

SozialMarie

PRIZE *for* SOCIAL INNOVATION

20
24



2004–2024

*Celebrating
20 Inspiring Years
of SozialMarie*

“Social innovation designs solutions to urgent societal challenges. It provides space for new approaches, innovative answers, and identifying new paths. It responds to emerging social issues or solves problems in our world through new approaches. These actions can come directly from communities. However, in all cases, decisions and actions must be supported and shaped together with the community. Social innovation creates sustainable, exemplary solutions to inspire actions for change.”

Definition of Social Innovation
Unruhe Privatstiftung

Dear readers,



In the vibrant year of 2004, together with my dear husband Fritz Moser, I embarked on an exciting journey by founding SozialMarie, and in 2005 we joyfully awarded our very first prize. Fast forward to 2024 and here we are, on the cusp of celebrating the 20th SozialMarie Award! It's been an incredible journey, filled with moments that have passed in the blink of an eye, while witnessing the remarkable evolution of SozialMarie.

Our vision was bold, yet simple: to weave all the countries to the north and south-east of Austria into the fabric of this project within two decades. It fills my heart with joy to say that we've made this dream a reality. Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia are now living threads in our tapestry, each represented by six hard-working jury members, two dedicated project evaluators and a passionate country coordinator. These individuals, together with the changing patrons each year, form the resilient backbone of our beloved SozialMarie community. Over these years, our connections with projects in these countries have deepened, our network has blossomed and, I dare say, our communication across borders has improved significantly.

A heartfelt thank you to every soul who has travelled with us, even if only for a part of this adventure, and helped to shape SozialMarie into what it is today. Since 2005, we've had the honour of awarding numerous prizes to projects that spark social innovation.

Social innovation is essentially a beacon of hope in response to societal challenges. It's fascinating how successful projects, characterised by thoughtful planning, cohesive structure and sustainable impact, typically emerge after a short gestation period following the emergence

of such challenges. Whether it's financial crises, housing shortages or the effects of covid, it's these projects that offer a glimmer of hope.

This year, particularly influenced by the pandemic, there has been a surge in submissions focusing on "Psychosocial Health". "Awareness raising" and "out-of-school education" have also received considerable attention. Slowly but surely, "climate change/environmental protection" is coming to the fore, signalling a shift towards more environmentally conscious initiatives within the SocialMarie community.

Remember 2020 to 2022, when we embraced the digital world for our awards ceremonies? Last year marked a return to our cherished live events, now in English, bridging language barriers and bringing our community closer together. It's a gentle nudge for us to embrace this universal language in our quest to make a difference.

Social challenges may shift with time, but they are enduring. That's why SozialMarie will endure as well. She will keep going!

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Wanda Moser-Heindl

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About us



Friedrich Moser & Wanda Moser-Heindl

Unruhe Privatstiftung (Unruhe Private Foundation) is distinguished by its support and advancement of the arts, science, research, and innovation. The foundation is the sponsor of SozialMarie – Prize for Social Innovation and was founded by Wanda Moser-Heindl and Friedrich Moser in 2000. Unruhe Privatstiftung is a founding member of Sinnstifter, an Austrian association for community social project development.

SozialMarie is a prize for social innovation awarded to 15 outstanding projects every year. With its first call for applications in 2004 and prize award in 2005, SozialMarie is the oldest prize for social innovation in Europe and celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2024. Beyond its financial recognition and support, SozialMarie is, above all, a public stage for projects that provide innovative answers to societal challenges based on new approaches. SozialMarie supports its networks of outstanding projects while driving forward dialogue on social innovation.

The SozialMarie Criteria for Social Innovation focuses on engaging diverse communities and stakeholders, project impact, effective implementation, and providing best practices for other projects for social change. SozialMarie awards successfully implemented projects and is a premium seal of quality for effective social innovation.

Annually on May 1st, the SozialMarie expert jury annually honours 15 outstanding projects with a total of €54 000. The top three prizes awarded are respectively, €15 000, €10 000, and €5 000; the following twelve prizes are each awarded €2 000.

The SozialMarie – Prize for Social Innovation initially awarded projects in Austria and international regions within a 300 km radius



The SozialMarie Prize for Social Innovation in 2005 initially awarded projects in Austria and regions within a 300 km radius from Vienna. SozialMarie has since expanded and awards projects based in Croatia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia.

of Vienna. Since 2000, SozialMarie has further expanded by establishing local teams of jurors, coordinators and evaluators and recognises projects based in Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Croatia. 2023 was the first year in which Slovenia participated in the application and selection process with its own local team.

Each year, SozialMarie partners with active patrons who mentor a project of their choosing from the award-winning or nominated projects for a period of one year. The patrons provide professional, financial, or public support for their selected project. SozialMarie has developed into more than an award over the years. With an engaged and growing international network of jury members, country coordinators, active patrons, and local evaluators, it has become an important player in the social innovation ecosystem in Central and Eastern Europe. It brings together winning projects and nominees from previous years in various online and offline events and provides possibilities for innovative organisations in the non-profit, private, and public sectors to strengthen international bonds and start new cooperative ventures.

Expert Jury



Elisabeth Hammer
neunerhaus, Vienna



Veronika Č. Janýrová
The Vienna Institute for International
Economic Studies (wiiw)



Katalin Teller
ELTE Institute for Art Theory and
Media Studies, Budapest



Tanja Tamše
Municipality of Celje, Slovenia



Ana Jeinić
Institute of Architectural Theory,
Arts and Cultural Studies,
Graz University of Technology



Miroslav Kocúr
Academic Dean at Schooltogo,
Bratislava



JURY COORDINATOR
Petra Radeschnig
Business economist, organisational
consultant, trainer and coach

20th Anniversary of SozialMarie

Interviews with awarding-winning projects

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of SozialMarie, we've brought projects into the spotlight, reflecting on their journey since winning the SozialMarie Prize and exploring the progress of their project. Read into the interviews with Dr. Irene Holzer, CEO of Marienambulanz, SozialMarie winner of 2005 and Mag. Karin Simonitsch, owner of the pharmacy Marien Apotheke Wien, the 2019 SozialMarie winner.

Marienambulanz SozialMarie Winner 2005

SM *What was the social innovation at that time or what is the uniqueness of your project?*

IH The social innovation at that time was to establish an institution in Graz where people without health insurance could receive medical care in an uncomplicated and free manner. Our clinic provided friendly, respectful, and professional treatment for people affected by homelessness or those who faced difficulties accessing the health-care system due to limited German language skills.

Working in a multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and interpreters in primary care was also quite innovative in Austria during the founding years. Our Mobile Clinic was the first in Graz to offer outreach medical care for homeless individuals.

SM *How did you come up with the idea?*

IH The idea for founding the clinic came from a nurse working in a Caritas refugee housing facility who noticed that refugees had difficulty accessing the healthcare system because there was no basic healthcare provision for them at that time. A general practitioner in the Annenstraße area had many uninsured migrants in her practice. Additionally, a doctor and counselor, through conversations with clients at the Caritas Marienstüberl, recognized the need for easily accessible medical care for homeless and extremely poor individuals. These three individuals were instrumental in developing the idea for founding the Marienambulanz, which was then implemented with the help of other Caritas staff.

SM *What was achieved?*

IH Through our work, uninsured individuals could receive professional medical care and medication in an outpatient clinic without immediately resorting to a hospital visit, which was and still is much more cost-effective.

SM *What has happened since then?*

IH Since then, we have expanded our services such as specialist consultations, telephone and on-site interpreters, and social work. We are well-known in Graz and the surrounding area, and uninsured people find their way to us. We are well connected with the mobile and stationary social workers of the city of Graz. In 2019, we opened a dental clinic.

SM *What challenges did you encounter?*

IH Special challenges include the often complex social problems faced by our patients, which make it very difficult for them to focus on their health.

Many of our patients also have poor health literacy and education, which complicates the treatment of chronic diseases in particular. Another challenge is that access to free psychotherapeutic treatment for people with psychological stress due to refugee experiences and post-traumatic stress disorder is hindered by long waiting times.

SM *Do you have any tips or recommendations for people who also want to start a project?*

IH Have patience: it takes time for services to become known and for everything to get off the ground. Be courageous: implement a good idea. It helps to be familiar with the services in the city/district to avoid duplication.

SM *What was social innovation at the time and what is special about your project?*

MA There has always been a lack of information in sign language for deaf individuals. Sign language is their native language, and German is often their second language, with insufficient reading comprehension. Additionally, only about 30% of spoken language can be lip-read. Therefore, to make information accessible, it must be provided in sign language. To build health literacy and make informed decisions about their health, more freely accessible, barrier-free health information is needed. Our videos laid the foundation for this.

SM *How did you come up with the idea?*

MA After Mag. Sreco Dolanc became the first deaf pharmacist in Austria at Marien Apotheke Wien, it became apparent that there was a significant need for pharmaceutical information and health advice in sign language. For this reason, we began developing videos, lectures, and workshops.

SM *What has been achieved?*

MA We have created a comprehensive offering for deaf individuals and have become a genuine resource for health-related inquiries. Deaf individuals now visit our pharmacy daily. Additionally, Mag. Dolanc serves as a role model for deaf youths considering their career paths. Attaining a degree as a deaf individual is unfortunately not commonplace, but he demonstrates that it is possible despite communication barriers!

SM *What has happened since then?*

MA We have developed many new projects! Together with a deaf educator and publisher, we released a children's book on "Illness, Accident, Emergency," which includes sign language. Moreover, Mag. Dolanc has developed over 100 specialized signs of pharmaceutical terms, including many for medicinal plants. Some of the new medicinal plant signs have been produced as flip books, allowing the facial expressions and movements of the signs to be experienced analogically for the first time. We also advocate for accessibility in violence protection and accessible emergency calls and have produced new health videos in sign language. Current topics such as HPV are addressed, and lectures at youth events in deaf clubs are already planned. We are never bored!

SM *What challenges have you encountered?*

MA Having a lot to offer doesn't automatically mean everything is immediately accepted. It takes time and patience, and close collaboration and exchange with the community are crucial.

SM *Do you have tips or recommendations for people who want to start a project?*

MA Just do it and actively involve the target audience from the beginning!

