

EDA has introduced the possibility of social innovations in the Czech Republic

As part of the project Current trends and social innovation in long term and direct care the European Development agency has held a seminar on the 25th of March on “**Transfers of social innovation in the Czech Republic: the advantages and limitations of these processes**”.

The aim of the seminar was to present different examples of social innovations that can be applied in the field of direct and long-term care to representatives of NGOs. The central theme was the issue of community access and use of emerging trends in social care. The seminar linked the outcomes and experiences that were the result of cooperation between Czech and foreign partners of the project consortium.

The morning program focused on social innovation performance of different areas of life. The aim was to inspire participants and highlight the different ways the social innovations can be applied in the field of direct and long-term care. Vitek Masare from the organization Auto*Mat (support of active city) introduced the importance of lobbying and activism in the society, Pavla Pijanová of Člověk v tísní (humanitarian organization) to the contrary, spoke about the use of social innovations in developing countries. The social innovation was contextualized in the theory by the director of the Centre of Innovation Studies, Anna Kadeřábková, she also pointed out the fundamental attributes of successful transmission of social innovation.

The second thematic section focused on examples of community involvement in social care, especially in the area of cooperation or business. Full of energy and optimism Michael Čihák introduced the work of Komunitní centrum Prádelna and achievements in strengthening the inter-generational dialogue in the area of Prague's Smíchov. Different models of social entrepreneurship were presented by the representatives of the Domov Sue Ryder, Fokus Praha, P3-People Planet Profit, Green Doors and Tourist Agency Bezbatur. Jan Dominik from Domov Sue Ryder spoke about charity shops, Michal Dolejš about training café Mlsná Kavka (Green Doors, os), Michael Prager about the activities of Tourist agency Bezbatur (aimed for people with disabilities), Kateřina Hlatká about social enterprises of Fokus Praha Petra Francová of P3-People, Planet, Profit compared the level of social entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic and the UK. The access to social entrepreneurship from the perspective of public administration was commented by the deputy mayor of the city of Prague 2, Kateřina Jechová who highlighted the promotion of social entrepreneurship and innovation in the city of Prague 2.

As a result, the seminar presented various forms of social innovations, already used abroad or in the Czech Republic, in different areas of social life. The aim was to explain that similar trend and approaches may be as well used in our field of interest, i.e. social care.