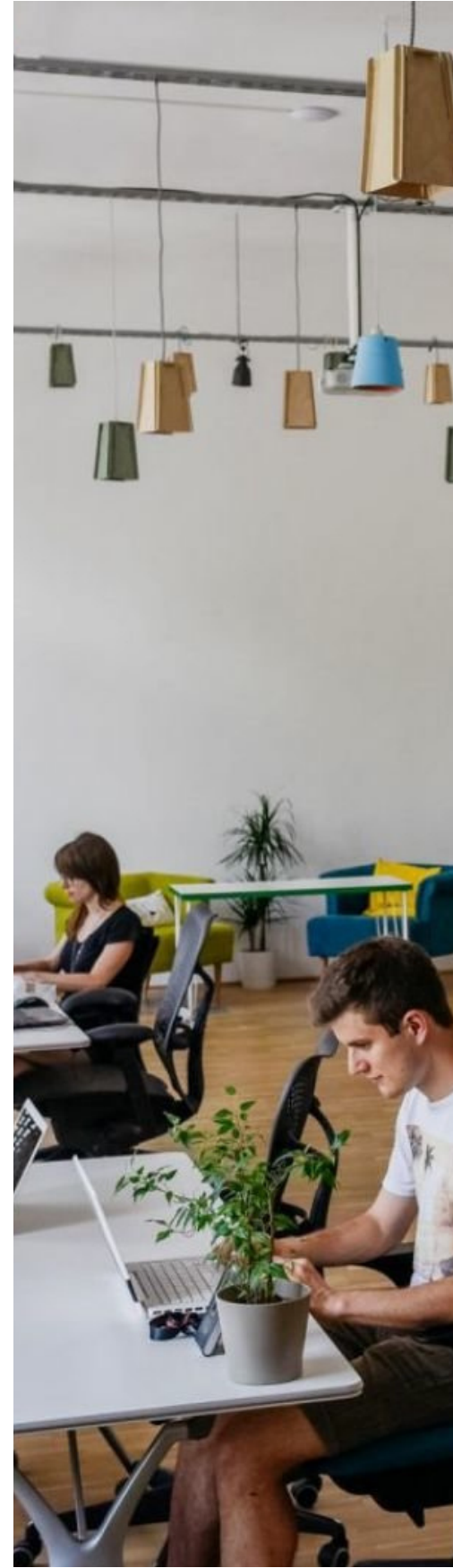
WEB LINK

<https://hungary.socialimpactaward.net/>



PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Beatrix Bedo



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL INNOVATION INCUBATORS

Centrum Rozwoju Inicjatyw Społecznych

Support programmes

CRIS as an umbrella organisation established in 2002 to build the environment of the third sector and to develop citizens' initiatives.

It provides incubation and support programs for NGOs and social entrepreneurs, including free consultations, workspace and equipment, training, specialist assistance and financial support for creating new positions or testing social innovations. Since 2016, it also offers its services to regular entrepreneurs due to its cooperation with local governments.



IMPLEMENTATION

The incubator has been started in 2002 and works until today. Over 300 participants benefit from it each year.



TARGET GROUP

It targets NGOs, social entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurs from Western Subregion of Silesia region.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The activities of CRIS have evolved over the years. We are currently implementing 3 main programs in the area of supporting entrepreneurship and social innovation:

- Entrepreneurship Incubator (business)
- Social Economy Supporting Centre (social business)
- Social Innovation Incubator – Silesian Innovation Space (social needs)

Entrepreneurship Incubator offers regular educational activities aimed mainly at young entrepreneurs and schools. CRIS organises lectures, and social events, offers consultations, training and contest for the best business plan. It creates conditions for building entrepreneurial attitudes, encourages its clients to take action, and then provides advice through the first stage of implementation. With new entrepreneurs, CRIS uses a variety of tools for raising development funds. It also combines its internal programs with the offer of other organizations. This way their clients learn about alternatives and make the best possible decisions. It creates conditions for networking among entrepreneurs and helps them to find free or cheap office spaces at local municipality resources.



