

Prague, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013

## EDA organized a seminar on Social Entrepreneurship

Under the project „Current trends and social innovations in long term and direct care“ European Development Agency organized on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 the seminar on a topic „ Legislative Aspects of Social Entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic “.

The seminar was held in the restaurant Café Bazaar which also provided catering for this event. The participants were mainly the employees of social enterprises or the representatives of non-governmental organizations. The main goal was to transfer the knowledge about legislative aspects of social entrepreneurship in the Czech Republic with the emphasis put on the new civil code entering into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Moreover the seminar presented and forwarded the experience of various firms dealing with the topic of social entrepreneurship.

First of all, Petr Vít from [Neziskovky.cz](http://Neziskovky.cz) presented different law forms of entrepreneurship and changes in that area after the new civil code comes into force. Marek Jetmar focused on the problem of funding of the social enterprises. He gave the participants the basic insight into the issue of financial support from bank institutions and stressed out the most frequent problems related to the fundraising issues. It was noted that the operational costs frequently represented rather bigger financing problem than obtaining initial investment funds.

After that, the presentations of already existing social enterprises followed. Each representative informed participants of their experiences with establishment, legal grounds and issues that their enterprise was currently facing.

The first one to speak was Kateřina Hrozová from Rozlet o.p.s., an organization under which the restaurant Café Bazaar was established. Café Bazaar employs young people suffering from social exclusion who have left the children's homes and are looking for their place in the world. Jiří Novák from Fokus Praha, o.s., the organisation that runs social enterprises Jůnův statek, Zahrada a Prádelna U Mandelíků, pointed out his experience, especially in the area of working with mentally disabled people. Both speakers have agreed that the legislative grounds in the area of social entrepreneurship were very fragile and admitted that they had to deal with financial problems.

The afternoon part was opened by Karolína Špačková from Pestrá společnost o.p.s., operating travel agency Bezbatour. Bezbatour offers the traveling possibilities for disabled people and serves as a training centre for heavily physically disabled people. The last active representative of the target group was Karin Pospíšilová from Centrum podpůrné péče Lékořice. The company has established a social entrepreneurship called Naše Kavárna in the premises of Thomayer hospital that primarily employs mothers of chronically ill children.



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At the end of the seminar there was an organised discussion based on the questionnaire provided by EDA. The participants talked about the need of bigger support from the state authorities and about the possible transfer of know-how from abroad. It was stressed out that social entrepreneurship needed to be more promoted among the public. Moreover, the definition of the term „social entrepreneurship“ should be devised as soon as possible together with the effort to reassure the public that even non-profit organization can act as an entrepreneurial entity.

Another seminar will take place on September 4<sup>th</sup> in Brno. The topic of seminar is Policy Making and Social Innovations in long term and direct care. You are welcome to participate!



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a sociální inovace  
v oblasti dlouhodobé  
a přímé péče