Marien Apotheke Wien **SozialMarie Winner 2019**

Patrons 2024

Inspiring personalities from Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia serve as patrons of an award-winning or nominated project of their choice every year. The patrons guide and support the projects over the following year.



Ali Mahlodji Austria
keynote speaker, trainer and author

“In a world where we feel driven by technological innovation, we need to get better at being human. And this can only be achieved through social innovation. We need places where we can make beacons of social innovation accessible to the wider public. That is why I am incredibly grateful that SozialMarie exists – a true success story from Austria.”



Ana Teskara Croatia
food technology expert, CEO and cofounder of BRLOG, the first cooperative brewery in Croatia

“It is dangerous to decontextualise social innovation. What is innovative in one place or industry may not be so in another. In Croatia, one has to take into account the vast regional differences between the capital and developed regions of the north-west of the country, and rural regions and smaller towns such as Zadar, which lag behind wealthier centres in the north in terms of civil society, largely due to systemic reasons.”



Marek Mencí Czech Republic
*entrepreneur, service designer and
facilitator of design studio Pábení*

“Cross-sector collaboration is key to developing social innovations that ensure justice and safety for everyone. By uniting diverse sectors, we create impactful solutions for complex societal challenges. This approach fosters an inclusive environment where equity and security become attainable for all. It's through these partnerships that we can build a foundation for widespread social change, making a just and safe life a reality.”



Antal Károlyi Hungary
social entrepreneur

“As a social entrepreneur, I have first-hand experience founding a purpose-driven business. Building SignCoders, a digital agency with deaf and hard-of-hearing employees, is a challenging but immensely fulfilling cause. I'm passionate about contributing to a more diverse and inclusive world, particularly in business. I am a firm believer in the potential of value-driven communities in Central and Eastern Europe and I am committed to promoting social entrepreneurship in the region.”



Michal Pastier Slovakia
entrepreneur, advisor and author

“A significant factor in our 19 years of resistance to mediocrity and discomfort is our commitment to supporting others, not only through sponsoring various organisations but also through our practice. Our teams volunteer to teach at universities, schools, and various events to demonstrate the power of sharing our experiences and how we overcome daily problems and challenges in an approachable, honest, and transparent manner. We hope this will inspire a new kind of leadership that views others not as competitors but as a network of trust and support.”



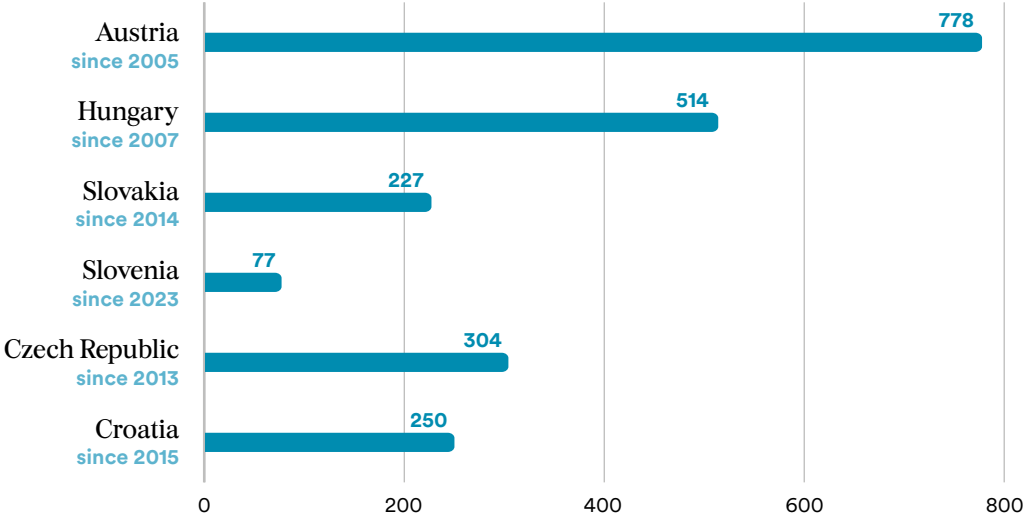
Dominik Bagola Slovenia
*creative professional, specialising in
copywriting and creative direction*

“I believe in the power of innovation, creativity, and communication as bridges of society and progress, bringing people together and closer. And also to bridge the gaps created by non-inclusiveness, partial solutions and a capital-driven system. We can only save the world if we all work together, with a pinch of soul, fun, and lots of music.”

2024: 20 years of SozialMarie

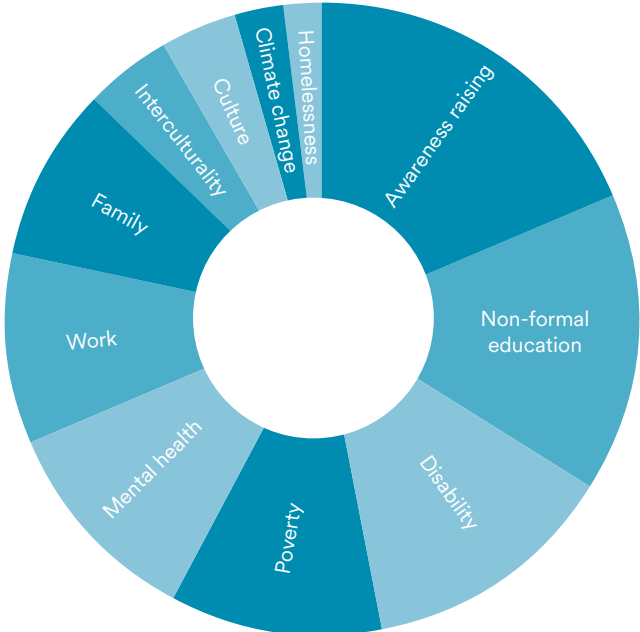
2 150 projects have been submitted to SozialMarie in the last 20 years.

Submitted projects by countries 2004–2024



This graph shows the distribution of fields of action in which submissions have been made over the past 20 years. As you can see, the allocation is evenly spread across the various topics.

Fields of action of projects 2005–2024



Prize Winners 2024

housing first austria

arriving home

challenge High costs of living, a competitive housing market, and exclusion make homelessness a risk for many. 20 000 people are registered as homeless, but nearly double this figure may be at risk. Homelessness is often managed rather than solved. Although Austria has a strong affordable housing sector, the required upfront costs are a significant barrier to people living in poverty.

idea Homelessness ends with a home. Beneficiaries of *housing first austria – arriving home (hfö)* move directly into an affordable apartment with their own rental contract. Social workers support them throughout this process. The required upfront costs, deposits, moving costs, and social work are covered by project funds. *hfö* solves homelessness through housing inclusion and makes affordable homes accessible to those who need them most.

actors BAWO, the Austrian umbrella organisation of homeless support services, coordinates the project nationally. 25 NGOs are currently part of *hfö* in their regions. *hfö* cooperates closely with the limited-profit housing sector (GBVs) to make affordable apartments available where needed. Over 70 GBVs currently provide homes. The project is fully funded and supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs (BMSGPK).

impact *hfö* will provide a home to 2 100 people. In doing so, the project establishes a model which has the potential to end homelessness. The organisation has established a lasting alliance between NGOs, the housing sector, and public policy. It paved the way towards a more inclusive housing market and put eradicating homelessness on the national agenda.

transfer In Austria, BAWO provides NGOs with a flexible framework to implement the Housing First principles fully. A strong affordable housing sector and funding for entry costs and social work are needed to replicate *hfö* internationally. Political advocacy and alliance-building with housing providers are the first steps for NGOs who seek to implement *hfö*'s model.

appreciation of the jury

housing first austria is dedicated to eliminating homelessness by ensuring equitable access to affordable housing. It operates on a systemic level, engaging housing associations, NGOs, and government entities in a collaborative effort. Financial barriers, a significant obstacle to housing market entry, are mitigated through governmental support, enhancing access. The initiative is lauded for its robust and persistent advocacy, demonstrating a national and systemic impact in the fight against homelessness.



Country
Austria

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Poverty, Homelessness

Organisation
BAWO – housing for all

In cooperation with
Austrian Federation of Limited-Profit Housing Associations (GBV)
funded by Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

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housing first austria
arriving home

in collaboration with



funded by
Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection

I Stand Up for You, I Stand Up for Myself



Country
Hungary

Region
Implemented
nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Education, Art, Culture,
Social welfare, health
care

Organisation
KV Company, Horizon Group,
Anonymous Ways Foundation

In cooperation with
Yvette Feuer, Zsuzsa Száger

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I Stand Up for You, I Stand Up for Myself

2nd PRIZE

challenge Sexual exploitation and human trafficking are growing social issues worldwide. In Hungary, around 23 000 children growing up in state care are at heightened risk of sex trafficking and sex work in which they are abused and face difficulties integrating into society. There is also a lack of public awareness and solidarity on this issue in Hungary.

idea *I Stand Up for You, I Stand Up for Myself* is a theatre performance and an educational programme for children and adults. The project incorporates social research and involves the target group of children and adults in creating the programme. We also organise post-performance workshops nationwide. The aim is to prevent sexual violence and exploitation of children in state care and raise awareness on this issue to drive change.

actors The project is carried out by three NGOs, the Anonymous Ways Foundation, and two independent theatres (KV Company, Horizon Group). These partnering theatres have actors who work with the project and are experienced in working with youth. The Anonymous Ways Foundation runs a rehabilitation programme and contributes its expertise to the project.

impact The project fuses theatre, education, and professional social care. Due to its holistic qualities and audiences, it is a powerful educational tool that raises public awareness and opens new perspectives.

transfer The project model can be successfully applied internationally and adapted to local needs. Our organisation also shares our research experience, rehearsal and writing methodology in international workshops. The workshops can be adapted to meet local needs with the support of our team and drama teachers.

appreciation of the jury

This initiative stands out for its holistic approach to the problem of human trafficking occurring to young people from state-care institutions. The project proactively engages the target group in the creative process. Characterized by its proven effectiveness, innovation, creativity, and potential for scalability, it fosters collaboration with law enforcement to enhance self-empowerment and raise visibility among stakeholders and policymakers. Its successful concept, with potential applicability to various target groups, sets a benchmark for engaging and empowering initiatives.