Social Economy Support Centre is part of the National Program and CRIS is certified by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy to offer professional support for social entrepreneurs through local animation, consultations (business, PR, legal, accounting, HR), to organise networking and promotional events and to provide financial support for creating new positions in social enterprises.

CRIS together with Cooperation Fund Foundation seeks also innovative solutions. It is close to social needs resulting from regional and national changes. It is looking for leaders who, together with them, create tailor-made solutions in the field of energy transformation, ecology, revitalization, demographic changes or health care deficiencies. Working with the use of service design methods, they analyse the market and create and test prototypes to improve the quality of solutions. Currently, it is implementing nearly 40 processes in which we engage over 100 entrepreneurs.



Interesting practices that the Incubator regularly conducts include:

- networking events for entrepreneurship practitioners under the name Business Breakfast (every 1-2 months);
- supporting municipalities in organizing Festivals of NGO (1-2 per year)
- competition event presenting social innovations and choosing the best ones to be extra granted and disseminated in whole Poland (1 – 2 per year)

These events have a promotional character for the Incubator, support the programme's implementation, and build a positive image of the entity active in the entrepreneurship area.

The beneficiaries of the Incubator are entrepreneurs, project participants, non-governmental organisations, and informal groups interested in receiving support in the process of implementation of their social initiatives. The activities are open to any age group, and the organisers make sure not to discriminate against any party interested in participating.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: approx. 33k EUR for Business Incubator, 174-217k EUR for Support Centre and 130k EUR for the Social Innovation Incubator

Staff: animator, business advisor, social innovation and enterprise consultant, external experts

Infrastructure: meeting rooms, training room for 12 people, office

CRIS believes that sustainability has 3 dimensions: society, economy, environment. It is crucial to support local leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators, who make the difference.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Each year, over 300 people benefit from the extensive support of the business incubator, of which over 50 are participants in in-depth consultations. Annually, CRIS engage over 250 people in social economy programs and creates over 40 new positions. Since 2020, its cooperation with local partners has allowed them to diagnose over 90 social challenges, for which it obtained nearly 150 ideas for innovations. Currently, as part of 3 presented paths, CRIS supports the incubation and development process of tens of entrepreneurial or/and innovative initiatives. In total, its activity affects an average of 500-700 people per year.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

The challenges are mainly connected to the lack of financial independence – all programs are organized with the support of public money (European Social Found, local government grants). On one hand, it opens great opportunities for providing various supporting tools (consultations, training courses, financial support). On the other hand, it limits the provided support to the guidelines of the grant authority in terms of the target group, territorial range or the variety of the offer. Another challenge is connected with limited coworking and networking spaces. CRIS offers the office space and equipment only for a limited number of hours, as it does not have a large space dedicated to its clients.

CONTACT DATA



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PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Sebastian Garbacz



SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB

Grünhof

Support programme

The Social Innovation Lab is the social innovation branch of the Grünhof association network, an incubator and home for the startup, sustainability, and creative scene in the Freiburg region. Social projects and startups can become members of the Grünhof community and profit from coworking, exchange, information, and practical recommendations. They can use the Social Innovation Lab to help implement innovative social offers close to the target groups and at the same time in a socially entrepreneurial way.



IMPLEMENTATION

The practice was first implemented in 2018. Between 300 and 400 participants have benefited from the practice from its beginning.



TARGET GROUP

It targets startups, welfare organizations and creative, sustainable and social entrepreneurs

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

Through a yearly coworking fellowship, the Social Innovation Lab encourages the success and visibility of social projects and startups, where young entrepreneurs become part of the community and network. They profit from a professional environment for receiving partners and business meetings and register their headquarters there. The Social Innovation Lab also provides events about the social impact of projects and offers specific workshops, consulting, and coaching sessions on creative marketing, financing, and organisational development.

There are three funding programs for different actors:

Sozialstarter (“social-starter”) is a founding and innovation program for young startup projects and companies to help them professionalise their ideas. For the best and long-term realisation of social projects, the main activities focus on regionality and local networks within a design thinking process in six parts. These can be projects which were already part of the coworking fellowship. New projects will get a coworking fellowship when accepted to the Sozialstarter program.



