

GOOD PRACTICES AGAINST EXCLUSION. AN EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL ECONOMY IN PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

INTRODUCTION

Systemic transformation is an opportunity for the development of democracy. Changes occurring in the area of public life allow individuals and social groups to develop in an individual and sustainable way, as well as plan their own lives in both private and public space in line with their individual choices. However, difficult situations in the labour market and economic crises lead to the unemployment and impoverishment of households which results in the widening of financial and social gap between the well-educated and creative persons on one side, and those who are unable to adapt to the new reality for either personal or random reasons on the other. These are the individuals who have lost their jobs or social security, helpless in practical situations, inadequate, homeless, ill or disabled, the caregivers of ill or disabled family members, members of large and single-parent families, families suffering from alcoholism, and persons who have completed a prison sentence. The concept of social economy is one of the forms of actions aimed at the elimination of exclusion, as well as a method of solving the problems of persons/groups that have been excluded because of social maladjustment.

This study presents various forms of social activation aimed at improving the situation of people threatened with exclusion, on the basis of literature on the subject, internet sources, and an analysis of official documents made available by institutions acting in the area of supporting social economy in the region.

SOCIAL ECONOMY – THE MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF THE TERM

Social economy puts social objectives first, before purely economic and profit-oriented ones. It also used to be determined as: a social business activity, social entrepreneurship (Komorska 2012), or the economy of soli-

darity (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013) The 19th century has seen the establishment of the first farmers' co-operatives; whereas in the 1930s, during the period of the Great Depression, various other forms of enterprise have developed (Mike, Žbik 2010). The beginnings of the modern social economy, superior functions of which are the elimination of poverty and unemployment, can be found as early as the 1970s, especially in economically weaker regions.

The most valuable are initiatives undertaken for the liquidation of social problems in local environments, thanks to the knowledge of the hierarchy of problems and needs. These initiatives play an auxiliary role with respect to systemic solutions on the global level where the responsibility rests with the state. The activeness of residents in their local environment, involvement of legal persons, territorial self-government representatives, businessmen, and representatives of the third sector, when undertaking initiatives supporting the management of socio-economic change at the local and national level is beneficial to both individuals and groups threatened with social exclusion.

P. Sałustowicz identifies five functions of social economy from the perspective of:

- employment and the labour market (new job offers for marginalised persons);
- social policy (provision of social services for individuals and local communities);
- social integration (increasing social capital);
- democratisation process (involving individuals and groups in the process of making political decisions);
- social change (as a place for the creation of an alternative economic and social system) (Mike, Žbik 2010).

Social economy entities operate on a 'not-for-private-profit' basis. They may generate profit, but financial benefits are subjected to various restrictions, with the most important issue being the achievement of "certain social objectives for their members or for the wider spectrum of local communities, in environments within which they operate" (Grewiński 2007). This distinguishes them from the commercial and market-oriented entities driven by a maximisation of net profit. In literature on the subject, four areas of development of social economy are identified:

- social, democratic, and participating enterprise;
- employment and social cohesion;
- local development;
- mutual social protection (Grewiński 2007).

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ECONOMY

The Team for systemic solutions in the area of social economy, acting at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, has developed a project entitled 'National Program for the Development of Social Economy' (*Krajowy Program Rozwoju Ekonomii Społecznej*, KPRES) published on 16 September 2013. The project comprises 6 chapters with a number of annexes and includes: diagnosis (social economy strategy, development status, and finance), KPRES objectives, result achievement indicators, and priorities (development supporting, regulative actions and the social economy supporting system, including the social economy in the main stream of public tasks on both national and regional level, KPRES implementation monitoring, basic assumptions of the implementation system, and financial plan) (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013)¹.

The 1997 European Summit in Luxembourg initiated co-ordination of the employment policy at the European level. It was the first reference to social economy and *entered in the collection of main employment policy directions in its part devoted to »entrepreneurship«*. (...) *The social economy (...) becomes an acknowledged method of operation in the framework of the EQUAL 2000–2008 initiative and more generally, of the European Social Fund*. In 2003, the EU published a communication for European governments and institutions on the *promotion of co-operative movements in Europe*². In 2002, the 'First European Social Economy Conference in EU Candidate Countries' was organised in Prague. The circle of participants included representatives of the civic, co-operative, and public administration sector. Between 27–29 October 2004, the Second European Conference was held in Krakow with the participation of approximately one thousand representatives from 31 countries.