Reminiscence in the Museum

challenge Dementia is a growing challenge worldwide. 250 000 people in Hungary are estimated to be affected by dementia today. This figure is close to one million if we include their family members. There are also few spaces for people with dementia to reconnect and process their pasts safely.

idea *Reminiscence in the Museum* is the first museum in Hungary that works with people with dementia to connect with their memories and the past. The visitors and their caregivers explore these memories through multi-sensorial reminiscence sessions set in an interactive house equipped with objects that can be used. The museum makes it possible for the elderly to reconnect with their past and trigger their long-term memories.

actors Our team facilitates reminiscence sessions at the museum and a hospital for people living with dementia who are accompanied by their caregivers. In addition, we offer counselling and training to professionals and families, as well as, teach at universities. The project raises awareness of dementia to the public at our annual World Alzheimer's Day event.

impact The museum interventions slow dementia progression and boost participants' self-confidence and self-esteem. The sessions also have a positive impact and reduce stress for caregivers. Raising awareness helps to eliminate social stigma and gives others the tools to help people living with dementia and their families.

transfer The project model can be adapted internationally. Several elements of the project can be adapted by caregivers, social workers, healthcare professionals, and museum professionals. Overall, the museum interventions provide a space for effective communication with people living with dementia by triggering their long-term memories through the senses and reminiscing based on elements of cultural heritage.

appreciation of the jury

This initiative reimagines museums for dementia, creating exhibits that stimulate cognition and offer therapeutic benefits. By blending innovative design with a systemic approach, it transforms museum visits into a mentally enriching experience, leveraging art's healing potential to support those affected by dementia. This forward-thinking project melds culture with care, providing a unique methodological and mental health resource.



Country
Hungary

Region
Pest

Sector
Public administration

Fields of action
Adult education,
Mental health,
Culture

Organisation
Hungarian Open Air Museum,
Szabadtéri Néprajzi Múzeum

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20th Century in the Current Struggle for Freedom



challenge The project tackles the rising polarisation and radicalisation in Slovakia. Far-right violence, suppression of democracy, and anti-Semitism are also on the rise among youth and young adults. The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and rising migration further boosted this sentiment. Gaps in teaching modern history and rising disinformation hinder young people from distinguishing (un)reliable information and block critical thinking.

idea The project aims to educate youth and young adults about history of the 20th century through experiential education and a modern online platform. At Post Bellum, we use testimonials to educate and engage young people in reflecting on the past. Together with Post Bellum ČR, we recorded over 16 000 testimonies of people who lived through important historical moments in the 20th century and compiled them for the public on our online archive, Memory of Nations.

actors Our team of 9 lecturers work at schools and lead workshops for youth and young adults. We conduct 30 workshops per month during the school year. Each workshop has 26 students and 2 teachers from the school. In addition, we publish and share our educational resources and materials online for teachers and the public.

impact The workshops use innovative experiential methods to educate youth on complex topics, such as Slovakia's modern history. We also work with archival material to help students learn history and culture and develop emotional intelligence and critical thinking skills. The Memory of Nations Puzzle platform offers a unique platform for teachers, students, and parents. Our programmes build a better society and protect freedom, human/civil rights, and democracy in Slovakia.

transfer Every part of the project, especially the workshops, is transferable to other regions and countries. Our work is financially supported by the European Commission. We also have lectured internationally in the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, and Croatia.

appreciation of the jury

Learn from history and connect with its human aspect: This initiative tackles global challenges by merging educational platforms with psycho-dramatic learning. This innovative "living library" offers a multi-faceted approach to education, emphasizing not only knowledge transfer but also emotional engagement. The project's versatility allows for adaptation across various countries, making it a model for blending intellectual understanding with heartfelt communication.

Country

Slovakia

Organisation

Post Bellum SK

Region

Implemented nationwide

In cooperation with

Klaudia Belicová

Sector

Civil Society
Social Economy

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Fields of action

Non-formal education,
Awareness raising,
Culture

Website

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Alles Clara

The App That Facilitates Care

An wen wende ich mich?

Alles Clara

Alles Clara
Die App, die Pflegen leichter macht.
alles-clara.at

Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

Country
Austria

Organisation
Alles Clara gGmbH

Region
Implemented nationwide

In cooperation with
Caritas, Diakonie, Hilfswerk, Red Cross, Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, Volkshilfe

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

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Fields of action
Family, Care,
Mental health

Website
www.alles-clara.at

challenge Around 10 percent of Austria’s population care for a relative, and nearly 80 percent take on this work unpaid and highly burdened. Family caregivers face high physical and psychological stress, financial burdens, and time expenditures. This also leads to burnout, poverty in old age, and the need for care for caregivers.

idea *Alles Clara – The App That Facilitates Care* offers family caregivers support and advice accessible at any time or place through an app on their mobile phone. As a cross-sector collaboration, *Alles Clara* is a digital social service that reaches and empowers caregivers early and individually, connecting them to services and making the care profession more attractive.

actors Care workers, universities, and the public and private sectors collaborate on *Alles Clara*. The care sector employs counsellors, who are pooled by *Alles Clara*. Austrian employers offer this digital social service to their employees. The public collaborates by providing funding for this service. In addition, we work with universities to educate counsellors and evaluate social services.

impact *Alles Clara* empowers family caregivers by giving them personal, individualised advice, orientation, emotional support, and referrals to additional services. The app facilitates early outreach to caregivers. *Alles Clara* also enables nurses to build skills and work from home, which helps to boost the demand for working in nursing.

transfer *Alles Clara* aims to set up pilot regions and establish a nationwide social service. The service is also to be expanded to support young carers and migrant carers. By white-labelling the app in collaboration with non-profit organisations, we aim to improve data security and accessibility in other social counselling professions.

appreciation of the jury

Alles Clara presents a revolutionary digital care advisory service, catering to family caregivers through a multi-stakeholder framework that transcends time and location constraints. This initiative enhances the familial care environment and transforms the professional caregiving landscape. It holds significant promise, particularly for women, who are often the unsung pillars of the care system. By fostering a supportive network, this initiative lays the groundwork for systemic change.

Children with Long-term Medical Needs in the Class



challenge The 2022 WHO HBSC-Survey study reports that 22 percent of Hungarian schoolchildren have a medical condition that affects their daily activities, and 20 percent have psychological and/or chronic illnesses. Limited resources and cooperation between healthcare and education make it difficult for teachers to support ill students. Stigma fosters fear and hinders teamwork, making teachers feel apprehensive and straining communication.

idea The project provides a professional network for teachers to support students with illnesses in the classroom. Through our advocacy and lobbying, we ensure centralised access to our methods and resources. In addition, our team organises workshops nationwide to prepare and empower teachers to support chronically ill students and advocate for their inclusive education. Overall, the project aims to create social impact by cultivating an accepting and supportive ethos in teachers for future generations.

actors By working together with teachers, social workers, and healthcare professionals, the project provides holistic support to ensure children with illnesses' academic success and reintegration at school. Led by our professional team and supported by partnerships in education, healthcare, and social sectors, we ensure a comprehensive approach to aiding children with illnesses.

impact The project trainings and network increases teachers' understanding of the barriers students with long-term medical or mental health conditions face when reintegrating into the classroom. By equipping teachers with this knowledge and potential strategies, they will be better able to provide support. As a result, this approach ensures students can re-enter a supportive, nurturing educational and social environment.

transfer Many elements of this project are adaptable. By translating the project's methodological handbook into English and making it available free of charge, the project team aim to share their expertise with the public. The teacher training and stakeholder engagement strategies can be adapted to different professions and localities. In addition, the project team is open to sharing their approaches and lessons learned.

appreciation of the jury The rising prevalence of chronic diseases underscores the need to support vulnerable groups, notably children with long-term medical needs in schools. A nationwide initiative offers teachers methodological guidance for supporting chronically ill students, addressing both physical and psychological aspects. This project highlights the critical role educators play in fostering inclusive learning environments for all students.

Country
Hungary

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Education institutions,
Awareness raising,
Mental health

Organisation
HospiEdu Foundation for
the Educational Support for
Children with Medical Needs

In cooperation with
Monika Tóthné Almássy

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Community Interpreting

Community Interpreting

PRIZE WINNER

challenge People who struggle and/or do not speak German are dependent on interpreters to fulfil basic needs, such as accessing healthcare, education, the judicial system, etc. Migrants and refugees are also vulnerable and often do not have access to interpreting.

idea *Community Interpreting* provides lay interpreters with basic interpreting skills (including lesser-known spoken languages) who cannot receive training due to accessibility and/or costs. The project also trains organisations in interpreter-based communication.

actors We work with lay interpreters who speak multiple languages due to their heritage and/or training. The organisation also works with refugees and migrants, NGOs, and public institutions, such as hospitals, public administration offices, police, social institutions, and asylum offices.

impact The project empowers refugees and migrants by giving them a voice through a trained professional interpreter. It also provides opportunities and growth for interpreters by giving them access to paid work. *Community Interpreting* also raises awareness of intercultural communication and social inclusion.

transfer The interpreting training in its entirety can be held in different parts of Austria and other countries, if sufficient funding is provided. In addition, the training programme for professionals who work with interpreters can be implemented at other organisations and localities.



Country
Austria

Region
Upper Austria, Tyrol

Sector
Public administration

Fields of action
Professional qualification, Adult education, Interculturality

Organisation
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Koordinationsstelle für
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weiterbildung

appreciation of the jury The initiative represents a notable bottom-up approach, leveraging the inherent potential and knowledge of migrants to foster self-esteem and integration within the system. The project transcends simple translation, focusing on a profound appreciation for and understanding of individuals struggling to express themselves due to language barriers. Recognizing language as a vital component of social and cultural integration, it advocates for a more nuanced approach.

challenge Lifelong health and disease prevention begins with primary care. In Slovenia, there is a tremendous unmet need for access to primary healthcare nationwide. This problem is worsened by a lack of easy-to-use, quality technological programs to help patients find physicians.