Sozionauten (“socionauts”) is a 9-month program for the social sector with a focus on the structural cooperation of welfare associations of the federal state Baden-Württemberg. This program collaborates with the county’s lobby for free welfare work. All established social organizations that want to tackle innovative ideas can participate. The program offers a guided experimentation space to design and implement impact and business models for creative solutions. **The D-care Lab** is the first innovation program in the field of mobile care for both intrapreneurs and entrepreneurs. Here cross-sectoral innovation teams and the federal state Baden-Württemberg experiment on innovative solutions for specific challenges in the care sector. This is achieved in six workshops over 14 months, from problem exploration to developing a prototype to elaborating a social business model. At least two organisations form these teams from municipalities or counties; service providers, companies with products or services related to nursing care, civic organisations active in the field of nursing care. This program will be implemented with different partner organizations in the Danube region.



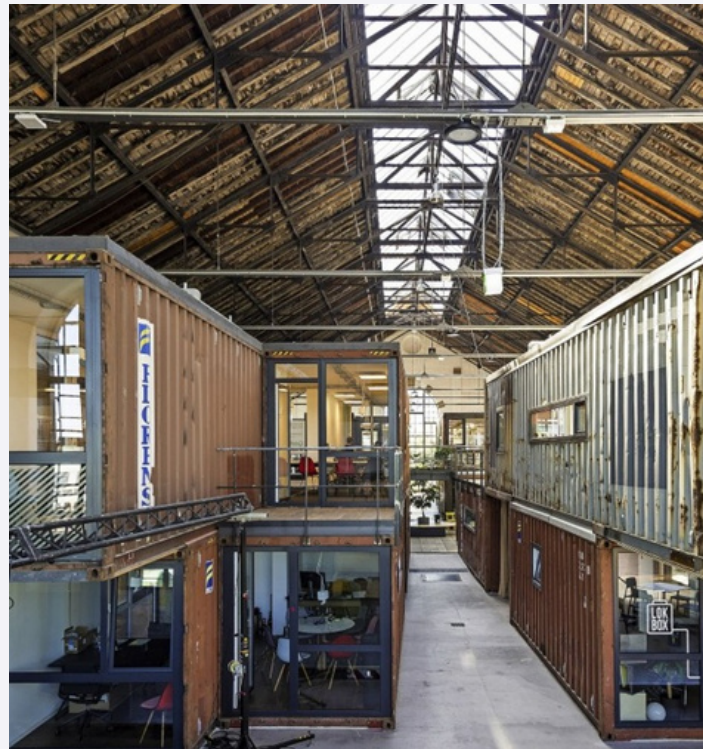
IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 500,000 EUR (foundation as a partner + funds) (without personal)

Staff: 6 part-time / 2 mini jobs / 2 interns

Infrastructure: open space (in one of three locations by the Grünhof association)

This practice can be developed into organisations financed through similar funding strategies and have the personal capacities for funding applications. Additionally, this practice could be integrated into projects of different regions through the existing experience and expertise.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

This practice provides a holistic approach and structural solutions for societal challenges. It was the first approach throughout Germany to develop welfare organisations and social startups projects jointly. The synergies between small agile social enterprises and large established organisations are essential for both parties and build a structural connection. The practice can be a great blueprint for different actors in the social innovation sphere. This way also, other ideas can be translated into the political sphere. Another benefit is the strong community feeling of the network, which influenced the option to leave the coworking space open during the pandemic, among other things. This combination of maintaining the mindset of exchange and support and the adaptation made in Covid 19 was a vital part of the project's development.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

A fundamental challenge was finding the right (financial) partners. This kind of stability is vital for such an extensive network. Every program should have the most practical cooperation to maximise its impact. Some programs were carried out digitally, which was immediately tangible in terms of project qualities and the missing exchange.