Important stages for implementation of the idea of social economy in Poland were various initiatives undertaken starting in 2004, among which one should count:

- Program of the EQUAL Community Initiative (from August 2004 to 2008), in the framework of which methodological assumptions have been

¹ Annexes to the document determined indicators and results to be achieved on the level of individual measures as well as and detailed terms and conditions for granting loans and bank guarantees in the framework of the national program for social economy development after 2014, *National Program for Development of Social Economy*.

² Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) have recognised the social economy on the international level (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013: 2)

worked out concerning the development of social economy and specific solutions supported by legislative measures at the state level);

- National Development Strategy (2007–2015);
- National Program for Social Security and Social Integration for the years 2007–2008;
- Civic Initiatives Fund (since 2004);
- Human Capital Operating Program (since July 2007) (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013).

On 27 June 2008, at The Gdańsk Shipyard, the ‘Economy of Solidarity’ Social Economy Conference was held, its aim being the integration of domestic and foreign circles considering social economy as an important tool for solving social issues. The Social Economy Manifesto has been announced and a plan presented for supporting government actions undertaken in the area of social economy. One of the postulates states: *It is necessary to create a robust mechanism of communication and dialogue between the decision-making circles (representing both executive and legislative authorities) and the social economy environment. It would allow, following the example of other countries, to agree in Poland on a long-term strategy concerning actions towards the development of social economy as a part of a wider enterprise supporting the development of civic society. Such a strategy should be worked out in the framework of a partnership co-operation – between an inter-sectoral governmental team and social economy circles* (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013: 2).

On 15 December 2008, on the basis of Ordinance No. 141 of the President of the Board of Ministers, the Team for systemic solutions in the area of social economy was appointed as a body whose main task was to work out a social economy development strategy. In March 2009, the Group for Strategic Affairs, chaired by Prof. Jerzy Hausner, started to work in co-operation with representatives of the government and the third sector. OECD experts have indicated that in Poland, *it is necessary to develop a national strategy aimed at overcoming the extreme fragmentation and complications of Poland’s political and administrative system, especially with respect to the issue of social economy. Such a strategy should have a multilevel and horizontal character. It should be worked out in close co-operation with representatives of voivodeships, counties, and communities, whereas in this context it is necessary to put special emphasis on the co-operation between county labour offices and social aid centres. To allow the social economy to contribute effectively to improving the living conditions of individuals and communities, it is necessary to include it into policies that concern health, social issues, education, natural environment, labour market strategy, development of enterprise, etc. Through ensuring*

full integration of social economy with these policies, it is possible to effectively use the potential contained in a social economy organisation. Thanks to increasing in local communities and making use of local resources, social economy may contribute to the better efficiency and effectiveness of the above-mentioned policies (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013: 4).

Before the end of 2009, the Group for Strategic Affairs prepared a conception and draft version of the 'Pact for Social Economy in the Modernisation of the Polish Social Model 2030', approved by the Committee of the Board of Ministers in October 2009. However, the document has not been fully adopted as a result of a change in the strategic planning model in Poland, covering the national development strategy that has been presented by the Minister of Regional Development during a meeting of the Team held in January 2010. In view of the above, a decision has been made to start work on the document named 'Long-term Regional Development Policy.' The study has not been included in the package of strategic documents; instead, the issues of social economy, starting from the year 2010, became a subject of interest of 'The Efficient State Strategy', 'The Social Capital Development Strategy', 'The Economy Innovativeness and Effectiveness Strategy', 'The Human Capital Development Strategy', and 'The Strategy for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas, Agriculture, and Fishery'.

