

PART A – Project summary

A.1 Project identification

Project title	Social Entrepreneurship in Sparsely Populated Areas						51 / 300 characters
Project acronym	SOCENT SPAs						11 / 22 characters
Name of the lead partner organisation in English	General Directorate for Social Economy and Self-Employed Persons - Regional Government of Castile and León						
Specific objective	2.1. Improving SMEs competitiveness policies						
Project duration	Phase 1	Duration	30 Months	Start date	01/01/2017	End date	30/06/2019
	Phase 2	Duration	24 Months	Start date	01/07/2019	End date	30/06/2021
	Total No. months						54

A.2 Project abstract

SOCENT SPAs will foster interregional cooperation among six public/private entities of Finland, Germany, Slovakia and Spain in a view to improve the effectiveness of regional policies in actively supporting the visibility, incubation and acceleration of social entrepreneurs in sparsely populated areas (SPAs) as a driver to regional competitiveness and inclusive growth.

In SPAs, demographic trends are a particular challenge. As counter-measure, social innovation needs to be developed to promote employment and competitiveness as it can make a real difference as a source of innovative approaches for resolving societal challenges through mobilizing civil society to further inclusive socioeconomic development. Social Enterprises (SEs) directly benefit local development and correct major socioeconomic imbalances while benefiting local communities, a crucial asset to secure the population in SPAs. However, bespoke support for SEs is limited; policymakers can play a significant role by setting up the right legal framework.

Thus, to influence policies in a view to enhance SEs' visibility and competitiveness whilst taking into account SPAs' conditions, interregional exchange of knowledge and successful experiences/good practices will be fundamental. With an integrated approach, a comprehensive learning process based on identification, analysis and transfer will be implemented through workshops, site visits and meetings with stakeholders. Based on the learning acquired, action plans aiming at integrating SEs in SPAs support schemes into policies will be developed. Communication will play a crucial role in supporting the action.

The main outputs will be a best practices guide for SEs in SPAs and 4 implemented action plans. The main results will be policymakers' awareness raised on SEs as a driver to inclusive growth and their capacities increased in identifying SEs' needs and addressing these adequately in their policies to create an enabling legal environment for SEs.

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A.3 Project budget summary

Programme Funding	Programme Funding		Partner Contributions			Total Budget
	Amount	Funding Rate	Public Contribution	Private Contribution	Total Contribution	
ERDF	828,742.65	79.62 %	72,091.35	140,075.00	212,166.35	Total eligible to ERDF 1,040,909.00
Norway	0.00	0.00 %	0.00	0.00	0.00	Total Norway 0.00
INTERREG Europe	828,742.65	79.62 %	72,091.35	140,075.00	212,166.35	Total INTERREG Europe 1,040,909.00
						Other Funding 0.00
						Grand Total 1,040,909.00