

What relevance to Malta?

PROGRESS-WISE

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The latest official statistics (NSO 2007) estimate that:

- 14.9% of the Maltese population fall below the poverty line

- Who are the groups suffering poverty and social exclusion in Malta?
- To what extent is social enterprise key towards the participation of socially disadvantaged individuals in the formal economy?

linking learning to earning



- over 45% of 18 – 21 year-olds with basic schooling
- many of these do not receive further education or training
- only 5% of 25 – 64 year-olds participate in lifelong learning

(Eurostat, 2008)

trends and numbers



- Women record a higher educational attainment than men, however, their economic activity is characterized by high and increasing share of part-time work
 - Women 25.3%
 - Men 4.1%

- Employment rate for women lowest among EU-27
 - Malta 34.9%
 - Denmark 73.4%
 - Sweden 70.7%

- Lack of gender balance is mirrored by a similar trend in employment rate of older workers (55 – 65 age cohort)
 - Women 11.2% - an increase of 1 percentage point between 2001 and 2006
 - Men 50.4% - no change over 5 years

at the margin of the labour market



- Low employment rates evident among disadvantaged groups
 - at-risk youth
 - lone parents
 - victims of domestic violence
 - victims of substance misuse
 - persons with a disability
 - persons challenged by mental health
 - third country nationals
 - cheap source of labour in the informal economy
 - employed illegally
 - exploited and abused
 - women face additional disadvantages and multiple discrimination
 - lack of enforcement on unscrupulous employers by government

work integration social enterprise (WISE)



- WISE has the potential to:
 - ❑ increase the overall employment rate particularly that of women
 - ❑ respond to new occupational needs and skills requirements (NRP)
 - ❑ support transitions in occupational status and the development of entrepreneurial skills (NRP)
 - ❑ reduce the impact of disadvantage faced by excluded groups
 - ❑ help persons-at-risk of exclusion identify and develop their skills and personal competencies
 - ❑ restore or increase the employability of persons-at-risk of long term unemployment

concept already in place?



- Xoghol Idejna – dismantled 8 years ago
 - members were long term unemployed, most were unqualified, and one was living in poverty ... their experience in the co-operative taught them the skills necessary for the job market ... assistance was provided by the Office of Co-Operatives ... however, it was sporadic and given only when requested ... support should be more structured and for a longer period of time ...

- Koperattiva Eden – dismantled 1 year ago
 - unfortunately, the current national policies and legislation do nothing to support such enterprises. The only possible benefit is the tax exemption entitled to cooperatives ... however, it is a benefit which is only applicable when there is a profit ... in many such cooperatives, it is a continual struggle to survive with minimal if any profit

- Caritas
 - We discussed social enterprise especially for people with a tainted police conduct, however, we do not have the resources to initiate and supervise such an initiative ...

- Renov8
 - Richmond Foundation has prepared a feasibility study and submitted an application to Malta Enterprise ... we are waiting for the allocation of factory space ... Renov8 will be a limited liability registered with MFSA ...

key questions



Social enterprise needs a robust public policy platform to support it ...

- To what extent is the creation of jobs in the field of the social economy a priority on government agenda?
- What is Malta's policy response to social enterprise that generates new economic activity and creates mechanisms for social inclusion?
- Does public policy have the right tools to link up and support WISEs at national level?
- In short, where does social enterprise sit in the Maltese economy?

principal policy documents



- ❑ Structural Fund Operational Programmes
- ❑ European Social Fund
- ❑ European Regional Development Fund
- ❑ Cohesion Fund
- ❑ National Action Plan for Employment
- ❑ National Action Plan for Social Inclusion
- ❑ Other documents for Active Inclusion process

We should look closer at:



- Good Governance
 - Partnership Principle
 - CSR
 - Micro Credit
 - Media
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challenges



- a rapidly changing society will require closer cooperation between social partners
- the time gap between policy formulation and implementation is a key challenge
- can efforts be increased?

recommendations



- Framework for setting up social enterprises
- Engaging with excluded people and empowering them to play an active role in decisions that affect their lives
- Civil society needs to do more to help excluded groups to exercise their rights and obtain redress where this is not happening

Bill Gates put the case for social enterprise in this way:



‘if we find approaches that meet the needs of the poor, that generate profit for business, and vote for politicians, we will have found a sustainable way to reduce inequity in the world....’

social enterprise?

the challenge is to seize the opportunity!