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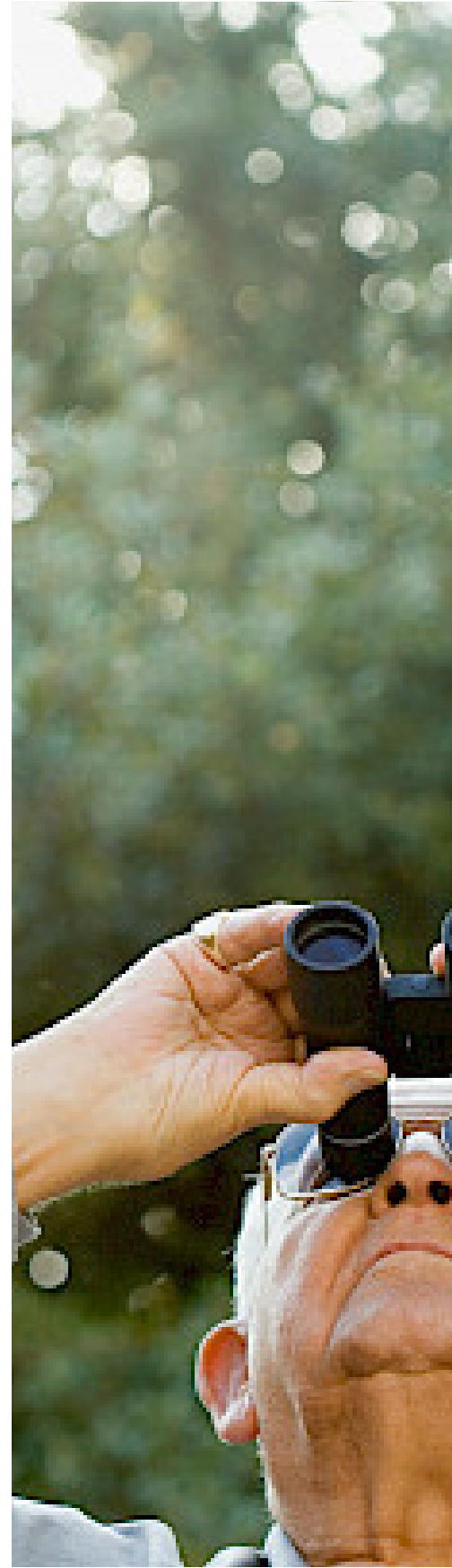
WEB LINK

<https://social-innovation-lab.org/>



PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Corinna Kämpfe



SOCIAL INNOVATION PROTOTYPING (PROGRAM)

Social City Wien

Support programme

In 2014 the Austrian non-profit association **Verein Social Innovation Wien (SIW)** established the platform **Social City Wien**, which brings together Vienna's brilliant minds full of social ideas, creates a network for community engagement, and provides a fertile ground for social innovation. Project outcome and impact can systematically form the basis for networking with people living in Vienna and further develop Vienna as a social city.



IMPLEMENTATION

Single elements of the program have been in use since 2014. As an integrated concept, the program was first implemented in 2019.



TARGET GROUP

It targets social entrepreneurs, startups, and bottom-up initiatives from visitors to the community centres. Over 200 professionals took part in the programme.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The Social Innovation Research Unit [SIRU] of the Social City Wien developed an accelerator program for Social Innovation Prototyping to support new social business ideas and project initiatives. In cooperation with the ten community centres of the Wiener Hilfswerk, an Austrian non-profit organisation, this program creates new possibilities for people with innovative ideas about how our social life in local urban areas can be improved.

This experimental approach starts with supporting the project owners to draft testable prototypes. Test settings for their products or services are created to experiment with their target groups and learn from them in co-creation processes. In this program, experiments serve as reality checks, where single parts of their business ideas are tested in the social context they want to address.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: 95,000 EUR per year

Staff: 2,5 employees

Infrastructure: open space and cooperation with community or youth centres

The coworking facilities are used as a Social Innovation Lab and experimenting space for open innovation processes, where social entrepreneurs and bottom-up initiatives are working together to develop new projects for different target groups in the neighbourhoods of the community centres.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

The project owners can use the experimental setting to get critical feedback on their prototypes by working directly with the target groups. These insights improve their products and services regarding usability and their effects on our social life in an urban society.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

Only some target groups (social entrepreneurs, initiatives from professionals) could be reached or permanently involved in the program. Ideas for initiatives from visitors to the community centres were too vague, or their teams could not participate in the whole program. Also, the transition from an initial pilot project with sponsoring to a permanent program with a balanced funding mix was a challenge.

