



Newsletter #6

January 2026

Driving Social Innovation Across Europe

SECON is on a mission to strengthen the social economy and the ecosystems that support it across Europe. From hands-on field visits to policy workshops, partners are working together to improve frameworks, share solutions, and turn interregional learning into concrete policy action.

Exploring the Social Economy in Poland

Mazowieckie Region Shows the Way

In early October, **SECON** team gathered in Poland for an inspiring two-day interregional event hosted by the Mazowieckie Region. Policymakers, stakeholders, and project partners came together to **exchange ideas, share experiences, and explore practical ways to boost social economy growth.**



Seeing Social Innovation in Action

SECON team visited several local social enterprises that are creating jobs and fostering inclusion:

- 📍 **Wyszkow Multi-sector Social Cooperative “SzRON”** – Reintegration of persons with disabilities through tech and office services.
- 📍 **Social Cooperative “Integration”** – Catering and employment opportunities for people at risk of exclusion.
- 📍 **Social Cooperative “Pożytek”** – Providing care services while creating meaningful jobs.
- 📍 **Social Cooperative “Podkowa”** – Offering domestic support and personal assistance for socially excluded individuals.
- 📍 **Karmnik Store (Social Cooperative “Black Elderberry”)** – Empowering seniors, refugees, and women through food production and sales.

These visits showed how social enterprises **turn local challenges into opportunities**, creating jobs, fostering inclusion, and strengthening communities.

Policy Dialogue in Action

The second day brought the team together at the Mazowieckie Voivodeship's Office of the Marshal for lively discussions on policy and innovation. Presentations by local actors — including the Civil Society Development Foundation, Ochota Social Cooperative, and 4Smart Social Cooperative — highlighted the **region's dynamic social economy landscape**.



KMOP facilitated a **hands-on workshop** where partners reflected on lessons learned and explored ways to **shape policy improvements**. Discussions focused on key themes such as:

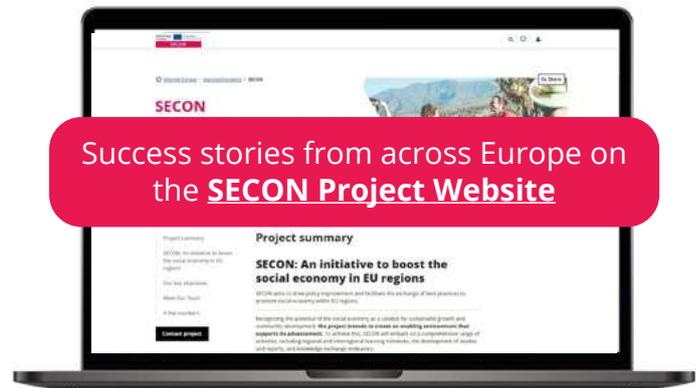
- Raising **visibility** for social enterprises
- Boosting **stakeholder engagement and capacity**
- Strengthening the **financial and taxation framework**
- Promoting **inclusion and social innovation**
- Measuring **impact effectively**

The outcome? **SECON** team is better equipped to **turn knowledge into concrete action**, paving the way for a more connected and inclusive social economy across Europe.

Spotlight on Good Practices

Check out **success stories from across Europe** on the [SECON project website](#). These examples show how small changes can make a **big difference** for social enterprises and communities.

Regional Stakeholder Meetings are continuing across Europe, giving local actors a platform to **share insights, solve challenges, and shape regional policies**, especially in rural areas where tailored solutions are critical.



Turning Lessons Into Policy Action

SECON team is now working on the **Joint Review of Policy Instruments**, transforming inter-regional learning into practical policy improvements.

This collaborative effort helps partners:

- Document **actual and potential improvements** in regional policies
- Share **evidence-backed insights** for more effective support of social enterprises
- Create a **Digital Joint Review** report that captures lessons, emerging practices, and innovation pathways

Partners are classifying lessons, reviewing policies, and reflecting on how to scale success across regions. This is a key step in ensuring that **social economy strategies are not only well-designed but also impactful**.



Stay Inspired, Stay Connected

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Together, we're building a **more visible, capable, and inclusive social economy** — one that empowers communities and champions social innovation across Europe.



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RIGA PLANNING REGION