A team of experts (contracted by the Group for Strategic Affairs) has prepared a document entitled 'Assumptions for the Long-term Social Economy Development Policy'. On 6 October 2011, a meeting of the Team was held in which a new composition of the Group for Strategic Affairs was established. In the course of 12 meetings of the Group (from November 2011 to May 2012), consecutive elements of the project were prepared. Chapters concerning objectives and priorities of the program were prepared in April 2012 and presented in the course of conferences held in various regions. Objectives and priorities for the Podkarpackie Voivodeship were presented on 20 April 2012 at a conference held in Rzeszów under the name 'Social Economy in Podkarpackie Voivodeship – an opportunity or utopia?' (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013: 5). Official presentation of the project occurred in the course of the '3rd All-Poland Fair of Active Aid Forms' in Byczyna (Opolskie Voivodeship) between 5–6 June 2012, with participation of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Interviews and articles concerning the new programming period were published on the web portals www.ekonomiaspoleczna.pl and www.ngo.pl in the period from March to May 2012. Then, in the period from 8 June to 28 September 2012, the project was put to public consultation. To get the wider public acquainted with the project, it has been posted on the websites www.ekonomiaspoleczna.pl and

www.pozytek.gov.pl as well as on several dozen regional and local internet portals together with an invitation to participate in discussion on the KPRES project addressed to self-governments, civic organisations, social economy entities, and entrepreneurs. The project was also presented to the assemblies of members of civic and self-government organisations, e.g. on 17 July 2012 in Rzeszów at the conference held in the framework of 'Co-operative Encounters with Social Economy in Podkarpacie'. In the period from 31 August to 28 September 2012, public consultations were held based on an internet questionnaire posted on the portal www.mamzdanie.org.pl.

On 8 October of that same year, a meeting of the Team for systemic solutions in the area of social economy and the KPRES was held where they together presented together the report on public consultation; whereas between 11–12 October 2012, the project was presented and brought up for discussion at the '6th All-Poland Social Economy Encounters' in Krakow. The Group for Strategic Affairs has held a total of 9 meetings (from 22 October 2012 to 27 June 2013). Finally, on 17 September 2013, the document was referred to the ministries for intra-government agreements and public consultations after unanimous acceptance by the Team for systemic solutions in the area of social economy and the top officers of the government's department of labour and social policy (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy 2013: 8).

REALISATION OF THE IDEA OF SOCIAL ECONOMY

Social economy is based on social enterprises, which are also known as social economy institutions or civic economy institutions (Grewiński 2007). Social enterprises are considered, on one hand, as a sub-group of a market-oriented social economy, and on the other, a new generation of non-profit organisations that "are driven in their activities by the spirit of entrepreneurship and classic solidarity with market orientation", as they make use of the work of volunteers and frequently do not generate any profit, this way making themselves similar to non-governmental organisations.

According to a stance of the European Standing Conference of Co-operatives, Mutual societies, Associations and Foundations expressed in 2002, *social economy organisations are those social and economic entities active in all sectors that stand out through their objectives and specific form of enterprise* (Grewiński 2007: 171). In view of extending the area of activity of the third sector with co-operatives and social enterprises, J. Wygański has proposed the adoption of the term 'third sector' that encompasses traditional non-governmental organisations together with entities representing both old and

new social economy. The concept of the third sector has been accepted in the framework of the monumental report prepared on the order of the European Commission by the Policy Research Institute in 1999 (Grewiński 2007).

According to the European Research Network EMES, a social enterprise *is a private autonomous organisation providing products or services for a wider community, for which the establishing or managing body is a group of citizens and in which the scope of material benefits is subjected to limitations. A social enterprise attaches a lot of weight to autonomy and readiness to taking economic risk related continuously with socio-economical activity* (Grewiński 2007: 172). EMES has formulated nine socio-economical criteria for an ideal social enterprise:

1. The business activity is carried out continuously and regularly based on economic instruments, i.e. sales of created goods or rendered services.
2. There is a high level of autonomy and independence with respect to public institutions.
3. There is an economic risk on the operations.
4. The enterprise employs a minimum number of permanently paid personnel.
5. There is an explicit aim of community benefit from the enterprise.
6. Grass-root, citizen-originated nature of the initiative.
7. A specific system of management, as democratic as possible.
8. Strongly participatory character of activities, based on the rule of empowerment, i.e. involving those to whom the activity is directed.
9. Limited distribution of profit (Grewiński 2007).