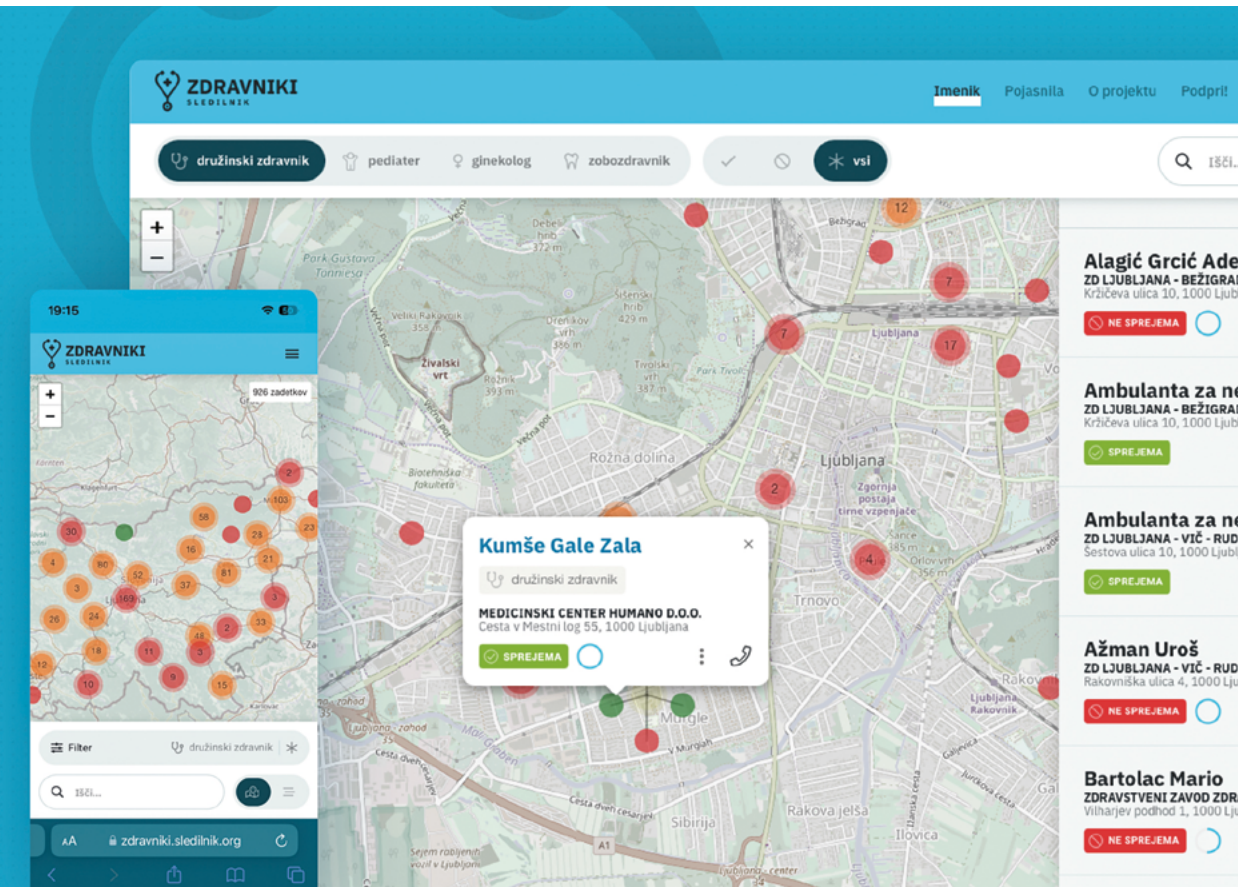
idea After leveraging the success of compiling complex data into a simple, understandable format during COVID-19, Tracker Scientific Society aims to address access to primary healthcare. *Doctors Tracker* is a user-friendly website with information updated by community crowd-sourcing to help others find healthcare providers. We continuously update this information and fix errors through open crowd-sourcing to empower patients on their healthcare journey.

actors The project was developed by Tracker Scientific Society and it uses open-source data from governmental agencies. Before releasing the crowdsourcing to the public, we consulted the National Medical Chamber of Slovenia. We integrated their feedback to improve the website's UX and the accuracy of the terminology used.

impact Since its inception, we have received over 1100 corrections from users, of which nearly 700 improved publicly accessible data sets and fixed errors from official sources. The project also received the DigiVzornik.Si award from the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Slovenia for its positive social impact on helping patients find primary care physicians and our citizen-science approach.

transfer Our open-source project is powered by crowd-sourcing. The website could be easily used in other countries by mapping their data sets to ours. In addition, the app is also translated into all the languages of Slovenian minorities and other languages for immigrants who visit our page most frequently.

appreciation of the jury *Doctors Tracker* stands as a pioneering solution, crafted from a genuine necessity. This bottom-up approach was developed through collaboration with its core demographic — doctors and IT specialists — to ensure the creation of an accessible, constantly updated portal. This portal empowers individuals by helping them locate doctors with available slots, thus not only simplifying the process of securing medical appointments but also supporting the public's legal right to healthcare access.



Country
Slovenia

Region
Southeast Slovenia,
Central Slovenia

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Youth welfare, Health,
Regional development

Organisation
Znanstveno društvo Sledilnik

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Garden Biogas Plant

Garden Biogas Plant

PRIZE WINNER

challenge The village of Kokořín uses biogas to provide the community with eco-friendly, self-sustaining energy. The project incorporates locally produced biogas and solar power to provide energy and fertiliser, bringing sustainable economic resources to the rural community of Kokořín.

idea *Garden Biogas Plant* is the first social enterprise of its kind in Central Europe. The biogas produced revitalises the community. Energy generated from this biogas powers a local coffee roasting plant while providing fertiliser for the gardens of a guesthouse, school, and kindergarten.

actors A disabled employee of the association Revenium, Vit Kettner, conceptualised and founded this project. He independently set up a project team that included disabled employees and academics from local universities. The project brings together social entrepreneurship, higher education, and biogas entrepreneurs who consulted on technological processes.

impact *Garden Biogas Plant* has transformed the village of Kokořín. The biogas and fermentation producer are fully incorporated into the development of Kokořín 12, which includes a coffee roasting plant. A barrier-free guesthouse with catering services will also be built next to the local kindergarten and school.

transfer The project can be an example for other businesses and communities focused on sustainability and bio-economic practices, leading to more education and innovation. Producing and collecting biogas locally has many economic, environmental, and social benefits. It is also a unique project, social enterprise, and a best practice of waste-free management.

appreciation of the jury This project sets a precedent for businesses and communities aiming at sustainability and bio-economic practices. The design of a compact module simplifies replication, making it an accessible model for diverse settings. Central to this initiative is a garden biogas plant, epitomizing circular economy principles within a social enterprise that doubles as a coffee roaster. By adopting an intersectional strategy, the project successfully realizes a circular economy framework, embracing a zero-waste ethos.



Country
Czech Republic

Region
Central Bohemian Region

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Health, Regional development, Environmental protection

Organisation
Revenium, z.s.

In cooperation with
Vit Kettner

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Home Care Training for Displaced Ukrainians



challenge The care sector in Austria faces significant staffing shortages. Simultaneously, Ukrainians want to enter the labour market and are interested in the care profession. Yet, access to training and entry into this field are limited. The project resolves healthcare staff shortages and provides displaced Ukrainians with access to high-demand jobs in Austria's labor market.

idea *Home Care Training for Displaced Ukrainians* programme integrates professional qualification courses and language learning. Language skills are taught as part of professional qualification measures. However, business-fluent German is the goal and is not a prerequisite of the training. This approach supports motivated Ukrainians in entering the care profession.

actors The target group is Ukrainians with displaced status living in Vienna or Lower Austria. Through a comprehensive support framework, the project team guides and stays in touch with the participants before and during the course. We also established an alumni network to ensure that we remain in contact with the participants after they complete the course.

impact The home care educational programme includes language support alongside the training and language courses. This comprehensive approach ensures that participants successfully complete the program. As of now, 92 percent of participants have completed it. With this training, they can integrate into the Austrian labor market in a high-demand profession.

transfer The educational concept of integrated language learning and professional training can be easily transferred to other target groups. It is also transferable to other professions or regions.

appreciation of the jury The project tackles the dual challenge of the skilled labor shortage in Austria's care sector and the labor market integration of displaced Ukrainians. By concentrating on formal qualifications and reducing barriers, it facilitates easier access to employment. Remarkably, it showcases a social organization's swift response to a pressing need, delivering a timely solution that bridges gaps in education and language proficiency while opening up the labor market to those previously marginalized.

Country
Austria

Organisation
Tralalobe

Region
Lower Austria, Vienna

In cooperation with
SBAW, FSW, Land Niederösterreich

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

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Fields of action
Work, Professional qualification, Care

Website
www.tralalobe.at/projekte/heimhilfekurs-mit-intensiver-sprachfoerderung-fuer-ukrainerinnen

challenge The lack of diversity in journalism and insufficient knowledge of minority issues, especially of the Roma, results in poor media representation of minority communities and their experiences. Media representation and articles about the Roma are often one-sided and produce stereotypes. This deepens prejudices and marginalisation of the Roma.

idea *Phralipen* highlights that the Roma community is an important source of solutions to social challenges. They are also leaders in redefining representations of themselves and their communities. The project teams work together with the Roma community to produce stories about minority communities while developing new initiatives and collaborations.

actors Members of the Roma community collaborate to ensure the accuracy of locally-sourced information and introduce topics for news stories covered by our media network. The Roma community and newsroom team members serve as translators and improve the multilingualism of the articles, including the languages of the Roma community. Members of the majority population and other minority communities participate in the project, contributing to the project's media content and fostering pluralistic perspectives.

impact *Phralipen* is available online and in print. The publication counters stereotypes and prejudices with facts, ensuring the media is a space of community and education. Content creators also (re)claim their right to self-representation, self-determination, and self-realisation.

transfer *Phralipen*, in all its segments, can act as a model for using media for social innovation; it is also adaptable to other population groups. In addition to the project's media programming, it is an educational platform and provides mentoring to develop inclusive journalism.

appreciation of the jury

The media platform, broadcasting in four languages, reaches beyond ethnic minorities, enriching the media landscape with diverse perspectives. A unique partnership between professional journalists and minority community representatives diversifies reporting, enhancing understanding of societal complexities. This collaborative approach fosters a more inclusive media environment, showcasing a range of voices and narratives to tackle social issues and challenges.

Phralipen

In memoriam - Osobna sjećanja
Kako biste me nazvali?
Doprinos Roma hrvatskoj kulturi

GLASILO ROMSKE NACIONALNE MANJINE U REPUBLICI HRVATSKOJ
ISSN 1849 - 8256
BROJ 22 / LIPANJ / SRPANJ 2022.
BESPLATAN PRIMJERAK / GODINA V.



