

Local Partnership and ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Sweden

The social enterprise [Mamas Retro](#) is a second-hand shop in Gothenburg, Sweden, specialised in children's articles.

The successful social enterprise was initiated in 2011 by [forum SKILL](#), an NGO and resource organisation, aiming at promoting human rights through the creation of a model for work based on methods, structures and tools for a sustainable development and communication for entrepreneurs in the sector of social enterprises.

The idea was to encourage entrepreneurship among unemployed women and transgender persons with intellectual or neuropsychiatric disabilities, and to challenge the stereotype image of entrepreneurs. Job training at Mamas Retro is also procured by the local employment agency and the municipal departments for social welfare in order to support persons with disabilities who wish to enter or re-enter the work market.

The store started as a project providing education, new experiences and knowledge which will increase opportunities for empowerment. Today, Mamas Retro is an established non-profit organization and a social enterprise that shows that women with disabilities may well start-up and run a successful business.

Mamas Retro was selected winner of the [REVES Excellence Award 2015](#).

- Lithuania

Starting from the acknowledgement that community entrepreneurship is still a developing concept in Lithuania, the Business Information Centre of Anykščiai District Municipality, together with two participants of the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) "Create for Lithuania", came up with the idea to create a Local Community Enterprise Support Network, hoping to stimulate the creation of self-sustainable communities as well as a platform to improve local entrepreneurship, in order to solve local social problems and earn additional incomes.

The Network's main aim is to connect local communities with local businessmen, artists and social entrepreneurs who are ready to help them with their community enterprise ideas and offer partnership opportunities. Anykščiai Business Information Centre will coordinate the Network and facilitate conversations between stakeholders. Any local

community considering to start a community enterprise, namely in rural areas, can now contact Anykščiai Business Information Centre with their request and get professional advice or find a business partner to collaborate with.

Local Community Enterprise Support Network received a special mention for the [REVES Excellence Award 2015](#).

- France

In 2005, the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council launched a plan for supporting social innovation in the Social economic sector, as an alternative form of capitalism focusing on social services rather than on profit. For this reason, the Regional Council supported the creation of organisations that provide support services to social organisations in their social innovation projects.

These organisations are:

- The incubator "[Alter'Incub](#)" that supports the creation of innovative companies;
- The Entrepreneurship School for social economy;
- The "[Scic Replic](#)", a cooperative group composed of local authorities and actors of the Social economy;
- The regional incubator ESSOR, for young existing innovative businesses;
- The businesses' collective agreement "Coventis";
- The regional pole of social innovation.

These services are connected through a single regional social enterprise cluster: [REALIS](#), a French acronym for Active network for social innovation in Languedoc-Roussillon, led by the region of Languedoc-Roussillon and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

REALIS' key objectives are:

- To foster social innovation; encouraging the development of socially innovative and profitable enterprise projects;
- To increase the professionalism of managers and executive of social businesses, instilling them with managerial and social skills;
- To develop economic flows between socially innovative business and public and private-sector businesses, raising awareness of businesses' expertise;
- To promote the replication and creation of solidarity-based businesses at regional level;
- To support socially responsible young businesses in order to strengthen their capacity for development and sustainable growth at local level.

The project's success has led to its measures being replicated in other French regions (REPLIS in Nord-Pas de Calais; ALTER'INCUB in Rhone-Alpes; COEPTIS in Franche-Comté

and Auvergne; and COVENTIS in Franche-Comté and Poitou-Charentes). Furthermore, the social enterprise label is being watched with great interest by large urban communities (e.g. Saint Etienne).

REALIS Languedoc-Roussillon received a special thematic mention for the [REVES Excellence Award 2013](#).

- Poland

The Social Enterprise Incubator of Silesia represents the biggest social economy oriented partnership in Poland, involving six municipalities and two social economy entities.

It aims at offering support (both infrastructural and substantive, as well as through the enhancement of local partnership between labour offices, social enterprises, municipalities and business representatives) to create social enterprises in the whole Silesia Region. The objective is to sustain long lasting partnership with municipalities, without being financially dependent of the European Social Fund, in order to prepare non-governmental organizations to run economic activities to support their social initiatives and share good practices with other municipalities and non-governmental organizations.

Social Enterprise Incubator of Silesia received a special thematic mention for the [REVES Excellence Award 2013](#).

- Italy

In 1999 the city of Genoa launched a business incubator for small enterprises. The objective is to promote and lend support to the creation of new enterprises (in particular commerce and handicraft, following the local traditions) in the historical city centre of Genoa. With several rundown neighbourhoods, this area had a rather bad reputation among locals and tourists. The business incubator is integrated into a large programme for urban renewal, restauration and restructuring of the city centre.

The incubator is managed, in cooperation with the Office for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship Genoa, by Job Centre Genoa (a consortium established and run in partnership between the city of Genoa and Federazione Solidarietà e Lavoro which brings together social economy, trade unions and other structures dealing with the unemployed and disadvantaged). It receives financial support based on national legislation (law 266/97 – “legge Bersani”), which established that direct financing should be attributed to municipalities in metropolitan areas in order to enable the former to support entrepreneurship in disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. Additional funding was provided by the Urban II programme.

In the case of Genoa, the incubator is a so-called "diffused incubator". Assisted enterprises do not find themselves physically in the same building, but in different places spread all over the territory.

Interested (future) entrepreneurs have to take part in calls for proposals issued by the city. Emphasis is laid on the creation of links between economic, social and cultural actors and resources. Entrepreneurship is very much considered a lever for local innovation. In their application, future entrepreneurs not only have to describe their business project, but also ideas for the additional contribution of their future enterprise to local social and cultural life. Several cooperatives figure among the successful applicants.