The definition of a social enterprise adopted in the United Kingdom reads: a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in a company or within a community, contrasted to the business activity carried out in order to maximise profits for shareholders or owners (Grewiński 2007: 173).

Social enterprises are characterised by: co-operative/mutuality-based and voluntary form of organisation, large number of stakeholders, usage of mixed resources, making use of social capital (strong bonds with the community and the users, involvement of employees). In the United Kingdom, it is assumed that social enterprises would generate about 50% of income, while in the development phase, 25% of income from unassisted market activity is allowed (Grewiński 2007).

Social economy is present in all European countries. The scope of activity carried out by social enterprises in selected European Union countries include:

- services offered to dependent and socially excluded individuals (taking care of infants; cèches; social apartments instead of traditional care/up -

bringing institutions for children and young people with difficulties; employing women on part-time basis for taking care of patients at their homes; rehabilitation and social integration of the mentally retarded; healthcare services and training, upbringing and rehabilitation of disabled children – Austria, France, Denmark, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, Portugal);

- restoring to employment through work (providing on-the-job training; inclusion in the labour market and actively restoring the social groups finding themselves in difficult situations; creating jobs and supporting economic development accompanied by an aspiration to the social and vocational integration of the long-term unemployed; re-employment through work and business activity in natural environment protection, agriculture, construction, and waste recycling; integration of people disabled or excluded from the traditional labour market through work; offering access to temporary employment to permanently unemployed individuals instead of the creation of supported employment jobs – Belgium, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain);
- local development (acting as subcontractors to other companies providing services corresponding to the skills of the co-operative members; offering the possibility to render paid work in the scope of the maintenance and repair of private apartments or common infrastructure or providing social services in a neighbourhood to residents who live in underprivileged quarters; providing accommodation, dining, and petty handicraft services by women from rural areas with a high tourist potential; business activity in the area of social housing construction; including employment; credit assistance – Finland, The Netherlands, Greece, Ireland) (Grewiński 2007).

In Poland, since 1997, on the basis of the Act on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employing the Disabled, Vocational Development Centres (*Zakłady Aktywności Zawodowej*, ZAZ) were created, whereas since passing the Act on Social Employment in 2003, Social Integration Centres (*Centra Integracji Społecznej*, CIS) and Social Integration Clubs (*Kluby Integracji Społecznej*, KIS) were also established. These were institutions acting in the area of the social and vocational re-integration of persons threatened with various forms of social exclusion who, through getting a job and vocational qualifications, could reappear in the labour market. The Act on Social Co-operatives of 2006 created a formal base for operation of social co-operatives. According to data available for the year 2006, Poland's social economy sector included:

- 58,000 associations and foundations;
- 5,500 economic self-government organisations;
- 12,800 co-operatives, of which 350 were established by disabled persons;

- 9 Mutual Insurance Societies;
- 880 other mutuality organisations;
- 45 social co-operatives;
- 35 Vocational Development Centres;
- 35 social integration centres; and
- 90 social integration clubs.

In total, the sector included about 75,000 entities embracing about 16–17 million members, and employing about 600,000 individuals. (Grewiński 2007) In the year 2006, the main areas of social activity carried out by co-operatives in Poland included: social services and social aid (20%); local development (16%); labour market (12%); employment and vocational activation (10%); education and upbringing (6.5%); culture and arts, sports, tourism, recreation, and hobbies, support for civic institutions and organisations (5.8%); healthcare (3%); natural environment protection (1.9%); vocational, trade, and worker's issues (1%), human rights and political activities (0.3%), and other activities (16%) (Grewiński 2007).

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN THE PODKARPACKIE VOIVODESHIP

The idea of social economy is realised in the region thanks to inter-sectoral co-operation in the area of employment promotion and the implementation of projects dealing with the social and vocational activation of school graduates, young people threatened with unemployment, the poorly educated, having qualifications inadequately adjusted to labour market needs, the long-term unemployed and people threatened with unemployment because of the loss of ability to work, liquidation of jobs and workplaces, the homeless, persons imprisoned and released from correctional facilities after serving their time, alcohol addicts, people raising ill and disabled children, impractical and inadequate people, the disabled, and people with mental disorders and illnesses.