Phralipen

LJETNA SKOLA SUDČAVANJA S PROŠLOŠĆU
REGARD - KONFERENCIJA ZA BUDUĆNOST
ČETVRTI KONGRES MLADIH ROMKINJA I ROMA

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ISSN 1849 - 8256
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BESPLATAN PRIMJERAK / GODINA VI.



Country
Croatia

Region
Implemented nationwide

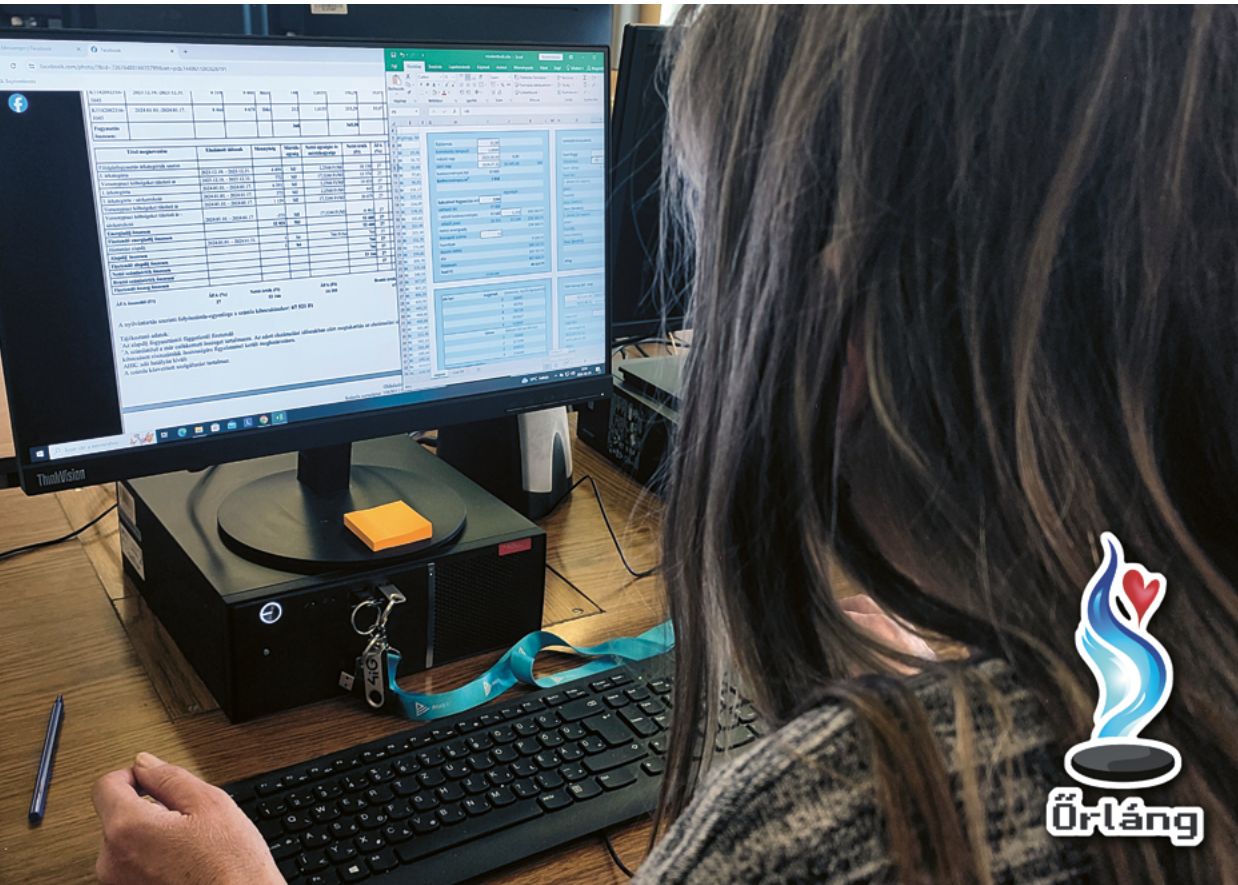
Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Awareness raising,
Ethnicity, Inter-culturality

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Country
Hungary

Organisation
Anna Ribárszki

Region
Implemented nationwide

In cooperation with
Private individuals, civil experts (4 administrators, 9 moderators and 21 experts)

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

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Fields of action
Awareness raising,
Advocacy, Community development

Website
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challenge Gas prices increased by 650 percent above a certain level of consumption in Hungary in August 2022. The monopolistic energy supplier often provides contradictory, vague communication, and incorrect billing settings. As gas bills can take a significant toll on one's income, this price rise led to difficult financial situations for many families.

idea Gas pricing and billing are complicated and complex based on a weather characteristic curve, which can be calculated and tracked. To solve billing problems, the *Pilot Light* team created free resources (spreadsheets, an online calculator, and video tutorials) and founded a Facebook group for immediate, personalised help for consumers.

actors The project's Facebook group, "GAS BILL FROM 23-08-2022," is dynamically growing with 110 000 members. However, rising gas and energy costs affect everyone. The group is run entirely by a pro-bono expert staff of 34 volunteers who moderate and facilitate the page.

impact The *Pilot Light* team solved thousands of individual and collective gas bill concerns that the supplier mismanaged or did not resolve. Through our work and negotiations, we settled refunds worth between HUF 5 000 and HUF 500 000 from the gas service provider. In addition, our team detected and reported malpractices to the service provider and authorities.

transfer We aim to find a concrete solution to this situation by providing free, altruistic help for others. This community-based model is not limited to rising energy costs and the environment but can be applied to other fields and social challenges.

appreciation of the jury

This project champions consumer empowerment against monopolistic practices, offering a grassroots solution. It provides a platform for open communication, specific data, actionable insights, and an online calculator for auditing billed services. Its emphasis on transparency and clarity aims for systemic change through consumer protection agencies' involvement, ensuring accountability in large-scale cooperation. The jury acknowledges its significant impact on facilitating consumer advocacy.

challenge It is urgent to decarbonise energy systems, but these measures must be done justly for all. This energy transition must consider local technological, economic, and political conditions. Inclusive and non-profit energy communities have great potential to contribute to an equitable energy transition.

idea *Solar School Hrastnik* is a cooperative, self-sustaining energy community that combines environmental sustainability and social equity. The project brings together public and private actors to benefit local communities. The cooperative and energy community exemplify what an equitable green transition could be.

actors Households, municipal public institutions, and local businesses created the energy community by joining the cooperative *Zeleni Hrastnik*. The energy is self-sustained, generated, and distributed to the community from renewable sources. Members of the cooperative collectively own the solar power plant.

impact Electricity costs are significantly lower in the community. Consumers also become producers and, thus, prosumers. The cooperative members manage their community resources democratically while sustaining their local community and the environment.

transfer The entire model of cooperative energy communities is transferable, but local conditions must be considered. Legislative frameworks are important, but social and political conditions also play a key role. The *Solar School Hrastnik* model is currently used in other municipalities in Slovenia; it is also suitable for groups of people.



Country
Slovenia

Organisation
Energetska zadruga Zeleni Hrastnik

Region
Central Sava

In cooperation with
Focus, društvo za sonaraven razvoj,
Občina Hrastnik

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

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Fields of action
Community development, Climate change

Website
<https://zeleni-hrastnik.si>

**appreciation
of the jury**

This initiative introduces a pioneering business model for creating energy communities among private owners, featuring a cooperative structure co-owned by its members. Its innovation lies in legal solution-finding and fostering an inclusive startup process. The model is designed for scalability, allowing municipalities to adapt and extend it to urban areas. The cohesive approach of integrating legal, communal, and scalable elements marks a significant innovation in sustainable energy development. The initiative's collaborative funding model – merging community contributions, municipal support, and grants – illustrates a novel approach to societal engagement in sustainability.

The Incubator for Future Investigative Reporters

The Incubator for Future Investigative Reporters

PRIZE WINNER

challenge With the rise of profit-driven media, the fundamental principles of journalism are at risk. In the fast-paced world of disinformation and clickbait, acquiring the skills to produce original, accurate, in-depth journalism is increasingly difficult and impacts future generations of reporters.

idea In a country with few investigative reporters, it is critical to develop our local talent. Oštro runs Razkrinkavanje.si, a fact-checking project that is also an incubator for future investigative journalists. Fact-checking is an excellent training ground for developing strong critical thinking, research skills, and a focus on the public interest.

actors Razkrinkavanje.si invites students and junior reporters for hands-on skill-building and opportunities. They are mentored by the department editor and deputy editor, who offer help and feedback throughout the programme. As the participants progress, they are invited to assist in research on national, regional, and/or international investigations.

impact Thus far, Razkrinkavanje.si has produced over 570 fact-checks and trained 19 student reporters. Two participants became the new editors of Razkrinkavanje.si where they will acquire editorial skills before working in investigative journalism at Oštro.

transfer Many countries also have grave press freedom conditions fuelled by declining professional journalism standards. The principles of continuous learning, skill-building, and ethics applied at Oštro and its incubator are highly scalable. Democracy dies in the darkness of bad journalism. We all must ensure that good journalism can continue to thrive.

appreciation of the jury The initiative champions the critical role of media and the importance of fact-based journalism, aiming to elevate editorial standards. Through educating young journalists on data handling, interpretation, and verification, it tackles dual challenges: enhancing their ability to assess and verify facts and encouraging responsible journalism. This approach not only enriches journalistic skills but also reinforces the foundation of trustworthy reporting in an era where information accuracy is paramount.



