BELGIUM - state of play, challenges and opportunities

Dewandeler Etienne, RES

Zagreb, 27/10/2017
Social and Economic Context

- Official unemployment
  - Belgium 7.8%
  - Wallonia 10.7% (10.3% for Women)
  - Liège region 17.4%
LEGSILATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- First decree
  - commercial structures with goal: engagement of low-skilled people
- WISE Decree 2003
  - Workers’ lack of productivity is, at the beginning, supported by the State / Region
  - Financing of an entrepreneur/director (launch bonus)
  - Funding for social support
Wises Decree 2012
- Minimum 50% of disadvantaged workers, cumulating 3 conditions:
  - Unemployed
  - Low skill
  - A third condition
- Minimum half-time contract
- Long term contracts
Subsidy amount
- Between 2,250€ and 4,500€ per year for 1 disadvantaged worker (max 4 years)
- Salary of social workers

Conditions:
- Respect of the 4 main principles (Service to community or members, Autonomy, Democratic decision-making process and Primacy of people and labor on capital)
- Being commercial with social purpose
- A maximum salary gap
- ...
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE / WISE MODELS


Second wave (2003 - 2006): Emergence of the Service Voucher and a new wave of entrepreneurs

Third wave (2006 - 2011): Golden age of service-vouchers and development of new sectors
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE / WISE MODELS

The main economic sectors are:

- Housekeeping
- Recycling
- Building/Construction
- Cafes, restaurants
- ...
WISE – GOOD PRACTICES

The Service Voucher – A successful collaboration

- Aims of the Law of 2001
  - Fighting illicit work
  - Fighting unemployment of low-skilled people
  - Providing accessible local services (Housekeeping, Ironing, transport...)
WISE – GOOD PRACTICES

The Service Voucher – A successful collaboration

- Basic principles
  - Private customers – 8,10€/h
  - State intervention – 14,38€/h
  - Triangular relationship – Employer, Worker, Costumer

- Classic, public and social Enterprises
  - With priority for unemployed people
  - Special work conditions
WISE – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop new activity sectors
- Support of social start-ups
- Find new innovations
- New forms of entrepreneurship
- New business model
- …
CONTACT

Réseau d’Entreprises Sociales (RES)

Etienne Dewandeler

www.resasbl.be

info@resasbl.be