The organisers of local development for social entrepreneurship are, *inter alia*: the Voivodeship Labour Office (*Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy*, WUP), the County Labour Office (*Powiatowy Urząd Pracy*, PUP), the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency (*Rzeszowska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego*, RARR), the Regional Centre for Social Policy (*Regionalny Ośrodek Polityki Społecznej*, ROPS), the Civic Academy Foundation (*Fundacja Akademia Obywatelska*, FAO), the State Fund for Rehabilitation of Handicapped People (*Państwowy Fundusz Rehabilitacji Osób Niepełnosprawnych*, PFRON), social assistance centres, Association B4, The St. Brother Albert Rzeszów Aid Association, the Regional Centre for Non-governmental Organisations (*Regionalne Centrum*

Organizacji Pozarządowych, RCOP), non-governmental foundations and organisations operating in the area of social aid, family assistance, care, education, culture, sports, and the protection of rights of people suffering from chronic diseases and disabilities. The above-listed institutions cooperate with local government bodies to acquire infrastructure as well as fixed and current assets from various national and international sources.

The list of entities representing the various forms of social enterprise in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship currently includes: 93 social cooperatives, 92 supported employment enterprises, 13 disabled workers co-operatives, 36 occupational therapy workshops, 8 vocational development centres, 10 social integration clubs, and 11 social integration centres. The list of the above-mentioned social enterprise forms broken down by quantity and location is presented in Table 1a (social co-operatives) and Table 1b (other forms).

Table 1a. Quantity and location of Podkarpackie social co-operatives

No.	Qty.	County	Registered seat
1	2	3	4
1	11	Rzeszowski Municipal	Rzeszów
2	11	Rzeszowski District	Kąkolówka, Zgłobień, Boguchwała (3), Niechobrz (2), Jasionka, Krasne, Trzebownisko, Sokołów Młp.
3	4	Stalowowolski	Stalowa Wola (3), Pysznica
4	3	Tarnobrzegi	Tarnobrzeg (2), Baranów Sandomierski
5	13	Przemyski	Przemyśl (10), Rudawka, Duńkowiczki, Buszkowiczki
6	3	Kolbuszowski	Kolbuszowa (2), Górnio
7	5	Mielecki	Mielec (3), Wojków, Gawłuszowice
8	5	Leżajski	Leżajsk, Dębno, Nowa Sarzyna, Kuryłówka
9	6	Lubaczowski	Lubaczów (2), Cieszanów (2), Dąbków (2)
10	3	Jasielski	Jaśło, Łubno Szlacheckie, Przysieki
11	2	Leski	Lesko
12	3	Miżański	Różniatów, Jeżowe, Zarzecze
13	6	Sanocki	Sanok, Besko, Nowosielce, Zarszyn, Poraż, Zagórz

1	2	3	4
14	3	Krośnieński	Krosno (2), Chorkówka
15	2	Strzyżowski	Strzyżów, Babica
16	1	Brzozowski	Wesoła
17	7	Jarosławski	Jarosław (3), Wólka Pełkińska, Laszki, Rokietnica, Duńkowice
18	2	Bieszczadzki	Ustrzyki Dolne
19	2	Dębicki	Dębica

Source: Ogólnopolski katalog spółdzielni socjalnych 2014: <http://www.spoldzielniesocjalne.org/podkarpackie.htm/09.05.2014>.

Table 1b. Other forms of social enterprise in Podkarpackie Voivodeship by quantity and location