Country
Slovenia

Organisation
Oštro, Center for investigative journalism in the Adriatic region

Region
Implemented nationwide

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Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

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Fields of action
Education, Work, Other



challenge It is a challenge to open up new employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the labour market. People with disabilities are often limited to minimum-wage labour or working in social enterprises, which are in high demand for people with disabilities but often have limited spaces for employment.

idea *Troublegang* offers employers and their employees a new perspective on accessibility in the workplace through the perspectives of people with disabilities. The employer receives information about the physical accessibility of their workplace (surfaces, entrances, toilets, hardware, software) for different types of disabilities. People with disabilities also consult on the accessibility in the workplace with employees and their teams.

actors Workplace assessments are done by and for people with disabilities. The aim is to connect people with disabilities to jobs targeted towards their needs. *Troublegang* organises its work placements based on four types of the most common disabilities instead of a specific disability. *Troublegang* works directly with employers to assess work placements.

impact *Troublegang* is unique for its structure of working with multiple types and combinations of disabilities. There are similar services in the Czech Republic, but they are often targeted to people with a specific disability and accompanied by a non-disabled person. Team members share their barriers and experiences openly to overcome difficulties and make a difference in the workplace.

transfer The project is completely scalable. People with and without disabilities in all localities face challenges and have individualised needs at work. We are currently discussing with our Austrian partner and Slovak colleagues about the possibilities of bringing this project to their regions.

appreciation of the jury

This initiative redefines disability, turning it into a source of expertise. It provides a fresh perspective on workplace accessibility for both employers and their employees. Individuals with disabilities serve as consultants on creating inclusive environments, shifting their role from recipients of aid to valued experts. This approach not only enriches workplace culture but also champions a significant shift in perception, recognizing the unique insights and contributions of people with disabilities.

Country Czech Republic	Organisation O KROK s.r.o.
Region Capital Prague, Central Bohemian Region	In cooperation with Michaela Karásková, Kateřina Vargová
Sector Civil Society Social Economy	Contact PhDr. Kateřina Broža +420 607 040 287 katerina.broza@okrok.eu
Fields of action Unemployment, Work	Website www.okrok.eu

Nominated Projects 2024

Acker Austria

NOMINATED

challenge Young people are increasingly disconnected from nature and direct social interactions, with few opportunities for meaningful natural experiences and the development of social skills beyond kindergarten and school. In addition, opportunities for experience and education vary widely, influenced by the economic and social status of their families and living conditions.

Country
Austria

Region
Implemented nationwide, throughout Germany

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Education, social welfare, health care, Environment

Organisation

In cooperation with
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oesterreich



idea *Acker Austria* offers children hands-on agricultural experience through the *AckerRacker* and *VegetableAckerdemie* programmes, where they sow, tend and harvest their own vegetables. This initiative teaches them about the origin of food and the impact of their actions on the environment, nature and their social environment. Community farming develops essential social and core skills, emphasising the social aspect of sustainability.

actors The *Acker Austria* team of eight permanent staff and around 20 volunteers work together to provide regular training and education for teachers and educators. Together they carry out sowing, planting and planting activities with children. *Acker Austria* also has a close partnership with *Acker e.V.* in Germany and *Acker Switzerland* and benefits from a number of synergies.

impact Since 2014, 234 000 students and kindergarten children in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland have participated in these programmes, which foster practical learning about relationships, self-efficacy, co-decision making, participation, empathy, responsibility, and social interaction. One notable outcome is that 69 per cent of children have developed a more positive attitude towards nature.

transfer *Acker Austria* and its programmes are fully transferable to different settings, educational contexts, and countries thanks to its flexible backend systems. Successful adaptation depends on the effective translation of expertise and methods to adapt to the new language, culture, and educational framework.

challenge Civil society organisations in Hungary face a situation of vulnerability, with state funding often allocated through opaque processes and corporate support dwindling in recent years. Working in such conditions, maintaining cooperation requires considerable effort and resources from organisations that are already burdened and stigmatised.



Country
Hungary

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Education, Law, Justice, Local development

Organisation
Appy Alapítványi Fejlesztő és Szolgáltató Nonprofit Zrt.

In cooperation with
Flóra Koblenz

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Website
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idea *Appy* aims to help disadvantaged children by strengthening the capacity of NGOs serving these groups. By providing free access to office space, *Appy* offers training and development programmes and fosters opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and experience exchange between organisations.

actors The CEO and founder of *Appy* are responsible for setting the strategy and the annual budget. At the operational level, tasks include managing *Appy*'s daily functions, organising professional programmes for NGOs and maintaining the community. In addition, the 23 NGOs operating within *Appy*, while pursuing their individual objectives, occasionally contribute to the operation too.

impact In its five years of operation, *Appy* has provided more than 2000 hours of mentoring, 200 hours of training, and has organised more than 50 community events. A cornerstone of membership in the *Appy* network is the 'mandatory' knowledge sharing, collaboration and collective brainstorming among its NGOs. In 2022 alone, these NGOs directly impacted 41 000 children, significantly improving their conditions and opportunities.

transfer The *Appy* concept is easily transferable, adaptable for NGOs and within Central and Eastern Europe. Its model emphasises one-to-one mentoring, joint training, and NGO cooperation. Development programs can be customised to suit specific preferences and needs.

challenge Rising poverty is a challenge for people living in the outer neighbourhoods of Vienna. The high costs of bike shops discourage people living in poverty from accessing and enjoying cycling on their own bikes.



Country
Austria

Region
Vienna

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Poverty, Health, Environmental protection

Organisation
Salvation Army

In cooperation with
Ing. Andreas Kallauch

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idea *BicycleFriendsFloridsdorf* is embedded within the Erna House of the Salvation Army House for formerly homeless people. Since the opening, we promoted cycling as an affordable, fun activity for Erna House residents and people in the district. The project also created new opportunities for community spaces and initiatives that were needed and missing in the district.

actors Our clients – people living in poverty and formerly homeless – initiated this idea. Professional mechanics guide them in recycling and repairing old bikes. Volunteers in the local community also help with the project.

impact Erna House transformed from a once secluded place for formerly homeless people into a community centre in the district. It is a space where people of the district can purchase affordable bicycles, work together with the project, and make new friends.

transfer The entire concept is transferable and can be expanded to other districts of Vienna or in other cities in Austria. The Salvation Army could open container shops or pop-up stores, such as a workshop, a second-hand shop, or a café with a social counselling centre.

Connecting Slovak Scientists Abroad and at Home

NOMINATED

challenge Slovakia faces a significant brain drain, with up to 43 percent of highly educated individuals leaving the country. It is difficult to lure these expats back and harness their potential while their expertise and knowledge are lost to the country. Slovakia must develop a relationship with this community abroad to engage and motivate them to help.

Country
Slovakia

Region
Implemented nationwide

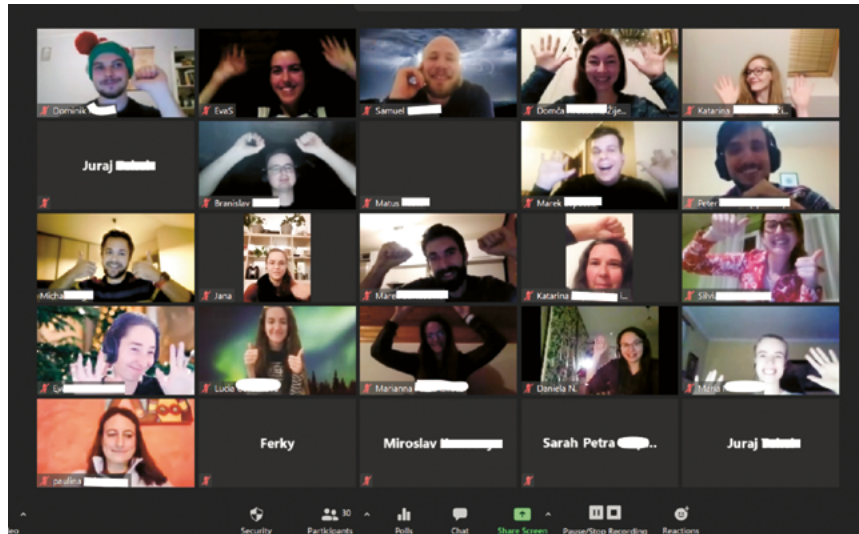
Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Awareness raising,
Education, Other

Organisation
Žijem vedu o.z.

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idea *Connecting Slovak scientists abroad and at home* fosters relationships, collaborations, and engagement opportunities. We partner with non-profit organisations, universities, and the Slovak Academy of Science. Our organisation also works with grant agencies, industry, media, policymakers, and Slovak embassies to collaborate internationally and share research.

actors The target group of Slovak scientists abroad operate the project and co-create its content. Over the last 7 years, new members consistently joined the team to showcase their work and seek advice and connections to collaborate with institutions in Slovakia.

impact Conferences organised by our team and community have attracted over 1000 participants, a third of whom are based abroad. An additional 500 participants each year participated via online stream. By rotating the venue across different faculties and scientific institutions, we continuously engage new audiences and mediate interdisciplinary collaborations. The community is highly engaged and growing.

transfer The project's engagement model can be transferred. Members contribute by co-creating content and implementing activities. Maintaining ties with the community and staying informed about opportunities to get involved is crucial. People should feel valued and recognised that their expertise is essential for the progress of their country or region.

Eye to Eye

NOMINATED

challenge We aim to change the social paradigm of conflict management in the criminal justice system. Instead of focusing primarily on the crime, we are interested in emphasising causes, consequences, and accountability. Our goal is to make restorative justice accessible to everyone at every stage of the criminal justice process, regardless of the severity of the crime.

Country
Czech Republic

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Awareness raising,
Legal protection, Law,
Justice

Organisation
Institute for
restorative justice

In cooperation with
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justice.cz
www.zocidooci.cz



idea By using powerful stories and linking them to restorative justice approaches, *Eye to Eye* aims to reach out and raise awareness among the public and the criminal justice professional community.

actors The actors are direct participants in criminal cases. We also work with people with personal experience with the current criminal justice system and its challenges.

impact The videos produced by our team for legal professionals and the public provide an important educational tool. They promote a paradigm shift in criminal proceedings and build on successful cooperation with key institutions. The videos provide education and empowerment for the public, demystifying the legal process and promoting understanding of restorative justice.

transfer Producing documentary videos is an element of our project that is transferable to other settings or regions. The principles and education on restorative justice are universal and may be relevant in other countries. Videos that present real stories and highlight the benefits of this approach can be successfully applied in different cultural and legal contexts where there is a need for change and an understanding of restorative justice principles.

challenge *FandiMat* is an app connecting people in need and non-profit organisations with donors or companies who want to help and make a difference. App users can browse profiles of people needing support and donate what they can: food, pharmacy items, clothes, furniture, and more. *FandiMat* promotes sustainability; new and used items can be donated.

