

THE THIRD ANGLE PARTNERSHIP

The Third Angle Partnership is composed of three member states: Italy, Poland and the UK, with partners who are seeking methods of developing and incubating a sustainable social enterprise sector by offering start-up support, access to financial support, business mentoring and consultancy and management training.

The partners are also seeking to influence the attitudes and perceptions of mainstream not-for-profit service providers and the private sector towards the social economy, by demonstrating their contribution to community development and inclusive employment opportunities.

The objectives of the Partnership include:

1. Testing models of developing and incubating sustainable social enterprises at a local level
2. Influencing organisational culture in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors
3. Parallel research based on a common framework to identify success factors

The UK

Research in the South East of England has identified a lack of entrepreneurial culture within the public sector, regulatory barriers and a lack of awareness of models and opportunities for social enterprise sector development in the region.

To address this, SEEDA are leading the Cultural Shift South East Programme, an action research and resource development programme for the social economy in the South East of England. It aims to stimulate social changes and service improvements through socially entrepreneurial partnerships between the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.

The Cultural Shift South East Programme is a partnership of regional and local organisations which recognise the need to engage entrepreneurs, managers and investors from all three sectors to create long-term, sustainable solutions to social issues.

The Cultural Shift South East Partnership has two strategic aims:

- To model inclusive employment models delivered through independent social enterprises,
- To create new protocols for entrepreneurial partnerships between mainstream public sector providers and social enterprises in the South East.

The Programme has 5 key operational areas: research, demonstration projects, policy influencing, tools for cultural and regulatory change, network and brokerage.

Italy

In Tuscany in the last few years, the social economy sector has been increasing in terms of employment. The need to have best quality in the management of social enterprises, and to create new social enterprises by improving the quality of services provided, represent the main aims of the project to be transferred at European level.

The INCISO consortium aims at strengthening social enterprise in Tuscany, through social enterprise 'incubators', the creation of a series of infrastructures and services for future enterprises, that could help them to overcome start-up difficulties.

The general objective of this project is the adoption of supporting actions that could qualify and strengthen the entrepreneurial competencies of social enterprises as a social and ethical business.

In addition, the project favours:

- The development of social enterprises that can overcome the difficulties of “staying in the market”, in that they need to be socially rooted in the territory but at the same time be stable under the economic and business profile, and;
- The strengthening of existing social enterprises (in terms of HR, business regulation, accreditation), with the view to transfer and mainstream existing models.

Poland

While the concept of the social economy is new in Poland, a very high unemployment rate and the number of people facing social exclusion make it very necessary for Non Governmental Organisations to become more involved in it. This requires the creation of favourable conditions for incubating social enterprise projects at the level of individual enterprises, locally and developing a national strategy for the social economy sector as a whole. Currently, Polish public administration and the non-profit sector are concentrating on the division of labour in the delivery of public goods.

Italian legislation was a major inspiration for regulating the Polish social enterprise sector, whereas the relations between civil society and public administration were influenced by the British model.