No.	Entity form	Qty.	Powiat	Registered seat
1	2	3	4	5
1	Supported Employment Enterprises	29	Rzeszowski Municipal	Rzeszów
		5	Rzeszowski District	Głogów Młp., Rudna Mała, Zaczernie, Trzciana, Dynów
		13	Krośnieński	Krosno (11), Rymanów (2)
		2	Tarnobrzesci	Tarnobrzeg
		1	Przemyski	Przemysł
		2	Bieszczadzki	Ustrzyki Dolne
		9	Dębicki	Dębica
		1	Jarosławski	Jarosław
		7	Jasielski	Jaśło
		6	Kolbuszowski	Kolbuszowa, Przyłęk, Wi-delka
		1	Lubaczowski	Lubaczów
		1	Łańcucki	Łańcut
		7	Mielecki	Mielec, Wadowice, Gawłuszowice
		1	Niżański	Nisko
		2	Przemyski	Żurawica
		3	Przeworski	Przeworsk (2), Kańczuga
		1	Ropczycko-Sędziszowski	Ropczyce
			Sanocki	
		7	Stalowowolski	Sanok
		9	Strzyżowski	Stalowa Wola
		10		Strzyżów (6), Czudec,
			Tarnobrzesci	Frysztak (2), Pstrągowa
		1		Gorzyce

1	2	3	4	5
2	Disabled Workers Cooperatives	3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Rzeszowski Municipal Rzeszowski District Krośnieński Przemyski Jarosławski Łańcucki Tarnobrzeski Sanocki Stalowowolski Strzyżowski	Rzeszów Dynów Krosno Przemysł Jarosław Łańcut Nowa Dęba Sanok Stalowa Wola Strzyżów
3	Vocational Development Centres	1 2 1 1 1 1 1	Jarosławski Mielecki Leżajski Krośnieński Łańcucki Rzeszowski District Dębicki	Jarosław Chorzelów, Malinie Nowa Sarzyna Rymanów Zdrój Wola Dalsza Wola Rafałowska Wola Żyrakowska
4	Social Integration Centres	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Rzeszowski Municipal Sanocki Lubaczowski Dębicki Kolbuszowski Przemyski Krośnieński Jarosławski Przeworski Mielecki Dębicki	Rzeszów Sanok Dąbrowa Dębica Kolbuszowa Przemysł Krosno Pawłosiów Lipnik Mielec Pilzno
5	Social Integration Clubs	1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	Łańcucki Bieszczadzki Krośnieński Strzyżowski Mielecki Kolbuszowski Niżański Stalowowolski	Łańcut Ustrzyki Dolne Jedlicze Strzyżów Mielec Kolbuszowa Nisko Stalowa Wola
6	Occupational Therapy Workshops	2 3 1	Rzeszowski Municipal Stalowowolski Przeworski	Rzeszów Stalowa Wola Przeworsk

Source: Broszura informacyjna na temat ulg i uprawnień dla osób z niepełnosprawnością 2011.

One should also mention the so-called Local Community Self-Help Houses (*Środowiskowe Domy Samopomocy*, ŚDS), facilitating integration of and providing rehabilitation to persons with a mental disability (in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, 64 institutions of that type are currently operating). Although they are not directly involved in vocational activation projects, their charges participate in various projects falling within the category of social economy. On the basis of information obtained from the employees of ŚDS, some of the individuals participating in the projects receive qualifications allowing them to take up jobs in the open labour market³.

Examples of institutions and centres supporting social economy in Podkarpackie Voivodeship are given in Table 2.

Table 2. Institutions and centres supporting social economy in Podkarpackie Voivodeship

No.	Project name	Implementing period	Implementing entity	Target group	No. of group members
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	'Social Entrepreneur'	01.05.2011–28.02.2013	Wektor Consulting s.c. Mariusz Lipiński, Wiktor Cichoń	The unemployed: 50+, without a secondary education, disabled, single parents raising children up to 18 years of age; women who were unable to continue employment after giving birth to a child	96
2	'Social cooperative – an opportunity for the hearing-impaired'	01.06.2011–28.06.2013	Polish Association of the Deaf, Podkarpackie Division in Rzeszów	Unemployed natural persons disabled and hearing-impaired from Podkarpackie Voivodeship	24
3	'Social Cooperative Movement – Your Opportunity'	01.05.2011–31.12.2013	Podkarpacka Agencja Konsultingowo-Doradcza Sp. z o.o. [<i>Pod-</i>	The long-term unemployed, the disabled	n.a.

³ At ŚDS in Rzeszów, from among 8 persons participating in the CAL project implemented by the Association B4 in the year 2012, 3 persons have found jobs in the open labour market (2 females and 1 male – shop assistant, cleaning lady, security guard).