Country
Czech Republic

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Poverty, Community development, Environmental protection

Organisation
Fandi mámám z.s.

In cooperation with
Žaneta Slámová

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Website
www.fandimat.cz



idea *FandiMat* merges charity and sustainability with modern technology using a map-based app, aiding those in need and enhancing community life. The principle of connection is also unique. Organisations, associations, municipalities, cities, companies, and the public can reach out and offer help to each other.

actors *FandiMat* targets various groups: individuals in need, donors willing to help others, and sustainability-minded donors who seek to repurpose items. We work with non-profits seeking aid for themselves and their clients, as well as, companies seeking to boost their CSR efforts. *FandiMat* also collaborates with municipalities, schools, and civic initiatives to build community.

impact *FandiMat* aids people in need, prioritising while promoting sustainability and environmental conservation. Users connect, communicate, and establish contacts for meaningful long-term assistance. It is a platform for offering things that people have and giving them a new life to those in need. 7 000 people currently use the app.

transfer The *FandiMat* app can be very well adapted to other countries and regions. We also aim to expand our services and app to new localities.

challenge As the number of asylum seekers in Croatia increases, so do the challenges to their social integration, especially for young people who face language and cultural barriers, loss of support, access to rights, and lack of information. At the same time, the involvement of the local community in the integration of newcomers remains insufficiently addressed.

Country
Croatia

Region
City of Zagreb

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Migration, Community development, Diversity

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idea The *Get Together* project promotes links between young refugees and local volunteer mentors. Over six months, mentoring pairs meet regularly to work towards set goals. Mentors provide both practical and emotional support, guiding their mentees towards independence, helping them to realise their potential, and increasing their chances of successful integration.

actors To date, over 30 volunteers have mentored 39 young people, focusing on language practice, cultural education, job search, educational guidance, and socialisation. A dedicated social worker trains and supervises the mentoring pairs to ensure that objectives are met, while the rest of the team assists with project implementation and communication.

impact Mentoring relationships improve young people's language skills, cultural awareness, labour market integration, educational progress, and self-confidence. At the same time, the project benefits the local community by highlighting the importance of inclusion and motivating community members to participate in the inclusion process.

transfer The mentoring programme is replicable across European host communities and can be adapted to the specific challenges, needs, and aspirations of the refugee community in each country. Its flexible and empowering framework allows it to be tailored to different groups vulnerable to or at risk of social exclusion, making it a versatile model for promoting inclusion.

Innovations in Crisis Intervention

NOMINATED

challenge The project addresses challenges faced by families with a disabled member, aiming to improve access to professional information. Many struggle near the poverty line due to their child's needs. Statistically, less than 10 percent of these families receive support from social services such as early intervention programmes, highlighting a significant gap in support.

Country
Slovakia

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Disability, Health, Community development

Organisation
Úsmev pre druhých (Smile for others)

In cooperation with
big team of specialists

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idea The project facilitates networking with regional and subject-specific experts previously unknown to parents, as well as connecting with families facing similar diagnoses. Its digital format ensures outreach to people in remote areas, effectively 'activating' those in need to address their various needs – medical, social, educational, and more – through innovative digital tools.

actors We provide customised digital tools and information for families and professionals. Our team is made up of 14 experts in healthcare, education, compensation, and early intervention. Utilising a digital advisory tool, we engage directly with the clients. We also collaborate with government stakeholders to link individuals with relevant organisations or specialists based on their needs and location.

impact Our platform currently supports 1300 clients or families with a disabled member. Analytics show that our website attracts between 30 000 and 40 000 unique visitors, with a reach of up to 1.2 million visitors. The digital nature of our project is particularly beneficial as it allows us to reach families in remote areas where social services and support are otherwise unavailable.

transfer Since 2022, after attending a global meeting for disability innovators, we've focused on scalable solutions across countries and expanded services to various groups. This year, we're launching Socialeasator, a social network with optimized tools aiming to aid crisis situations worldwide. Our tagline: "Amplify goodness, simplify help!"

KNOFcycle

NOMINATED

challenge Good quality clothes often end up amongst household waste or piles of dirty, mouldy clothes. Clothes collected in Slovenia through the recycling container system are mainly exported to large rag houses. Although most donors think these clothes go to charity, most of them end up in wild landfills in low-income countries.

Country
Slovenia

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Unemployment, Climate change, Environmental protection

Organisation
KNOF

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idea KNOFcycle collects and re-distributes used high quality garments. As a result, we have reduced waste of used garments from 70 percent to 10 percent. We reuse and recycle 98 percent of the collected garments locally, and nothing is sent abroad. Our donors are rewarded if they donate good quality clothes, so they are more likely to not buy cheap, fast-fashion.

actors We are in touch with supermarkets and international retailers to partner with the project. The project was awarded 2 small start-up investments from two utility companies partnering with us. We connected with 5 companies to distribute KNOFcycle boxes amongst their employees and plan to distribute 1000 boxes by summer. Within a year, we plan to expand the KNOFcycle system to Croatia with our partner Humana Nova.

impact Within 4 months, we acquired our first 50 test users who ordered a KNOFcycle box. During this time, we received 16 boxes and collected 591 garments, of which were recycled 5.5 percent of these items were recycled and nearly 95 percent of the collected clothes were sold and reused in our shops. By summer 2024, we plan to collect and reuse about 8.5 tonnes of quality clothing. We also create jobs for people with disabilities, Roma, and immigrants.

transfer Our entire system of communication, quality assurance, customer rewards, logistics, design, and retail will be transferred first to Croatia. This was made possible by our partner organisation, which collects and recycles 100 tons of low-quality clothes per year but sees an opportunity in the KNOFcycle system for a smart, easy way to reuse and sell high-quality used clothes.

Lebenshilfe Huehnerei

NOMINATED

challenge Chicken breeds are threatened with extinction. Pedigree chickens cannot lay large quantities of eggs. Consequently, so-called hybrid chickens have been bred for many years, which lay up to 300 eggs per year and generate more profit.

Country
Austria

Region
Tyrol

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Work, Awareness raising, Environmental protection

Organisation
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idea People with disabilities ensure the survival of endangered chicken species sheltered in in-house barns, where a European-wide brood dispatch service is offered. Moreover, we organise breeding projects in collaboration with schools and kindergartens in the region. Some of the chickens bred are also sold on the regional livestock market.

actors *Lebenshilfe Huehnerei* enables people with disabilities to become active players in safeguarding biodiversity. They take responsibility for rearing chickens and serve as community experts. The work in the barns is well received by clients, as contact with animals is calming and stabilising.

impact Since 2011, 19 clients have participated in the project and supported species conservation. 13 kindergartens and schools benefited from 20 breeding projects, which increased the participation of people with disabilities in society. Eleven chicken breeds were revitalised and are no longer considered endangered.

transfer People with disabilities are community experts; they show children in kindergartens and schools how chickens are bred and cared for. Young people learn to appreciate domestic farm animals and increase their awareness of the importance of biodiversity. The project can thus be carried out in other regions in Europe.

MOI Eventteam

NOMINATED

challenge People with disabilities face difficulties finding work and are isolated from the public. They also face limited opportunities to socialise with others and learn new skills.

Country
Austria

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Professional qualification, Awareness raising, Disability

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toinclusion



idea *MOI Eventteam* employs people with disabilities to work in sports events. The project provides new opportunities for this community. In addition, the project aims to form regional teams in at least two federal states to provide better support for local events and increase the project's impact.

actors The main target group is people with disabilities. The project team cooperates with institutions for people with disabilities and, above all, with sporting event organisers. This work provides valuable support for organising events and promotes inclusive event management.

impact Through the programme, members of the event team are integrated into society and build new social experiences. They are recognised as employees at sporting events, with their potential and not their challenges taking centre stage. The programme boosts social participation and raises public awareness.

transfer The entire project can be easily transferred to other areas. The project teams aim to expand the project to other Austrian federal states. The project's implementation has provided important insights and undergone many adaptations, so the concept can be easily implemented in new regions.

NEMECSEK Sport Program

NOMINATED

challenge In Hungary, child safeguarding policies in sports are often not recognised and enforced. Many parents, coaches, and athletic professionals do not know how to identify, stop, prevent, and report abuse. This programme aims to reach out to sports organisations working with children to protect children and ensure their safety and well-being.

Country
Hungary

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Awareness raising,
Violence prevention,
Youth welfare

Organisation
Hintalovon Gyermekjogi
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idea The *NEMECSEK Program* helps sports organisations to develop and implement child safeguarding policies to recognise when a child is in danger and investigate cases showing the best interest and well-being of the child. Our programme aims to raise awareness for adults and children. It is primarily targeted to adults who work with children. We also address children through posters in changing rooms and video messages to help them recognise abuse and where and how to get help.

actors We work with organisations and partner with the Equal Opportunities Commission of the Hungarian Olympic Committee. This year, we will promote our programme not only via the Hintalovon Foundation's platforms but also through local sports clubs.

impact *NEMECSEK Sport Program* raises awareness of the well-being and safety of children. The programme is endorsed by athletes, public figures, and professionals. A video campaign and infographics raise awareness of child safeguarding in sports. We aim to prevent abuse and advocate for the safety and well-being of children in sports.

transfer Safeguarding policies and collaborations (trainings, poster campaigns) with different organisations can be transferred to various causes and the entire region. Clubs can produce their own child safeguarding policies; they can contact us for advice and to work in partnership. These collaborations are 4–6 months of working together based on the club's needs, led by a professional facilitator, staff member, and project manager.

Rakun Box Community

NOMINATED

challenge In Budapest, more than 13 million disposable takeaway boxes are thrown into the trash each year. This generates waste that mostly ends up in landfills and cannot be recycled.

Country
Hungary

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Commercial enterprise

Fields of action
Environment, Local
Community

Organisation
Rakun Kft.