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STARTER

Gdański Inkubator Przedsiębiorczości STARTER

Support programmes

The Gdańsk Entrepreneurship Foundation is one of the essential institutions committed to helping create and develop innovative start-ups and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Gdańsk.

The Starter is run by the Gdańsk Entrepreneurship Foundation, built on the initiative of Paweł Adamowicz, Mayor of Gdańsk. The Foundation implements a strategy under which it has developed two activity directions, i.e., an education zone and a business zone.



IMPLEMENTATION

Implemented for the first time in 2005, this practice impacts over 8000 beneficiaries a year.



TARGET GROUP

It targets young people, schools, people working with youth and business initiatives; innovators, and people interested in creating startups.

ABOUT THE PRACTICE

The **Starter** has two activity directions, an education zone and a business zone. Each direction has its manager and a team of people implementing projects.

The education zone builds entrepreneurial attitudes among young people and the surrounding environment (teachers, parents) and complements young people's knowledge. Within a few years, when they reach the age of adulthood, they can use the business zone. Each strategic direction of the foundation is powered by a different participant support program, mainly funded from external funds.

Several programs are implemented in each zone, e.g.:

The education zone has a program called **NOW – zawodowe wyzwania nowej generacji (New Generation Professional Challenges)**, where the primary recipients of the project are school career counsellors, teachers of vocational subjects, school tutors of internships, educators, and headmasters of secondary schools in Gdańsk, as well as young people from secondary schools: high schools, technicians, trade schools in Gdańsk.



A total of 836 people participated in all project activities. All activities aimed to diagnose the relationship between business and Gdańsk secondary schools in the best possible way, identify areas that require systemic support, and develop good practices for building relationships and knowledge transfer between schools and businesses.

Through individual activities, the incubator sought answers to how the school can support business and the business school in developing competencies of the youth - future employees. As part of the project, there were moderate debates in the think tank formula, webinars, thematic workshops for teachers, workshops for young people, meetings with selected labor market experts.

The result of the project was a better recognition of problems in business-school relations, joint development of good practices and ideas to support school-business links, establishing ties with exciting experts, and diagnosing the difficulties of school career counselors.



IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Budget: not determined

Staff: 35 people incl. educational, business coworking managers, maintenance and board

Infrastructure: own building with coworking space and conference rooms

Before the pandemic, the organization also acted in the field of networking organizations supporting social entrepreneurs and there is a potential to grow in that direction.



BENEFITS OF THE PRACTICE

Starter achieves good results in supporting entrepreneurs:

- 170 start-ups/freelancers who use a virtual office;
- 37 start-ups in the coworking area;
- Eighteen start-ups in Poland Prize, creating thematic incubators Maritime Imperial Shipyard – Container Village.

A significant number of participants (about 5,000 people), especially youth and teachers, benefit from the foundation's programs.

CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION

The biggest challenge is to combine various funding sources to effectively and flexibly develop the Incubator's wide range of services. The building that the Incubator manages provides a stable source of income. However, to increase the offer's attractiveness for youth and startups, the Incubator team is still looking for additional sources of funding.

Another challenge that came with COVID-19 was to move all activities online. To this day, the lack of stationary meetings is problematic for organisers and participants. Hybrid formulas do not enjoy enough potential to build relationships, mainly relevant to the Incubator.

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PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Monika Wójtowicz



03

FINAL REMARKS



FINAL REMARKS

This non-exhaustive Study aims to increase the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of coworking space members and coordinators in exploring new tools and methods to make these spaces more youth-friendly, more sustainable and more impactful at the local level. Likewise, it aims to inspire local authorities and civil society organisations to explore the coworking space model as a structure that can increase young people's entrepreneurial skills, boost social entrepreneurship at the local level, and work for the benefit of local communities.

We hope that the presented practices will inspire the readers and allow for further exploration of different practices and methodologies for increasing the social impact of coworking spaces.

The practices presented on the following pages represent only part of the mapping results, as the authors wanted to present a variety of practices in a handy format. We are thankful for every input and effort from the organisations that shared their practices, and we are sorry for not being able to present them fully.



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DYPALL
DEVELOPING YOUTH PARTICIPATION
AT LOCAL LEVEL

2022