1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>karpacka Consulting and Advisory Agency Ltd.]</i>		
4	'We Build Together'	01.05.2011–30.06.2013	'Initiatives of Podkarpacie' Association	The unemployed living in the area of Orły and Przemyśl Gminas, especially disabled and/or the chronically unemployed	50
5	'Social Co-operative – an Opportunity to Activate the Unemployed'	01.06.2011–31.12.2013	Gmina of Boguchwała	The unemployed, especially disabled and/or chronically unemployed	n.a.
6	'Podkarpackie Social Co-operatives'	01.03.2011–31.12.2013	RARR	see above	200
7	'Podkarpackie Voivodeship's ZAZ Incubator';	01.07.2011–31.12.2012	Polish Association for the Mentally Handicapped, Jarosław Circle	ZAZ employees from Podkarpackie Voivodeship	n.a.
8	'New Energy of Social Economy Entities in Podkarpacie'	01.05.2011–31.12.2013	Civic Academy Foundation	Non-governmental organisations	404*
9	'The Socially Active'	01.07.2011–31.12.2011	'Equal Opportunities' Association	Persons willing to establish a social cooperative	30
10	'Local Activeness Centre (CAL)'	01.02.2010–30.09.2011	Association B4**	Disabled persons	60
	'Social Service Cooperatives'	01.08.2012–30.04.2014		Unemployed persons	60
	'CAL – 2nd edition'	15.03.2013–31.07.2014		Disabled persons	18

1	2	3	4	5	6
11	'A New Opportunity for You'	2009–2013	Association CRAS***	Persons who have lost their jobs for reasons attributable to the workplace	92
	'It's Time for Changes'				70
	'Planning, Training, Experience – My Way to Employment' (2nd edition)			Young people up to 24 years of age, currently unemployed	60
	'Activeness without barriers'			Persons with a low or moderate degree of disability, currently unemployed	40

Source: Reports, <http://www.ekonomia.spoeczna.pl/x/485964/09.05.2014>.

SUMMARY

Social economy, by using stimulating programs and instruments involving different social groups, will not solve all the problems of social policy. Strengths and weaknesses of such programs are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Strengths and weaknesses of active social programs connected with the idea of social entrepreneurship, according to M. Rymśa

Strengths	Weaknesses
Exceeding traditional ideological divisions into followers and opponents of the welfare state	The risk of creating unproductive jobs
Utilisation of the social and economical potential of the third sector	The phenomenon of stigmatisation and the related risk of counter-efficiency of activation programmes
Rejection of the de-motivating rule of decommodification, i.e. full dependence of the citizens' income situation on their activeness in the labour market	The risk of partial de-legitimisation of the social function of the state through the concept of an active social policy

Source: Grewiński, Kamiński 2007.

There is a risk of ‘spoiling the market’ by programs that do not increase the employment level while full-valued jobs can be replaced by subsidised ones. Some experts discern a difference between the concept of workfare adopted in the USA which creates favourable conditions for the development of social economy and the development of social employment in Europe where the instrument of activation is the institution of employing the aided individual instead of organising business incubators.

Participation in activating programs may lead to ‘stigmatisation’ of the beneficiaries manifesting in treating them differently in the open labour market and employing them exclusively for jobs subsidised from public funds and only in the periods when such subsidies or other bonuses are available. Also the phenomenon of ‘ghettoisation’ may appear in the form of a division into those employed in the free market with those in the protected labour market. Moreover, the costs related to activation programmes are disproportionately high compared to their effectiveness and efficiency. If, however, it turns out that social enterprises will catch on in Poland, it will be necessary to change the way of thinking about active and pro-employment workfare policy and the provision of support for a multi-sector and civic social policy (Grewiński 2007).

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Summary

The concept of social economy is one of the forms of actions aimed at the elimination of exclusion, as well as a method of solving the problems of persons/groups that have been excluded because of social maladjustment. This study presents various forms of social activation aimed at improving the situation of people threatened with exclusion, on the basis of literature on the subject, internet sources, and an analysis of official documents made available by institutions acting in the area of supporting social economy in the region.

Key words: social economy, exclusion, disability, vocational activation