In collaboration with
Judit Varga

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idea By signing up for a membership in the *RAKUN* app, customers can order or take away their food in reusable, stainless steel boxes for a fixed monthly fee. The next time they want to use the box, they can return it to the courier. They can also drop off used boxes and receive a new, sanitised box at participating restaurants.

actors We work with *RAKUN* app users who order takeaway food. *RAKUN* also works in partnership with restaurants to distribute food in reusable containers.

impact More than 50 000 single-use boxes from our service have been used by restaurants and their guests. This has significantly contributed to promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly catering practices.

transfer The app is easy to translate into other languages. Restaurants in other countries can also replicate our model and use reusable boxes with their guests.

re(ad)dress

Enter the Change

NOMINATED

challenge Checkpoint Carinthia notes that there are approximately 400 sex workers in Carinthia. These individuals may be seeking a career change like anyone else, but face unique challenges with limited access to counselling and fewer opportunities. Obstacles such as insufficient education, language barriers, residency issues, and housing problems further complicate their transition.

Country
Austria

Region
Carinthia

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Work, Professional qualification

Organisation
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readdress



idea *re(ad)dress – Enter the Change* is a scientifically supported initiative for the professional reorientation of (former) sex workers. It offers further formal education, comprehensive social support and counselling, housing assistance when needed, and accessible work trials, all designed to open up new opportunities for them.

actors The *re(ad)dress – Enter the Change* project is supported by Diakonie de La Tour and Checkpoint Kärnten, with co-financing from the European Union and the Carinthian government. Scientific support is provided by the Carinthian University of Applied Sciences.

impact The project aims to provide a new professional perspective for a highly vulnerable group that is often overlooked in terms of financial and social support due to challenges such as residency rules, social structures, and stigma.

transfer The project's concept is adaptable to other regions where there's a clear need for support structures for (former) sex workers. These individuals are often marginalised from social services, formal education, paid courses and access to housing, highlighting the universal need for such initiatives.

School of Body

NOMINATED

challenge There is no institutionalised, comprehensive sex education in Hungary. Yet, Hungary has one of the highest rates of unwanted teenage pregnancies in the European Union and high rates of STIs. It has 2nd lowest rate of contraceptive availability, according to the latest European Contraception Atlas.

Country
Hungary

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Education, Social welfare, health care

Organisation
Own

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idea *Testsuli* talks about taboo subjects in Hungary in a new style. We take the sensationalism out of sex (and other taboo subjects) and show that it is possible to talk about sex in non-clinical, everyday language.

actors The community of *Testsuli* plays a huge role; without them, the project would not exist. They put their fears aside to share their stories, ask questions, and support each other. The community is diverse and come from all walks of life. The founder, Eszter Jámbor, also connects with human rights and sexual education organisations in Hungary.

impact *Testsuli* launched in early 2019, and since then, the community has grown slowly but steadily. It started as a blog and now has an Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok page, a bi-weekly newsletter, and a podcast of people sharing their sexual journeys. As the creator of *Testsuli*, at roundtables and educational and corporate events. She offers art therapy sessions on body issues. Eszter creates and shares free educational materials.

transfer The concept can be transferred to discuss taboo topics often not covered by the media. It can be used by companies, sex educators, and sex education organisations. *Testsuli* is a model of unique educational materials and approaches to sex education.

SchuBu

The Interactive Textbook

NOMINATED

challenge In our increasingly digitalised world, e-learning holds significant importance. All major textbook publishers provide e-books; however, interactive, digital lessons are essential and far more beneficial.

Country
Austria

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Commercial enterprise

Fields of action
Non-formal education, Education institutions, Other

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idea *SchuBu* is more than an interactive textbook; we developed and published a digital tool that encourages children to explore beyond the digital world through play. This approach inspires children to learn about the digital realm with joy.

actors Teachers and school directors are the initial beneficiaries. Ultimately, students are at the heart of our efforts. The platform aims to deliver content that resonates with the realities of children's lives.

impact *SchuBu* makes school fun and interactive by learning through play. This makes school a place where students and teachers enjoy and look forward to being. Our work aims to foster a society that values knowledge, diversity, and mutual respect.

transfer The entire project can be adapted and transferred to various spaces. It also operates effectively in different areas, regions, and contexts. It focuses on emphasising the importance of education and encouraging learning through play.

Sexuality and Relationships in Children's Homes

NOMINATED

challenge Topics of sexuality and relationships in residential institutions for children are neglected. Children have limited access to reliable and appropriately presented information promoting healthy psychosocial and sexual development. The environment often doesn't enable children to explore their sexuality safely which can have negative consequences for their future lives.

Country
Czech Republic

Region
Capital Prague, Vysočina Region, Pardubice Region, Central Bohemian Region, Ústecký Region

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Youth welfare, Non-formal education

Organisation
Freya

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idea Freya combines methods of Learning Network and Human Centred Design that synergistically influences the systemic change in children's homes. Teams from five children's homes regularly attend meetings, trainings, and share their experience. At the same time, each team supported by an assigned coach/mentor develops a unique solution for their respective facility.

actors The most important actors are staff and children living in children's homes themselves. Both groups were involved in the development of the content of the Learning Network meetings through qualitative research. Staff gained competencies to provide a sexuality friendly environment through coaching, training, and sharing of good practice.

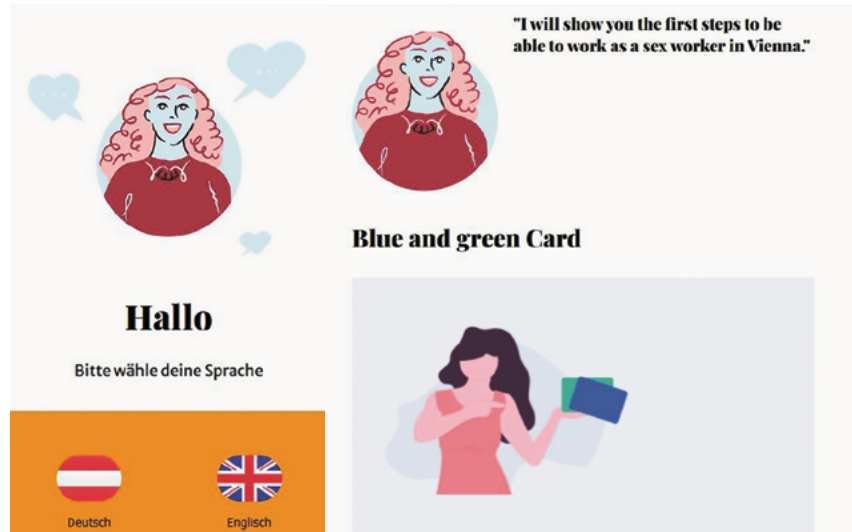
impact The project enables staff to actively implement change in their facility on an ongoing basis under the guidance of a coach which assures sustainable bottom-up driven change based on specific needs. As reported, children are already more open and they come to ask the staff on sexuality-related topics and the staff faces fewer problematic situations.

transfer The Learning Network method is universal and can be used to improve care in social, educational, and healthcare facilities globally. Freya learned about the method from its partners in Norway and plans to use this format for a follow-up project aimed at different types of residential facilities in the Czech Republic.

SOPHIE Digital!

NOMINATED

challenge The COVID-19 crisis reshaped the working conditions and inequalities for sex workers, with rising reliance on online platforms and alternative, illicit venues. This shift made it difficult to connect with others, leaving sex workers with limited access to information in their language and social support. Consequently, sex workers face high risks of violence, exploitation, addiction, and health hazards.



idea Before the pandemic, SOPHIE had already set out to digitise social work with sex workers, noting their frequent use of smartphones. SOPHIE's "Digital!" project now provides new digital channels for this group. The app provides low-barrier, anonymous access to support, including chatting with counsellors, online appointment booking and multilingual information, thus promoting social inclusion.

actors In 2020, 'BeeTwo – InnovationLab' created a digital app prototype, evolving into a web-based counseling tool by 2023 with support from the Vienna Chamber of Labour's Digifonds. Through interviews and feedback sessions, sex workers were involved in the whole development process. On the technological side SOPHIE (Volkshilfe Wien's IT department) collaborated with an external IT company.

impact The *SOPHIE Digital!* tool addresses digital inequality by improving online access for sex workers and reducing barriers to reaching the helpline. It streamlines the daily tasks of SOPHIE counselling centre staff, in particular through online appointment booking, thereby reducing administrative burdens. In addition, other social organisations undergoing digitisation can draw valuable lessons from the development and launch of this innovative project and benefit from *SOPHIE Digital!*'s pioneering approach to web-based counselling.

transfer The adapted version of the tool is designed for widespread use within social organisations focusing on low-threshold outreach and social counselling. This makes it an invaluable resource for effectively engaging and supporting hard-to-reach target groups.

Country
Austria

Region
Implemented nationwide

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Work, Diversity, Health

Organisation
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The Dúhadlo Theatre

NOMINATED

challenge Although Slovakia has been a liberal democracy for over 30 years, prejudice, inequality, and socio-economic oppression faced by marginalised people remain huge problems in Slovak society. This negative sentiment continues to rise in Slovakia.

Country
Slovakia

Region
Bratislava Region

Sector
Civil Society
Social Economy

Fields of action
Unemployment,
Awareness raising,
Disability

Organisation
UP-Down syndrom, o.z.

In cooperation with
Families and friends of people with Down syndrome in Bratislava

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idea *The Dúhadlo Theatre* raises awareness of the experiences of marginalised people and open up taboo topics in society through theatre. The project does this by producing plays focused on the problems encountered by people with disabilities or marginalisations, such as inequality, relationship difficulties, or the desire for independence.

actors The main actors in our plays and theatre community are young people with Down syndrome. The Dúhadlo Theatre community also includes the actors' parents, siblings and friends. Our secondary target group is the public, especially in Western Slovakia, who attend our shows.

impact Last year, we performed 13 performances, all of which were sold out and covered widely in the media. We ranked first in the non-professional theatre competition Theatrical Confrontations in the youth category and ranked in the Silver Zone at the Youth Theatre Festival. Several of our actors have paid work due to their work at the theatre. The theatre group also raised enough funding to pay fair actor fees to each of our actors in 2023.

transfer Our drama therapy methods are transferable to other contexts and regions. The plays could be performed and modelled by theatre groups anywhere in the world. We are looking for more ways to offer our plays to new audiences, such as companies or schools. Educational institutions may also be a good fit for our work.

editor in chief: Sabrina Schützhofer-Gach

project descriptions: Provided by subscriber

appreciations of the jury: Birgit Haiden-Pistracher

text editing: Barbara Oberrauter and Heather M. Saenz

images: Provided by subscriber

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graphic design: Péter Oroszlány

printed in Hungary

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